

Round and About in the parish – Sheffield Mill



In 1881 William Rayward, aged 37, moved from Hartfield to become the Miller at Mill House where he was the Miller until about 1902.

The Mill included 24 acres of farmland. In 1881 William had five children, aged 9, 8, 6, 4 and 1, and employed a domestic servant and a Journeyman Miller, who was aged 22. His wife, Elizabeth, went on to have a further three children, and the eldest son George, who was aged 19 in 1891,

became a Miller's assistant. This photo is of Mr Rayward, his wife and two of his daughters, but the date is unknown.



By the time of the 1911 census William had died and his son George, by now a fully-fledged miller takes over and continues at the Mill until about 1928 when Mr Mephram takes over. This photo is believed to date from around 1910 and show a fully laden hay/straw wagon led by one horse approaching the Mill.

It's hard to get a modern comparative photo but this from 2011 shows the Danehill Parish Historical Society at a summer visit to The Mill. The Mill Wheel is to the right of the building where all the people are gathering.



This photo of the weir which is adjacent to the Mill also dates from around 1910.



The photo, left, shows both the Mill Farm (as seen in the first photo) and the Mill housing the water wheel. After considerable renovation works by the present owners the water wheel was eventually restored to working order.

My thanks to Mrs C Dyball, Pam Hart and Peter Richardson.
Another article about the Mill will follow in due course.

Jill Rolfe,