

Rudhall Mill and the Gammond Family

My great great grandfather, James Gammond, was the tenant of Rudhall Mill from the mid 1860s. He also ran the mill at Lower Foxhall just upstream on Rudhall Brook. He also earned a living as a farmer and was a local Guardian of the Poor Law for the parish of Brampton Abbots. His son, my great grandfather, Owen Gammond, also earned a living as a miller, farmer and auctioneer. Milling became less important and around the First World War, the mill stopped functioning. He bought the mill as part of Rudhall Farm in 1923/24. The mill building served as the club house for the second Ross Golf Course, which moved to Rudhall in the 1920s. From the 1940s, the mill was used to store grain and animal feeds. The mill was converted into a house in 1990.

The mill wheel was powered by an undershot (Rudhall Brook) and an overshot (Phocle Brook), with water being brought across from Rudhall Brook via a culvert and returned to the same brook via a second culvert further downstream. These culverts were unearthed in 1990 and the available building stone used in the conversion and to build the garden wall that now surrounds the property. The whole mill wheel in the property's garden came from Lower Foxhall Mill, while the half wheel came from Rudhall Mill; other halves are in neighbouring gardens.

In 2000 as part of the Millennium Celebrations a parish boundary marker marking the boundary between Weston under Penyard and Brampton Abbots was installed in the garden of the property following a walk held to beat the bounds of the parish of Weston. My father sold the mill building in 2015 having lived in the property for ten years.

No machinery from Rudhall Mill exists on site. My dad still has the miller's bell and also a cart stencil of Henry Gammond, miller at Warren Mill, Aston Crews, another mill further upstream along Rudhall Brook.

Jonathan Gammond