

The Chelmer Canal Trust Presents:

The History of Beeleigh Mill

An Evening Talk by Paul Chaplin and Graham Thorne

from the Beeleigh Mill Restoration Group

7 for 7:30pm Tuesday 23rd May 2017

at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford. Free admission. All Welcome



Beeleigh mill was large flour mill on the river Chelmer near Maldon, Essex. It had two water wheels driving 10 stones, to which was added a separate building which housed a steam-powered beam engine driving five millstones. The main building housing the water-powered wheels burnt down in a fire in 1875.

The site, which is Grade II*, now comprises the building housing the steam engine and the drive gearing for its millstones, the brick housing for one of the waterwheels, and the two adjacent brick-lined barge docks used for loading flour for shipment to London.

The steam mill is divided into 2 rooms, separated by a brick partition. The smaller north-western part is full height and contains the complete iron, double-acting Wentworth compound steam beam engine which was installed in 1845. Alongside is an 'Elephant' boiler with 2 safety valves and firebox. It is the only surviving example of this type of boiler in England, though it was more popular in France and Belgium.

The ground floor of the larger room contains the drive gears including a circular-plan iron husts with an iron upright shaft with great spur wheel, which drive each of the five pairs of stones.

Find out about the history of this fascinating building including it's secret wartime role.



Protecting the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation