

August 18. Weather. Cloudy looking to begin with but turned out a beautifully fine day. After breakfast went down to the Abbey - & after long searching found Noakes, Taylor's assistant, who instructed us in the art of dosing the little pigs with some iron mixture against anaemia. We have arranged to do this every day while he is on holiday (Fig. 9). One picks up the little pigs & drenches them with a drenching gun which is strapped to the back. They have to be done from 5 to about 20 days old every day. After this we went on the tractor and binder finishing off the wheat next to the Abbey. About 50 rabbits were killed on this.'

After lunch we went on to the bean stack and did some stacking. This was hot work, especially pitching from the cart: the beans were also rather long and stringy, and some of them had a large mixture of may weed. After tea we got some beer from Butley Oyster for the men and they seemed quite pleased with it. We worked on till 7.30. There were 3 men (excluding us) on each stack & 1 man unloading. At the end the stacks were pretty high.'

August 19. Weather. Very fine sunny & hot. After breakfast we dosed the little pigs with the help of the pigmen. After that went round on the binder and tractor cutting the last of the wheat. After lunch we went down to the Horticultural Show at Sudbourne - and Sports - an annual event on the estate.

August 21. Weather. Very hot - sunny. There has been no rain at Butley despite last night's thunderstorm round Thurlow [his home]. After lunch Peter and I went to Wantisden Hall and helped the pigman there to feed the fattening pigs. Big tubs are filled with water and the ration is put into them: they are stirred and left till the next morning or evening. Then the resulting mash is put into buckets with a ladle & taken round to the pigs. There are about 309 pigs there at the moment. The pigman is an amusing talker. After tea we saw Oliver at the Office: he told us about malting barley and sugar beet etc. Called in at Butley Oyster on the way back & had a drink - talked to the shepherd. Less settled looking in the evening.'



Fig 11. A long-disused mill used to crush the corn for livestock rations in Butley Abbey's Great Barn. (photo: Paddy O'Beirnes)