

## SEED MILL STONES in ALPHA ROAD

Peter and Beryl Hall, 48 Alpha Road: "Millstones" man:

John Hall, whose father was a millwright in East Anglia before coming over the Estuary into Kent, inspected the millstones in Peter's garden. He immediately recognised some of the stones as ones that had been used in a **seed mill**. This was partly by the way the stones had been cut and partly because they were made of Peak District stone, which is very hard and durable, therefore able to withstand the heavier work entailed in grinding seeds. Stones for flourmills mainly came from French composition stones and were much softer in comparison.

Peter's stones are a mixture of flourmill and seedmill stones, some freshly prepared and others worn and needing regrinding. They are of different sizes, (ranging from 42"-48" in diameter), different central apertures and varying thickness. They *could* all have come from the Station mill (the Seed Mill on later maps), because the mill could perhaps have changed use over the years. This mill could have begun life as a flourmill and gone over to seed grinding when the flour milling business was not as prosperous. The old flourmill stones could well have been discarded and eventually collected with the more recently obsolete seedmill stones, when this mill finally closed down at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, Peter's flourmill stones could equally well have been collected from "Hudson's Mill" when that was closed down and demolished in 1900. Only fragments of millstones have been discovered on this site so far, although the whole of the original building bases are all clearly visible in the garden of Mill Haven.