The Good Intent Windmill

The Good Intent Windmill was built about 1820 for Mr William Holliday, a local landowner, along with 2 or 3 mill cottages. It was situated on raised ground on the north side of Mansfield Road. In 1828 it was offered for sale, with 'two pairs of French Stones, and Patent Sails and the whole of the Machinery being nearly new and complete'. It was again advertised for auction in January 1838 when the mill was in the occupation of Mr Edward Stendall. It had 'four Pair of Stones, large Granaries, and a Drying Kiln, with a pair of Stones and Machinery for the Shelling of Oats'.

In commercial directories of 1841 and 1844, the miller was Robert Smithurst. He had previously been miller at Greasley, near Eastwood. The 1851 census shows that two of his sons, Thomas and George, were also millers at Good Intent. Thomas married a local girl and continued to run the mill until 1860 when a local newspaper reported that a strong wind blew down the mill tower. A fund was set up in the village to raise money for the rebuilding costs, which were estimated at £400. The mill was clearly rebuilt, but perhaps it proved too big a blow for Thomas who, within a year, had moved his family down to West Ham where he got a job as Clerk to a Corn Merchant.

Over the next 40 years, the Good Intent Mill continued to be productive and millers listed in census and commercial directories included William Longbottom, John Parr, Edward Scoley and Joseph Eto. From the early 1890s Alexander Straw was the miller. The Straws were an enterprising family, whose relative wealth was built on William Straw's Earthernware Pottery manufacturing and a Grocery business on Main Street. In the 1881 census, his son Alexander is working in the grocer's shop aged 14. He later included Baker, Miller and Corn Merchant to his list of jobs. In the 1911 census he is still a Baker and Grocer and living at The Grange.

In 1911 the mill was bought for £425 by George Hutchinson, who was a farmer, grocer and corn merchant. He dismantled the mill in 1919. Between 1910 and 1920 Hutchinson also acquired or rented nine farms, two grocery businesses and three warehouses and was declared bankrupt in 1921. The mill and mill cottages were finally sold several years later. The cottages were restored and are still family homes; the mill ruins were demolished.