## Kronborg Geværfabrik (Kronborg Small Arms Works)

Hammermøllen (the Hammer Mill) was an integrated part of the arms works, Kronborg Geværfabrik. The works included 8 water mills, all powered by Hellebækken (the Holy Stream). There were three different types of mill: Hammer mills, drilling mills and grinding mills. All buildings in Hellebæk were used for both habitation and workshops. Kronborg Geværfabrik was closed down in 1870. Subsequently, Hammermøllen was used exclusively for habitation.



Bøssemagergade (Gunsmith Street). Foto: Louise Thomsen, ca. 1860

#### **Early Ownership**

Hammermøllen was erected in 1765 by Stephan Hansen. In the same year he sold the factory to the Danish State. In 1768 the financier Baron Heinrich Carl v. Schimmelmann purchased the works and Hellebækgaard. In 1781 the ownership was transferred to "The Entailed Estate of Count Schimmelmann". Following the abolition of entailed estates in 1930, Hellebæk Estate was established. It consisted of the properties of the entailed estates in Hellebæk and



Hammermøllen. Foto: Louise Thomsen, ca. 1860

Aalsgaarde. Hellebæk Estate was owned by the noble families v. Baudissin, v. Löwenstern and Schimmelmann. After WW2 Hellebæk Estate including Hammermøllen was confiscated by the Danish State.



Excavation in the interior of Hammermøllen Foto: Svend Engelbrechtsen, 1964

#### Recent History of Hammermøllen

The building deteriorated markedly and in the end of the 1950'ies it was hardly appropriate for habitation. It was planned to demolish the mill. A number of persons with particular interest in the local history carried



Working day on Hammermøllen restoration. Foto: Svend Engelbrechtsen, 1981 out archaeological excavations outside and inside the building.

During the excavations remnants of water inlet, paddle wheels and hammerworks were found, making it possible to carry out a reconstruction of both the interior and exterior of the mill.



Museum of Hammermøllen Foto: Peter Uldum, 2015

In 1961 "Society of Hellebæk-Aalsgaard Local History" was established in order to restore the building and reconstruct the paddle wheels and the hammerworks.

After 21 years of work carried out by both voluntary and professional workers, and financially supported by public, as well as private donations, Hammermøllen could be reopened in 1982.



Whitsun Market Foto: Svend Engelbrechtsen, 1983

Today Hammermøllen is open to the public and depicts the story about Hellebæk and Aalsgaarde and not the least, Kronborg Geværfabrik. Apart from a cosy and popular café, also a museum and archive for local history are located in the building.

Hammermøllen is a meeting point for many, and a cultural centre for the local residents. "Friends of Hammermøllen" was established in 1980 in order to collect money for the current maintenance of the building. "Friends of Hammermøllen" holds every year a Christmas market and a Whitsun market at Hammermøllen. "Friends of Hammermøllen" is presently together with the Municipal of Elsinore the biggest contributor to the maintenance of Hammermøllen.

"Theatre Group of Hammermøllen" has since 1988 staged local historic plays on the lawns of Hammermøllen. Every second year in August an enthusiastic audience is invading the area in order to enjoy these very poetic plays.



Turbinehuset. Foto: Peter Uldum, 2015

# The Activities of "Society of Hellebæk-Aalsgaard Local History"

Apart from running and maintaining Hammermøllen the Society runs and maintains Proberhuset (the Testing building) and Turbinehuset (the Turbine building).

Proberhuset erected in 1847 is the oldest building in the world particularly equipped for testing gun barrels.

Turbinehuset, also Hellebæk water power station producing electricity, contains a model of Hellebæk in the year 1823. The public has access to both buildings via a tour of the old Kronborg Geværfabrik. Tours in English can be ordered via the mail-address: hammermollen@hammermollen.dk

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# Hammermøllen in Hellebæk

Hammermøllen sept. 2016. Foto: Peter Uldum