

Sutton Hoo & Woodbridge Tide Mill 17th September 2016

FRIENDS VISIT TO SUTTON HOO & WOODBRIDGE TIDE MILL

17TH SEPTEMBER 2016



Setting off on what seemed to be the first day of autumn, we arrived earlier than expected at the Sutton Hoo site which appeared quite atmospheric in the misty morning. However we were welcomed by the staff who allowed us to enter the building ahead of time to use the facilities!

We had time to wander around the site, before most of the group opted for a guided tour of the burial mounds later in the morning. Near the end of the tour they were rewarded by being able to watch an unexpected re-enactment in costume of the inquest held at Tranmere House (home of the original owner Mrs Pretty) on whether the treasure found in the grounds was treasure trove or not.



Bruiser the Manx ram guards the gate to the tumuli!

The Exhibition Hall continues to evolve – and gets better and better. Lots of information in colourful and easy to understand exhibits. There is now a Treasury containing uprighted replicas of the treasures that the site has yielded. I was lucky enough to be in there at noon to hear a short talk on the silver dishes found on the site and believed to be used in religious practices.



Our party by the reconstructed Tumulus No 2



Inside the Exhibition

Links:

[National Trust Site for Sutton Hoo](#)

[British Museum Sutton Hoo Information](#)

After lunch we travelled down into Woodbridge to visit the very picturesque 800- year old Tide Mill. We were met by Bob Skillet who took us around the mill and explained what happens on each floor.

We were initially shown a working model of the mill, before going outside to the board walk where we were able to see how the tidal waters are trapped in the tidal pond and also view the 5m oak water wheel which was replaced in 2011.

At one time the tidal pond was very much larger.



*Travel Poster produced for British Railways.
Artwork by Jack Merriott (1901-1968)*



The Waterwheel and its housing

The earliest record for the mill on this site by the River Deben was 1170. Changing hands over the years it fell into disrepair in the 1950s and closed in 1957. It was restored and opened to the public in 1973 and it is now a fully working mill again – I have the loaf of bread to prove it (unintended pun there!)

It was a shame that the tide was too low for us to see wheel and the rest of the machinery in action. However the scenery and the peace and quiet more than made up for that.

A very enjoyable and interesting day.

Text by Brenda, Photos by Geoff, unless otherwise stated. Thanks to Woodbridge Tide Mill Trust for use of the video.

Links: [Woodbridge Tide Mill](#)



Bob explaining the process of milling