

NT Dapdune Wharf and Shalford Mill trip Wednesday 28th June 2017.



All day the weather was overcast and mild.

We arrived at The Wharf and were greeted by Tory Stenning the Wharf Manager. We were offered tea, coffee, hot chocolate etc. I was advised that our morning refreshments were complimentary, which I thought was a “nice touch”.

At around 10.30 we boarded our three electric launches and set off on our adventure. We had five skippers for the three boats which allowed for volunteers to operate the sluices at the locks. We negotiated two locks, one at Millmead behind the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and the second at St Catherine’s lock. There we left our launches and were guided the relatively short distance across country with views over Shalford Water Meadows to Shalford Mill.

We sat down to a splendid picnic style lunch of sausage rolls (made with cranberries – yum yum) and an extensive array of sandwiches to suit all tastes. Soft drinks were served by Veronica Gates, the Mill Officer. We were then treated to fresh fruit salad. There was plenty to go around and a good deal was left uneaten. The catering was courtesy of a local Shalford deli / café – highly recommended.

We were split into two groups and given a comprehensive tour with detailed commentary over the three floors of the mill. The tour was considered excellent and all too soon we have to leave the mill, retrace our steps across the water meadows to re-join our launches that were tied up on the waterway next to the tied NT cottage, the tenant of which is responsible for ensuring correct water levels by operating the sluice next door called the “riff raff” weir.

Our return journey to the wharf was enjoyable and uneventful, losing no members overboard.

On our return to the wharf refreshments were available and the site was open specifically for our enjoyment.

All of the staff were excellent, be they at The Wharf, The Mill or skippering the launches.

Just before departure we were able to take a group photograph. (see above)

I am satisfied a good time was had by one and all.

Chris Wright 28.06.2017