

THE ANNUAL CLUB HOLIDAY TO SUFFOLK MAY 2013

Report by David Sayers - Webmaster

Following a prompt departure on Sunday 16th May, 38 members and partners boarded a coach driven by our old friend Doug and headed for Suffolk. Following a comfort stop at Fleet Services we headed for Audley End House arriving just after lunch. The restaurant got very busy when everybody had the same idea of having a drink and something to eat before touring the House and Gardens. After a few hours the coach went to our destination of Lavenham and The Swan Hotel.

The Swan Hotel made us most welcome and the food and service could not be faulted.



John and Brenda Corfe drove to the Swan by car as they were continuing their holiday in Norfolk after Suffolk. On Monday after a hearty breakfast we had a talk about the history of Lavenham in the Hotel with free time in the morning to explore Lavenham before departure after lunch to Flatford Mill and Dedham.



THE SWAN HOTEL

Arriving at Flatford Mill we were split into two groups and had a guided tour around the area seeing where John Constable painted some of his famous pictures. After this we visited Dedham for a short while.

FLATFORD MILL

Tuesday morning saw us depart to Ickworth House in the morning for an unescorted tour around the House and Gardens. The new stumpery in the gardens was particularly good as was the basement area where the servants worked hard.



In the afternoon two optional tours were arranged around the Town or round the Cathedral. The gardens looked particularly good with plenty of colour.

BURY ST EDMONDS

Wednesday saw us head north to Ely with an optional tour around the Cathedral. In the

afternoon we headed to Wickham Fen, one of Europe's most important wetlands. It was particularly windy and cold and a few hardy souls went for a walk on the boardwalks but there was little to see in the way of wildlife. There was a small cottage nearby which had very small rooms and low ceilings.



Thursday saw us depart to Sutton Hoo in the morning which was very interesting. The numerous historic finds many of which are in the British Museum because they are so valuable were all discovered around the time of World War 2. It seems the family just started digging on their land and discovered many treasures. The house where they lived was very interesting, it was as though they had just popped out for the day. We then went onto Snape Maltings for lunch and a quick look around the shops there. After

lunch we went to a very cold and windy Aldeburgh where everyone went for tea and cakes in one of the many tea shops.

ALDEBURGH BEACH

On Thursday evening we had a final farewell dinner saying our thanks to the restaurant staff who served and fed us well.

Friday morning saw us depart after another hearty breakfast and wave goodbye to John and Brenda Corfe and to stop of in either Cambridge or Duxford Air Museum. We left Cambridge/Duxford around 3pm for the drive home apart from traffic jams around Heathrow and Winchester we made good time and arrived in Lymington around 6 .45pm.

MANY THANKS GO TO DAVID JONES FOR ORGANISING THE TRIP AND ALSO TO DOUG OUR COACH DRIVER.