

# THE TIDE MILL

## LIVING MUSEUM

### BEOWULF

Many of you will have been at the fascinating illustrated talk by Debby Banham MA PhD entitled 'What would Beowulf eat?' on May 5 at the Tide Mill, as part of The Spirit of Beowulf Community Festival.

You may also have been at the boat stage outside after 7pm, to see bands Oktoba, Caswell and Aartwork entertain until 10pm, when event producer Jan Pulsford introduced 'Projections at Dusk' where a series of fantastic illustrations and moving images ( dragon animation by Jenny and Jules) were projected onto our own Tide Mill, which acted as an excellent backdrop, accompanied by the story of Beowulf and calming mood music from aMBieNT MuSiC WoRLD.

But more of you will have missed it all, so the next page is devoted to pictures therefrom.

The music/light-show event, generously sponsored by Holly Blue Boutique, proved a great success, and the whole festival was thanks to the efforts of Claire Perkins, who organised it instead of having the outgoing mayor's dinner. Scruff the Plastic Dragon, who was created by Wildlife Gadget Man Jason Alexander, from plastic collected around the area, can be seen in the photographs as he was on display over the period of the festival.



Claire Perkins

PHOTO: J BUTTON

### ARCHIVIST'S REVIEW

I regret to be unable to fill this space this month, but promise to return soon.

**Fraser Hale**

### Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham



### VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

On the evening of 18 May we held our Annual General Meeting at the Shire Hall for volunteers and Friends. There are a couple of parts of my Chair's report for 2017 that I would like to repeat here for those of you who could not be with us.

I have been finding my feet and I'm very grateful to the team for their support. Our financial performance was sound and we showed a surplus of just under £16,000, which has helped us to top up our preservation fund. This fund is vital to ensure the survival of the mill. As well as allowing us to deal with any unexpected repairs, it allows us to pay for the regular maintenance and decoration of the Mill. To give you a flavour, a complete redecoration of the exterior of the building will probably cost well in excess of £60,000.

The team of volunteers has been outstanding: the maintenance team who keep the wheel turning and the green algae at bay; the Millers; the Packers; the Wardens and the Guides have all contributed to the smooth running of the Mill. With regard to Guides, we could do with a few more volunteers [See link to Guides Rota on page 6. Ed.]. We welcome many groups to look at the Mill, including local schools. Helpers ensure this experience is good one.

**John Carrington, Chair of Trustees**

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**Page 2**

Photos from Beowulf

**Page 3**

Warden's Digest  
Engineering Gazette  
ToM (&M)  
Miller's Chronicle  
Busker's Corner  
Word Wheel

**Page 4**

The Story Behind - JWW  
It's A Result! - Mince meat  
Cake

**Page 5**

Diary Dates  
Other Tide Mills  
Word Wheel Answers

### WORK FOR YOUR FUTURE



**HARD WORK PAYS OFF IN THE FUTURE, BUT LAZINESS PAYS OFF NOW!**





**BEOWULF FESTIVAL  
SEE PAGE ONE**

PHOTOS:  
SIMON BALLARD

[www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk](http://www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk)



**WARDENS' DIGEST**

As we end our 2nd month of the season I am happy to report that all is well we are slightly up on last years figures in both admissions and over-the-counter sales of flour and merchandise. We are introducing some new merchandise and with more milling demonstration's planned we feel confident the season will continue

well. Our new wardens David and Steve are doing well and have made a positive addition to our already enthusiastic team. We are very grateful to be supported by the guides during milling demos and group tours. If you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a guide please get in touch you would be gratefully received and appreciated.  
**Dan Tarrant-Willis**

**ENGINEERING GAZETTE**

The engineers have not done anything this month. Actually, that is not strictly what they told me. What they said was, "Nothing much of interest has been done, so we will not bore your readers any more than they are already." Good job they are friends! Ed.

**Tales of Mills (and Millers)**

One or two bizarre tales have grown up around Woodbridge Tide Mill over the years. One involved pepper. A famous Woodbridge pepper was supposedly grown in the fields by Kyson Point. The Mill used to grind it once dried, and the ground pepper sent off to London in barges. Unfortunately, the skipper of one of the barges fell into the pepper, and he sneezed himself to death.

It was also told that the Mill was once an inn. A bed on the upper floors had been slept in by the Black Prince, Queen Elizabeth I, and Stanley Baldwin. 'Not at the same time, of course' the story tellers were quick to point out. Queen Elizabeth we can understand; she at least owned the Mill before selling it to Sir Thomas Seckford. We can make a connection to the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward II, as Sir John de Wingfield was his chief of staff in the 1300's, and a later descendant, Sir Anthony Wingfield, leased the Mill from Henry VIII in the 1500's. But Stanley Baldwin ?

All no doubt completely untrue and it was certainly never an inn, but what is true is that Woodbridge Tide Mill is today sometimes used as a restaurant. The Shuck Shellfish Festival is regularly back in Woodbridge and the renowned Shuck Shack is very popular.

**Nigel Barrett**

(This article is an edited version of one that first appeared in the EADT in October 2016)

**THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE**

Milling is an exercise requiring maintenance and consistency. To consistently maintain a good product necessitates the miller to be considerate and mindful of all the variables involved with the physical aspects of the mill and also the human interaction that the millers and engineers have with the mill. It's a question of identifying the casual factor of any

**This year's production of our super flour to date is 2,139.70 kg.**

(339 1/3 stone Ed.)

given result good or bad. To ensure the mill runs smoothly and the product produced is consistent. When we do have a problem or inconsistency in quality it's our job to work out why and rectify it. This is usually achieved by discussion and team work so the appropriate action can be implemented. We had a recent problem that simply confounded us. I was surprised that the problem solved its self, on its own! I personally find this to be a helpful lesson, in so far as, we sometimes can't understand everything, and there's more to milling than meets the eye!

**Dan Tarrant-Willis**  
[dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com](mailto:dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com)

**BUSKER'S CORNER**

In Woodbridge the miller by day,  
 Will mill as the tide ebbs away,  
 But when it's at night,  
 And the tide is just right,  
 The Miller will just have to stay.



**WORD WHEEL**

The Word Wheel in each issue (which can be done on a scrap of paper), uses a nine letter word from the Mill Guidebook. Use a minimum of four letters for each word, one of which must be the hub letter. Give yourself ten minutes, and don't use proper nouns, plurals or foreign words

12=average;  
 24=good;  
 32=v.good  
 Answers on last page.



# THE STORY BEHIND JOHN WOOD'S WANDERLUST



John on engineer room watch on steam ship.

My wanderlust started when I was very young, so at 16 I started to train to become a Merchant Navy Engineering Officer. After two years in college I started my sea going career which continued for about 11 years, during which time I qualified as a Chief Engineer.

Our voyages were most often UK, Suez Canal, Singapore and then northwards as far as China or Southwards down to Australia. Occasionally we would do a trip over to North America or down the West Coast of Africa. All a great adventure. It was the time before containers, so stays in port were much longer and you could explore more and have more fun.

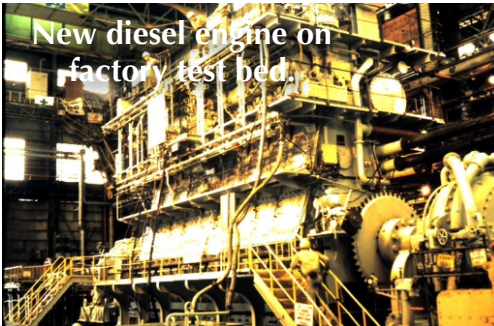
During this time, three of us decided we needed more excitement and so managed to get six months unpaid leave. We purchased a Land Rover and drove from the UK out to and around India, and then home again. A fantastic and exciting trip of 25,000 miles, and travelling through countries that are now almost inaccessible. Later in my career I was posted to Japan for 5 years. My job was to witness, on behalf of my company, all the engineering work required in the building of new ships or conversions. This involved engine building and testing and then all installation of equipment in the new hulls. We were posted to many shipyards up and down the country, which was a fantastic way to learn to understand the Japanese way of life. After about 20 years my wanderlust started to fade and I settled down to married life here in Suffolk. I now have two children who are now both parents.



Riding lookout on Land Rover in rough country in Afghanistan.



John at Taj Mahal

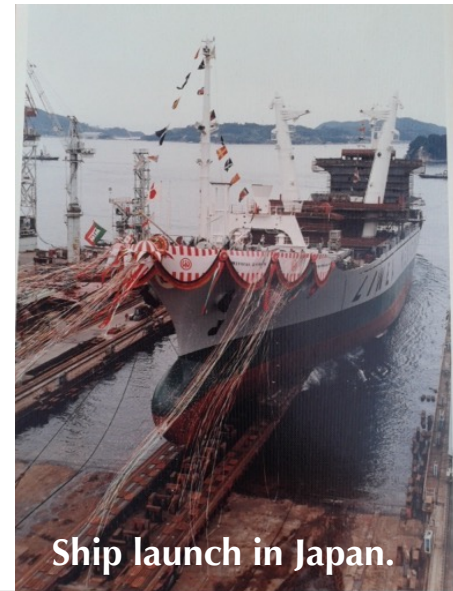


New diesel engine on factory test bed.



Half of a new marine diesel engine being lowered into a new hull.

ALL PHOTOS: JOHN WOOD



Ship launch in Japan.

## IT'S A RESULT! JOHN'S FAVOURITE - MINCEMEAT CAKE

- 225g (8oz.) Tide Mill Traditional wholemeal flour
- 10g (tsp) baking powder
- 140g (5oz.) softened butter
- 140g (3oz.) soft light brown sugar
- 85g (3oz.) sultanas
- 450g (1lb.) mincemeat (a jar)
- 3 eggs
- Demerara sugar to sprinkle (optional)

Oven 150°C/300°F/  
Gas mark 2  
Grease and line a 2lb. loaf tin or an 8 inch round cake tin.  
Beat all the ingredients together. If the mixture is a bit stiff, stir in a little milk to slacken it. *How easy is that!?*  
Bake for 1¾ hours, covering after 20 minutes or so if the top is getting too brown.



*Delicious with a piece of Cheddar cheese!*

Leave in the tin for 15 minutes then turn out and leave to cool.  
If you like, you can sprinkle the top of the cake with Demerara sugar before baking. This gives a lovely crunch and tastes good.

*Recipe extracted from the Tide Mill Cook Book*  
(John learned to love Mincemeat Cake by regularly trying the samples made for visitors! Ed.)



**Diary Dates for 2018**

**Wheel Turning and Milling Demonstrations**

**Wheel Turning** will take place on most days in June at various times, as found on the website, to which there is a link at the foot of this table.

**Milling demonstrations** will take place in June at 15:30 on the 10th and the 24th and at 11:00 on the 19th.

**Other Events**

Stall at Suffolk Show: 30/31 May	Shuck Festival: 29/30 September
Regatta: 17 June (Father's Day) (Mill open free of charge)	Halloween: 31 October
Folk East Festival: 17-19 August	Quiz night: 16 November
Bank Holiday: 27 August	Fireworks: 11 November (Possibly)
Maritime Woodbridge: 8 & 9 September (Mill open free of charge)	Santa's Grotto: December (Possibly)

For full general mill working times use this link to the website: [Turning & Milling](#)

**Correspondents: all copy for next month to be sent to [WTMeditor@gmx.com](mailto:WTMeditor@gmx.com) by the middle of June please.**

**Other Tide Mills**

Woodbridge was the last commercially operating Tide Mill and, out of an apogee in excess of over 200 in the UK, is now one of only two Tide Mills still producing flour for retail to the public, the other one being at Eling, on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire. But, here are nine more surviving Tide Mills, all in the UK, but most are not active. Use these links for more information:

[Eling Tide Mill, Hampshire](#)

[Battlesbridge Tide Mill, Battlesbridge, Essex \(converted for business\)](#)

[Carew Castle tide mill, Pembrokeshire](#)

[Fingringhoe Tide Mill, Fingringhoe, Essex \(house converted\) \(No Website\)](#)

[Pembroke tide mill, Pembrokeshire \(mill ponds only\)](#)

[Place Mill, Christchurch, Dorset \(not-working order, restored\)](#)

[Thorrington Tide Mill, Thorrington, Essex](#)

[Three Mills tide mill, Bromley-by-Bow, London \(aka House Mill\)](#)

[Tide Mills, Newhaven, East Sussex \(sluice only\)](#)

Go to [Wikipedia](#) for more

The Annual General Meeting of the Woodbridge Tide Mill Trust was held on 19 May at the Shire Hall.

A summary of the proceedings will be included in the July newsletter.

Don't forget that we always need you to come and do Guiding for the visitors.

It's for your good, too!

Try this link: [Tide Mill Guides Rota](#)

**WORDWHEEL ANSWERS**

Mediaeval, medieval, averted, leaved, leaved, vailed, vailed, availed, laved, laved, valid, leave, alive, delve, devil, lived, vada, lava, deva, veda, avid, diva, eave, lave, vale, veal, vail, devi, dive, vide, vied, veld, evil, live, veil, vile, vie.