



**BROADS
SOCIETY**

Friends of The Broads

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 21 November 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, 21 November 2026, in the Acle War Memorial Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, NR13 3RA. The meeting will commence at 2.30 pm. Refreshments will be available.

After the AGM and awards ceremonies, presentations will be made by the Chair and Trustees, followed by an opportunity for informal discussion about the Society and its work.

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday 21 November 2026 at 2.30 pm**

Name of Nominee:

For position of:

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

I confirm that I am willing to be nominated for the above position.

Signed Nominee:

Date: 2026

Please return the completed nomination form to the Administrator by Friday 6 November 2026. You may email scanned signed copies to **admin@broads-society.org**, or send your nomination by post to 26 Meadowvale, New Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0NJ.

AGM REGISTRATION DETAILS

It would be helpful for catering purposes if members would kindly register for the AGM. Registration is via the Society's website. Interested non-members may also register to attend, but may not vote.

Please register by Friday 13 November 2026



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 21 November 2026 at 2.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 22 November 2026
 3. Matters arising not considered elsewhere in the agenda
 4. To note the Trustees' Report and adopt the Financial Statement for FY 2025-26
 5. To elect the following as Officers of the Society:

Chairman:	Mark Collins MA, MBA, PhD
Vice-Chairman:	Paul Hayden OBE, QFSM, MA, MSc, MiFireE
Hon. Treasurer:	Vacant
 6. To elect the following and any other nominated Trustees to the Board:

Keith Bacon, PhD	Chris Balls
Anthony Lumbard	Steve Mansfield
Kim Travis	Reg Wilson
 7. To appoint the Independent Examiner: Debit & Credit Accountancy Services Limited
 8. Date of next meeting: Saturday 20 November 2027
- Close of formal business.

PRESENTATION OF LADY MAYHEW'S TROPHY

Lady Mayhew gave this trophy to recognise voluntary effort that encourages young people's interest and enjoyment of the Broads. The recipient will receive the splendid trophy for one year, and a prize of £250.

PRESENTATION OF THE BROADS SOCIETY AWARD

The Broads Society Award will be presented to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the Broads Society.

ANNUAL DRAW OF THE 500 CLUB LOTTERY - NOVEMBER WINNER

The draw will be made by the Society's Patron, Henry Cator OBE.

PRESENTATIONS BY TRUSTEES

Short presentations will be made on the future outlook and work of the Society. Members are invited to raise questions, either by prior notification or from the floor, on any topic relevant to the Society's work and objectives. If desired, advance questions may be sent to the Administrator.

The Agenda and Trustees' Annual Report will be published in *Harnser*, October 2026, and on the Society's website under Key Documents. All papers, including the draft 2025 AGM Minutes, will also be distributed by email to members who have supplied their email address. To receive these papers by post, please send a stamped addressed A5 envelope to the Administrator.

CLOSE OF ALL BUSINESS: 4.00 pm

To be followed by refreshments.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

Established as a charity in 1956 and as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2025.

CHARITY INFORMATION

Governing Document:	Constitution 30.10.99 amended 23.11.02; 18.11.06; 14.11.09; 11.11.24
Charity Number:	1214527
HMRC Charities Reference:	XR37510
Registered Address:	26 Meadowvale, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0NJ
Administrator	Marianne Saunders
Independent Examiner	Debit & Credit Accountancy Services Limited
Accountants & Solicitors:	None
Bankers:	Barclays Bank PLC
Website:	www.broads-society.org
Email:	admin@broads-society.org
Telephone:	07827 937845
Facebook & Instagram:	broadssociety

MISSION & OBJECTS

Our members share a common purpose to help secure a sustainable future for the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads as a unique and protected landscape in which leisure, tourism and the local economy can thrive in harmony with the natural environment.

The objects of the CIO are a) to advance the education of the public in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads; b) to maintain, restore, conserve, improve and develop, objects, features, buildings and sites of historical, artistic, ecological and scientific interest relating to the Norfolk and Suffolk broads for the public benefit; c) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life. In furtherance of these purposes the CIO shall provide such meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and programmes as the trustees may decide.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Introduction

The Broads Society is a non-governmental, voluntary, membership organisation offering a voice for all who are friends of the Broads. The Broads face many challenges, and the need for strong and united civil society engagement has never been greater. As the Broads Society reaches its 70th anniversary, we help to preserve and enhance the Broads through beneficial programmes and activities in recreation, environment and heritage, encouraging volunteering, and supportive scrutiny of development plans and policies.

Origins

The Broads Society was formed in 1956, when a group of local businessmen, naturalists, and sailors brought together disparate groups to speak with one voice at a time when no statutory body existed. Instead, each local authority oversaw its part of the Broads, a very disjointed way to manage such a vital wetland ecosystem.

Len Ramuz, a passionate sailor, entrepreneur, and inventor, called the inaugural meeting on 4 June 1956 and wanted the Society to include everyone, regardless of their particular interest in the Broads. The Society has established itself as a respected campaigning organisation and a source of information, and its social and discussion gatherings for members remain equally important, with many events organised.

Over the years, the Society has campaigned on critical issues, including flood protection, inappropriate development planning, and, of course, monitoring and commenting on the 'Broads Bill' as it made its tortuous way to the statute book, culminating in the formation of the Broads Authority. Today, the Broads Society continues its essential role in Broadland life, campaigning and, in the face of biodiversity loss and climate change, working towards a sustainable future for all.

Governance and Management

At the AGM on 22 November 2025, members resolved that the Broads Society Charity No 1078434 should be dissolved on a date to be agreed by its Trustees, with its assets transferred to the Broads Society Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1214527, as formally approved by the Charity Commission in August 2025 and in compliance with Clause 24 of the Society's constitution. The change of charitable status was formally actioned on 31 March 2026. This report and financial statement therefore constitute the Trustees' closing report for the Broads Society Charity No 1078434. The new constitution of the Broads Society CIO is available on the Society's website, and additional details are available on the Charity Commission website.

During the reporting period, the Society's Trustees were Dr Mark Collins (Chair), Mr Paul Hayden (Vice-Chairman), *Vacant* (Treasurer), Dr Keith Bacon, Mr Christopher Balls, Mr Martyn Hooton (resigned 18.03.26), Ms Linda Ibbitson-Elks, Mr Anthony Lombard, and Ms Katharine Reeve (resigned 26.06.25).

The Society's President was Dr Keith Bacon. The Society's Vice-Presidents were Sheila Ashford, Peter Howe (deceased 14 March 2026), Ian Masters, and Robert Paul. The Society's Patron was Mr Henry Cator OBE.

The charity's key management personnel were the Trustees, assisted by a part-time Administrator, Sarah Vergette (resigned), who was replaced by Marianne Saunders, with the change taking effect on 1 August 2025. From 1 September 2025, the Society also welcomed Claire Butler as a part-time Programme Administrator. New Trustees and volunteers were recruited through public advertising, the *Voluntary Norfolk* website, and *Harnser's* pages.

The Society is grateful to the volunteers who have contributed, particularly Marc Chattle and Peter Smith for editing *Harnser*, Martin Thirkettle for his advice on planning matters, Nicola Hems for events coordination, and Zoe Williams-Bar for managing website blogs.

The Society has policies on safeguarding, data protection, equality & diversity, health & safety, complaints, volunteers, photography & media, donors & legacies, data retention, privacy, cookies, and website terms & conditions, all of which are kept under review by the Trustees and made publicly accessible on the website.

Strategic Management

In their *Strategic Plan 2024-2026: Towards our 70th Anniversary*, the Trustees committed to enhancing member services, public benefits, and communications, ensuring they are affordable, accessible, and efficiently organised, and to building stronger partnerships. Following the transition to a CIO and the assumption of the former Broads Trust's objectives, the Board has restructured, creating three committees reporting to the Board. They are a) Finance, Administration and Membership, chaired by the Treasurer, once recruited; b) Programme and Communications, chaired by Society Vice-Chair, Paul Hayden; and c) Planning, chaired by Anthony Lombard. The Board continues to follow the Charity Governance Code.

Programme, Activities and Events

The Trustees are committed to a programme under the general themes of recreation, environment and heritage in the Broads, aimed at providing benefits to the Society's membership and the public, including campaigning and advocacy, awareness-raising, information, publications, field events and visits, indoor events including presentations, briefings, lectures, debates and conferences, opportunities to scrutinise planning applications and to volunteer in support of these aims.

During the year under report, the Society expressed its concern at the financial cuts being suffered by the Broads National Park, cautioned that any tourism levies should be used to improve access, and published campaigning information *inter alia* on chalk rivers, regenerative tourism, accessible and sustainable travel, landscape management, salinisation, sailing on Hickling, over-population of deer, and pet flea treatments.

The Society held a number of events during the year, including an online talk on the US Air Force in the Broads (in association with the American Library), and Society Supper events on Restoring Broads Landscapes, the Future of Boatbuilding on the Broads, Adapting to Climate Change in the Broads, and Better Access for All to the Broads. An enjoyable walk to the Eel Sett at Candle Dyke was led by Eilish Rothney, a former apprentice of the last Broads eel catcher, Derek Johnson.

Members greatly enjoyed a visit to Hunters Yard, where they had the opportunity to sail in their traditional Broads boats, as well as a visit to Whitlingham Country Park. In November, the Society staged the 2nd Broads Society Annual Lecture, presented by James Parry, who entertained a large audience on the subject of 'Norfolk's Greatest Naturalists'.

The Society continued to promote its aims and membership benefits at events across the Broads, including the Horning Boat Show and the Royal Norfolk Show, as well as at other venues. Additional volunteer support is needed to continue to fulfil these commitments.

Each year, the Society offers two prestigious awards. In November 2025, the *Lady Mayhew's Trophy* and the £250.00 Prize were awarded to the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth for its outstanding work with young people through the 'Kick The Dust' project. The *Broads Society Award* for long service was presented to Colin Dye in gratitude for his dedicated commitment as a volunteer and trustee of the Society over many years.

The Society's website was replaced with a new version, which attracted widespread praise. Added functionality has greatly supported event bookings, membership applications, and the dissemination of key news and documentation. The Society continued to publish four editions of its flagship magazine, *Harnser*, which brings many readers, advertisers, authors, and enthusiasts to our cause. We further improved website management and expanded our social media presence (Facebook and Instagram).

The Society received numerous planning consultations from the Broads Authority and responded to all that were deemed important for the protection of the heritage, character and amenity of the Broads or for promoting sustainable economic development.

The Broads Trust

The Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust, to give it its full name, was established on 17th June 2008, largely through the good offices of the Broads Society and the Broads Authority, to support local bodies through fundraising and grants for conservation and public well-being. The Trust raised nearly £250,000 and funded over 50 projects, including the installation of four Discovery Hubs in Salhouse, Beccles and Great Yarmouth.

After careful consideration, the Trust dissolved in March 2026 and transferred its fundraising and education roles, together with its remaining funds, to the Broads Society. The Chair of the Broads Trust, Paul Hayden, became Vice-Chair of the Broads Society and ensured a smooth transition to the new arrangements, coinciding with the Society's transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Trust's main fundraising platform, 'Love the Broads', has been relaunched as an online facility, replacing the previous cash donations system. The Society greatly appreciated the late Peter Howe's help in this endeavour.

Partnerships and Cooperation

During the year, the Society continued to maintain good relations with the Broads Authority, the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association and others. The Society engaged positively with the Broadland Futures Initiative and remained an active member of the Campaign for National Parks and the Inland Waterways Association. The Society joined the 'Visit the Broads' association in order to promote its mission, activities and fundraising work.

Finance, Membership and Fundraising

The Society's income was £34,815 (£21,675, 24/25), producing an overall surplus of £2,762 (-£2,019 FY 24/25). The balance sheet improved to £91,221 (£41,800, FY 24/25). The Society received a generous unrestricted donation of £25,000 from the National Rivers Consortium during the year, which was invaluable in developing the new website, relaunching Love the Broads, and producing a new monthly Newsletter (in 26/27). Other regular gifts were greatly appreciated.

However, the hoped-for growth in membership has not materialised despite significant improvements to the Society's offer to the public, with only 27 new members joining in FY 25/26. During the year, the Society's Administrator carried out extensive checks on the membership database, removing names that were no longer valid. This exercise resulted in a considerable drop in recorded membership numbers, but these now truthfully and realistically represent the Society's position. The Society has created a new, free category called 'Supporters' who receive a monthly Newsletter, but not Harnser. Our hope and belief is that the cadre of Supporters, which is growing quickly, will like what they see and transition to fully paid membership over time.

The Society had 571 memberships as at 31 March 2026 (716 - March 2025), comprising 238 individuals (341), 106 joint (139), 187 life (192), 5 club (2), 4 corporate (14), 20 family (13), and 11 Parish Council (15) members. Income from membership declined to £7,881 (£9,582 in FY 24/25). The strategic target to cover core costs from membership dues, gifts and legacies has therefore not yet been achieved, despite the significantly improved benefits to members. The Society runs a lottery for members, the 500 Club, which raises much-needed additional income.

The Broads Society: Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2026

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT As at 31 March

	Notes	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Incoming resources:			
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
- Gifts received for Broads Guardians Voluntary income		-	400
Donations, membership and other	2	25,307	12,687
Activity generated income:			
- Merchandise and events	3	6,279	5,947
- Bank interest		1,713	1,363
- Advertising income		1,496	1,278
- Sundry		21	-
Total incoming resources		34,815	21,675
Resources expended:			
Costs of generating funds	4	4,782	5,032
Charitable activities	4	27,030	18,512
Governance costs	4	240	150
Total resources expended		32,052	23,694
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		2,763	-2,019
Fund balances brought forward		41,801	43,820
Fund balances carried forward		44,564	41,801

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Current assets:			
Cash at bank			
- Current accounts		4,061	1,853
- Business premium accounts		83,074	16,322
- COIF Charities deposit fund		24,586	23,626
Current liabilities:			
- Deferred grants		-20,000	-
- Other creditor - subscription refunds		-500	-
Net assets		<u>91,222</u>	<u>41,801</u>
General funds:			
Brought forward		41,801	43,819
N&S Broads Trust - transfer of assets	7	46,658	-
Surplus/(deficit)		2,763	-2,019
Total funds		<u><u>91,222</u></u>	<u><u>41,800</u></u>

The general fund represents those funds which are unrestricted and not designated for other purposes.

The accounts in respect of the year ended 31 March 2026 were approved by the Trustees on 11 May 2026.



Dr N M Collins (Chairman)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Principal Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are produced on a receipts and payments basis.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(c) Income resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when it is received.

(d) Resources expended

All expenditures are included in the statement of financial activities when they are paid for. The costs of generating funds relate to the expenses incurred by a charity in delivering its activities and services to its beneficiaries. It includes costs that can be allocated directly to such activities, as well as those of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the charity's constitutional and statutory requirements, as well as the independent examination fee and costs related to the strategic management of the charity. All costs are allocated between these expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

2 Donations, grants and membership subscriptions		2026	2025
		£	£
Donations and legacies		10,969	743
Membership subscriptions		7,881	9,582
Grants		5,000	0
Gift aid tax refund		1,457	1,507
500 club donation		0	855
		<u>25,307</u>	<u>12,687</u>

3 Merchandise and events		2026	2025
		£	£
Income	-sale of goods	1,189	1,380
	- events	5,090	4,567
Expenditure	- costs of purchases	-1,041	-1,056
	- events	-3,741	-3,976
		<u>1,497</u>	<u>915</u>

4 Total resources expended general fund

	Notes	Costs of generating funds £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Costs directly allocated to activities						
- Subscriptions	5		866		866	719
- Goods for resale		1,041			1,041	1,056
- Independent examination				240	240	150
- Events		3,741			3,741	3,976
- Awards			68		68	51
- AGM			121		121	515
Support costs allocated to activities						
- Staffing costs			15,102		15,102	8,000
- Insurance			479		479	467
- Meeting expenditure/travel			119		119	131
- Conference attendance costs					-	310
- <i>Harnser</i> print/postage			7,161		7,161	6,437
- Administration costs			1,098		1,098	878
- Advertising/promotion			963		963	1,004
- Banking charges			1,054		1,054	-
Surplus/(deficit)		<u>4,782</u>	<u>27,030</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>32,052</u>	<u>23,694</u>

5 Subscriptions		2026	2025
		£	£
Campaign for National Parks		536	536
Visit the Broads		180	-
Inland Waterways Association		73	73
Friends of Hunter Fleet		25	25
Other		52	-
		<u>866</u>	<u>634</u>

6 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees are not entitled to and received no remuneration during the period. Expenses are reimbursed to Trustees for costs incurred in respect of Society work. No expenses were claimed by any Trustee during the year. No Trustee or any other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

7 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Trust

The Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Trust was formally dissolved on 31 March 2025 with any assets at that date being formally transferred across to the Broads Society. This transfer of assets was formally approved by the Charity Commission on 7 March 2026.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Broads Society accounts as at 31 March 2026 and its income and expenditure for the year in accordance with standard accounting principles.

Deborah Williams FCCA

Debit & Credit Accountancy Services Ltd

8 The Old Mill

Norwich Road

Hoveton

NR12 8DA

Date: 24 June 2026

As from next year, Financial Year 2026-2027, the Society will distribute the AGM documents by email, not as an insert in *Harnser*, thereby releasing more space for news and articles. Hard copies of the AGM documents will be available by post on request to the Administrator.



BROADS SOCIETY

Friends of The Broads