

HARNSER



*Magazine of the Broads Society
Friends of the Broads*

April 2023

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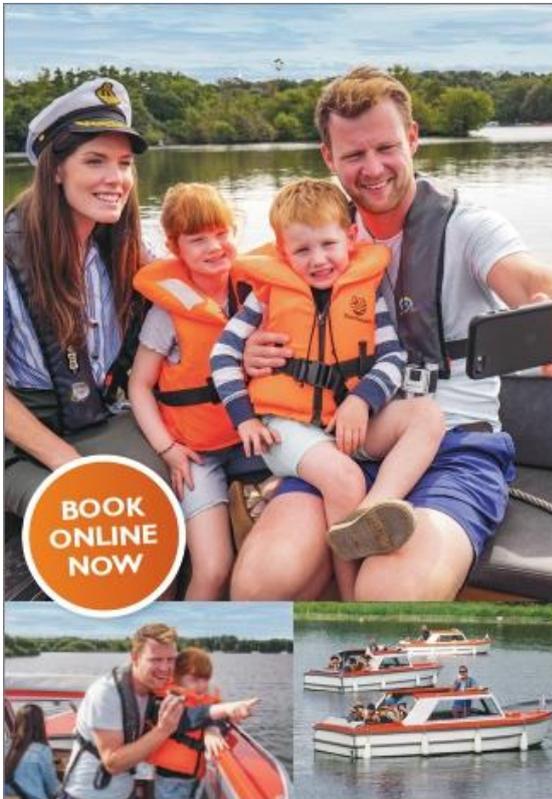
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Our Members share a common purpose to help secure a sustainable future for the Broads as a unique and protected landscape in which leisure, tourism and the local economy can thrive in harmony with the natural environment

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

We find ourselves well into 2023 and much has happened already this year with issues with Potter Heigham bridge (still closed to all but pedestrians and navigation when I write this), flood bank water incursions at Ludham Bridge, controversial tolls increases and mooring charges for Reedham and Ranworth, all issues which have caused debate, comment and criticisms. The Broads Society continues to monitor such Broads related issues and are actively engaged in questioning, investigating, commenting and seeking solutions to them.

By example below are the three questions presented by the Society to the BA at the BA January 2023 full Committee meeting:

1. Question 1 Could the members please offer an explanation as to why this meeting was suddenly brought forward by 5 working days, giving members of the public only 1 working day to submit questions? And are they satisfied that by allowing this to occur that they have complied with the Authorities Code of Conduct regarding openness. (Appendix A – Seven Principles of Public Life)

2. Question 2. We note the Monitoring Officer's "findings" of the External Review of Cllr. Fuller's complaint. As the Monitoring Officer's Report of 10 January – published on 13 January – gives no reasons nor evidence for the findings, will the Members publish the external review?

3. Question 3. Are the Members truly persuaded that the proposed changes to tolls for next year are a genuine prediction of the cost of actual "navigation expenses", as defined in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988? 2. What would the increase in tolls have been if the expenses in Appendix 2 had not been reallocated or entirely redefined as "navigation" expenses?

I would like to show the BA answers here but they are so lengthy, space does not allow, however, the questions and answers are now on the Broads Society website.

I will say that the responses do not actually answer the questions and a supplementary request referring to the Ranworth Visitor Centre reallocation of funding from DEFRA money to toll money. Although agreed at the meeting, this information has not been forthcoming at the time I write.

It's also noted that a new independent Facebook group about reform for the Broads was formed by local Broads campaigners after the unanimous vote for a 13% toll increase which gained a fair size membership within a couple of weeks.

The Society has had further approaches from a variety of Broads businesses including boat yards about issues including the new Quality Accredited Boatyard (QAB) rules (because of tragic incidents on the Broads recently) as set out by the BA and "enforced" by British Marine, their interpretation and costs. These businesses and also

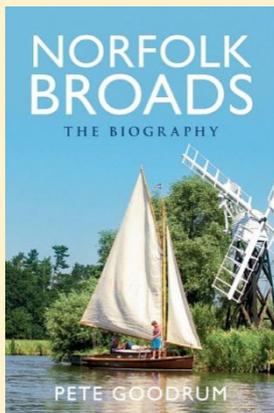
residents, boat users and Broads users perhaps need a “voice for the Broads” and that is where the Broads Society may help. With new members joining us, including corporates, we can become that “voice for the Broads”

We have heard that the expected Landscape Review is no longer to happen. When we have full details of the alternative government approach we hope to report with details. In the interim we continue to have engagement with local MPs over some of these issues and will work with them and our members to seek to improve protection of the Broads

To conclude, we should soon have more detail of our planned “climate adaptation” conference scheduled for autumn this year to include key issues such as saline incursion and flooding.

Paul Rice, Chairman

BROADS SOCIETY AGM 2023



The Annual General Meeting of the Broads Society is to be held on **Saturday 18th November 2023** at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham. As usual, a hot lunch with a choice of menu, will also be available prior to the meeting. Our guest speaker is to be Pete Goodrum, local writer and broadcaster. He is the author of a number of books on local history, including several on Norwich through the ages and ‘Norfolk Broads The Biography’. Pete will be giving an illustrated talk on ‘The History of the Norfolk Broads’, following the formal proceedings. Please put the date in your diary now. Further details and a booking form will be included in the October edition of Harnser.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Society

- Kate Ashbrook, Henley-on-Thames, Life Member
- Mr J Blackburne, North Pickenham
- Edwina Simpson, Catfield

OBITUARY

Robin Godber (1943-2022)



Robin Godber was born in 1943. He attended Bedford school and started a Norfolk Broads club there at the tender age of 9. Robin learnt to sail on Oulton Broad with his uncle Haydn Sanders who lived there.

As a young man Robin emigrated to Australia and worked on a cotton research station in Griffiths NSW. On returning to England, he worked for the National Farmers Union and married Genny in 1969. They lived in Kent and sailed with sons Joe and Pete at Sandwich Bay.

During 1980s Robin became involved in building fast fishing boats in Rye, where they also built pilot vessels, workboats and Brede class lifeboats for the RNLI.

In 1990 the Godbers moved to Claxton; Robin joined Buckenham Sailing Club and sailed his Albacore on the Yare. Coralie a half decker was his next boat, which he sailed on both the Southern and Northern rivers. He was a passionate participator in the Three Rivers Race for many years.

In 1999 Robin and Genny bought Alexander Cruisers based at Brundall which they ran successfully until retirement. He then wrote a book "A Broad Experience" giving a glimpse into the hard work and entertaining episodes involved. Copies are still available from Bittern Books.

Robin became more involved with the Broads Society when Colin Dye asked him to join the Southern Rivers Committee, he later became Chairman of the Committee. Robin was then asked to take on the chairmanship of the Main Committee which he did for many years, when the need for a President arose Robin was the obvious person for the post. He took part in meetings with The Broads Authority and other organisations within the Broads.

Robin also belonged to the Arthur Ransome Society and enjoyed their sailing get-togethers on Oulton Broad.

Robin always played his part in the local community and was a churchwarden in Claxton and later on moved to Loddon where Robin became involved with the church.

Robin passed away peacefully on the 15th November 2022.

NOTES FROM THE BROADS SOCIETY MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING January 2023

Broads Charitable Trust.

Three hubs will be going ahead at Salhouse (Planning granted), Beccles (Planning applied for) and Great Yarmouth.

CNP

New staff at CNP putting out a lot of information.

Live Aboards

Draft a letter for circulation to the Trustees re long term difficulties to be sent to the BA, police MPs. asking for clarification to define what is classed as a live aboard. Multi-agency approach is needed. Broads Society is landowner at Candle Dyke of the Eel Sett with where issues had recently occurred. The first meeting of the new Planning Sub-Committee had taken place with explanation of draft Local Plan.

British Marine Federation

Explanation given on how the QAB (Quality Assured Boatyard) is being applied. The QAB is due to accidents in recent years. The BA instructed the BMF to carry out the QABs, the BMF set the prices. Details were given of how QAB training is done and that yards do not have to be members. Engagement with the boatyards is needed to check their concerns.

Flooding

Issues have occurred with rivers having a lock tide. The flood barrier had been in place at Potter Heigham. There had been a breach at Ludham upriver of the bridge. The Environment Agency has remit to protect properties from flooding including business premises. building. Update given on Potter Heigham Bridge after a hole appeared on 23rd December and the bridge closed. The Bridge is a Scheduled Monument.

Responding to Neighbourhood Plans

The BA are sending Draft Neighbourhood Plans to the Broads Society for consultation

Ratification of Chairman – Southern Rivers & Planning Committee

Peter Smith was appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee and Southern Rivers. The NRC will continue to meet less frequently.

Finance

Accounts received to end of December 2022. Sales of Christmas cards down to 50% of usual sales. Stocks of Blank Cards remain high and merchandise stock is sufficient for 2023.

Any Other Business

Live aboards and the PH Bridge to be kept on the agenda. Suggestion that 3D and 2D art be included in photo competition. The competition will be discussed by Publicity Committee. A sponsor would also be needed. Chainsaw training needed for a new person with future work at Johnny Crowe Staithe, Catfield. Regarding angling, the saline incursion is the largest threat, no one seems to be taking the matter on and it is not BFI remit, they only look at flooding. BASG have written to four statutory organisations re saline and BASG is working with the new fisheries team starting trial solutions. The possible climate change/adaptation conference is on the March agenda. This conference could be framed around the saline incursion. The AGM date was agreed for 18th November 2023 at NBYC

Paul Rice, Chairman

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BROADS

If you would like to see your photo of the Broads featured in a future edition of Harnser, please send it to Harnser.Editor@gmail.com along with details of where and when it was taken. Images can be either portrait or landscape format and should be high resolution, at least one megabyte in size.



This photograph was taken on a rather chilly day in mid-December 2022 near The White Heron in Brundall by Martin Thirkettle.

A Brief History

It all started while I was working at Herbert Woods at Potter Heigham in 1971 and saw they had one of their Hire Fleet remaining unsold, Fair Quest 4, so I made an offer which was far less than the asking price. I was told that my offer would be put forward to the other directors and was later told my offer had been accepted. The director I was speaking to nearly fell off his chair laughing when I told him I had no money but would pay off the balance by hiring out Fair Quest 4 and was told for my cheek he would accept my offer.

A friend of mine was leasing a boatyard called Faircraft in Brimbelow Road Hoveton/Wroxham and he agreed to include Fair Quest in his small fleet.

By the end of the 1972 season, Faircraft had been sold to a Mr Hall, who asked me to build two new boats for him, so I handed in my notice to Herbert Woods and started my own business.

On 1st December 1972, my 25th Birthday, the lease came up for a boatyard in Brundall, I negotiated to take a quarter of the yard, with A.R. Peachment, Willow Cruisers and Springmore Upholsterers taking the remainder.



The boatyard in Brundall in 1972



A recent view of the boatyard

So I was building new boats for Faircraft by day and then going over to Brundall in the evenings, Saturday and Sundays and at the end of that first season I bought another boat, called Breydon Lady 5 from Cobholm Boatyard. At that time, I was trading as Fairway Cruisers and letting through The Helmsman Association based at the Port of Great Yarmouth Marina.

The following season I leased the Foster Marine fleet which was in Hoseasons Agency and traded as Foster Marine, Brundall. As all the boats started with the preface Silver it was then I decided to trade as Silverline Marine for the following seasons.

When I had completed the boats for Faircraft, one of the partners at the accountants Lovewell Blake in Norwich asked me to build a boat for him who then in turn became my accountant and gave me a lot of sound advice. My contact at Lovewell Blake was a young lady named Lesley, who became my wife, and actively involved herself within the business helping driving it forward with her administrative skills and always insisting that everything was done to a very high standard. On the accountant's advice we took out a loan from the bank to build two new boats and also buy the freehold of the boatyard. We then started a building program, trying to add one boat a year to the fleet and when the opportunity arose, buying the other three premises gradually over a period of years returning the boatyard back to its original size.

In March 1995 we had a devastating fire which destroyed one of the main sheds with a boat inside called "Silver Shadow", it also burnt out the domestic store which was the hub of the turnround operation and the season was only two weeks away. We had to convert the building shed into a base where Lesley could operate her cleaning staff from, to store all the new replenished bedding and cleaning equipment. We also had to install temporary sinks etc. which was all associated with a turn round of a Hire Fleet. Over the next six months we had to battle with Insurance companies, we were insured through a broker, Alan Boswell, who acted on our behalf. Alan had an uphill battle; with his determination we did finally get all what was entitled to us. We also had to get planning permission to replace the building that had burnt down. We thought that would be no problem as we were replacing an existing building only to be told by the planners, they would prefer to see a building with a much lower profile, we said it would be of no use as we would not be able to get a boat inside. One of the original timbers had survived the fire and we could prove the height of the original building; we then laid the foundations for a new boat shed ready for the winter of 1995/96.

Robert, our son, had now joined the company after doing his apprenticeship at Broom Boats, Brundall. We concentrated on building up the hire fleet whilst also building new boats for other yards. We were approached by Connoisseur Cruisers to fit out boats for their bases in Ireland, France and Germany, when the contract came to an end, we continued to build up our own Hire Fleet.

In 2020 Covid 19 struck we were closed down until 4th July, it proved to be a very difficult year as we had to reduce our staff and make redundancies.

The Broads Hire Boat Federation appealed for a cut in tolls but this was not forthcoming and we sold two boats from the fleet.

2021 was another difficult year, we were only allowed to hire boats to members of the same household until June, completely wiping out the early Bank Holidays so we sold two more boats from the fleet.

In 2022, there was yet more legislation coming in and tolls rising above inflation again. Robert was approached by Richardsons to build boats for their Hire Fleet and after a lot of discussions, Lesley and I decide to call it a day.

Lesley and I will continue letting our Chalet, Silver Bream, on the Riverside Estate and mooring plots on Hoborough's Dyke. Robert has set up his own company Silverline Boatbuilders Ltd and the Hire Fleet has been transferred over to Stalham.



The Silverline Fleet temporarily moored at Acle Bridge on 20 November 2022, on the journey up to their new home base in Stalham.

It is over fifty years since I first started my own business, I have seen a great amount of change in this time, some good, some not so good. For myself and my family, it was much more than a job, more a way of life 24/7.

Lesley and I will continue to cruise on the River Yare with the family in our vintage launch called Silver Folly built by Herbert Woods in 1952.

Colin Dye, February 2023

		
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MEET OUR PATRON AND THE NEW TRUSTEES

We invited our new Patron, Henry Cator and the three new Trustees of the Society, Duncan Holmes, Antony Howell and Tony Lombard appointed at the 2022 AGM, to say a few words about themselves, what the Broads means to them and what they hope to bring to the Broads Society. Here's what they said:

HENRY CATOR OBE, FRICS, FRAGs, DL



About me

I was born at Broad Farm, Salhouse where I live today. I am married to Sara with three grown up children and two grandchildren. I qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1981 and have practiced in Norfolk ever since. Our family farm is beside Salhouse Broad and the River Bure.

I have always believed that nature and wildlife share our home alongside the farming enterprise. I am a Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk, High Steward of Great Yarmouth and was honoured to receive an OBE in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2008.

I have been Chairman of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, The Royal Agricultural Society of England, The Association of Drainage Associations, Norfolk Community Foundation, Norwich Cathedral Trust, and the Broads Internal Drainage Board. I am a past member of the Broads Authority and the now disbanded Broads Forum.

What the Broads mean to me

I am a child of the Broadland landscape. I learnt to sail here as a small boy, and I am committed to promoting the balance between those who visit and those who make their livelihoods on or beside the rivers. Our big skies are a reminder of how small and insignificant we are as stewards passing through our ever changing and evolving landscape. What better sound than the chuckling of water past the bow and the whispering of reeds only interrupted by the song of the warbler.

What I hope to bring to the Broads Society

It is a huge honour to have been elected as your Patron. The Society was formed in the year I was born. Its relevance then is just as important as it is today. No other organisation is independent and able to represent all of the stakeholders and groups with an interest in, and a passion for, the Broads. The challenges we face from climate change, sea level rise and the threat of inundation from the sea following a breach of our sea defences is real. How we adapt and mitigate to face these challenges can only be achieved by the collaboration of the different agencies working together and alongside local people. "Those who show little respect for the past are said to be poor guardians of the future~. It is my hope that the Broads Society will play its part in showing leadership by example. Actions will always speak louder than words.

DUNCAN HOLMES



About me

Like many others, the Broads is a special place to me. My family can be traced back to 1500's, through a long line of Farmers, Fishermen, Sailors and Marshmen, that plied their trade around Broadland and the surrounding coastline. The most recognisable of names within my ancestry is the Arnup's who operated and managed, what we now know as, the Stracey windpump from its opening in 1840 to its electrification during WW2.

Strongly rooted in and around water it really isn't surprising that it has featured throughout my life. At the age of 6, I became the 4th generation to catch their first fish from the Broads, and I am proud to have upheld tradition as my nieces, nephews and then their children became the 5th and 6th to do so. Stories and traditions like this make the Broads such a special place and why it is important that we take robust efforts today to ensure the next generations have the same privilege.

Each year I witness the joy of our many visitors of catching that their first fish, for some it will be the start of a connection with the aquatic world that will captivate them for life, just as it was for me.

What the Broads mean to me

Of course, the Broads can only be fully appreciated when afloat, and the ink had hardly dried on my driving licence when I fitted a tow bar, and hitched up a boat on the trailer, heading for exciting new Broads to explore. Prior to that most of my Broads' life was within bicycle ride of my childhood home at Blofield, so Brundall, Woodbastwick, Caen Meadow and Yare Marshes was where I fished, canoed, and swam with brothers and friends. Over the years the boats have come and gone, got bigger, more comfortable, more technical, and now allow me to share the broads with friends and family, as we cruise, watch, fish, swim and photograph this unique environment.

Of course, all those Broad's activities had to be financed somehow and I have carved out a career best described as a design engineer. Working on projects in laboratory, process manufacturing, renewable energy, and off-site construction, with a couple of years sabbatical working as a diving instructor here in the UK. Instructing and teaching has always interested me, and I have many opportunities within my project to teach and mentor, this has now expanded in to angling. I am a licensed coach with the Angling Trust, and I have recently achieved commercial endorsement for my boating qualifications.

What I hope to bring to the Broads Society

I hold directorships with Broads Angling Services Group and Broads Watch Community Interest Companies but was honoured when asked to become a Trustee of the Broads Society and join its long history. The Broads faces some tough challenges in the coming years as rising sea levels threaten the landscape we love so much. I am hoping to help bring many of the passionate groups and individuals together, so we can collectively tackle these challenges and leave the Broads in fine shape for future generations.

ANTHONY J HOWELL



About me

I was named Broom Boats Ltd Managing Director in 2020. I lead a strategic growth and re-development transformation for the business. This has included the implementation of Electric Day Boats for hire at Broom, the enhancement of the Hire Fleet and the purchase and full redevelopment of The White Heron Public House in Brundall (previously The Yare).

I am the Managing Director of TradeBee Ltd, a business I have owned since 2018 to create a business platform that serves private and Letting Agent customers with access to a variety of trades providing an easy and simple transactional process. The brand and model specifically created to extend regionally and nationally.

My engineering and business experience was founded within Automotive working for a global organisation and Private Equity and supplying 85% of the global requirement for safety critical air bag sensors.

I hold an MBA from The Open University.

I serve as board director for several charitable and sector related organisations. Access Community Trust promotes social inclusion for the community benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. As a charitable organisation Access is growing and providing a greater number of services for young people including housing related support, helping with learning, development and employment and providing support with mental health and wellbeing. Born in the UK and having lived in the US, I now reside in Norwich, UK. With a keen interest to spend further social time traveling abroad and within the UK, I am an animal portrait artist establishing [@my_pet_picture](#) Instagram account.

What the Broads mean to me

Growing up in Oulton Broad in Suffolk and having the opportunity to visit many different countries, my concern for the environment has been growing. Now living on the boundary of The Broads National Park in Thorpe, Norwich these challenges are ever present. Hence my involvement within organisations such as Broads Society and Visit The Broads are to provide help and support for The Broads National Park future. I have always given time to provide access for young people to high level careers advice and guidance. This includes the Marine sector and the pathways highlighted by British Marine in their Futures report, essential for this audience to 'do, feel and share'. This being essential for the sustainability and resilience required for the challenges The Broads faces.

What I hope to bring to the Broads Society

Providing access to the water for the local community has been an important factor within Broom Boats redevelopment plans not least because of the indisputable benefits to well-being and mental health it provides. It also helps create awareness of the scientific facts regarding climate change and its impacts essential in driving the social changes required for change.

TONY LUMBARD



About me

I am privileged to live in the Cottage I was born in here at Ludham Bridge. I live with my wife Jade, I have two sons, Ollie and Nick. I went to Ludham Primary school and spent much of my childhood, cycling, canoeing and exploring the Broads looking for new places to fish. My mother taught me to sail but I was too young to remember when that was. We spent so much time on the water and some time in it! My parents rented out day boats from Ludham Bridge for many years when I was a child, and my grandmother had Bridge Stores for 45 Years. The existing shop was built by my grandfather in early 1930's. I am a serving Parish Councillor for Ludham, a Trustee of Womack staithe and very pleased to be appointed a Trustee of the Broads Society.

What the Broads mean to me

With an interest in photography and birdwatching, this led to me over 25 years, to build a chain of Photographic shops in East Anglia specialising in Binoculars and Telescopes. I developed a close involvement with Norfolk Wildlife Trust which further fuelled my interest in conservation of the Broads.

I sold the optics business in 2004, and after a year helping the Sri Lankans to rebuild and replace their community fishing boats lost through the Boxing Day Tsunami. I retrained at the UEA and I worked for Iberdrola / Scottish Power on onshore wind farm development, where I found sites all over the UK. My passion for low carbon energy and the fight against 'Climate Change' spurred me on to look at further sustainable areas of energy production. In 2009, as Commercial Director, I with three colleagues, set up a project to build a 44Mw Biomass Power Plant which is situated in Snetterton and now produces enough energy to power 87,000 domestic homes.

When I was growing up on the Broads the rivers were polluted with phosphates from agriculture and sewage from the boats, slowly destroying the fragile eco-structure. Pressure from organisations like the Broads Society have been instrumental in getting legislation on pollution and the environment through Parliament.

What I hope to bring to the Broads Society

It is essential that we keep the pressure up on the authorities and constantly monitor water quality, river overtopping and flooding. I understand the balance between environmental conservation, the boating and holiday sector and agriculture. For the Broads to continue to flourish, it will require constant attention. As a Trustee, I will work towards the maintenance and growth of this wonderful place, which I hold close to my heart.

PAINTING THE BROADS – A CHILD’S DIARY

This article, narrated by Frank Meeres, was first given as an online presentation during lockdown in 2021. It is based on an archive, reference MC 1249/1, 808X7, held at the Norfolk Record Office, a child’s diary of the 1920s of a girl who for five years went with her parents every summer onto the Broads and who there indulged in painting holidays, both she and her parents were obviously artistic. We are very grateful to the Norfolk Record Office, for giving permission for this article to be published in Harnser, including copies of the paintings and photographs within the diary, being of interest to Broads Society members. The full presentation is available to view on YouTube.



The diary begins on 1st June 1924 and the first entry is “last Saturday mummy bought a boat” and like so many archives this needs interpretation, it only tells a part of a story, what mummy actually bought was a houseboat the family already had a sailing boat called ‘The Spartan’. Now, they buy the houseboat which is towed by ‘The Spartan’ and as

the diarist says “Mummy says she is going to make Spartan tow the Spratt, as the houseboat is called, round on the Broads I shall go too. There was not room last time”. In previous years the two parents have gone sailing on the Broads but the girl couldn’t go but now because they purchased this houseboat she can go and she can stay in there with her parents.

We don’t know the names of the people involved, the child or the parents. I am going to call the child Judith I think as there is a strong possibility that is her name and I shall mention why later. We know how old she was because in 1926 she mentions she has just turned thirteen, so in 1924 is the first entry and she was aged eleven, they go on holiday in June and July and indeed into August of that summer and she takes her notebook and she paints on cartridge paper which she then sticks into her book as obviously a souvenir where she called it ‘a log’ of the holiday and eventually five years’ worth of these holidays where she is developing from the age of eleven to the age of sixteen. Developing out as a girl and developing as an artist.



This was the very first painting in the book and this is before they have actually come to the Broads this is when they are still sailing, I think in their home area Southwold/Walberswick. This is titled ‘sketch of Walberswick’ and then she adds “daddy drew it, I painted it”. So she is not yet confident enough to do the whole thing herself, her daddy is helping

her. All the other paintings however, appear to be her own work entirely.

This is her first painting actually on the Broads, they go by train to pick up their series of boats at Great Yarmouth and then they are sailing up from Great Yarmouth to Potter Heigham so this is between Yarmouth and Potter Heigham and is a typical Broadland scene showing several



windmills, what looks like a wherry perhaps, in the distance, certainly some kind of sailing boat and a broad river in between.



The following year, 1925, Judith now aged twelve again comes on the sailing and painting holiday on the Broads with her mummy and daddy. She is still in a way quite childish for a twelve year old, she has dolls who she calls 'Magic and Treacle' whom she refers to several times. For example, "made good bed for Magic and Treacle at the end of my bunk". Later she goes for a row and takes Magic and Treacle wrapped up in a waterproof. As well as the paintings there are just a small number of photographs contained within the book like the one of the 'Spratt' that I showed earlier and this one, she is the girl on the left as we are looking at it, the one nearest to the reeds and with her is a friend called Eileen who stayed with her for one night during the holiday of 1925.

This is a similar scene, and I think you can see the development in her artistic skills but it is broadly, as in her earlier holiday, showing scenery with windmills between Yarmouth and Potter Heigham. Interestingly, as an insight into holidays on the Broads she says "as we passed Stokesby the children did not sing John Barleycorn". Sometimes she mentions this several times and I have picked up this in other records for example on the excellent Broadland Memories website there are several references to



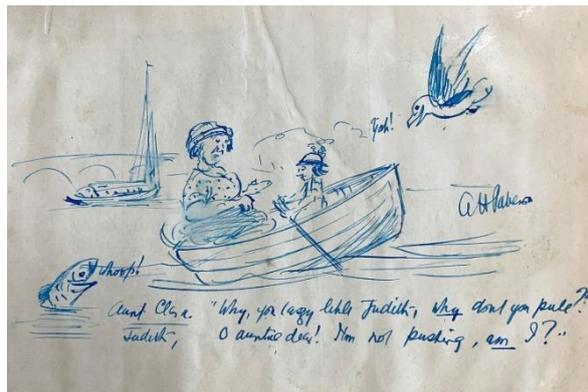
the fact that when sailing boats went by, when cruisers went by, the children of local villages would gather on the bank and sing the words of John Barleycorn with a view to the delighted tourists throwing them pennies as they passed by. There are references to this several times when passing Stokesby. She comments on this happening or not happening, but I have seen it also associated with other villages,

especially Horning for example and others as well, a Broadland tradition preserved within the girl's diary.

This, you possibly may identify if you know your Broads, this is a twelve year old's rendering of one of the most drawn and photographed scenes on the Broads, that is St Benet's Abbey where famously the windmill is built into the much earlier monastic gatehouse so that is what the building in the centre represents. Again, what looks like a wherry or similar going past on the river behind.



The diary includes, as well as paintings by Judith herself, a couple of sketches by the well-known Yarmouth naturalist, Arthur Patterson. It appears that her father already knew Patterson and that they met during these Broads holidays and Patterson drew a couple of pen and ink sketches for the girl and this is why I am calling her Judith because you will see this cartoon that Patterson has drawn for her. The caption reads



“Aunt Clara says why are you lazy little Judith, why don't you pull” and Judith replies “Oh! Aunty dear I am not pushing am I”. The implication being Aunt Clara is a rather large woman and takes a lot of rowing. As Patterson does this and gives it to the girl and it has the words ‘Judith’ the name of a child in here it seems a reasonable guess, no more than a guess, that the child's name is indeed Judith.

This is a typical painting of a Broadland scene, the windmill, this is near Potter Heigham again. If you look at the windmill you can hopefully see that it has attached to it a scoop wheel, so this is not a mill for grinding corn. This is a drainage mill, pumps some people would call them, and the large wheel attached to a windmill is where the water is pumped up from the fields into the main river and thus draining the fields.





This is another kind of windmill, this is near Ludham and I think this is still there. It is what is called a trestle mill where the sails are supported on a frame rather than an actual tower being built and they are being supported on a frame made out of wood.



The third year of these holiday logs Judith, if that is her name, is now aged thirteen and I think you can see she is getting more sophisticated in her drawing. This is supposedly of houses at, or near, to Potter Heigham.

This is the Bridge at Potter Heigham which of course is still there and being very low the bridge causes difficulties some of which she talks about in the log or diary of trying to get through this, get under this and onto the river beyond.



This is Womack Dyke and she talks about the background to this “on the way to Womack Dyke visited the market boat on voyage purchased a tart, patty, cake and butter, then continued our way downstream, could not get into Dyke because there was not enough water. Stayed outside, made sketch”.

Now this is Horning. This painting is the only one of the many within the book which is signed, or at least the artist's initials are placed on the bottom right hand corner and you can hopefully see that the initials are LAC. Now this of course blows into the water, my theory that her name might be Judith but I am not at all sure this is hers. I have a feeling it might be either her mummy or her daddy who has returned this painting and put their initials on it and then given it to Judith and she has put it into her book. If that is so then following these clues, we might deduce her name is Judith and her surname possibly beginning with a 'C'. What I am really waiting for is the opening up of the 1921 Census, then with these clues I am hoping we may be able to identify the actual name of this person in which case we can put it in the Norfolk Record Office catalogue, but for now she remains anonymous.



Now she is fourteen years old, this is 1927, and once again in August she is on holiday on the Broads with her parents. She is learning much more about boating, for example saying after dinner on one particular day "daddy got the sails up and we sailed up to the mouth of the Thurne, I steered. Now I am a Sea Guide I must learn these sort of things". So she is developing her love of sailing. She has

also developed her reading, she reads a lot, she is a very introspective girl, you get the feeling from the log. There are often talks about the books she has bought and is reading, in this particular summer she takes with her 'Rewards and Fairies' which some people would know is a child's book by Rudyard Kipling.



This is 1927 still and this is her on the front of the 'Sprat', two people behind possibly her parents, you can't see the third person at all but it could well be her mum and dad. Again, she is painting putting her paintings into her

book, her log, this one is entitled 'Above Wroxham'.

Up to now I have been able to give you the titles of the paintings because she adds them underneath, now she stops doing that so most of the subsequent paintings have no titles at all, so we can't easily identify them. On the page on which this occurs she describes sailing from Wroxham up to Coltishall. "I lay on the top of 'Spratt' on her roof and baked in the sun, it was frabjous". Clearly a literate girl, reference to Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky there. She also is clearly a lover of nature, she talks about seeing sweet little ducklings and baby birds, dragonflies, damselflies and other similar things. People who have ever read Arthur Ransome's Coot Club, which has some marvellous descriptions there of life in the Broads, will get very much the flavour of what this girl was experiencing during her time on the Broads.



Another well painted but unidentified scene, we don't know where this is, at least I don't, someone may be able to identify it. She has almost always been in the area round Wroxham down to Potter Heigham, occasionally up to Coltishall, that kind of area.

Sometimes they moor up and go always by train, so they do use the railway a lot, railways of course running from Norwich to Wroxham and on to Sheringham and also a branch line running to Potter Heigham. There are several references to people catching various trains, on one occasion for example the whole family go into Norwich and act as tourists visiting the Guild Hall, St Peter Mancroft, have dinner in the Corner House Tea Rooms. She buys more books, she is a voracious reader, presumably in Jarrolds and then comes out back to the boat at Wroxham or wherever it might be.

The final year which is recorded in this log book is the summer of 1928, she is now aged fifteen, increasingly sophisticated. No longer talks about going for a row with her dolls, instead she is more interested in attending a dance for example held to go with one of Regattas of which she mentioned several. She clearly enjoyed a regatta and the social events that went with it. She also, goes again, to Norwich on August 17th 1928 she records "train into Norwich to see the exhibition of Munnings' paintings at the Castle". Munnings of course is a well known painter, is an artist, from an artistic

family. She doesn't seem amazingly impressed by them to be honest, all she says about the exhibition of Munnings paintings is lots and lots of them, mostly horses and of course we know that is Munnings special interest. She appears more interested in another aspect of Norwich Castle Museum, she says "then went up and looked at the ancient Egyptian mummies to see if one with a bad influence would make us faint, it didn't, we must be very strong minded". Of course, this is 1928 so this is only a few years after the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, the curse of Tutankhamun and similar ideas obviously strong in her mind.

On another occasion in August 1928, she has the following entry. "Another long swim after breakfast went up and sailed on Barton Broad again, looked for the Maria, she is the oldest boat on the Broads. At last we found her in a boathouse surrounded by reeds". She wrote "was a big old thing, a pleasure boat and had two masts. She is now lying dismantled in the shed with holes in her, poor old thing". A reference there is to a boat called the 'Maria' which is quite a well-known boat and is probably the oldest boat on the Broads which still survives, she was built in Yarmouth in 1834, brought to Barton Broad as early as 1837 which is where Judith saw her in the state of decay. She actually remained in a state of decay for another forty years and more, but was eventually renovated. People who are interested in the Broads history can now go and see the 'Maria', she is in the Museum of the Broads at Stalham so that is a direct link between the exhibits, the artefacts in the Museum on the Broads and this child's diary she records looking for and finding the 'Maria' on Barton Broad in 1928.



This is that image of the gatehouse and windmill without sails at St Benet's Abbey as I say, this is one of the most popular artistic places on the Broads. We saw a much more primitive version of this view all those years ago during her first holiday when she was only eleven, and obviously she has now developed and matured as an artist and produces I think, a very

high-quality representation of the scene.

The diary actually ends, the log book ends when she has filled it up to the last page, which is not necessarily the end of the holiday and who knows they may have been other holidays following on. This book ends, this is on one of the last pages 'Breydon Water in the evening' so imagine her sailing at home at the end of this holiday in a 1928. Again, this scene is showing Yarmouth from a distance,



showing the posts which still feature in Breydon Water marking the deeper channels and I mentioned before Arthur Ransome's Coot Club those posts feature as a key part of a drama in that book.

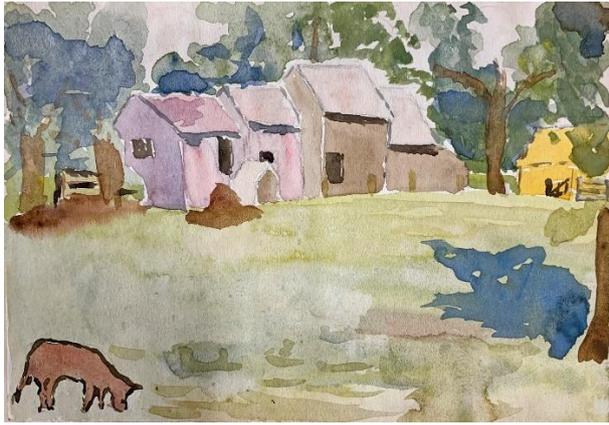
So, this is unknown woman, I call her a woman now, she is fifteen sailing off into the future and who knows what her story was beyond this, whether she maintained her artistic interests, where she lived, what she did, we don't know. This is a chance survival of a child's diary of a series of painting holidays in the Broads, it is just a little snapshot in history and a marvellous source for people who are interested in the life on holiday on the Broads in what is arguably the peak time for the Broads. They were just getting incredibly popular in the 1920's because of the railway making ease of access, but this was still a time where there were very, very few, what we would call motor launches, everything was done by sail and you get a flavour of that in one of her earlier entries, when she was eleven, she talks about "a motor launch nearly capsized us, daddy stood up and shouted at them because they were going on without even looking at us. They lowered a boat and rowed after us and rescued our oars which had been lost in the commotion". So there you get the contrast between the old fashioned sail holiday and the motor boat holiday and several times during her holidays she comes across that motor boat which is called the 'Enchantress', she refers to it as something like the "horrid Enchantress" and again people who had read or seen the television version of Coot Club will recall the hullabaloo's steaming far too fast on the Margoletta so it is living an actual experience very similar to what is portrayed in Arthur Ransome's fiction.

In my opinion a fascinating diary and just an example of the many, many kinds of documents which do exist in the Record Office and just give you all kinds of insights into aspects of Norfolk in the past.

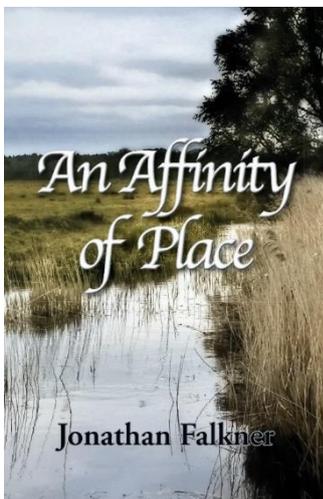
Frank Meeres

Images © Norfolk Record Office document ref MC/1249/1 808X7





Further paintings in the diary include *Womack Dyke*, *Group of Houses by South Walsham Staithe and Acle* (previous page), an unknown location, *Hickling Broad*, *Cornfield and Thurne* (above)



A NOVEL SET ON THE NORFOLK BROADS

'An Affinity of Place' is a novel set mainly on the Norfolk Broads. It is a story of friendship and love, of loss and the resolution of grief. The Broads environment itself plays a major part in the story and in particular the very special wetland habitat of the Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes. The author Jonathan Falkner, lived in north Suffolk in the 1990s and his observations of Broads wildlife provide the background to the story. A paperback version is available at £8.99 from bitternbooks.co.uk An e-book version is available at £1.99 from amazon.co.uk

FOLLOW THE BROADS SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER



Follow us on Facebook @broadsociety and Twitter @BroadsSociety for up to date news and information. You can also link directly to our Facebook and Twitter accounts from the Broads Society website.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BROADS



We welcomed visitors again from Thursday 30 March and kicked off the 2023 season with our popular Easter trail for families.

Our special exhibition is on Broadland artist, Philippa Miller. During her long life, Miss Miller was inspired by the Broads to paint and sketch, to make films, to research village signs and to create miniatures. The exhibition shows her personal response to the landscape she knew and loved and is complemented by her own words from the diaries and journals she left behind. Miss Miller is also known for her sketches of the bomb damage done to Norwich during the Second World War, but it is her depictions of the Broads that are her true legacy. Don't miss this tribute to a true artist of the Broads.



Busy Brundall by P R Miller

Discover how a marshman's family lived, see inside a holiday bungalow, and find out more about cobblers and sail makers. Other displays have changed too, there are new family activities, and our old favourites, our trip boats, will be running again too. We welcome groups and dogs, are introducing new combined Museum and boat tickets, and for 2023, all 12s and under come to the Museum for free.



Marsh Harrier

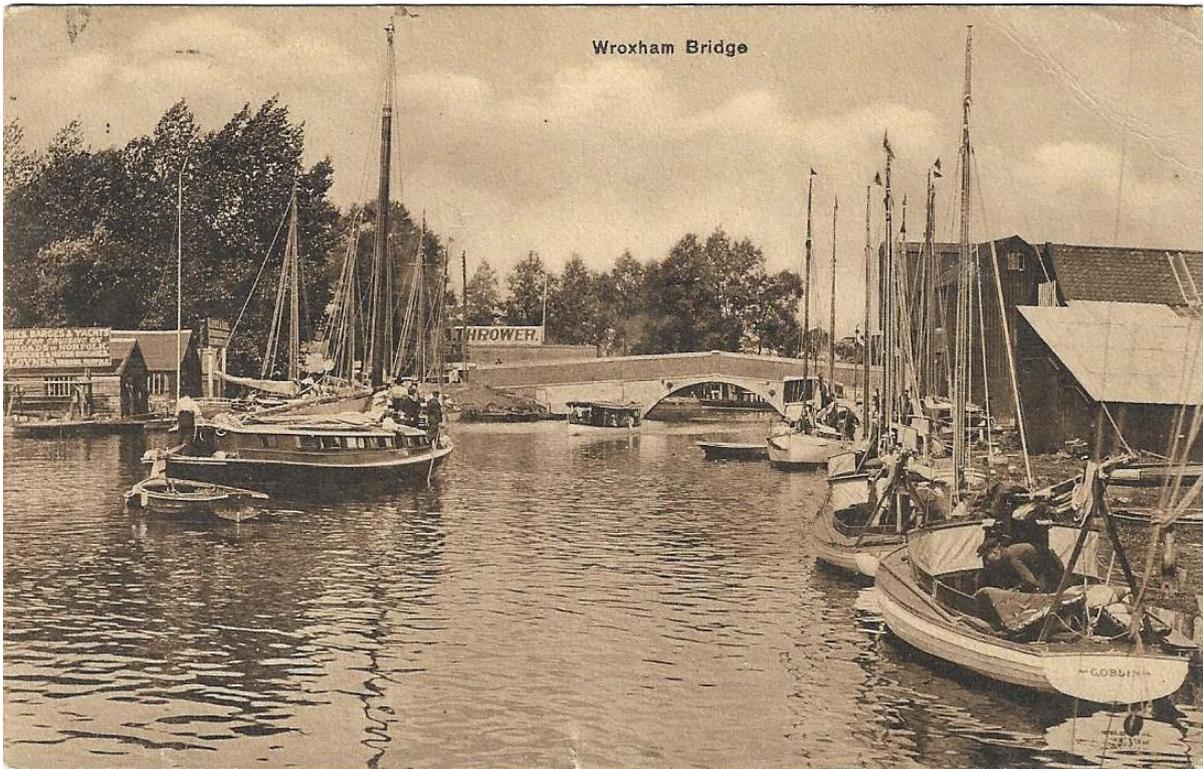


Picnic by the River

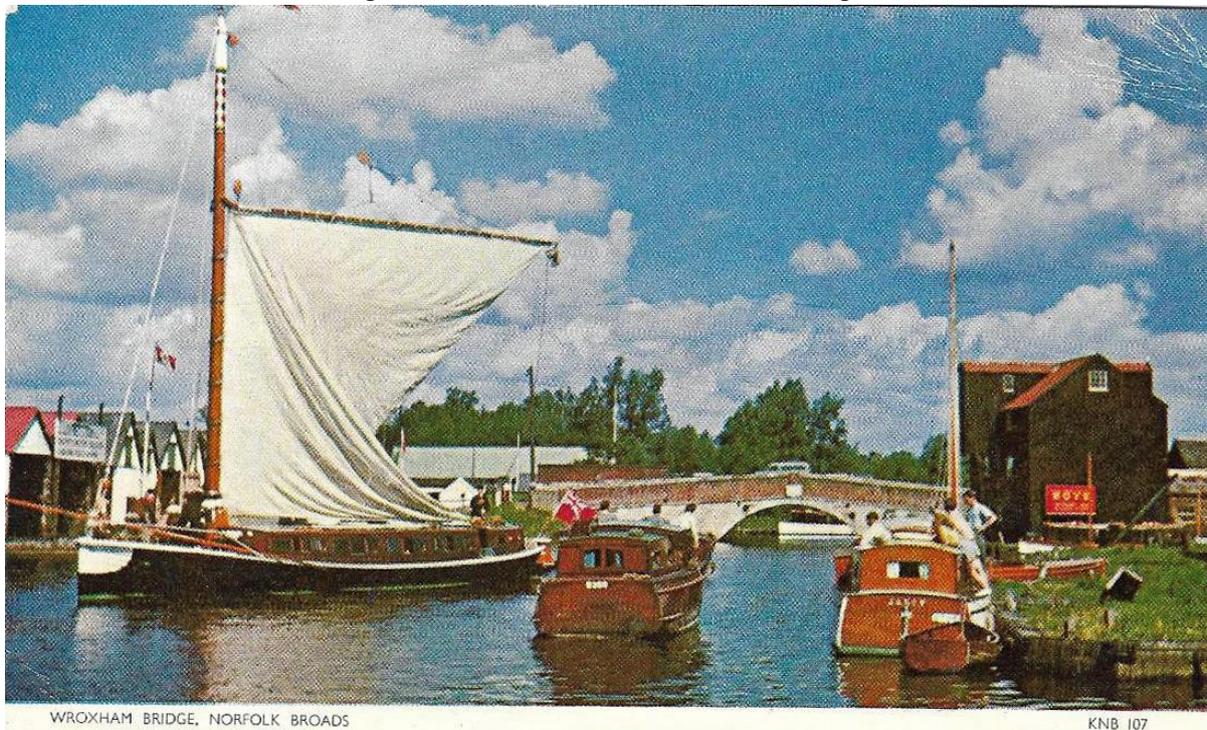
So, what are you waiting for? We look forward to welcoming you to our historic and unique setting by the river at Stalham!

The Museum of the Broads, Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA, 01692 581681
www.museumofthebroads.org.uk @MuseumBroads on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

THEN AND NOW Wroxham Bridge & the River Bure



Postmarked 'Wroxham 1913' this © *Jarrols* postcard view of Wroxham Bridge looking upstream probably dates from the early 1900s. John Loynes boatyard seen on the left advertises 'Wherries, Barges and Yachts for hire for cruising on the Broads of Norfolk'



A further © *Jarrols* postcard taken from a similar viewpoint around the 1950s, shows new boatsheds at Loynes boatyard, the tall black granary building on the right and a Broads Tours passenger boat can be seen through the arch of the bridge.



This postcard, © *J Salmon Ltd.*, dating from the early 1960s, shows the separate footbridge built alongside Wroxham Bridge and the adjacent altered black granary building with the boatsheds of Jack Powles boatyard on the extreme right.



The same view in February 2023 with the footbridge built in 2002. The granary was demolished c1965 & Granary Staithe is now a public open space. The Hotel Wroxham replaced the boatsheds at Jack Powles boatyard c1970 and the name John Loynes lives on in Faircraft Loynes boatyard on the same site to the left of the bridge.

PLANNING AND THE BROADS SOCIETY

Members of the Society may or may not be aware that a new Planning Committee was formerly constituted on 30 November 2022 with Peter Smith elected as Chair and Martin Thirkettle as Vice Chair. Although a new Committee, the Broads Society has commented on planning issues throughout the Broads area for decades, usually via the mechanisms set up by both the Northern and Southern River Committees. The Society is in fact a formal consultee on any planning application submitted to the Broads Authority. The Authority also keeps the Society informed about any planning applications submitted to neighbouring District Councils which may have an impact on the wider Broads area. What this means in practice is that the Planning Committee receives (on average) about half a dozen applications a week to comment on (if required) along with consultations from neighbouring authorities. Obviously, quite a number of minor applications require no comment at all but the Committee ensures that any applications that are likely to have some form of impact on the Broads are commented upon, usually in the form of 'no objection', 'support' or 'objection' with a more detailed justification where necessary. The Society is also informed about any planning appeals in the Broads area that have been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate and is given the chance to input into these appeals.

Commenting on planning applications and planning appeals is, however, only one of the remits of the work of the Committee. At the moment the Broads Authority is in the initial stages of a review of the Broads Local Plan (the current Local Plan having been adopted in May 2019). An Options and Issues consultation was held late last year and Peter and Martin both attended an event hosted by the Authority at Brundall Memorial Hall highlighting the review of the Local Plan and the production of a new Design Guide by the Broads Authority. Comments on both these documents were submitted to the Authority and we await the next stage of the consultation process on both these documents.

The Committee is also keeping an eye on a number of other emerging plans which could have an impact upon the Broads including the East Norwich Masterplan which outlines the potential development of a large swathe of land between the City Centre and Trowse/Thorpe on both the northern and southern banks of the river. This land includes the Carrow Works site, the Deal Ground and the old May Gurney HQ site to the south of the river and the Utilities site on the northern bank. This would be a significant development and the Society has commented on the earlier consultation and has requested that Norwich City Council include the Society as a formal consultee on the next stages of the plan, to no avail as yet. At present progress on the Masterplan is stalled pending the final outcome of the GNLP (Greater Norwich Local Plan).

On a slightly less grand scale but, nonetheless as important, are emerging Neighbourhood Plans produced by local Parish and Town councils. The Society is also keeping track of these, as and when they are produced, and making any input

which is deemed necessary to protect the interests of the Broads area and its stakeholders. The most recent draft Neighbourhood Plan that we have considered is the one produced by Bungay Town Council. From time to time the Society are sent details of various Consultations taking place around the Broads by the Broads Authority, both from within the Authorities Executive Area but for adjacent areas too as we are recognised as an "Official Consultee" for Planning Applications by the Authority - these include Neighbourhood Plans as mentioned above and recently the "South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan - Regulation 19 Publication" which on this occasion we have nothing to add as the areas being considered are well away from the most sensitive Broads area. Each consultation is scrutinised by a member with expertise in the subject. However, it is very likely we will comment more regularly on Neighbourhood Plans. Details will be published in Harnser & will be available on our website.

Planning Committee will endeavour to keep Members informed and updated of any relevant issues via Harnser but if anyone ever has any queries about any planning issues that arise, please do not hesitate to contact either Peter or Martin who will endeavour to help or clarify matters.

Martin Thirkettle, Vice Chair, Broads Society Planning Committee



Image © Martin Thirkettle

PASSAGE THROUGH GREAT YARMOUTH AT HIGH WATER

Having read our Commodore's interesting account of his passage from the Southern to the Northern rivers through Great Yarmouth (Newsletter 376, September 2022), it reminded me that he and I had done the same trip, but at High Water, just a few years ago in St Helen. Although the Broads Authority and Green Book sensibly recommend that this passage should be timed for slack Low Water, I have always wondered whether we are wedded to the past, when wherries and yachts with no engine would sail across Breydon Water and stick their bow onto the mud at the Bure entrance to wait for the tide to move them upstream.

This is some time after it starts flooding into Breydon, as the Yare's riverbed is lower than the Bure's. Of course, for hire boats and those new to the area and with small engines, a Low Water passage will always be the safest option. But if you are on the Southern rivers or at Lowestoft and faced with Low Water at 06:00 and 18:00 as we were and want to get home after a long sea trip the day before, a High Water passage is quite safe with a few provisos. Certainly, you will need a reliable engine with a good propellor, preferably fixed not folding, and three-bladed, not two. Most of our NRSC boats have folding two-blade propellers for racing, so bear this in mind. St Helen has a strong engine, a fixed propellor and can do nearly 7 knots.

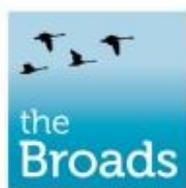


Vauxhall Bridge at Yarmouth has a clearance of 6.09 feet at High Water Springs with a height range between Springs and Neaps of about 2.4 feet. So, with St Helen needing 6.2 feet minimum, a passage on most days at High Water would be alright. I would take into consideration whether the wind on the North Sea had been strong from the North or Northeast for a few days as

this adversely affects the High Water. With a good pair of binoculars, you can see the bridge clearance board without having to start your move up the Bure. I would also accept that if I arrived to find Vauxhall Bridge clearance was too small, I might have to wait on the pontoon just downstream from Breydon Bridge, possibly until Low Water in the evening. But with a good engine and large prop, the ebb just after High Water does not run too quickly to start with and a motor up the Bure is possible as soon as the clearance has increased enough for you to pass under the bridge.

So if you don't mind having to push against the tide as you come down the Yare or Waveney and also as you come up the Bure to Acle (where the tide isn't over strong) then a High Water passage through Great Yarmouth is quite feasible on many days. If I was travelling the other way, however, from the Bure to the Yare, I would not attempt any passage at HW as there is no safe place to wait or turn as you approach Vauxhall Bridge with your mast sticking out to stern!

John Blackburne (This article was first published in the October 2022 Newsletter of the Northern Rivers Sailing Club)



Spring is in the air



Such a welcome sight to see the first signs of Spring colour appearing in the countryside and tourism businesses busily preparing and re-opening for Easter and the arrival of visitors. We are grateful to the many loyal business partners who continue to support us with the kind donations from their customers. With over 80 businesses involved there are too many businesses for us to list here but you can find all of them on our website www.lovethebroads.org.uk/businesses. A special thank you to those businesses that have made recent donations all of which will have a real impact to our important work. We shall be visiting all businesses in the lead up to Easter to ensure that they have plenty of stocks of our wildlife badges and Broads by Bike books (16 circular cycling routes around the Broads) available to purchase.

Where there's muck there's brass!

Well, that's what they say "up north" and we won't argue with that. We are delighted that 3 of our fantastic business partners, all small and family-owned, are now providing a small donation from each boat "pump out". If you are a boat owner you will know that when you use one of these boat yards you are not only being provided with excellent service but you are also helping the Broads to remain special. The boat yards are: Maycraft Boat Services, The Big Shop on Womack Staithe, Ludham Bridge Boat Yard.



Social media / Facebook

Love it or loathe it, social media, including Facebook, can be a useful tool in updating an audience on relevant and interesting news. If you would like to be kept informed of our important work and our latest news please become our "Follower" www.facebook.com/LoveTheBroads

Discovery Hubs

We can't tell you all the details of this exciting project just now but watch our Facebook page for information about the launch. By the end of April, three Hubs will have been constructed at prime locations across the Broads, providing information about access and wildlife, maps and local stories. They will be a fantastic resource for visitors and local people.

CHURCHES AROUND THE BROADS

14. Martham : Church of St Mary the Virgin

The Church of St Mary at Martham dominates the local landscape with its 100 foot tower being a landmark feature, clearly visible from the River Thurne. On account of its size, it became known locally as the 'Cathedral of the Fleggs', following a visit by a Bishop in the late 19th century, who was most impressed by its splendour. The views from the top of the tower are spectacular and it is possible to see at least twelve other churches in the surrounding landscape.



View of the church from the south-east

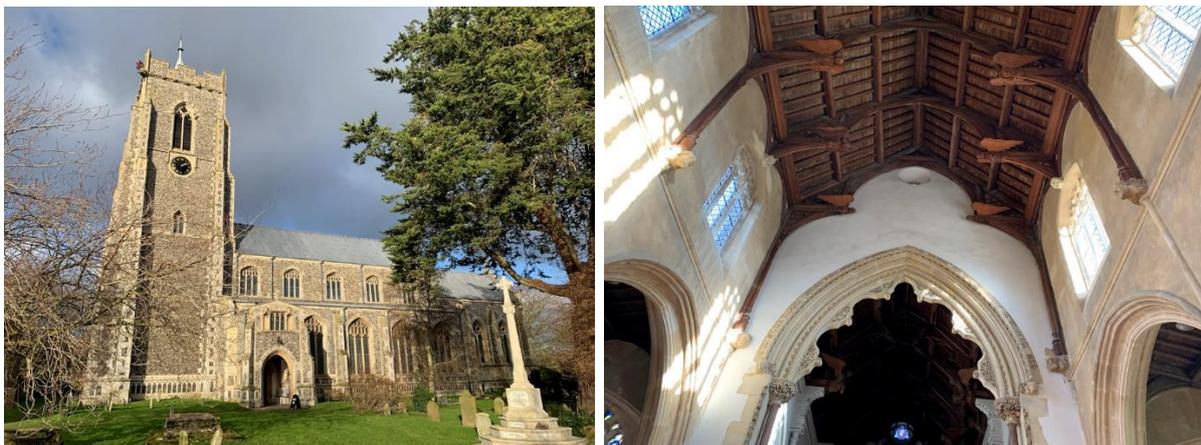
The church is listed Grade I and is built of flint with Lincolnshire limestone, ashlar dressings and a lead roof. It replaced an older round towered church probably dating from the 12th century, the footings of which were discovered in 1999 when work was being carried out on the tower floor. The west tower dates from the late 14th century, with the nave and aisles being mid-15th century. The original chancel was built between 1456-69 by Robert Everard, architect of Norwich Cathedral spire. However, by the mid-19th century, the church was in a serious state of dilapidation, requiring major restoration and the chancel was demolished and rebuilt between 1855-61 by Philip Boyce in a flamboyant French Gothic style, as a memorial to a 19th century rector, Jonathan Dawson, when the remainder of the church was also restored. The

chancel has an exuberant five-light east window with rosette tracery designs and there is flushwork and chequerwork detailing to the plinth.

Internally, the church is full of light and air and the nave is a very fine example of perpendicular architecture. The nave also has a fine hammerbeam roof with eleven pairs of carved angels which also formed part of the Victorian restoration. Probably the most spectacular treasure within the church is the collection of mediaeval stained glass in the east windows of the north and south aisles. This includes a series of more than twenty panels of individual saints and scenes, probably part of a much larger sequence originally, much of which is good quality glass of the 15th century Norwich school. There are several other surviving mediaeval features, including the seven sacrament, octagonal font which dates from the 15th century and some of the pews in the north and south aisles have 15th century poppyhead bench ends.



West tower and porch; Stained glass to east window; Hammerbeam roof



View from the south and the cusped arch to the chancel

Overall the church has a rich cathedral like quality, particularly its chancel with its fine east window, possibly one of the grandest in any village church in East Anglia. It lies some distance away from the river, but parking is available at the church. Well worth a visit in my view.

David Edleston

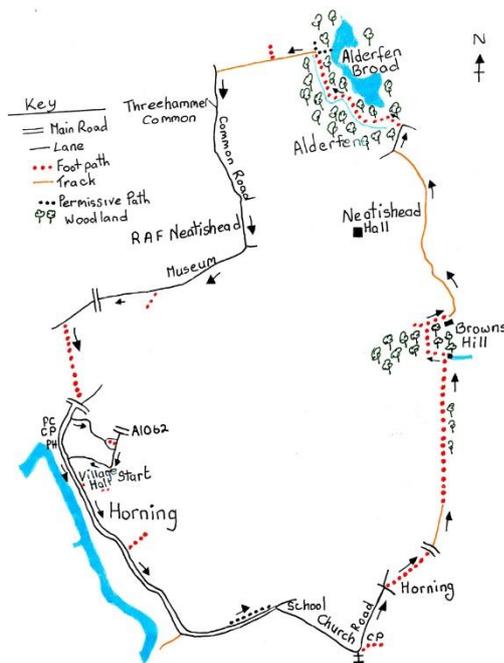
WALKS AROUND THE BROADS

Horning and Alderfen Broad



This, 6 mile walk from the Wensum Ramblers starts at Horning village hall, signed off the Norwich Road. (Map Explorer OL40 TG 342175, Post code NR12 8LH.) Horning village is on a

bus route from Norwich. The walk visits a church and a nature reserve. There are views of a drainage mill across Horning Marshes and a path through woods. It also passes the redundant RAF Neatishead, part of which houses the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum. Tucked away, Alderfen contains some of the area's finest remaining tussock fen and carr woodland, it also supports a number of scarce plants, plenty of invertebrates, the Cetti's Warbler and other birds. The paths here can be muddy at times. St Benedict's Church, Horning is a pretty church in a lovely setting. It was built in about 1280 with later additions. It has six consecration crosses on the walls of the cancel and two on the south aisle, all showing a painted cross in a roundel nearly a foot across. It is quite rare to have so many and such large consecration crosses in a village church. There are numerous places for refreshments in Horning.



From the car park, go down the avenue of trees to barriers in the corner of the playing field. Pass through and turn left along the road to the junction. Cross over diagonally rightwards and continue on to the river bank. Turn left along the bank and turn left again to return to the road. Turn right and pass The New Inn. Cross over to the raised footpath beside the road as it continues past the track off to the right. After a while, and just beyond the last house, enter the enclosed footpath on the left by the 'children' road sign, follow this to the end. Cross over and take the road to the right of the school. Follow this road to St Benedict's Church.

Turn left and pass the church car park to reach the next road junction. Go diagonally rightwards into a signed field path. Follow it heading towards the left-hand end of the row of houses beyond the field to reach the main road (A1062).

Carefully cross over the road into the signed track. Pass beside the six-bar gate and keep straight ahead. To the right are views of Neave's drainage mill that is beside the River Ant. Keep ahead at the next six-bar gate with an arrow. Continue ahead ignoring a path on the right. Enter the woods and follow the path round to the left to pass by the rear of a boat house. The path then veers right and right again to pass by the big house, Browns Hill. Turn left up the drive passing Browns Hill Cottage.

Continue past an old ruined house and, at the road, turn right. Just before the next junction, turn left at the fingerpost through Alderfen Broad Nature Reserve.



River Bure at Horning



St Benedict's Church, Horning

Follow the wide grass track beside the dyke before finally arriving at a barrier. To look at the broad from a bird hide, turn right along the boardwalk to the end. Otherwise, turn left here along the track heading away from the broad. Continue to a crossing lane and turn left. Continue on the lane for just over half a mile, then follow it right at a junction past the ex-RAF Neatishead which now houses the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum on the right.

Ignore a footpath on the left, continue to a crossroads, cross and continue on the lane opposite. After The Burnt Fen Alpacas look for a path to the left. Turn left up the steps and follow the direction of the fingerpost on the path ahead. Enter the enclosed path to finally arrive at the main road (A1062) near the crossroads with the Horning village sign opposite. Cross over the main road into Lower Street and go down it as far as the junction with Broadwater Way. Turn left up this lane, then turn rightwards at the grassed area. Then go right again along Mill Hill to return to the village hall ahead.



Horning Marshes



Alderfen

For more information about THE NORFOLK RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION, call 07505 426750 or click www.ramblers.org.uk

Sue Walker

All images © Ramblers' Association

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events in and around the Broads over the next few months, which may be of interest to Members

- 30 March – 13 April : Easter Trail, Museum of the Broads
- 12 April : Bungay Common Circular Walk, Broads Authority Ranger
- 15 April : Night Exploration of How Hill Nature Reserve, Broads Authority
- 29-30 April : Coldham Hall Open Regatta
- 3 June : Three Rivers Race, Horning
- 26-29 May : Thurne Mouth Regatta
- 16 Sep : Ludham illuminated boat parade
- 18 Nov : Broads Society AGM, Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham

BROADS SOCIETY MERCHANDISE



The full range of Broads Society branded merchandise is still available including pennants, pens, coffee mugs, tote bags, note books and stickers. Items can now be purchased from our new online shop at www.broads-society.org/shop By ordering you will be helping to promote the Society, contributing to funds and helping with *Harnser* production costs.

BROADS SOCIETY GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Looking for an unusual gift idea? Why not consider an annual subscription to the Broads Society? From £16 for four editions of our magazine, *Harnser*, with news, views and articles on many Broads related topics, regular articles about the Broads, commentary from our campaigns and much more. Help the Broads Society to protect this unique part of our country.

Please contact the Administrator, details on page 3

EVENTS 2023



Bookings have been confirmed for the Broads Society stand at the following events during 2023

- Saturday 22 April : Norfolk Small Charities Showcase, The Forum, Norwich
- Sunday 25 June : Catfield Village Fete, The Old Rectory, Catfield
- Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 June : Royal Norfolk Show (set up Tuesday 27 June), Norfolk Showground
- Sunday 6 August : Hoveton Village Fete, Hoveton Village Hall and Playing Field

More events are likely to be added to the list and although we have a small but dedicated team who attend these events and set up the stand and display material, new volunteers are always welcome to come along and help to promote and raise awareness of the Society. It is a good way of meeting fellow members and talking to visitors to these events with a view to encouraging them to become members of the Society. If you are interested, even if you can only spare a few hours, please contact Peter Smith by e-mail p.smith40@outlook.com

BROADS SOCIETY 2023 CONFERENCE

The Society is planning an autumn conference, likely to be on a Saturday (separate from the AGM on 18 November) to highlight the 'Future Challenges for the Broads – Adaptation to Climate Change'. It will be held at a major venue in the Norwich area and will be open to both organisations and individuals. Any readers who would like to be involved should contact the Administrator as soon as possible. A small team led by Trustee Duncan Holmes will be working on this major project, which follows our adoption of the Climate Change motion at the 2021 AGM.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Redevelopment of the Bridge Hotel Site, Potter Heigham

Following the refusal of a second, revised planning application for redevelopment of the former Bridge Hotel site in Potter Heigham, to provide 12 holiday units, a restaurant and car park, an appeal against the decision has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. All the relevant documents and details are now under consideration and a final decision is awaited from the Inspector.

Potter Heigham Bridge



After the discovery of a large hole in the road at Potter Heigham bridge, an emergency road closure was put in place on 23 December 2022. Following extensive investigations by highways engineers, proposals were submitted by Norfolk County Council to Historic England for permission to undertake specific repairs which will, on completion, allow the bridge to be reopened to vehicles. Approval has been given for repairs to be undertaken with works to be mainly carried out overnight so as not to disrupt navigation and adjacent businesses. There will be more than one stage of works to include repair of the hole and surfacing plus re-pointing works, to be carried out in spring/summer. At the time of writing, the Parish Council were planning to hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss options for the bridge which include:

- 1) Bridge remaining closed to traffic – bridge closed to all vehicles except cycles. Pedestrian priority
- 2) Open to cars only – bridge open for cars only, plus cycles. No pedestrian priority.
- 3) Back to how it was – bridge open for cars and other vehicles with a 7.5t weight limit. No pedestrian priority.

Broadland Futures Initiative Newsletter

At the time of going to press, the BFI Progress Newsletter for February 2023 has just been published and can be viewed and downloaded from their website, Broadland Futures Initiative at www.broads-authority.gov.uk This includes an update on progress with developing a new flood model.

Thurne Telephone Box



We reported in the April 2022 Harnser that the Society had positively supported a planning application for proposals to change the use of the telephone box at Thurne to a mini-visitor information hub by the Broads Authority. The work has recently been completed and the 'Broads Information' kiosk now contains details and a map of the local area and an audio player where birdsong can be heard, which visitors can use, to identify species found in the area.

New funding for National Parks announced

England's National Parks are set to benefit from new additional funding announced by the government on 1 March 2023. £4.4 million will be provided to the country's ten National Park Authorities to support services such as visitor centres and park rangers. The funding award is in recognition of the vital role that our national parks play in protecting our precious wildlife and landscapes and the importance they have for tourism, the regional economy and public access. Each authority, including the Broads will be awarded an equal share of the grant.



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BROADS SOCIETY 500 CLUB

The 500 Club was set up many years ago with the intention of raising additional, much needed, income for The Broads Society. Membership is £12 per annum, payable on 1st March each year. A draw takes place every month and members have the chance to win either £50, £20 or £10. In November at the Broads Society AGM there is a draw for £500.

Broads Society members may join the 500 Club or buy a membership for family or friends, there is no limit to how many subscriptions any one person may have. If the number of members increases, we may be able to increase the prize money! If you would like to join the 500 Club please get in touch with our Administrator, Sarah Vergette. Contact details are on page 3.

BROADS SOCIETY CARDS

Broads Society greetings cards can now be purchased from our new online shop at www.broads-society.org/shop The cards are 8 x 6 inches and are blank inside for your own message and can therefore be used for any occasion throughout the year. There are eight different images and the cards will also be available to purchase from the Broads Society stand at the various events that we will be attending this year.



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RECENT NEWS FROM THE BROADS AUTHORITY



Winter works update



Have you ever wondered what Broads Rangers actually do over the winter period? In addition to the patrols which they undertake all year round (checking the rivers for obstructions, keeping people safe and enforcing bylaws), there's a whole variety of things that Rangers do to get the Broads ready for another busy spring and summer season.

These include tasks such as removing fallen trees from the navigation; tackling overhanging vegetation; checking, cleaning and maintaining our infrastructure including moorings, paths, gauge boards and other facilities; undertaking site checks; removing litter found in the waterways; eradicating invasive species and lots more.



Dutch Tea Gardens bench

Rangers have been out installing a new bench at the Dutch Tea Gardens, Oulton Broad, which looks out over the water and reedbeds. The bench was purchased by Oulton Parish Council for the public to enjoy. Broads Authority Rangers assisted by laying the base and getting the bench fitted. A good place to sit and take in those big open skies!



Keeping the river clean

Rangers Adam and Colin had a very large willow tree come down in their patch of the River Waveney a few weeks ago. The trunk was so large that workboat Shoveler and assistance from Operation Technicians Dave and Lee was needed to help remove it.



The team used chainsaws to cut the trunk into slightly more manageable pieces which were then strapped and lifted out of the water by Shoveler to be disposed of. Over the winter period, undertaking countryside management work like this is a key part of a Rangers duties, as the Authority prepares for another busy season.

A boost for biodiversity in the Broads National Park

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has provided the Broads Authority with a capital grant of £1.115 million (2022/23) for maintaining biodiversity and habitat restoration.

The grant is being used to purchase specialist equipment to help manage the fens and waterways in the Broads for both biodiversity and navigation. Capital funding can be used to buy buildings, land or equipment but cannot be used for ongoing revenue costs.

Broads Authority, Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Dan Hoare said: *'While this is a one-off investment from Defra into Broads' biodiversity and habitat*

improvements, the purchased equipment is also a huge boost for navigation works, such as dredging and water-plant management, our heritage restoration and work to improve footpaths and Broads' access. It will allow us to improve the efficiency of work programmes across the entire Broads system.'

The Authority is also purchasing an area of fen habitat next to How Hill National Nature Reserve that it currently manages. This will safeguard the future management of this important habitat, containing rare plant species and communities, such as critically-endangered Crested Buckler-fern.

The grant will allow the Water Mills and Marshes: Broads Landscape Partnership to promote the special qualities of the Broads, attract more people who don't usually visit and pay for new 'Changing Places' accessible toilets at Whitlingham Broad and Lowestoft Station.

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THE CHANGING FACE OF NORWICH RIVERSIDE

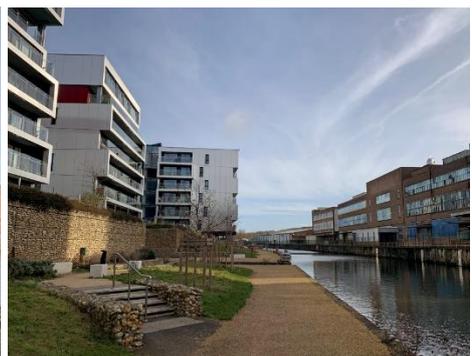
The City of Norwich was designated as a port through an Act of Parliament in 1872 and this status formed an important part of its history and development as a thriving maritime city. The wide section of the river just downstream from the Hotel Nelson was the turning point for ships and the port covered the reach of the river from Carrow Bridge to Foundry Bridge, which formed the upper limit of navigation. A number of industries which relied on the river for transport of goods, developed along the banks of the Wensum, such as Reads flour mill for deliveries of grain and at Baltic Fleet, timber was imported from Scandinavia. King Street with merchant's houses and sites sloping down towards the river was also the centre of the brewing industry in Norwich. Eventually, industry deserted King Street and Riverside Road, the area that supported river traffic and the size of coasting vessels increased so that fewer ships were capable of navigating the narrow and winding rivers that led to Norwich. By the end of the 1980s transport by river had almost completely ceased.

The Riverside Road former industrial area to the south of the railway station was redeveloped in the 1990s providing retail and leisure facilities along with housing to the river frontage and the new Novi Sad and Lady Julian bridges creating further pedestrian and cycle links to the city centre. Other sites including Reads Mill and Paper Mill Yard have been redeveloped with the older commercial and industrial buildings being converted to residential use.



The former Reads Flour Mill and Paper Mill Yard sites redeveloped for residential use

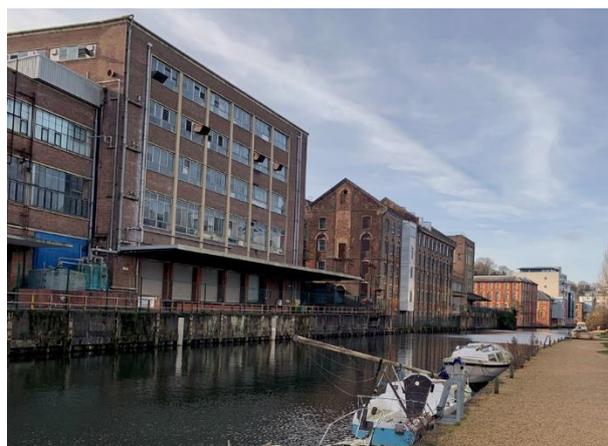
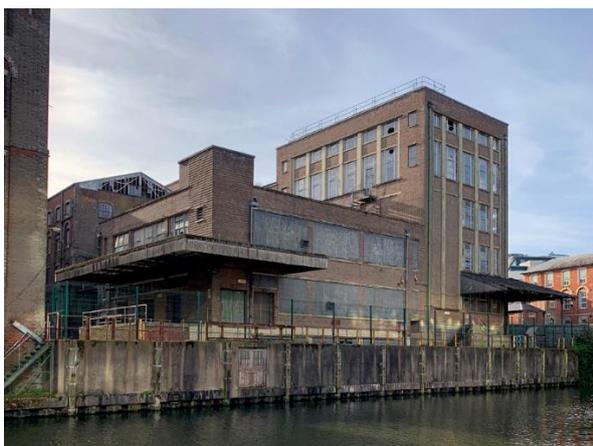
On the north bank of the river, downstream of Carrow Bridge, large scale residential development continues in a variety of contemporary styles, as illustrated in the images on the opposite page, creating a very urban character and providing a strong sense of enclosure to the river. Work has recently been completed on further multi-storey residential development between King Street and the river, and consent has been granted for redevelopment of the Ferryboat Inn site and conversion of the former pub to residential use. The Broads Society has been consulted on planning applications for



many of these development proposals and has positively encouraged the retention or creation of public access to the river frontage or provision of land for a continuous riverside walkway, wherever possible.



Other examples of new riverside development upstream of Bishops Bridge include Norwich University of the Arts student accommodation, residential, offices and commercial buildings, as illustrated above.



In contrast, on the south bank of the river, the vacant commercial buildings and warehouses of the former Carrow Works, as shown above, await conversion and redevelopment of the site. These lie within the East Norwich Masterplan area and the Broads Society will be responding to development proposals as details come forward.

David Edleston



Ludham Bridge Boatyard

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Back cover : May dawn at Womack Dyke © David Edleston

