

HARNSER



*Magazine of the Broads Society
Friends of the Broads*

July 2022

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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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Disclaimer

Members are reminded that the views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the Broads Society nor those of the editorial team or any of its officials, but are the private views of our contributors and advertisers

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Cover photograph : A Summer Evening at Horsey Dyke © David Edleston

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

By the time you read this issue of Harnser, the publicity team will already have attended a couple of events with the Society stand including the Horning Boat Show (what fabulous weather that day) where the team met many existing members and welcomed new members. It has been really interesting to network with many Broads related organisations such as the Broads Angling Steering Group (BASG), NSBA and some boatyard owners and landowners hearing about the various concerns and issues that we all seem to share. As a Society, we continue to work for the better protection of the Broads and we have and will be actively engaging with such organisations and all those who share that aim.

With that in mind and to help bolster our work and key aims, I am pleased to announce that the Society has a new Patron, Henry Cator OBE DL, High Steward of Great Yarmouth. At a recent meeting at the famous Brooms Marina at Brundall Henry said:

'It is a huge honour to be invited to be The Patron of the Broads Society. I have lived and worked in Broadland all my life. The Broads are a unique and special landscape shaped by man and his activities over many centuries. The challenges that we now face from climate change and sea level rise mean we must adopt an approach to the management of the area that embraces the wishes and vision of those that live and work in the area if we are to protect our internationally important fresh water habitats. The Broads Society has members who are navigators on the Broads as well as those committed to protecting the environment. By cooperating and working together, the Broads Society provides the all-important, independent voice to hold the balance between all the different interests for the benefit of the Broads as a whole.'

I am reminded of the quotation made by Charles Clayton 'Those who show little respect for the past are said to be poor guardians of the future'.

How often we forget the lessons of history and the effects of floods, from heavy rainfall in August 1912 and from breaching of the sea defences in 1938 and 1956. The Broads are in the front line facing the dangers of a North Sea surge. The question of future flooding is not one of if, but when. Are we prepared for the resultant damage from the incursion of salt water on our habitats and farm land together with the destruction of homes and businesses? We are living in a time of change and we need to adapt and plan in order to mitigate the effects of the changes in our weather patterns. What does a low carbon future look like for the Broads? By working together our communities will prosper and so will the Broads.

Henry's words show true understanding of the Broads area issues and I truly look forward to working with him for the foreseeable future.

So that we may continue with our aims, I will close by asking our members if any of you would consider becoming Trustees or, perhaps, you know someone who could undertake the role? Please do contact us.

Paul Rice, Chairman



Paul Rice, Chairman with our new Patron, Henry Cator OBE and Antony Howell, MD of Brooms

BROADS SOCIETY AGM 2022



The Annual General Meeting of the Broads Society is to be held on Saturday 19th **November 2022** at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham. Guest speaker will be our new Patron, Henry Cator OBE. Full details, including an optional lunch, will be published in the October edition of Harnser. Winners of the Broads Society Photography Competition 2022 will also be announced and prizes awarded at the AGM. Please note the date in your diary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear Editorial Team,

Congratulations on Harnser

I should like to echo the warm praise of *Harnser* which you published in the letter from Peter Harland in the April issue. It is a delight to pore over each edition and to revel in the photographs.

Like Peter, my sons and I thought the feature on Simpson's Boatyard of Stalham in the January issue was outstanding and I was particularly interested in 'Reflections on the Southern Broads' by Roger Wilson (April edition). Our family and I kept our boat on the Northern Broads from 1947 to 2009, only to return to our pre-war roots at Brooms of Brundall in 2009. (My father had bought *Cadet I* from Brooms in 1937).

We have not regretted the move, and endorse all that Roger says about the delights of the south. The moorings, the pubs, the wide rivers, the peacefulness...Additionally we are served by an outstanding workforce at Brooms and appreciate our pontoon mooring in a part of the Broads with a marked rise and fall. More prosaically, this is one of the few places where one can rely on getting a pump-out on the Yare.

Thank you too for the mass of information you provide on the deliberations of the institutions running the Broads. *Harnser* is a really valuable resource for those of us who do not live in Norfolk.

Happy Cruising, Margaret Bird

REPORT ON THE BROADS SOCIETY MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING May 2022

At the Main Committee meeting on 9th May 2022 the following items were updated and discussed.

CNP

Peter Smith advised that he continues to circulate emails for information and hopes there will be something in the Queen's Speech to help CNP aims.

Northern Rivers Report.

Paul Savage advised there had been discussion about organising NRC post Covid and new members are needed. David stated that many issues had been due to communication amongst the Committee members and non-attendance at meeting. Having members with designated parishes wasn't working and some important applications may get missed. Sarah has reproduced a check list that had been used well in the past and this will be circulated. David suggested a piece in *Harnser* asking

for members to join the committee although members could come from outside of the membership.

Southern Rivers Report.

Colin reported that SRC had advertised in Harnser for new members. He said the Society has come out well in the EDP and Norfolk Magazine recently. There is need of more people to take an active interest in protecting the Broads, not just boating. SRC members used to have designated parishes but now everyone participates with planning information sent to all members for response.

Martin Thirkettle is watching the application for East Norwich and the Local Plan details. Brooms Boats have joined the Society as a corporate member. There are issues about highway access to Brundall Bay via Station Road, Brundall, where the road has become narrower over the years. The business and residents with help from the local MP are pushing for road to be reinstated to its former width.

Committee procedures. David drafted a procedure document which had been circulated and was agreed by SRC with a few amendments although more revision is needed to remove allocation of parishes to individual members then this will be recirculated with the amendments.

AGM

Patron : Paul Rice has spoken with Henry Cator who is delighted to become the Society's Patron. Paul proposed Mr Cator as Patron, seconded by Colin with all in agreement. Paul will draft a press release regarding this and asking for new Trustees. The AGM Venue & Date is Norfolk Broads Yacht Club on Saturday 19th November.

AGM Speaker : Discussion included Henry Cator as a possibility. Robert Paul also suggested Mark Collins, Commodore of NRCS. Speaker needs to be decided before Harnser goes to print.

BA Governance DEFRA update

Paul Savage has spoken with the Monitoring Officer and pointed out that their members need to be informed about what had been happening. There are two proposals in the Landscape Review, to strengthen the view of Sanford, but the BA had not taken this up, the tolls income is and National Park income is being combined into one pot which does not comply with legal requirements. Accounting cannot be carried out correctly. Keith asked when will the BA return to working in the offices rather than from home, we will ask.

Broads Authority Meetings

Peter advised, before Covid there meetings with the BA planned, the last face to face meeting was over three years ago. Paul Rice met with Dr Packman three weeks ago at Potter Heigham at a meeting about flooding issues. The Head of the EA, Duncan Baker MP, a representative for Lord Dannatt and Anglian Water were in attendance. Data had been requested to see if there was a pattern to the flooding but there had been no response. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to re-establish meetings with the BA.

Finance

We noted and approved year-end accounts and discussions had re the Administrator's' salary. Colin proposed an increase of £1,000 p.a., seconded by George with all in agreement.

Publicity Committee

Harnser : David said the current format for Harnser is working well and there is no reason to increase the number of pages, he thought the balance of articles was correct. Discussion was had regarding reducing the number of issues but all agreed to keep it as is. David suggested some members may prefer an electronic copy of Harnser. Keith felt this could be a voluntary option and Peter suggested this could be added to a revised membership form. Keith said that Harnser should remain as is to keep members happy as it is our main form of communication. If there was a reduction in editions the advertising revenue would be lost.

Discussion was had regarding an increase in the membership subscription but this could lead to members not changing standing orders or cancelling altogether. Discussion was had regarding collecting the subscriptions by Direct Debit and Sarah will look into this.

Peter, Paul and David attended the Horning Boat Show recently where there were a lot of people who were interested in the work of the Society. Paul Rice suggested that there could be a prize draw for people who sign up to a new membership at events. This could be drawn at the AGM, he will look into the possibility of a boatyard donating a two hour boat trip as a prize. Lots of cards were sold at the Boat Show.

New Trustees

Paul Rice proposed advertising for new Trustees. these do not necessarily initially have to be members. Paul will draft a press and social media article. Keith said that CPRE, who are similar to the Broads Society have thrived through covid with new members and Voluntary Norfolk may be able to provide some help. Colin suggested using the slogan 'Do you love the Norfolk Broads? The Broads Society needs you!'

Links with Broads Businesses

George said there are lots of different organisations all trying to achieve the same thing, there should be one voice to link everyone together. Paul Savage remarked that getting Local Government to turn up to meetings is impossible. The Broads Society should be a catalyst to get all involved in engaging. George suggested we get an hydrologist onboard to see what needs to be done (to protect the Broads) and have better understanding of issues.

Paul Rice had been approached by BFI to see if the Society could help engage with others.

Broadsword

Paul Savage asked Mike Whittaker to write a report regarding Broadsword for Harnser.

Any other business

Peter said the BA meeting list was available but there was nothing for Broads Engage. David said some amendments are needed to the website, he will send a list to Sarah. David said that currently we are using several different logos, we need consistency. David will circulate the logos and one will be chosen. Colin thought that 'Friends of the Broads' should be more prominent.

George stated that dredging is a serious issue.

Paul Rice, Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Antony Howell, Broom Boats, Brundall Corporate Member
- Mr J Colman, Framingham Earl
- Mr W E Colver, Sheffield
- Mr & Mrs P Matthew, Upton



REEDBED CREATION AT HICKLING BROAD



There can be few people that live and work in the Broads area that are not aware of the large swaying reedbeds that enclose many of the broads. East Anglian reedbeds are home to a wide range of wildlife, many of which are rare and threatened.

Despite the importance of reedbeds, both for wildlife and commercially for thatching, they are a habitat under threat. In the past we drained land with such efficiency that most reedbeds were reduced to mere relic slivers along the broad edges. During the 1990s, more enlightened management saw the expansion of reedbeds within the Broads, however they are still a threatened habitat. Many of the most important stands of reed are found along our coast and erosion around the Norfolk coast is biting into the shoreline. Along carefully selected stretches the Environment Agency is no longer piling up shingle banks as sea defence, but rather permitting the sea to shape the coastline, allowing nature to follow its own course. This means that areas such as Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Cley and Salthouse Marshes are gradually reverting back to saltmarsh as the sea encroaches and replaces its current freshwater reedbed habitat.



Male and female Bearded Tit in the reedbed at Strumpshaw Fen and male Bearded Tit in the reedbed at NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes © Elizabeth Dack

The Environment Agency is compensating for this loss by creating reedbed habitats inland and adjacent to existing established reed stands. The most recent reedbed creation site is in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust on Brendan's Marsh at NWT's Hickling Broad and Marshes. In 2011, as part of the wider Broadland flood alleviation work, a bund was constructed following the northern edge of Hickling Broad. This effectively repositioned the flood bank connecting the marshes back to the Broad's floodplain. The resulting groundworks created a deep dyke around the perimeter and a large shallow pool. The inclusion of water control structures allows us to hold water back and have control over how much water gets onto the reedbed.



Great White Egret flying over the reedbed and Grey Heron landing in the reedbed at NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes © Elizabeth Dack

Over the following years the transition process of succession from grassland to reedbed has created dynamic wetland habitats that are attractive to a range of species, and this has resulted in lapwing, redshank and avocet breeding numbers increasing. Little egret and grey heron patrol around the pools, and it's not uncommon to find a pair of crane leading a fluffy ginger chick or two along the dyke edges. The array of visiting birds is staggering, with great white egret and spoonbill present on a daily basis. Bird-watchers have been delighted with the arrival of rare migrants such as glossy ibis and a collared pratincole. It provides a feeding stop during the spring and autumn for regular migrant birds too, with ruff, wood and green sandpiper passing through in good numbers. In summer hobby hawk for dragonflies, and the reed fringes are alive with warblers and reed bunting. In winter, when the water level is higher, hundreds of duck are present with teal, shoveler and gadwall dabbling about in the shallow pools and tufted duck diving in the deeper dykes.



Although the marsh is to become chiefly reedbed, the project has allowed for 20% open water and at least two hectares of wet grassland. The bund edges and the varying ground heights will ensure that it provides a mosaic of wetland habitats throughout the year and continue to attract the diversity of species that we currently enjoy.

Sunrise over the reedbed at NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes © Elizabeth Dack



Broads Angling Services Group



What future lies for the Broads and other low lying areas in the UK, let alone whole countries elsewhere in the world. The latest predictions from the Climate Central group makes some interesting viewing, when you look at predictions as soon as 2030 up to 2100.

Is this taking the worst extreme case to make a headline, or is it a rude awaking for the Broads and its people. But what is the potential for this happening? Is it 1:200 or as some believe less than 1:20. What's clear is that this is the worst-case scenario. We have

all seen the misery flooding causes in recent times and I have stated many times, in low lying areas like the Broads, managing water is a real challenge when you just have too much, either through rainfall or increasingly from a rising North Sea.

Perhaps if the statutory agencies could define the risks a little more, we could all understand what measures are needed to at least sustain what we have for the next decade or two. Let alone the huge inward investment if you combine the total tourism investment for the next decade or two, now seemingly at risk. It could potentially stop much of this in the immediate future. With the Broads Authority seemingly more disconnected than ever from its stakeholders and Broads Futures looking at the strategic long term, there needs a platform to ensure these combined voices can be heard on this issue now.

I don't deign that beyond this in the long term it's really in all our hands to achieve net zero and constrain long term climate change or find a way to funding strategic investment to protect it.

An interactive map is available to view on the following link.

<https://coastal.climatecentral.org/mapview/11/1.535/52.677/389ab920d469d5c587627654b3b2655aaf38f96711c5314799fc3ef862d3af64>

Moving onto the here and now, BASG has received £750 from Love the Broads to install 35 Line Recycling Bins across the Broads. These bins form part of the National Line Recycling Scheme and is the largest single deployment in the UK.

This was brought about following some issues within Hoveton with discarded line and entanglement with birds which reside in the area in great numbers, attracted by

unnatural wholesale feeding by the general public. Four of these bins are to be installed within the Hoveton & Wroxham popular angling areas. These bins by themselves won't resolve the issues unless the public including anglers give respect to not only wildlife, but all users of the Broads.



None of us want to see wildlife entangled in line, so please take care and dispose of any line responsibly. To get this message out into the wider tourist arena, we will have an educational leaflet on Broads fishing available for all boats and visitors from the start of the season. This covers loads of items including how to fish safely and best practices for you and the environment including what's not allowed.

If you're Broads Angler, it's that time of year again for what we know as the glorious 16th when the closed fishing season opens on our rivers and Broads. What will this season bring, it's what many of us look forward to, whether it's a personal best specimen, your biggest overall catch, or winning one of the many angling competitions held across the Broads. They all bring that special buzz to us anglers and more importantly undertaken in wonderful surroundings. The Environment Agency presented their proposed monitoring plan to assess the impact of the barriers isolating Hoveton Great Broad, planned for installation later this year. Basically isolating the vital spawning ground for Bream across the Northern Broads. We have objected to this in the strongest terms, as any monitoring needs to be assessed against a known defined baseline and use the best techniques available, rather than what you can achieve within your resources. This jeopardises the whole Northern Broads ecology as cyprid fish play such an important part of the whole food chain and it's what makes the Broads so special. Should we care, when considering the Climate Central report which indicates that the whole area could be subsumed in sea water by 2030. This is the real reality that Natural England should be focussed on.

I've stated on many occasions in what is the UK's largest inland natural fishery, is it sustainable in its current form. As I write this, we have just been informed of an unsuccessful outcome for a grant to scope the feasibility of introducing some form of a Broads Angling Permit Scheme.

We are always looking for people to help get this back on a sustainable footing, with new ideas and a little time to spare. Drop us a line on info@basgonline.org if you're interested.

Kelvin Allen, BASG Chairman

THEN AND NOW
Pull's Ferry, Norwich



These two postcard views © Valentine's Series and © Charles Voisey, London, show Pull's Ferry during the late 19th / early 20th century. The flint structure is seen in a somewhat ruinous state without its roof and part of the masonry missing. Both images show the ferryman and the ferry which was accessed via the steps to the left.



View of Pull's Ferry seen from the River Wensum in March 2022

Pull's Ferry is a mediaeval Watergate dating from the 15th century and is one of the most iconic buildings along the River Wensum in Norwich. However, it was built several centuries after a more ancient waterway was dug by monks to transport stone from Caen in France and other materials for the building of Norwich Cathedral during the 11th century.

The Ferry House was built in 1647 and was both an inn and the home for the ferryman who transported people across the river. Originally known as Sandling's Ferry, it was renamed Pull's Ferry after John Pull, ferryman and publican between 1796 and 1841. The pub closed sometime before 1900 and the building became derelict, but the ferry continued to operate until 1943. The house and Watergate were saved through a bequest from Camilla Doyle and funds raised by the Norwich Girl Guides Association in 1947 and over the next couple of years, restoration was undertaken by local builders R G Carter and the architect Cecil Upcher. Today the building is in private ownership, but remains as one of the most important landmark views in Norwich, particularly when seen from the opposite side of the river.

David Edleston

WALKS AROUND THE BROADS

Potter Heigham



This 6 mile walk from Richard and Sally Parker of Wensum Ramblers starts outside St Nicholas' Church, Potter Heigham (Explorer Map OL40 G/R TG 420199). Potter Heigham

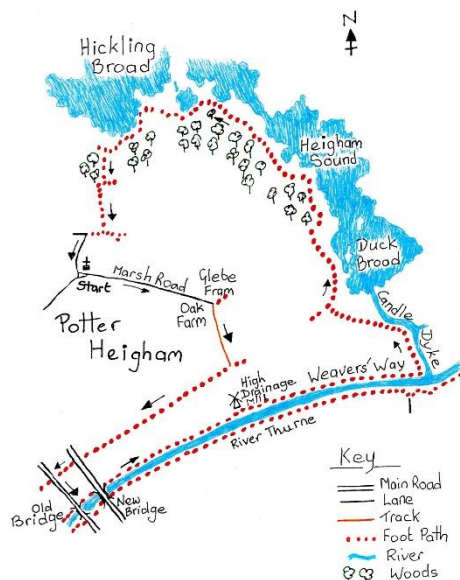
is on a regular bus route.

There is an abundance of wild fowl on this walk, which uses footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes. Part of the route uses a section of the Weavers' Way long distance path.

Potter Heigham Church dates from the 12th century. The wide, neatly thatched roofs top off the nave with its tall clerestory and the more rustic chancel huddled at the east end. The church was substantially rebuilt at the end of the medieval period. The striking round tower has a 12th-century base and an octagonal 14th century top. The bell stage to the tower dates from the 15th century, and it is elegantly decorated with flush work and crowned with battlements. The church interior features 14th century wall paintings and a very unusual 15th century red brick font. Perhaps the most important feature of the church is the superb 15th century hammer beam roof.

Potter Heigham's medieval bridge is believed to date from 1385. It is famous for being the most difficult one to navigate in the Norfolk Broads.

Refreshments: There are several places to eat and drink in the centre of Potter Heigham close to the old bridge.



From Potter Heigham Church gate, turn left and follow Marsh Road past some barns and a fingerpost on the left. Then continue past Cherry, Glebe and Charity Farms. At the end of the road, just beyond Oak Farm, turn right at the public bridleway fingerpost and follow the track round to a triple fingerpost. Here turn right along the footpath. Continue along the path for some two-thirds of a mile to reach the main road (A149). Cross the road carefully into the path opposite and follow this to the next road in the Potter Heigham boatyard area.

Turn left along the road past shops, cafés and a public house heading towards the ancient bridge. Just before reaching the bridge, at the Weavers Way fingerpost, turn left along a concrete path that heads towards the new bridge that carries the main

road (A149). Go under this bridge. Then, beyond the bridge, keep ahead passing behind the riverside holiday chalets along the concrete path. After the last property, turn left towards the mill (High's Drainage Mill). Then go right over the bridge and right again back towards the river. Turn left by the river and follow the path which again turns left towards the pumping station. Go over the dyke and back towards the river. Follow the river to its junction with Candle Dyke which links the River Thurne with Hickling Broad.



High Drainage Mill and Church of St Nicholas, Potter Heigham

Here the path veers to the left and then winds its way along the bank of Candle Dyke. Go past a thatched property (The Holt) to reach the path junction beyond it. By the junction is a Norfolk Wildlife Trust noticeboard. Ignore the path to the left and, instead, keep ahead and go through a gate. A viewing platform can be seen in the woods to the left. Go past a 'no public access' sign on the left followed by a landing stage on the right. Continue by a gate to a sluice with a 'no entry' sign to arrive at the NWT bird hide. Beyond here, the path veers to the left to a gate. Beyond the gate, and on reaching a joining path on the left, turn left here to leave The Weaver's Way.




Potter Heigham village sign and a thatched property on the river

Go over the bridge and then keep ahead, following the line of the ditch to the noticeboard by another crossing path. Here turn right and then immediately go left into an enclosed path. At the next crossing path, with a marker post, turn right and follow the path to a road on a corner. Turn left along the road then, at the church wall, turn left into the churchyard. Turn right past the tower end of the church and continue through the churchyard to the gate and the starting point of the walk.

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

Sue Walker

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MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BROADS



Clive Edwards submitted this photograph taken by his father. Clive said that the photo of his family on their half-decker includes his uncle on the helm, his mother in the stern-sheets, his aunt, his cousin (nearest the bow) and himself. Having been brought up in Norfolk, Clive has spent the past 50 years living in Dorset involved in maritime search and rescue with HM

Coastguard and the RNLi. Clive and his wife Lois still live in Weymouth, but have relocated their boating activities to the Broads, where they now keep 'Elsa II', their Hampton Safari 25, on a mooring at Barton Turf where they are aiming to spend about a third of the year from now on.



This photograph of the mill at West Somerton was taken at around 10.00 am on 11 June 2021 by Marc Chattle.

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.

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Follow us on Facebook [@broadssociety](https://www.facebook.com/broadssociety) and Twitter [@BroadsSociety](https://twitter.com/BroadsSociety) for up to date news and information. You can also link directly to our Facebook and Twitter accounts from the Broads Society website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- 2 July : Life on the Marshes Day, free drop in heritage and history event hosted by The Mill and Marsh Folk and Broads Hidden Heritage, Acle Recreation Centre 10am – 4pm, archive films, displays, presentations
- 8 July : Wherry 'Ardea' visits the Museum of the Broads
- 27 July : Celebration of Norfolk Day, Museum of the Broads, free entry and discounted boat trips (tbc)
- 4 & 18 August : 'Steam and Sail' days, Museum of the Broads
- 7 August : Bishop's Annual Outdoor Service, St Benet's Abbey
- 29 August : Barton Broad Open Regatta
- 17 September : Yare Navigation Race, Coldham Hall Sailing Club
- 19 November : Broads Society AGM, Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham, Guest speaker Henry Cator OBE, Broads Society Patron



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NEWS AND VIEWS

The Society is a corporate Member of the Campaign for National Parks. We get to talk to other Park Societies, which can be very helpful when it comes to seeing the bigger picture.

With the help and support of CNP we have lobbied Defra to provide some practical means of holding all the “Parks” to account, something which is lacking at the moment. It is a fundamental weakness of all the Authorities that they are a hybrid of “Quango” and local authority in which none of the Members are directly elected. So, when something goes amiss – as inevitably it will in any complex organisation – there is no ballot box solution. We’ve been sent a copy of a report into the Brecon Beacons National Park by the Welsh Audit Office. The curious thing is how different, yet essentially similar, their difficulties are.

The Auditor General for Wales made recommendations, which were the subject of a, “major change programme”, in 2019. Audit Wales have now gone back to check if the changes have worked. The answer, in a nutshell, is that changes have been “slow” and, in some cases, the problems have actually got worse. In this Authority, Officers tell the Auditor they feel, “overwhelmed by queries and challenges from some Members”.

I know that some say the same at Yare House. I don’t agree, but it’s a free country and they are entitled to their own opinion. The difference is that in Wales there is a third party with authority who can – and if necessary will – hold their public bodies to account. The ultimate threat, which I imagine is seldom needed to be carried out, is that the Welsh Assembly can actually authorise the Auditor to take over. A sort of Special Measures, such as we see in hospital and school management. In England, the ultimate responsibility – by which I mean the risk of being sacked – lies with the Minister who owes a constitutional duty to Parliament. But this is so remote a danger that, as many of us have learned, he is generally safe to look the other way.

The government has accepted, in its response to the Landscapes Review, that other local public bodies really ought to do a better job when exercising their own powers, if they affect the protected landscapes. At present, most of them only have a, “duty to have regard to” the statutory purposes of a National Park. It is too easy for them to say, “I’ve considered this and the answer is no.” With CNP’s help we have pointed out that even if you *do* increase the obligation, as Defra suggest, it still doesn’t work so long as there is any discretion at all. The Environment Agency – a pure unelected Quango – is proud to say it has removed 20 kilometres of steel piling on the Broads over a period of 20 years. Coupled with climate change restricting navigation under the low bridges, this has led to unacceptable overcrowding in some moorings. Yet, they’ve done this in spite of a positive duty to promote recreation to, “the best standard”. They have spent £143 million over 20 years making a muck of things.

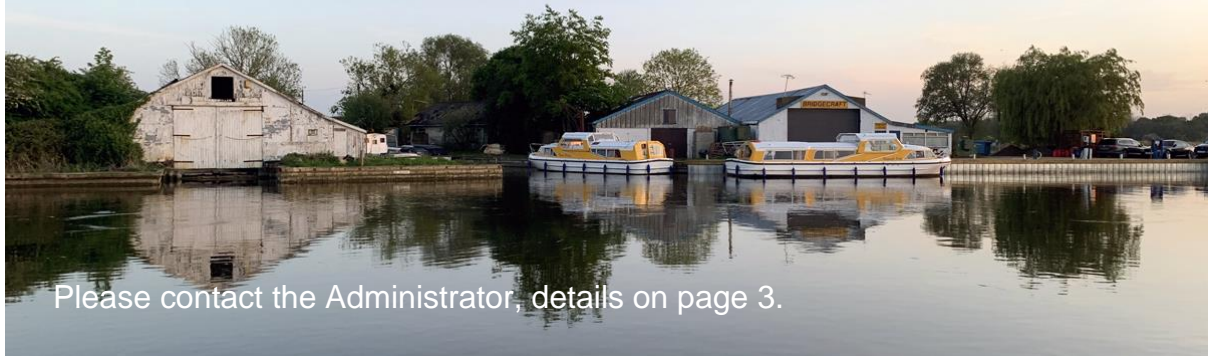
Democracy, as Churchill pointed out, is far from perfect. But it is better than all the other systems which have been tried. The governance of the Broads is very different from a regular National Park in many respects, but especially in how it raises revenue. Over the last 20 years or so tolls charged to navigators have slowly risen over 70% in real terms. I don't mind. They are still good value. But a bit more transparency about where they go would be welcome. Taxation without (enough) representation will always lead to strife. If we can't have direct elections, maybe we should look to Wales for a better way?

Meantime, back at the ranch... At its March meeting the Broads Authority voted to tell Defra, "there is a strong appetite for simplifying the need for the Authority to account for income and expenditure from National Park Grant and Navigation separately." Hungry?

Paul Savage

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.



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BROADSWORD : OCTOBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Broadsword has just completed another successful season of riverside tree management. Over ten sessions during last winter, led by a series of Broads Authority Senior Operations Technicians, Broadsword volunteers completed all the tasks assigned to us in September 2021. Our working sites were one on the Bure, opposite Wroxham Broad; and two sites on the Ant, a small corner between How Hill and Mud Point and a much larger patch above Hunsett Mill.

At Wroxham we were asked to clear several sections of bank to allow the Tree shears to come onto the site after us and clear it thoroughly. This involved dropping a lot of large trees into the river, using a winch to pull the trees out of the river, and then separating the core wood and the brash into insect piles. This is hard dirty work and the condition of the bank was not ideal. After several sessions, with large numbers of volunteers, the bank was ready for the tree shears. The weather had so far been kind to us and this continued through the remaining sessions. By "kind to us" I mean largely dry and the river was not frozen. However, it is still winter and five or six hours in temperatures below 5°C takes its toll.

Our next session on the Ant was unusual in the we only had two volunteers but, as it was a very small site, we did not need any more. The corner was cleared, mainly of pollarded branches and vision for boats was much improved.

Finally, we moved higher up the Ant to a very thick patch of trees that were badly overhanging. This section will be dredged next year and this was work to allow room for the dredger and mud wherries to operate safely. The bank was very soft and the trees largely tall so again, they had to be dropped into the river and winched out or dropped onto the workboat, cut up and passed ashore for the making of insect piles.

We required three sessions for this work but session 2 was badly disrupted. You may remember the storms that occurred in February. On our way to our worksite on the Wednesday after the storms on a very large workboat we came across a tree in the river above Barton Broad. It had obviously snapped off and was quite a big log with no brash on it. It was a hazard to navigation and so was pulled out of the river and put on the bank. This took half an hour or so but as we continued up the Ant we came across a second tree that took up two thirds of the river. This was much larger than the first tree but we couldn't just ignore it. With the aid of the crane on the workboat and the winch connected to a tree on land the offending tree was removed from the river after about three hours work. It was so large that it exceeded the capacity of the crane and had to be cut into three sections before it could be safely removed from the river.

Note: Members of Broadsword are all Broads Society members. We only work October to March each year on a rotating pattern of days Sunday, Saturday, Wednesday. Members of Broadsword are all Broads Authority volunteers and are trained and equipped by The Broads Authority. Saws and loppers are provided by the Broads Society. More volunteers are always welcome!

Mike Whittaker

CHURCHES AROUND THE BROADS

11. Horsey : Church of All Saints

The Church of All Saints sits in an isolated location within the small and somewhat remote settlement of Horsey which lies between West Somerton and Waxham, close to the coast, known for its sand dunes and seals. This attractive little church is hidden away amongst a cluster of old houses and mature trees, set within a wider landscape of twisting and winding roads, drainage ditches and flat fields. The church itself stands within a shaded churchyard surrounded by mature trees with the Old Rectory on one side and Horsey Hall on the other.

Dating mainly from the 13th century, it has a very simple plan form with a round tower and single cell formed by a continuous nave and chancel. The church is listed Grade II* and is built of flint with Lincolnshire limestone ashlar dressings and some brick and has a thatched roof. The octagonal belfry was added in the late 14th century and holds one bell, cast in 1597 by John Brend of Norwich. The south porch is a 15th century addition and the church was restored in 1850s and 1860s.



View of the church from the south-west

Internally, the church has a delightful, rustic character with its 19th century king post roof to the nave and rafter and collar roof to the chancel. The octagonal font is 13th century and the 15th century benches have poppyheads. A painted timber chancel screen was added around 1511, although the base has lost its traceried paintings, the

upper sections retain their ornate tracery. There are several Victorian stained glass windows depicting St Peter and St Paul, the figure of Catherine Ursula Rising painting at her easel and a figure of Christ with a lamb.



Victorian stained glass windows to the nave and chancel

The nearest moorings are at Horsey Staithe and it is around a 20 minute or so walk to the church. Limited parking is available at the church but there is also parking at the National Trust car park adjacent to Horsey Mill. Refreshments are available at the Nelson Head Pub, which is a short distance from the church.



Views of the nave and chancel

David Edleston

ADVERTISING RATES FOR HARNSER

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QUEEN'S SPEECH LACKED COMMITMENT TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE NATIONAL PARKS



Legislative change is essential if National Parks are to deliver their full potential for nature, people and climate. So, it was deeply disappointing that there was no mention of National Parks or Protected Landscapes in the Queen's Speech on 10 May.

The Glover Landscapes Review published in 2019 set out a bold new vision for Protected Landscapes and proposed a number of important changes such as new statutory purposes, stronger duties on other bodies, and more effective Management Plans. These are all proposals which we support and which the Government has committed to taking forward. But until the necessary legislation is introduced, we still don't know when these changes will be implemented.

Legislation is also needed to deliver other important changes such as a complete ban on burning on peatlands and controls on second homes, so we'll be continuing to campaign for a dedicated Landscapes Bill. But we are also looking for other potential opportunities to secure the most urgent changes through amendments to legislation the Government has already committed to – including via the Levelling Up Bill.

Further information can be found on the CNP website at cnp.org.uk



Grant cheque presented to Burnt Fen Alpacas



As reported in Harnser's April edition, Love the Broads was delighted to award a grant to Burnt Fen Alpacas to provide specialist disabled facilities to less able visitors. A grant of £1,600 has part funded a newly built, specially adapted, toilet. Peter Howe handed over the cheque to Annie and Jamie surrounded by their wonderful alpacas on a lovely May afternoon.

More businesses sign up to help the Broads

We have welcomed several new riverside businesses who have signed up to help our important work. Each of them is displaying a new poster informing their customers that they are helping to keep the Broads special and are selling our merchandise to raise donations. We now have 90 businesses across the Broads all playing a part. Without their donations we would not be able to provide grants for so many exciting projects. A big welcome to: Ferry Inn and New Inn (Horning), Nippy Chippy (Potter Heigham) East Hills (Brundall) Sutton Staithe Hotel, The Maltsters (Ranworth)

Love the Broads merchandise



Please look for our merchandise including wildlife badges, some of which are illustrated here. A new wildlife badge is now available - Marsh harrier – sorry bittern now sold out. You will also find bike books and our popular Green Traveller books on your travels.

****Stop Press** Concert in aid of Love the Broads**



Arrangements are being finalised for a very special Concert in aid of Love the Broads to be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 24th September at St. Helen's Church, Ranworth with the popular Norwich Community Choir performing. Where better to host such a fabulous event than in the "Cathedral of the Broads". Norwich Community Choir's love of singing means that they will have your attention from the first note. The listener experiences volumes of emotion as the choir totally commit themselves to each song. Their singing is of the highest standard and their poetry is both touching and amusing. This is the most polished community choir you will ever hear and this concert is guaranteed to leave you feeling moved and uplifted.

St Helen's Church Visitor Centre is likely to be open serving light refreshments and there is so much to see and do close-by including Norfolk Wildlife Trust's floating Broads Wildlife Centre and Ranworth Staithe. So why not join us and make a day of it? Final confirmatory details will be announced soon including ticket prices and how you can buy tickets. You can pre-register your interest in this exciting event by email to Lynne Seamons lynne@lovethebroads.org.uk or by calling 07717 290307. Our thanks to St Helens and Norwich Community Choir for their generous support. We hope you will be able to join us.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BROADS



In my last update I mentioned that we were hoping to open on March 29th but due to some hold-ups with the annual maintenance of our two trip boats, 'Falcon' and 'Marsh Harrier' we couldn't quite get there. However, we did open in time for Easter and we were very happy to see visitors once again coming through the doors and enjoying the museum. Our boat crews were kept busy with many people taking up the option to add to their Broads' experience. The annual 'Easter Trail' was enjoyed by many of our younger visitors – and some older ones too!

The winter maintenance on the steamboat 'Falcon' has now been completed and at the time of writing, we are waiting to have the annual boiler inspection, due to take place very soon. I know how popular our steamboat experience is, so really looking forward to when we can finally get it steamed up!

On May 14th we saw the return of our Boat and Fishing Jumble – the first for three years! We were a little undecided whether to stage it or not. I am very glad we decided to go ahead – it was very well attended with over 20 stalls booked, good public attendance and wonderful caterers supplying the 'compulsory' bacon rolls etc! It was a very successful event and we are now having requests to hold an additional one in the Autumn. We will give it some thought and make a decision soon.



We are also very happy to be able to stage the first event of Stalham Town Council's programme of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations, as announced in my last update in April's 'Harnser'. By the time you receive this edition, the event will have taken place, and a full report with photos will be included in the next issue. It promises to be a great day with live music from the Broadland Ukelele Band, free entry to the museum and decorated boat trips. We are delighted to be able to work with Stalham Town Council on this and also to have full sponsorship from Lathams of Potter Heigham with whom we have had a long relationship. All we need is sunshine!

I am also happy to report that all the buildings that house our displays are now open – the ‘Wroxham Room’ where we chronicle the ‘discovery’ of the Broads, the Wherry Cuddy open now for the first time for three years, our ‘High Streets’ exhibition is complete and the annual exhibition ‘From Sails to Blades’ - the history of wind power on the Broads is open. In addition, we have improved and extended the café and shop areas, where delightful views of the river can be enjoyed.

Interesting and fascinating items continue to be donated to our wonderful collection, including artist Phillipa Miller’s lifetime collection of diaries, books and paintings and soon we hope to receive a considerable collection relating to perhaps our prime exhibit, the 1825 lateener ‘Maria’. More news of both in the next issue of ‘Harnser’.

Our quest for more volunteers is stepping up with some success. As is the case with many charities and organisations, we have suffered from a lack of sufficient numbers of volunteers since the pandemic. As a result, we have had to limit opening days to just three - Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We hope to extend this to more days once numbers of available volunteers increase. Do please get in touch if you have a few hours a week to spare, and like meeting people in a pleasant and friendly environment. As always, please apply by email info@museumofthebroads.org.uk via the website www.museumofthebroads.org.uk, or call 01692 581681

Meanwhile, we hope to see you soon – come and see all our new and revamped displays and enjoy a relaxing boat trip.

Robert Paul, Chair of Trustees

Museum of the Broads

Stalham NR12 9DA

Bringing the Story of the Broads Alive



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www.museumofthebroads.org.uk





As seen on Channel 4's 'Great Canal Journeys'

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BRIEFING FROM THE CNP CONFERENCE (Part 3)

October 2021 hosted by the North Yorkshire Moors Association

This is the 3rd and final part of the CNP briefing and it starts with the subject “Empowering Parks”.

The presentation by an environmental policy campaigner suggested that there had been a growing movement towards better environmental protection but this may have been partially reversed due to the pandemic and subsequent financial “crash”. This possibly led to “reversal” of some planning policies with loss of resources for the EA, NE, NPA and Forestry organisations. It appears that environmentally unfriendly works were coming back such as hedgerow removal, ditches being filled in, water pollution etc.

Are the government superb at focussing on smaller issues but not on the key issues (such as the environment)? There appears to be a desire for “talking but not doing” and the Glover review may have weakened the National Parks Association rather than strengthen it.

Mention (by Glover) was made that NPA must deal with the pressure and damage in the parks, removing eyesores (such as fly tipping), development restraints, tree and hedge planting, integrated transport, heritage access, grazing and making NP management plans enforceable to name but a few issues. Basically, empowerment for the NP but without suggesting how all this would be funded.

Should the NP have more power to protect their environs? To take proper charge and be able to act on its powers? Power, for example, to regulate some private bodies such as utilities (within their executive area). Should these powers include statutory powers to, for example, stop tourism developments that present transport and access issues, ban second homes and levy for environmental works? Finally, the presenter said there was a need for ministers to listen and take action.

There followed a brief presentation from the manager of the Dawney Estate, originally a farming estate, where the estate follows an active policy (to survive) of diversification and biodiversity activities. They have developed Wykeham Mature Plants, specialising in larger and mature high quality plants, trees and hedging which allows creation of instant landscapes for “those who do not want to wait”. The company has apparently become profitable after less than 5 years.

The final presentation was on “Sustainable to regenerative tourism”. There is a need to balance the needs of visitors, residents, business and the environment thus regenerative tourism. If managed properly, NP areas can become sustainable (and stay reasonably natural) by using the regenerative tourism idea. The NPs need to engage and communicate with local business and the public and this has to be

perhaps far more than they do currently. Encouraging local interest projects, trend spotting and encouraging “new experiences” can help. Collaborative marketing, sharing publicity, strap lines, logos was suggested. There was also a feeling that visitors need to be encouraged away from “honey pot areas”, more to get them to explore. There is a balance to be maintained too as nowhere should suffer from “over tourism” which becomes unsustainable.

The presentation closed with suggestions of encouraging locals and visitors into “micro volunteering” on practical projects such as litter picking and tidying areas. Be nature positive and encourage the new trend of well-being and wildlife tourism not, for example, “tipple” tourism (read booze cruise).

That concludes the CNP briefing.

Paul Rice, Chairman

WHEATFEN NATURE RESERVE
The Ted Ellis Trust
MAGGOTY BEETLE LARVAE



Maggoty looking beetle larvae are seldom on the radar of visitors to Wheatfen, especially when the likes of the thigh-rubbingly exciting Swallowtail butterflies are on the wing, or other majestic star species of the Broads are about. During the summer, the drooling Swallowtail paparazzi march the paths on their missions, and at times I feel like a car park warden; one in one out. But who can blame our visitors, for the Swallowtail is undoubtedly a jewel in any Broadland nature reserve’s crown.

As a nature reserve Warden concerned about my patch and indeed the Broads as a whole, I try and broaden people’s minds. Leave the camera in the car, forget this digital age and instead take in the whole scene before you; the flowers, the butterflies, the habitats and the small niches many species squeeze in to. And whilst you find yourself becoming more and more absorbed in this hypnotic, magical state, instead of worrying about which lens to bring along, you may just spot some maggoty looking beetle larvae feeding on some Meadow Rue.

Recently, whilst attending a Zoom meeting whose attendees consisted of the various hierarchies that manage Broadland’s nature reserves, I suddenly found myself on the receiving end of a mini lecture. Questions around why I was not conforming to the “standard four-year mowing rotation” were fired abruptly in my direction. Alas, I never

swallowed and digested the “how to manage a fen” textbook. Instead, here at Wheatfen we monitor, we research, we look at past management and changing environmental considerations, adapting our management approach to ensure this special corner of Norfolk is preserved and enhanced for future generations. We even consider some beetle larvae when drawing up our management plans.

The *Galeruca laticollis* beetle is found at Wheatfen, but nowhere else in the UK. Unfortunately, this species has no common name in the English tongue. Its larvae, which can be seen throughout May and June, feed on the uncommon fen specialist Meadow Rue. The adult beetle can be found feeding on the leaves of Creeping Thistle late July and August. Not all aspects of the beetle’s lifecycle are yet understood; for example, how does it overwinter, perhaps as eggs in the soil near Meadow Rue plants?



Galeruca laticollis beetle larva (left) and beetle (right)

From our rotational mowing experiments, Meadow Rue appears to thrive under an annual winter cut, and thankfully such a cut appears to favour the beetles too. With regards to managing Creeping Thistle, a plant often demonised in meadows and fens, we simply leave it where it grows on the higher ground. As yet, the thistle has not had any detrimental effect on any other botanical species on the reserve.

As we move in to the future, we must remain open minded about how we manage the Broads habitats. Traditions and standard practices must be questioned, especially in the face of climate change-induced salt surges, more regular flooding, and unseasonal weather fluctuations. With the threat of the Broads turning back into a great estuary, we must also study and research the smaller things, the maggoty beetle larvae, and gain a better understanding of their ecology. Such knowledge may be invaluable should we wish to translocate species in the future.

Will Fitch

UPDATE FROM THE RIVER WAVENEY TRUST



The original meeting of the Trust was held in the Swan Hotel, Harleston on 29th March 2012 when over 100 people attended and by the end of that year we had over 300 members! So we celebrated our 10 years with a special fundraising event, an Auction of Promises' in March, courtesy of our generous friends and hosts at Abbey Hall, Eye raising over £6,000. In May we brought staff, volunteers, members and the public together at The Locks Inn Community Pub, Geldeston, to showcase and celebrate our work. Our organisation has been run by trustees and volunteers until about 2 years ago when we employed our first salaried member of staff, Martha Meek as Development Manager. We have since taken on two more staff, namely Emily Winter as Catchment Officer and Katie Utting as River Projects Officer.

Martha has secured significant funding to take on further projects including the following :

1) In April, the River Waveney Trust worked in partnership with Groundwork to deliver a free public conference on Natural Flood Management (NFM) in Diss. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring partners, stakeholders and the local community together regarding a hot topic for the Waveney NFM which is about using natural solutions to slow, capture, re-direct or store flood waters at times of high rainfall. This can prevent water from quickly flowing off the land and to the main river where it can cause flooding to homes and businesses. Possible NFM measures include tree or hedge planting, installing 'leaky' dams made from natural timber to hold back water, digging small pools or ponds to capture and store flood water and allowing the river to flow onto grassed floodplains where there is no risk to people or property. Healthy soils that act as a sponge and allow the water to infiltrate are also really important. Looking forward, we are delighted to have been awarded funding from a National Lottery climate change fund - Together For Our Planet - for piloting NFM. This means we can create some fantastic showcase NFM measures and use them to inspire others in the catchment.



Emily, tree planting and canoe volunteers

2) As energy prices soar, the cost of fertiliser is also rocketing, and the issue of over-use of agricultural nutrients is no longer just an environmental one, but an economic one too. Our Catchment Officer, Emily, has been working with the Waveney farmer cluster to monitor nutrient leaching from arable fields. Thanks to RWT volunteer help, the farmers are also learning about crop nutrient uptake.

3) Invasive Species Control - From a Canoe!

This summer our Canoe Volunteers, managed by Katie, will be tackling invasive pennywort near Diss by canoe. Pennywort covers the rivers surface, blocking out light and depleting oxygen levels. Work parties over summer will work alongside a local expert contractor to pull pennywort from the river and woody debris

I would encourage you to visit our website, www.riverwaveneytrust.org as you will be able to read about our Trust in more detail

Keith Lead, Chair of the Trustees

BOOK REVIEW

Broads Park Rangers Favourite Walks



This pocket-sized guide is one of a series on walks in National Parks recently published by Collins. The Broads edition includes a total of 20 walks, varying in length from 1.4 to 8.5 miles, each of which can be completed in less than 4 hours. Locations include Coltishall, Horstead and the River Bure, Barton Broad and the River Ant, Potter Heigham and the River Thurne in the north, Reedham and the River Yare, Hardley and the River Chet and Burgh Castle and the River Waveney in the south as well as Norwich Riverside and the River Wensum. General information about the Broads is also provided including walking tips, safety, protective clothing and other equipment, public rights of way, protecting the countryside and getting around the area.

The book is paperback with 128 pages and is priced at £6.99. It is well laid out with a detailed description for each walk, highlighted maps and numerous, accompanying coloured images and is an excellent guide for anyone wishing to explore the Broads on foot. ISBN 978-0-00-846272-7

David Edleston

In this latest contribution to the Harnser Magazine we'll introduce some specific examples of BFI work that are underway and how you can be involved.

Improving our understanding of saline intrusion

An important requirement within BFI is to assess the future impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and how these are likely to impact on saltwater intrusion in the Broadland river systems. We are aware that changes in the extent of saltwater intrusion is a concern for a range of stakeholders, and especially the angling community. Reflecting this, a clear BFI objective is that: "ongoing and sudden increases in the salinity of sensitive freshwater environments [will be] minimised as far as possible". This objective, together with others, will be used to test the suitability of different approaches to managing future flood risk.

With on-going monitoring will continue to improve our understanding of the current extent of saltwater intrusion and to predict future effects. To aid this, we are proposing to develop a new statistical model that will correlate the extent of saltwater intrusion to its main causes. This model will be based on the Environment Agency's long record of salinity monitoring data, together with data from partner groups.

BFI present at NSFA

The BFI Team were recently invited to present and share information with the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA). The NSFA is led by Lord Richard Dannatt, and includes Councils, Anglian Water, Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and a range of other agencies. The NSFA's overall aim is to combat local flooding issues in packages of work that can be delivered collaboratively by the organisations involved. It is expected that the BFI will aid the NSFA by sharing up-to-date knowledge and data, to ensure that the aspirations of both initiatives support and complement each another.

Reclaim the Rain Project

Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's Flood and Water Management Teams have won a £6.4 million joint bid to Defra for an innovative water management project. 'Reclaim the Rain' will test new approaches to flood and drought resilience in at least six small rural communities across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Both counties face significant surface water flood risk, whilst also being in the driest region of the UK. The project will involve partner organisations and communities to support flood water reuse in agriculture, industry, local communities, alongside nature-based flood management solutions. These measures will combine to address both flood risk and water resource requirements for communities.

To find out more about Reclaim the Rain and how you can get involved, visit: www.reclaimtherain.org

What to expect later this year

One of the tasks this year will be identify a set of potential actions to manage future flood risk. These could be traditional measures such as embankments and walls, or newer solutions like barriers and washlands. In addition to physical structures, some actions may be more about development planning, land use or preparation for flooding – these can all reduce flood impacts.

We will be using the latest research, policy guidance and data to decide on the list of actions. Equally, we will be looking for innovative local ideas by tapping into the huge knowledge base of those that live in, work in, and visit the area on a regular basis. As always, our aim is to hear, consider and represent the views of communities in the BFI plan area. Being able to cope with flooding is often described as being resilient, and the BFI plan includes a target to adaptively improve local flood resilience. Alongside local knowledge, we will also look for new ideas and solutions from elsewhere in the UK and beyond.

So, what exactly are we asking of you?

During the second half of this year, we will be seeking your suggestions about what you would like to see happen to increase local flood resilience. Once we have compiled the long list with your help, it will be analysed to identify which actions show the most promise. This is an important step in the development of BFI strategy, and over the coming months we will be advertising the process and updating you about how to get involved.

Please remember to visit the [BFI webpage](#) for a wealth of information about the strategy aims and objectives, the partners, case studies and interactive maps, as well as digital versions of all our newsletters. Thank you to all our partners, advocates and local communities who continue to help us develop and create the BFI strategy.



Gavin Rumsey, Environment Agency

HORNING BOAT SHOW & OTHER EVENTS 2022

Peter Smith and David Edleston attended the Horning Boat Show with the Broads Society stand which was held on Saturday 30 April. The hot and sunny weather encouraged many people to attend the show and we were very busy throughout the day, promoting the Broads Society to those who visited our stand and hopefully encouraging new members to join the Society. At the time of writing, we are due to attend the Broads Life Festival at Beccles Quay on Saturday 11 June and we also have bookings confirmed for Ludham Open Gardens on Sunday 26 June and the Royal Norfolk Show on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June. We will also be attending Hoveton Village Fete on Sunday 7 August, with more events likely to be added to the list including those at the Museum of the Broads.



Broads Society Stand at the Horning Boat Show

We have a small but dedicated team who attend these events and set up the stand and display material to promote and raise awareness of the Society with a view to increasing our membership. Despite the request for additional volunteers in the last issue of Harnser, it is disappointing that no offers of help have been received. New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested, even if you can only spare a few hours, please contact Peter Smith by e-mail p.smith40@outlook.com



Horning Boat Show 2022

NEWS SNIPPETS

CNP Conference and Workshop

In May, three committee members took part in a Zoom Conference & Workshop organised by the Campaign for National Parks involving representatives of all the English National Parks and some from Wales to discuss various topics that came out of a telephone survey. The gathering was hosted by Rose O'Neill, CNP's CEO. Topics included CNP's direction of travel and vision for its work; CNP's developing perspective on the national policy context and the opportunities to have influence and create change for the benefit of National Parks; what CNP can do, that individual National Park Societies can't; how CNP can help NPSs do their own work, related to the vision; and what NPSs can do themselves, individually or together, related to the vision. CNP are the umbrella Charity representing all of England's National Park Societies and Friends Groups.

East Norwich Regeneration

Those of you who live in Norfolk may have seen the publicity concerning the East Norwich Regeneration led by Norwich City Council which has been underway since the closure of the Colman's Mustard Factory and the Britvic Bottling Plant. The Broads Society is watching the emerging plans carefully and has attended both of the public consultations held so far. There are suggestions for both a marina and a mooring basin – both however, will need funding. We will update readers as more information becomes available. Both our North and South Rivers Committees, now have the advantage of planning professionals as part of their teams. We are also active in monitoring the progress of the revision of the 'Broads Plan'.

Norfolk Magazine



An article about the Broads Society was published in the May 2022 edition of Norfolk Magazine. Entitled 'Wielding the Broadsword', the article features an interview with our Chairman, Paul Rice, noting that the Broads Society has campaigned for this unique landscape for almost 70 year and goes on to ask 'So what do they get up to?' through a series of questions and answers.

Redevelopment of the Bridge Hotel Site, Potter Heigham

A revised planning application for redevelopment of the former Bridge Hotel site to provide 12 holiday units, a restaurant and car park was refused for the second time by the Broads Authority Planning Committee in March 2022. The reasons for refusal included flooding concerns, insufficient information on the impact on the historic environment, notably Potter Heigham Bridge, a scheduled monument and Grade II* listed building, the loss of significant trees and lack of a suitable landscape scheme.

Ludham Bridge Stores & Wayfarers Cafe

Following approval by the Broads Authority in March 2022 of the planning application for demolition of all existing buildings and the construction of a new café and store with three holiday lets to the rear, the site and its associated buildings are now due to be sold by auction on 15 June 2022.

Thorpe Ferry



Thorpe Ferry operates from Bungalow Lane, Thorpe and provides a link from the north bank of the River Yare to Whitlingham Lane on the south bank. It was established by Stephen Ellingham in May 2022, making it possible to visit both Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Thorpe Marshes Nature Reserve and Whitlingham Country Park. The Ferry operates from 10.00 until 18.00 Thursday to Sunday and there is a café serving drinks and snacks on the Thorpe site. Further details can be found at thorpeferry.org



Stephen Ellingham at the helm of Thorpe Ferry with the landing stage at Whitlingham on the opposite river bank; Thorpe Ferry Cafe

New restaurant in Horning

A new restaurant has recently opened at Ferry Marina, Ferry Road, Horning. Flavours Bar and Kitchen serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and has an outside seating area overlooking Horning Ferry Marina as well as indoor seating. Further details can be found on their Facebook page.



RECENT NEWS FROM THE BROADS AUTHORITY



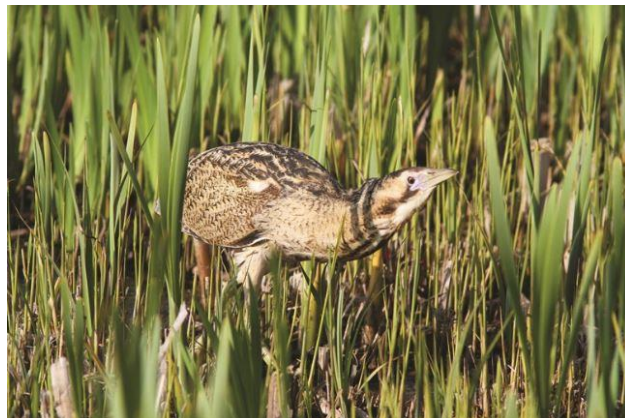
Items of interest from the Broads Briefing for May 2022 published on the Broads Authority website.

Maintenance update

- A mooring at Burgh Castle is now under BA management as a 24-hour mooring and is open to the public
- Piling repair work is underway at our Commissioners Cut 24-hour mooring. Contractors are on site repairing a 30m collapsed section of piling.
- The Authority's water-plant harvester has been cutting on the River Thurne, commencing works in the Martham area and will then move to Waxham Cut. Starting in the main channels at Martham and Somerton, it will then continue on to a circuit of cutting on the Rivers Bure and Ant.
- A second machine will head to the upper stretches of the Waveney, Yare and Wensum.
- The annual mowing of BA amenity area, moorings and footpaths has begun in earnest. Regular cutting will continue to take place until October to keep these areas open and serviceable for use.
- A new waste facility has been installed at our Hoveton St John 24-hour mooring.

Upcoming works include

- 50m of mooring timber-capping repairs at Horning Marshes.
- Timber mooring repairs at Castle Staithe, Wroxham and Womack Island.
- The bridge-height gauge boards at St Olaves are being replaced and some are being installed with new signage.



New waste facility at Hoveton St John 24-hour mooring; Bittern © Brian McFarlane

Bitterns Booming

It is positive to hear that Britain's loudest bird, the bittern, is making a booming recovery. After almost disappearing from the UK twice, RSPB reveals that the Eurasian bird has had a record-breaking year in the UK. The Broads is a stronghold for bitterns, their loud 'booms' are often heard but these very shy birds are rarely seen. In 2021 there were 228 booming males counted, up from 209 in 2019, the charity says.

Swing Bridge Repairs

The much-needed improvement works to the rail swing bridges at Reedham, Somerleyton and Oulton Broad will take place later this year.

The internal components of the three swing bridges haven't been replaced in over 100 years and need frequent and costly maintenance. This has led to disruption for river users over the last few years. Starting in autumn, Network Rail's engineers will be upgrading the internal components which includes replacing for each bridge the winch systems, hydraulic jacks and pipework, lighting and finally the installation of new power systems. This work will make the bridges less prone to faults, reducing the current maintenance costs and they will be able to operate more reliably throughout the year for passengers and boaters alike.

This will involve pre-planned closures of the rail line and access for navigation will also be affected. Please note the dates of closures listed on our website: Swing bridge upgrades planned for autumn 2022.

Pillars of the Broads Exhibition

A new 3D exhibition 'Pillars of the Broads' has been launched in Norwich. It's an interactive installation, connecting the City of Stories with the National Park and showcases the huge wealth of cultural and natural heritage here. The exhibit's central feature is a large map of the Broads area, allowing people to locate landscape features such as the Broads themselves, rivers, mills, nature reserves and churches. The pillars themselves depict the special qualities of the Broads and include photographs, artwork, drawings, haikus and kennings from pupils from Caister Junior School and Charter Academy, inviting people to connect with the nature, history, folklore and culture of the Broads. Iconic wildlife such as otters and kingfishers are featured, plus endangered species found here such as the Swallowtail butterfly, fen orchid and fen raft spider. The exhibit can be found outside the Forum, next to Cotswold Outdoor Norwich, Theatre Street and runs until October 2022. Find out more about the 'Pillars of the Broads' Exhibition on our website.



Map of the Broads and other exhibition panels

© David Edleston

In the News

A recent BBC Look East news programme featured the safety issues crossing Breydon Water and the need to stay within the marked channel. The presenter headed out on Spirit of Breydon and visited Great Yarmouth Yacht Station. It also features our excellent boating safety videos, available on YouTube and our Broadcaster magazine, both with information on how to cross Breydon.



Rangers Keith (left) and Martin with BBC Look East Reporter Ian Barmer (wearing a hat) and cameraman

Photographs © Broads Authority, unless otherwise stated



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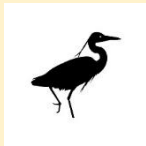
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BROADS SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES 2022

1. The Entries for the Broads Society Photographic Competition 2022 are now open. The theme of each category is open to individual interpretation but entries must have the category title at their heart.
2. Entrants can submit one entry per category, in colour or black and white. Electronic images can only be accepted. If any entrants have difficulty with this, they are invited to contact the Editorial Team.
3. Images may be digitally enhanced to remove spots or scratches, but not manipulated. Entrants can enhance the picture to make it brighter, clearer, etc but not manipulate the content. **Images should be high resolution, a minimum size of 1 Megabyte and submitted as a .jpeg file attached to your email.**
4. The competition is open to all enthusiasts of the Norfolk Broads.
5. Entrants must not be professional photographers and, for the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs.
6. **The following details must be submitted with each entry: Name, address and contact telephone number of photographer, where the photo was taken, title of the photo and the category of entry.**
Please indicate if the entry is applicable to the 'Under 18' Group
7. Entries should be sent to broads.society@sky.com.
8. The competition closes at midnight on Sunday 16th October 2022
9. The organisers reserve the right to cancel or postpone the competition if insufficient entries are received by the closing date.
10. The decisions of the judges are final in every situation.
11. All entries may be publicly displayed in locations to be announced. Copyright will remain with the photographer, with winning entries being displayed at the Society's Annual General Meeting in November. They may also be featured in the Broads Society magazine 'Harnser' and on the Society's website..
12. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photographs entered and must have obtained permission of any the people featured in the entries or their parents/guardians if children under 16 are featured. Further, entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs.
13. The judges will select photographs from all entries submitted for the first prize, the second prize and the third prize. They will also decide the winner from the entries of the 'Under 18' category.
14. The overall competition winning photograph will be selected which, in the judges' opinion, best illustrates the true character of the Norfolk Broads. They will consider a range of criteria including composition, technical ability, originality, interpretation of the brief and the commercial appeal of the photographs.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Category 1 – People and the Broads - it could be a marshman or dredger driver, angler or holidaymaker, it is your choice, as long as the central feature is a person or people - human life in Broadland.

Category 2 – Broads Landscapes- any image which captures the distinctive character and unique atmosphere of the Broads.



All photographs must be taken in or around the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

Photographs submitted may be used by the Broads Society in their magazine *Harnser* or on their website or by the YMCA Wirral in publications or on their website.

Images may be in colour or black and white. The following details must be submitted with each entry: Name, address and contact telephone number of photographer, where the photo was taken, title of the photo and the category of entry.

Please indicate if the entry is applicable to the '*Under 18 Group*'

The Prizes will be awarded at the Broads Society AGM 2022.

The overall winning photograph will receive the David Blair Trophy for 12 months plus £250, the second prize will be £100, the third prize will be £50

In the 'Under 18' entries, the winning photograph will receive £50

Each of the four winners will receive an engraved glass trophy to keep.

The judging panel will be announced in due course, on the Society's website and on Social Media.

If further clarification is needed on any aspect of the 2022 Photographic Competition rules, please email broads.society@sky.com or call 07390 422006

Broads Society Photography Competition 2022

Prizes for first, second and third places plus 'Under 18' winner

First prize £250 plus the 'David Blair' Silver Trophy for one year

All four winners will receive cash prizes and engraved glass trophies

There are two categories
'People and the Broads'
'Broads Landscapes'

Entries invited now – competition closes 16 October 2022

Rules and how to enter are on pages 46 and 47 and on the Broads Society website : www.broads-society.org.uk