

HARNSER



*Magazine of the Broads Society
Friends of the Broads*

July 2021

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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

President	Hon. Robin Godber
Chairman	Paul Rice
Hon Treasurer	Diana Cornell

Contacts

Administrator : Sarah Vergette
3 Rosebery Road, Great Plumstead,
Norwich, NR13 5EA
Phone 07818 709080
Email : broads.society@sky.com

Harnser Editorial Team
Address & Phone as above
Email : Harnser.Editor@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 1078434

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Cover photograph : Hunter Fleet Boatyard, Ludham © David Edleston

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As we move into the middle of 2021 and the easing of restrictions, I am reflecting on what has happened with some of the government bodies who have some (or much) official involvement with the Broads that many of us have contact (or not) with. There are many Broads locals be they residents, workers or business owners that have experienced, for example, continual flooding over recent months (over 50 days of almost continual flood alert on the three rivers from December 2020 through to March 2021). Sorry, I will come to the point shortly. Yes, flooding has occurred for as long as most can recall but it does appear to me that it has become for prolonged periods and far more frequent with longer periods of rain especially in winter and with locked tides.

Some residents and businesses, for example, in Potter Heigham (where I am Senior Flood Warden/Emergency Coordinator) experienced living in "flood" water during that aforementioned 50 plus days earlier this year where the "foreshores" in front of the flood alleviation were constantly under water. Many have asked what happened to some of the flood alerts which didn't seem to be triggered at times when areas such as the River Yare and Waveney had flood alerts....does the tide not flow from the same source at Yarmouth? Where are the retained EA contractors who are tasked to install the flood barriers at Herbert Woods during flood alerts? No one can recall seeing them at any time so that task actually falls to the Herbert Woods yard manager and myself and other flood wardens. Has the flood alleviation scheme perhaps exacerbated the flood issues coupled with the ever-increasing prolonged weather events? It's all up for debate.

And then there was the serious salt surge in April which killed tens of thousands of fish on the Broads, which I was alerted to by riverside residents and business owners and during which the EA didn't raise the salt barrier at Potter Heigham. Why not is because apparently it was too late to protect those fish that had escaped into the marina as the salt had already surged into there to similar levels. I and others on site were saddened to see so many fish literally dying in front of us trying to escape and with no prospect of helping them to safer waters. Further later information has come to light that seem to indicate that the EA and Natural England may have policies that do not include protection or full intervention. Is this true? That still remains unanswered.

And what of the "guidance" from DEFRA via the BA about the "path from lockdown" for getting back on the Broads.....about as clear as dredgings perhaps. There was even conflicting advice being published from other affiliated government bodies adding to the confusion. Are these organisations abandoning some of their principles and purposes that include protecting our environment, area, county?

So, my point is, although it's fair to say that the dreaded pandemic has had massive impacts on all of us and to the operation of these government bodies (all of whom I am aware have many dedicated hard-working staff), however, I question if, in their

current form, some of these organisation's policies and/or the organisations themselves are fit for purpose. Are they? I think we have all heard from such bodies that they wish to be transparent and wish to engage with the public, so perhaps now is the perfect opportunity for them to do so.

I do sincerely hope that such schemes as the Broadland Futures Initiative will enhance public engagement during which the public do actually get listened to, for there are so many people, including many of you reading this letter, who are passionate about the Broads and who live, work and enjoy the area that have that "local knowledge" that needs tapping into.

From those thoughts, let's move on to what the Broads Society Trustees Team is currently busy with. Well, it's a multitude of things some of which can be seen in this issue and includes monitoring and lobbying central government (including MP's) about such issues as the Glover report, working with the CNP with the Society as lead on What3words location App promotion, monitoring water safety working in association with Broads Watch Safety and Rescue, flooding and much, much more. The publicity team have now finalised our new Broads Society website. Check it out at www.broads-society.org/ although some of the pages are still under construction or not yet complete. You can now also purchase the Broads Society cards and merchandise via the website. I would also like to thank Nick Balls for his voluntary long-term custodianship of the previous website over many years including regular maintenance and updating.

Paul Rice, Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Mr G Chandler, Stokesby
- Mr J F Howard, Hemsby
- Mr J D Winterton, Hassingham
- Mr J D Richards, Ashwell, Herts
- Mr & Mrs M Southwell, Halvergate
- Mr M N Elford, Boxford, Sudbury
- Mr D J Clarke, Norwich
- Ms S Dawson, Norwich
- Mrs D Allen-Weston, Clacton
- The Ferry Inn, Horning : Corporate Member

LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Following the tribute to Alan King in the April 2021 edition of Harnser, written by editorial team member, Robert Paul, he received a card and the following note from Ann King, who has kindly given permission for this to be published along with the painting by Alan, printed on the front of the card.

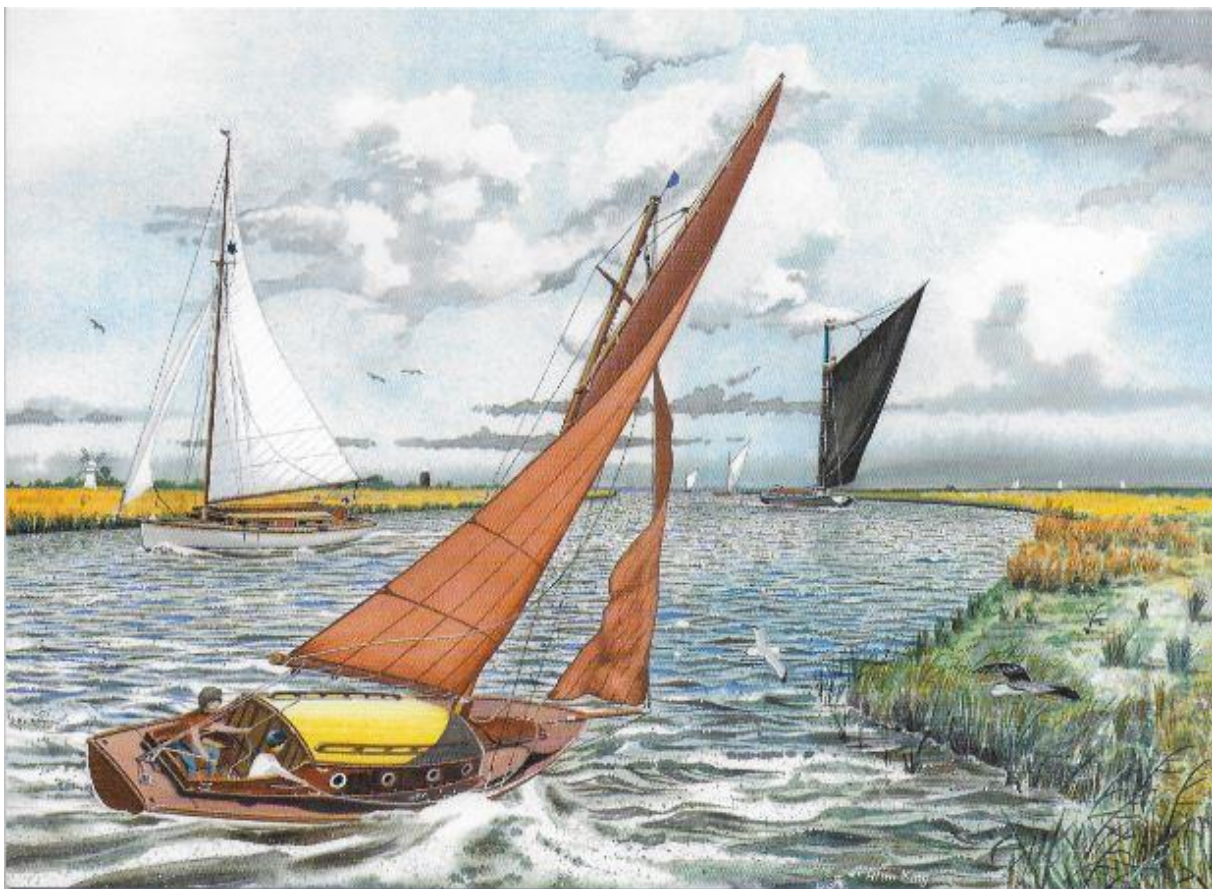
Dear Robert,

Thank you for sending a copy of the Harnser to me.

I found the tribute you have written to Alan very beautiful and very moving. You obviously knew my husband very well and it is just as I myself will always remember him. Thank you so much. Alan valued your friendship and I know he always enjoyed talking with you about boats and various Broads issues. Although we spent many holidays on the French canals, nothing could compare with his love of the Norfolk Broads. Of course, I miss him terribly, but I am thankful that we enjoyed nearly 60 years of married life.

With very best wishes.

Ann King



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events in and around the Broads over the next few months, which may be of interest to Members. Please check for cancellations or postponements prior to making any arrangements or travelling.

- Museum of the Broads Annual Exhibition : Wish You Were Here! Holidays on the Broads. Check their website for opening times and details of other events. Book tickets in advance.
- 17 May-5 Sept : A Passion for Landscape : Rediscovering John Crome, Norwich Castle Museum. Book tickets in advance.
- 22 May-18 Sept : Crome's Norwich-1821 & 2021, Museum of Norwich at The Bridewell. Local photographer Nick Stone looks at Crome's Norwich, then and now, along the riverbanks and city paths. Book tickets in advance.
- 30 August : Barton Broad Open Regatta
- 11 September : Yare Navigation Race, Coldham Hall Sailing Club.
- 20 November : Broads Society AGM, How Hill, Ludham. Guest speaker, Debra Nicholson, Director of the Wind Energy Museum and Thurne Mill. Full details to be confirmed in the October 2021 edition of Harnser.



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.

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.



The photograph above, submitted by our President, Robin Godber, was taken in 1959 on Salhouse Broad. Robin said that, *'Despite appearances, I am wearing some swimming trunks and it was taken by a school friend, who ten years later was Best Man at my wedding. We had hired a sailing dinghy from Chumley & Hawke in Horning for a fortnight's camping on the Broads. Unfortunately, we had forgotten to include the tent poles, so we slept on the dinghy for 14 nights'*.



These two atmospheric photographs were taken by member, Martin Thirkettle. The top image shows lush, green vegetation along a dyke in Ranworth and the lower photograph shows a dramatic and rather threatening sky over Rockland Broad.

WHEATFEN NATURE RESERVE

The Ted Ellis Trust



I led a group of visitors down the grassy path, alongside Penguin Dyke. It is easy to take place names for granted, the abnormality of first hearing of penguins on a Broadland nature reserve long forgotten in my mind. However, on declaring the dyke's name to the group, almost in an offhand fashion as I continued on with my ramblings of regular kingfisher and otter sightings here, the inevitable question was blurted out from the crowd. "Why is it called Penguin Dyke, there's no penguins around here?"

The name behind the dyke is fascinating. Nearly a century ago, a large pleasure wherry called Penguin (a type of flat-bottomed barge once widely used for the transport of goods, succeeded in the 20th century by the rail network and motor car) had long been moored at Wheatfen. Penguin, like a lot of the smaller wherries, had a new lease of life as a pleasure boat when it became obsolete as a cargo carrier. During the black-out of the second world war, an area of farmland not far from Wheatfen was lit up with fires and lamps to fool the German Luftwaffe bombers into thinking below was Norwich, and so protect the city itself. Alas, by simple bad luck, the wherry Penguin took a bomb in the night, doing its bit for the greater good. Damaged beyond repair, the Wherry's remains were eventually hauled out of the dyke. The dyke thus earned itself a name; the wherry would be remembered and its remains can still be glimpsed, returning back to nature on the bankside.

The story of Penguin had got the group's attention. We patiently waited in silence at the end of the dyke, hoping that one of Wheatfen's star species would put on a display. This spot is, after all, one of my favourite places to enjoy the reserve's bountiful wildlife and it rarely fails me. But, as minutes ticked by and I had yet to spot even a pigeon, I knew I must go on with my tale. "However, the story of Penguin does not end there," I declared. Why did I have to say that?

Two years ago, gone midnight, a successful moth trapping event had come to an end. As I sat on the bench at the end of Penguin dyke, enjoying 5 minutes of quiet to myself before my homeward journey, a chilling silence gripped the reserve. A pale, new moon had gracefully risen over the Fen Channel, obscured by a thin mist that hung over the reedbeds and waterways. Not a leaf stirred; the wildlife of the night remained hidden and the fen was locked under a spell.



End of Penguin Dyke

© Annie Kerridge

As time went by, I gradually became aware of a noise coming from the waterway; a clunking of sorts, with the occasional splash of disturbed water. The sounds intensified with every passing second. Whatever its cause, it was coming this way, straight for me. As the mist swirled like silver phantoms released from the water's depths, a freak breeze broke the stillness, parting the fog. I gasped as a great sail flapped before me, catching me unawares. My heart jumped, but I was rooted to the bench, unable to move. I just stared transfixed by the large vessel that drifted towards me. Unmanned oars rose and fell as the great sail slackened. A foreboding wooden hull came nearer and nearer, floating along the water as if it were airborne; no ripple or bow wave marking its passing. The boat slowly veered to my right, passing me by. Not a soul was visible on board. The rigging creaked as a brass bell jingled. And there, upon its high stern, I read the word Penguin. "Marsh Harrier", I shouted to the crowd, as a male soared gracefully over the fen. Once again, this spot had not failed me.

Will Fitch



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THE MORSE COLLECTION

Thurne Windpump & The Wind Energy Museum

Ronald Dorian Morse and his family relocated to Norfolk in 1947, moving from their hometown of Henfield in West Sussex. The decision was made following a family holiday to Norfolk a year earlier. Ronald's mother Mrs Morse felt that the fresh air, water and vast rural expanses would be great for her three boys (well, young men by then).

Ronald, known as Bob, was the youngest of the three and had a tremendous passion for windmills and, indeed, anything mechanical. But most of all, he wanted to own and look after a windmill. Thankfully, Thurne Mill Windpump came onto the market and his dream soon become reality when he purchased it from the Internal Drainage Board in 1949. This was the beginning of what is now known as The Morse Collection.

When Bob initially bought the mill, it was in extremely poor condition and had in fact ceased working in 1936. The internal floors, doors and windows had gone. The sails and fantail needed replacing and the brickwork required immediate attention. Bob wasted no time and began work straight away. He hired Albert England, a direct descendant of the millwright Dan England of Ludham, who had built the mill in 1820. Between them they repaired and re-painted the tower for a grand total of £7.0s.0d - approximately £10,000 in today's economy.

Once he had returned the mill to good order, he turned his sights to the 'back garden' of his home in Repps with Bastwick. He began to collect windpumps and machinery that had fallen into disrepair and would lovingly restore and maintain them within the grounds of his home. This was to be the beginning of his private collection, which is now known as The Wind Energy Museum, The Morse Collection.



Bob Morse in 1951



Wind Energy Museum

Bob did not initially set out to demonstrate Norfolk's drainage history, but through his passion for restoring and repairing mechanical machinery he did just that. He acquired an old scoop wheel from Whittingham Lane in Norwich, and the last surviving Holmes Steam engine which drained the marshes at Hemsby. As part of his drainage collection, he also managed to acquire an electric drainage pump, not dissimilar to the

type that is in use today. Through the years he continued collecting examples from as far afield as America and Australia. Quite an achievement for someone who had never travelled abroad or learnt how to 'Google'!

Bob passed away suddenly on 2nd January 2007 after a short illness. His passing came as a tremendous shock, but thankfully his legacy has lived on to this day. He created something remarkably special, and Bob remains with us in every spin of the sails at both Repps and Thurne.



Thurne Drainage Mill in 1949, 1950 and 2019

Thurne Mill turned 200 years old in 2020 and is in full working order, demonstrating how wind power drained our marshes in years gone by. The Wind Energy Museum is open to the public, schools, groups, and private parties.

On Thursday's we hold a 'Norfolk in a Nutshell' walk which starts at the Wind Energy Museum at 11am every Thursday, a guide will lead you to Thurne Mill along the riverbank where the Marshman (wind permitting) will have the mill turning and tell you all about its history. You will then be guided back to the museum via the Dewbeck woods to have a well-deserved Vintage Afternoon tea or a Strawberry Cream tea. These walks & food do need to be booked in advance via either website below.

Opening Times will vary throughout the year with additional days & events included. However, from now until Sept we will be open regularly as follows – booking would be preferred but is not essential:

- Wind Energy Museum NR295JU – Every Thursday & Friday 11am – 4pm
- Thurne Mill Every Sunday and Bank Holidays 10.30am – 4pm – No booking required.

There is a great community spirit among our volunteers. If you have a free 3 hours or so to spare, we are always looking for extra help enabling us to open more often.

Debra Nicholson

All images © The Morse Collection

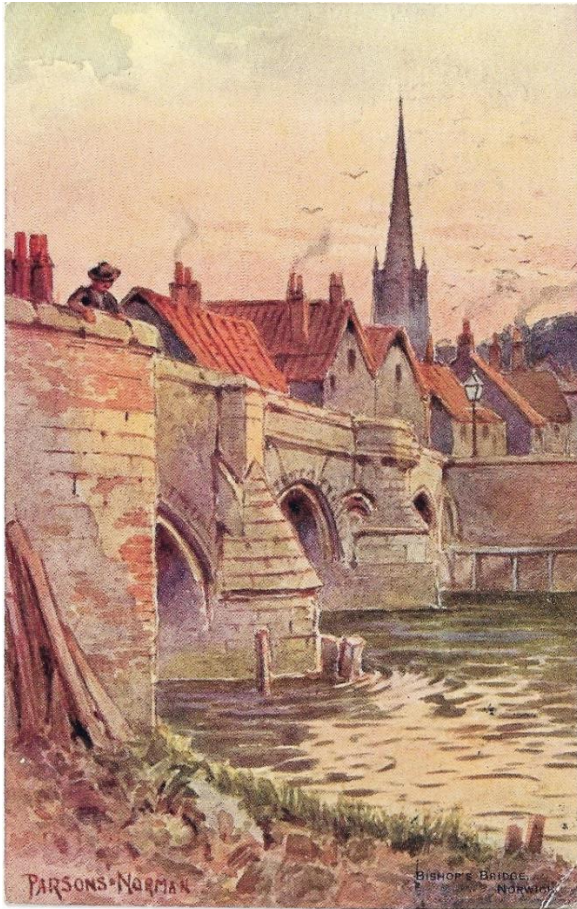
07796407864 www.thurnewindmill.co.uk www.windenergymuseum.co.uk

GEORGE PARSONS NORMAN (1840-1914)

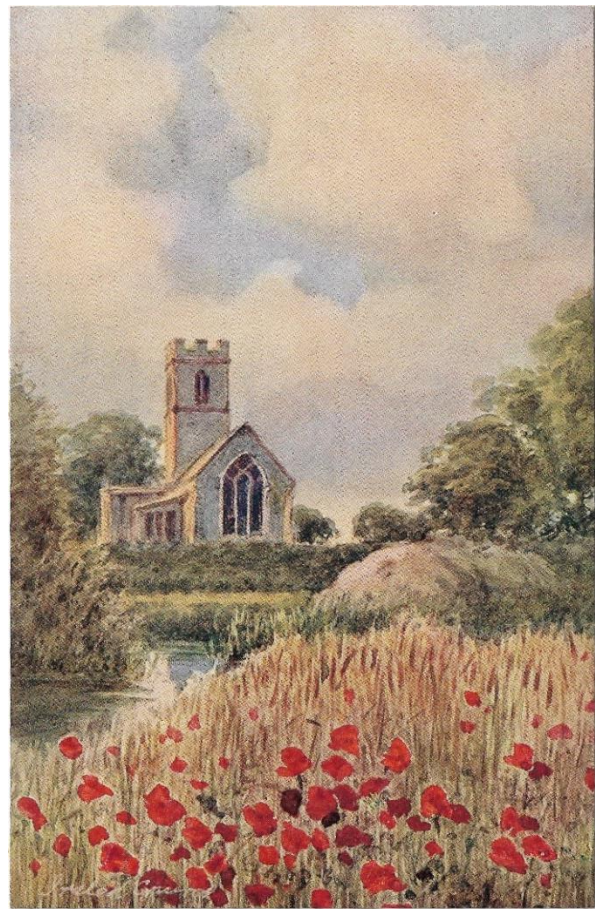
Broadland Landscape Artist

George Parsons Norman was born in Newington, Surrey in 1840 and married Eleanor Clark at Hackney in 1865. Around 1878 they moved to Lowestoft, Suffolk and in 1881, as a 39 year old artist, was living at 2 Burton Street, Lowestoft with his wife and two children.

As a successful landscape and coastal watercolourist, he was a member of Ipswich Fine Art Club between 1874-1914 and exhibited a number of his paintings from his studio at Old Bank House, London Road, Lowestoft in 1881, including 'Fritton Decoy' and in 1882 his Royal Academy exhibit 'On the Waveney, by Beccles'. He continued to exhibit regularly and 'the late Parsons Norman' had on show in 1923, a watercolour, 'Sketch of the Strumpshaw Staithe, near Brundall'. By 1888, he had moved his studio to Dagmar House, London Road and by 1892 his home was at 1 St Margaret's Terrace, Church Road with his studio at 9 Commercial Road, Lowestoft. A further exhibit at the Woodbridge Fine Art Exhibition in 1889 included a watercolour 'Lock on the Waveney'. He moved to Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich in 1897; 46 Unthank Road, Norwich in 1906 and then to Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.



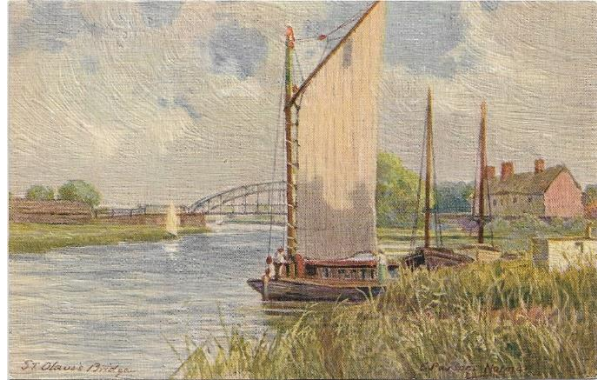
Bishopgate Bridge, Norwich



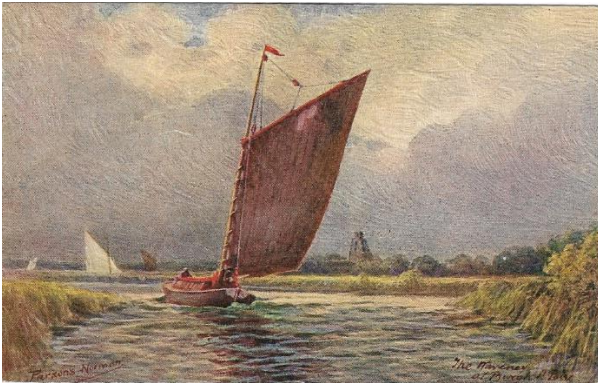
Irstead Church on the River Ant



Somerleyton Railway Bridge



St Olaves Bridge



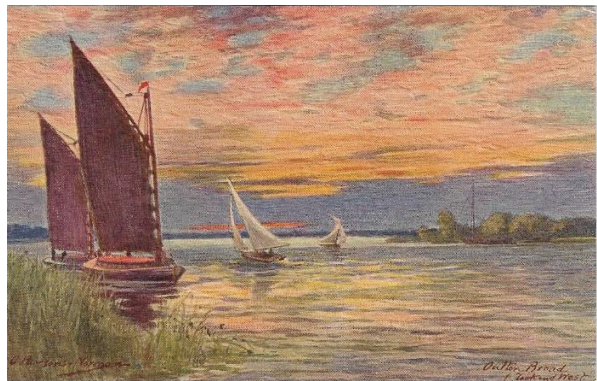
The Waveney at Burgh St Peter



Oulton Broad



On the Waveney by Beccles



Oulton Broad looking west

Many of George Parsons Norman's paintings featured on local holiday postcards and were used for many years. The examples shown are from my own collection and the six cards above, published by Jarrolds Printers, Norwich are unusual in that they have a textured finish. Parsons Norman also published three books of his paintings 'Poppyland' and 'Broadland' No 1 and No 2.

David Edleston

WHERRY MAUD TRUST

Crowdfunding Campaign

Norfolk Trading Wherry Maud, a vessel on the National Historic Fleet, is to benefit from a fundraising campaign to raise vital funds for a new support boat. It will enable Wherry Maud Trust to increase the number of Maud's sailings and continue in their work to keep Broads history alive in these difficult financial times. With volunteers from across Norfolk clubbing together the help support the well-loved wherry, the campaign has already got off to a flying start, attracting £1,150 in donations towards its £10,500 goal. 'We are all excited about this campaign. We are keen to show off our lovely historic wherry to more people,' says Linda Pargeter, Treasurer of Wherry Maud Trust. 'With a new support boat, we will sail 'Maud' more often and more people will have the opportunity to experience first-hand this wonderful part of Norfolk Broads living heritage'.



Wherry Maud

© *Wherry Maud Trust*

With her distinctive black sail, Wherry Maud is one of Norfolk's best loved sights on the Norfolk Broads. The only remaining trading wherry of typical construction, she's maintained by Wherry Maud Trust's team of dedicated volunteers, who run trips throughout the year, keeping alive a significant part of the history and culture of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads. With membership currently only £15 per year, all local members can experience the wonder of sailing on Maud and appreciate her living heritage, while other members can keep up to date via the Trust's bi-annual newsletters. Having an easy to maintain support boat with a more powerful engine

will ensure that the Trust can run more trips and be less restricted by winds and tides. The extra trips will generate donations to make up income that was lost due to the 2020 pandemic. The cost of the project is £10,500 and the Trust will make every pound count to keep Maud sailing for future generations.

Maud started her working life in 1899 as one of a small fleet of trading wherries owned by a director of Jewson, timber merchants in Great Yarmouth. By 1965 she was redundant, sunk in Ranworth Broad to protect the riverbank from erosion. In 1981, Vincent and Linda Pargeter fell in love with her, restoring her over 18 years.



Wherry Maud sailing on the River Thurne

© David Edleston

All donations via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Wherry-Maud/> will be much appreciated. As a special incentive for larger donors, Wherry Maud trust are offering the following :-

- For donations between £250 and £499, donors will receive a ball-point pen made with oak removed from 'Maud' during her restoration and a signed Certificate of Donation.
- For donations of £500 or more, donors will receive the above and Life Membership of Wherry Maud Trust.

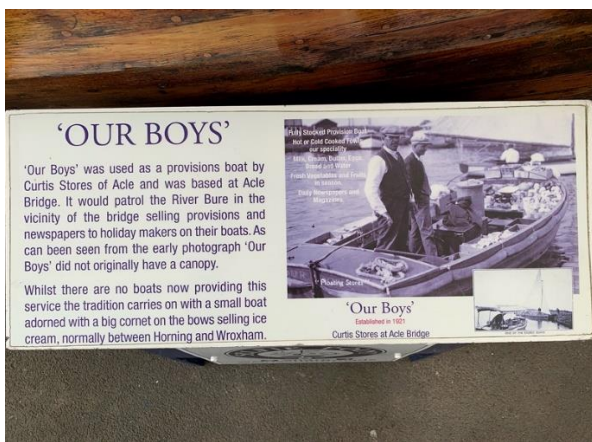
As an alternative why not stage a fundraising event? As well as donating why not become a member for £15?

Wherry Maud Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1161285. Find out more about her history, volunteers and work at <https://wherrymaudtrust.org/>

THEN AND NOW

Thurne Village Shop and Staithe

Do you remember the village shop that used to be at the end of Thurne Dyke? The booklet 'Thurne at the water's edge : the history of a Broadland village' written by the Thurne Community Archive Group and published in 2020, notes that various people ran the shop over the years, but it was Basil and Marion Curtis who really developed the business. They ran the shop for 37 years until they retired in 1983 and in the shop's heyday you could buy nearly anything you wanted, including petrol. Basil was a well-known Broads character. Basil's brother owned the shop next to Acle Bridge and the family started by selling provisions to holidaymakers from a motor boat 'Our Boys' which is now in the Museum of the Broads in Stalham.



The photographs above show the motor boat 'Our Boys' on display at the Museum of the Broads. Established in 1921, it was used as a provisions boat by Curtis Stores of Acle and was based at Acle Bridge. It would patrol the River Bure in the vicinity of the bridge selling provisions and newspapers to holidaymakers on their boats. As can be seen in the early photograph, the boat did not originally have a canopy. It was advertised as a fully stocked provisions boat selling hot or cold cooked fowls, milk, cream, butter, eggs, bread and water, fresh vegetables and fruits in season, daily newspapers and magazines.



The top postcard view shows Thurne Dyke and slipway with the village shop on the right owned by the Curtis family, probably in the late 1960s. The photograph below shows the same view today. The village shop was sold after the Curtis family retired and it was converted and extended to form a private residence known as Staithe House. The form of the original shop building with its half-hipped roof can still be seen.

David Edleston



Broads Angling Services Group

The images of dead and dying fish in April this year demonstrates the frailty that fish within the Broads face. This incident was natural and caused by a combination of high pressure and spring tides, which land locked the incoming tide at high water for a number of days pushing sea water up the River Bure and across the Northern Broads. This saline water is more dense than fresh water and creeps along the bottom layers of the river, destroying the freshwater ecology over a number of days. Freshwater Fish, Invertebrates and Plants all suffer with any prolonged spell in these conditions.

For whatever reason the EA's response to this particular event was to say at least poor and only after many calls from the public they did come and clear the aftermath.

We have meet with the EA senior management and discussed their response, to which they apologised. But have agreed to investigate improvements in their management of such events going forward.

These saline incursions aren't something new to the Broads, what is new is their increasing regularity. The Broads has shown over the years its fish stock can recover from these events which kill thousands of fish.

It is scientifically proven beyond doubt that fish recruitment is highly reliant on Hoveton Great Broad and its why we at BASG and the Angling Trust continue our Fish Legal action against both the Environment Agency and Natural England on the proposed isolation and bio-manipulation of this vital spawning area. This continuing saga again went through a 2nd public consultation again in January following their first attempt being successfully legally challenged by Fish Legal last year.

Natural England even sort advice from the world leading Institute of Fishery Management, who again informed them that bio-manipulation wasn't going to produce



the results they so seek. But their dogma continues at pace, they have now been found in breach of both planning and permitting policies with their actions last September in installing two additional unspecified barriers at Hoveton. Both are now subject to enforcement activity. But it gets worse with a new national Natural England policy paper stating that in all protected habitats with a failing ecologies, both Bream and Carp will be removed by bio-manipulation.

As we go to print, we await the outcome from the Agency on this latest public consultation and permit to install the barriers. So, watch this space as this evolves through 2021 or view our campaign page. <https://basg.online/campaigns/hoveton-gb/>

BASG has long had an objective to put angling on a sustainable footing across the Broads, we have previously discussed the potential scope a Broads Fisheries Permit starting with a feasibility trial on the River Yare at Postwick. However, such was the objection from local anglers, that we have put the idea on hold. But if anglers expect the statutory authorities to look after their interests, just look at Hoveton as an example.

After 8 years on the BA as a member, I'm disappointed that I leave the Broads Fishery in a worst state than when I joined. I can't see it getting better, with the increasing sea level rise leading for more saline incursion like shown above. I'm reviewing the fisheries budget with the EA senior team in July, in an effort to ensure the £2.6m income from East Anglia rod licences sales gets its fair share allocation back to the area fisheries team, who state they only receive £668k to share across the 7 counties.

What does this mean for Broads Anglers?

We clearly need an organisation to look after Fisheries interests across the Broads. The evidence remains that the statutory bodies have a different agenda. History states that in the past anglers have stepped up and took control of the situation, like with the 1877 Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, funded by angler's permit. Why do people believe the Broads should be effectively free in the 21st century?

Kelvin Allen Chairman BASG CIC

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.



NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BROADS



At the time of writing, the Museum is once again opening its doors! (May 30th). It has yet again been a strange time at the museum with little work being able to be embarked upon over the winter months and preparation for opening being compressed into just a few weeks! We are opening for only a few days during the Spring bank holiday week – we will then close and continue urgent work that will enable us to open for the rest of the season from about July 1st.

Visitors will see big changes including a new location for the entrance and exit, a new reception area and a revamped and relocated shop and café. It is exciting that we will be incorporating, to some extent, the adjoining property acquired in 2019. Lots still to do but we are confident of a very new and extended visitor experience. Together with, of course, our two trip boats, steamboat 'Falcon' and the electric passenger boat 'Marsh Harrier'. We are hoping to be able to offer both boats for private charter for the first time this year – so if you have a special event approaching, why not give us a call to arrange a very special and unique day out at an affordable price.

Broadland Futures Initiative

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) is a partnership for future flood risk management in the Broadland area.

Also this year, we are happy to announce a collaboration between ourselves, the Broads Authority and the Environment Agency to mount a temporary exhibition – The Broadland Futures Initiative. This exhibition has been available virtually for some months but this is the first time that it will have been constructed physically. It is a consultative exercise so you can have your say on the future of Broadland, facing the challenges of global warming and climate change. It will be available to view till at least the end of October.



Because there are still difficulties in arranging family holidays abroad this summer the Broads are having an extraordinarily busy year with most boatyards 95% booked. We are expecting a busy summer which hopefully will help to boost revenue and get us back to where we were before the pandemic.

In addition to Government grants during the last year which have helped to keep us afloat, we were successful in obtaining more Arts Council funding which has been crucial in development work in the newly acquired property 'Cooke's Staithe'. We are extremely grateful to the Arts Council.

Up to date news from the museum including opening hours, details on entrance tickets, how to book boat trips and much more can be accessed via our website www.museumofthebroads.org.uk

And there are always interesting regular posts on our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter or for fascinating videos see our 'You Tube' channel – Museum of the Broads.

And finally, a reminder as always, we are more than happy to welcome new volunteers either to help with reception and 'front of house' or behind the scenes on maintenance and boat operations – interesting work in a lovely setting with friendly people!

For more details, please contact the curator Nicola Hems, either by telephone 01692 581681 or by email curator@museumofthebroads.org.uk or better still register your interest via the website.


See you soon!

Robert Paul, Chair of Trustees



Museum of the Broads

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

'LADY HELEN' BACK ON THE BROADS



'Lady Helen' at the end of the moorings at Cox's Boatyard, Barton Turf

I have just sold my lovely Hardy Pilot 20SE "Felice" and have bought Simon Kidd's Hardy 25 "Lady Helen", largely because age suggests that my wife Lois and I probably ought to go over to the dark-side as fair-weather sailors and confine our boating to inland waterways.

So having been brought up in Cromer, and having first learned to sail on the Norfolk Broads more than sixty years ago we're about to relocate our boating activities from the English Channel to the Broads and a Hardy 25 offers more comfortable accommodation for longer stays than "Felice" could.

We bought "Lady Helen", one of only a very few Hardy 25s designed with a large outboard well, from Simon without an engine and will fit her with a brand new high-thrust 50hp engine as soon as we've completed some fitting-out work on her here in Weymouth before moving "Lady Helen" to Cox's boatyard at Barton Turf next spring. Not only are Lois and I going back to our old stamping ground but so is "Lady Helen" because her first home after leaving the Hardy works in North Walsham was on The Broads!

We had something of a challenge in terms of moving "Lady Helen" from her mooring afloat on the River Dart to a berth ashore at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA) last week because the various arrangements and people involved were at the last moment confronted with the latest lock-down of course!

The exercise involved Simon navigating "Lady Helen" from her mooring on The Dart to Darthaven Marina, having her craned out before removing Simon's outboard, loading her on to a trailer towed by a highly professional and very cost-effective boat delivery company operated by the ever-helpful William Bird. The exercise at the

marina took longer than anticipated so that William's departure from Dartmouth en-route to Portland was delayed nearly two hours which meant that he arrived at the WPNSA about 16.00 only an hour before the yard was due to close. Fortunately, the team at the WPNSA were as helpful as usual and managed to get "Lady Helen" lifted off the trailer and on to blocks with 15 minutes to spare!



So now we're waiting once again for lockdown to end so we can start work, fit the new engine (delivery of which is delayed by Covid 19 until late January) and hopefully get "Lady Helen" up to Norfolk by early March. Well the Covid 19 lockdown delayed us for a

further month but on 9th April Lady Helen was transported by road to Barton Turf, thanks to William Bird's excellent road transport operation, and thanks to Eric Bishop, Cox's Boatyard manager and our MNA Boat Club Vice Commodore Captain Chris Woods she was launched and made ready for her Boat Safety Cert inspection the following day.

Apart from an issue regarding the gas cut-off tap behind the sink which needed some attention Lady Helen satisfied the inspector and was duly awarded her Certificate and transferred to a permanent mooring.



For various reasons my wife Lois and I hadn't been able to go up to

Norfolk at the same time as Lady Helen was taken there but we did manage to spend a long week-end aboard, along with our two elderly Westies later in April and a couple of photos of her on her new mooring are included.

So now we're looking forward to spending several weeks staying on Lady Helen and using her to re-visit all those parts of the Broads that I knew long ago when I was still in short trousers!

Clive & Lois Edwards

Photographs © Clive Edwards

CHURCHES AROUND THE BROADS

7. Irstead : Church of St Michael

The Parish Church of St Michael, Irstead is tucked away by the River Ant in an almost secretive place at the end of the narrow lanes which twist and wind down from Barton Turf and Neatishead. It is situated on what was a prominent ridge, a typical site for an early church. It is a Grade II* listed building and the present church dates mainly from the 14th century, although surviving Norman carvings suggest that an earlier church on this site was very elaborate.

Built of flint with ashlar quoins and a thatched roof, the west tower, nave and continuous chancel are 14th century, with the small south nave aisle being added in the 15th century. The church was restored in 1839 and 1844. Above the entrance to the south porch is a figure of St Michael and a dragon and the south door dates from the 14th century with its iron handle and boss being among the oldest features in the church. Pevsner considers these to be by the same craftsmen as those similar features found at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, in Tunstead.

Internally there are many features of interest including the late 14th century octagonal font with figurative and animal sculptures, 16th century nave benches with poppy-heads and some animal arm rests, the remains of a painting of St Christopher on the north nave wall and the screen with twelve apostles painted on four panels, amongst others.



Thatched nave and east window.

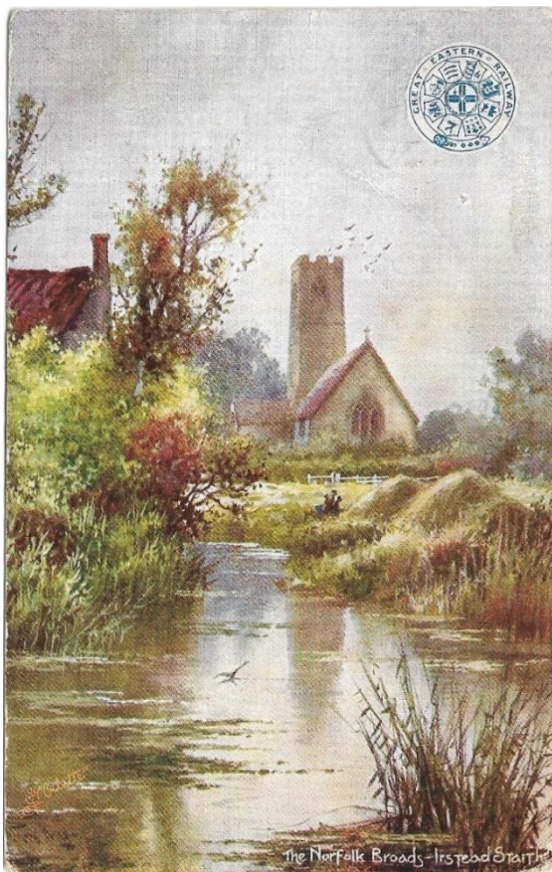


West tower and south porch.



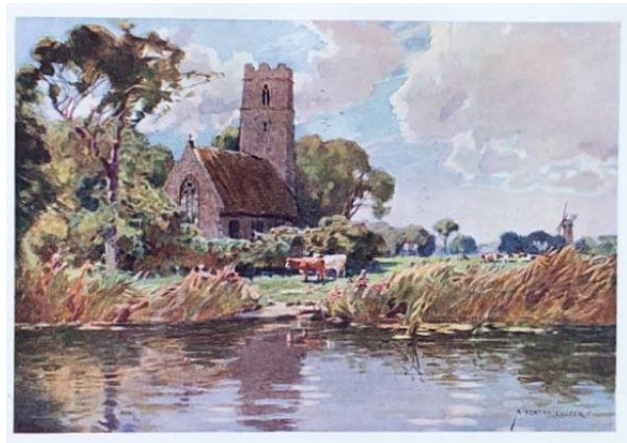
The Church of St Michael and Irstead Parish Staithe seen from the River Ant.

The church has been a popular subject, and is featured on paintings by several artists, often in conjunction with Irstead Parish Staithe in views from the River Ant. These include George Parsons Norman (see image on page 14) and Alfred Heaton Cooper. It also appears in an image produced for the Great Eastern Railway in 1907.



There are moorings on the River Ant near the church, but this is a very popular spot with limited space to accommodate only around two or three boats. The setting of the church, the seclusion of the churchyard and the many treasures within, make this one of the most memorable places to visit on the Broads.

David Edleston



Irstead Staithe and Church featuring in a Great Eastern Railway Poster of 1907 and a watercolour painting by Alfred Heaton Cooper from 1921.

UPDATE ON THE BROADLAND FUTURES INITIATIVE

Broadland Futures Initiative

Recent Activity

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) has completed its current round of online consultation with the survey and virtual exhibition closing on 31st May.

The BFI will share its findings and more information on the next steps and how the project aims to use the feedback received as well as how you can continue to influence and shape the project as it moves forwards. Please look out for their progress newsletter which is shared to subscribers and published on the BFI webpage.

If you haven't done so already, please also take a look at the information on the BFI webpage, in particular, we encourage you to have a read of the study reports. Published in an accessible and user friendly manner, these reports were created from the data gathering stage that will help inform the strategy.

Elected Members Forum Update.

The Elected Members Forum were convened for the first time recently. Minutes of that meeting are available on the BFI webpage. We anticipate that the role of the Elected Members Forum will be to provide a strategic steer to the BFI. The elected members will receive advice and recommendations, review progress and reach agreements on the choice of flood risk management approaches, based on economic, environmental, technical and other evidence presented by the Initiative Project Team, which is in turn influenced by stakeholder feedback and engagement at every opportunity.

The Elected Members Forum will comprise one appointed representative from each Local Authority within the BFI area, with an interest in flood and coastal risk management.

BFI and the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) will take into account existing plans as well as new plans that will emerge and impact upon the BFI plan area. It is expected that the BFI will inform the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA).

The BFI is represented at the NSFA by a number of organisations, therefore, we will endeavour to develop good partnership working between the BFI and the NSFA through good communication, and sharing of knowledge to ensure that the aims and aspirations of both initiatives support and complement one another.

Our partner organisations are all keen to ensure their work is informed by the latest findings of the BFI, and that these findings are made available and shared. The BFI will endorse plans which support the aims of the BFI and help to deliver our objectives and aspirations. The BFI is working towards a long-term strategy, the development of related work programmes and local plans such as the NSFA need not be restricted by the timings of the BFI.

Gavin Rumsey, Environment Agency

A TALE FROM FERRY BOAT TED

Swimming in a Broad can feel like a lovely idea, but you do have to be aware of the many hazards!! This is one that Ferryman Dave and his Fluffy assistant came across!!!

Early one evening, ferryboat Ted, the bear and Dave the ferryman, were bringing some walkers back to Salhouse Broad. As they came into the broad, the sun was reflecting brightly off the water and ducks were playfully swimming backwards and forwards. Suddenly Ted's attention was drawn to a couple of ducks directly in front of them they looked different to the other ducks. "Crikey" thought Ted "hard a starboard Dave" Ted shouted and Dave flung the Tiller over to one side. It was then that Dave saw that the "ducks" were two children swimming out in the broad just over to his left. He then put the tiller over the opposite way to get the propellor away from them. "Blimey that was close," he said.

They were now alongside two giggling girls. "You're too far out, we could have run you down!" said Dave. "We thought you two were a pair of ducks!" shouted Ted. Dave stayed alongside the girls, protecting them from any other boats as they made their way back into shallow water. "At least they're wearing lifejackets Dave." "Good point Ted," said Dave.

Dave the Ferryman, Horning



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WALKS AROUND THE BROADS

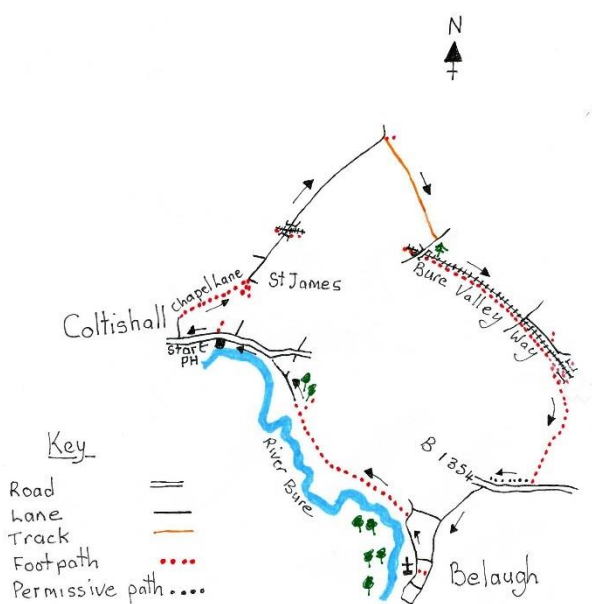
Coltishall and Belaugh



This 5.5 mile walk from Sue Walker of the Ramblers' Wensum Group starts from the car park by the River Bure next to the King's Head public house in Coltishall (Explorer Map: OL40 G/R TG 277198). The walk wanders through the picturesque hamlet of St James and then follows a section of the Bure Valley Railway Path before crossing the fields to the small village of Belaugh where St Peter's Church stands high above the River Bure. It then returns alongside the river and through Anchor Street back into Coltishall.

The Bure Valley narrow gauge railway opened in 1990 on the track bed of the former East Norfolk Railway line which closed to passengers in 1952. The 9-mile line connects Aylsham with Hoveton. Belaugh Church contains a lovely painted rood screen and a Norman font.

Refreshments: There are two refreshment opportunities at the car park. The King's Head public house stands by the roadside whilst the Rising Sun public house overlooks the river.



From the car park turn left by the King's Head public house and go along the pavement beside the main road. Continue past College Close on the right. Then turn right across the road into Chapel Lane. At the end of the lane turn right along a footpath. Follow the path behind some houses. Then continue along the path to reach a lane at a corner. Keep ahead through the hamlet of St James and follow the road past The Hill on the left.

Continue under the railway bridge and on along the country lane for half a mile. Then, at a sharp left bend in the lane, turn right past a converted barn and go along a farm track. After a short half mile the track reaches another lane. Turn right and soon go over a railway bridge. Then, on the far side of the bridge, go down the steps on the right onto the Bure Valley Railway Path. Turn right along the path under the bridge with the railway track on the left. Follow the path to a gate and road crossing. Cross the road and continue on along

the Bure Valley Railway Path for some 200 metres with Belaugh Green Farm buildings on the left.

Then leave the path and take the steps on the right down to a path at the foot of a bridge. Aim for the hedge and go alongside it keeping the hedge on the right. Then, after about a hundred metres, the path continues with the hedge on the left. At the end of the hedge and field, turn right for 50 metres and then go through a gap in the hedge on the left. Continue on with the hedge on the left. At the next facing hedge, turn right onto a relatively new permissive path, again with the hedge on the left. The field-edge path runs parallel to a main road. At a small hedge gap by a road junction, carefully cross the main road into Top Road opposite.



Belaugh village sign and the Church of St Peter, Belaugh

Follow this road, ignoring two right turns (both called The Street), and a signed footpath between them, to reach Church Lane on the right. Turn right and follow this lane (really just a track) round a right bend to reach Belaugh Church. There are some good views over the river from here and an interesting church to visit.

After leaving the church, turn left and continue along Church Lane. Go downhill to reach a road on a bend in the village. Turn left and follow the road past the staithe. Then go through a gate immediately after a house on the left and follow footpath signs

through a garden. On the far side of the garden, turn left and follow a path that goes over a common. Continue along the path over stiles with the river over to the left. Then go over another stile into Anchor Street.



Belaugh Staithe and River Green at Coltishall

Keep ahead along the street, ignoring a turning up to the right. Continue ahead onto the common with the river on the left. Go past boathouses and over a footbridge back to the car park.

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

Sue Walker

All images © Ramblers' Association

REPORT ON THE BROADS SOCIETY MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING April 2021

Once again, the Broads Society meeting took place via Zoom. In attendance from the comfort of their homes were Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Di Cornell, George Elliott, Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate, Robin Godber, Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Paul Savage, Peter Smith and Sarah Vergette (BS Administrator).

As usual there was a packed agenda. The year-end accounts were presented and discussed. Presently the BS does not have a Treasurer, after the sad death of Tony Slack. So, Sarah is dealing with the accounts. The total Income for the year was £16,014.22, expenditure £15,303.45 and the balance carried forward was £33,259.81. A saving of £1,453 had been made on printing and mailing of the quarterly Harnser. The balances are up by £1859.29 over the last financial year. The accounts were agreed. Diana Cornell offered to take on the post of Treasurer and all agreed. The finances appear very healthy.

The Constitution was discussed briefly and the make up of the Committee and Sub Committees. No decisions were taken at this time. The chair reminded all Committee members that BS communications should all be dealt with via Sarah, our

Administrator, as she held the members details and Data Protection should be complied with.

Peter Howe from the Broads Charitable Trust reported that George Elliott had replaced Jill Wickens, retired committee member, as the Broads Society representative to the Trust. Peter went on to say that there is still one vacancy for a Trustee as an individual. In spite of the last years difficulties for charities in general the Trust had continued to receive donations in different ways. The BCT have given two small grants and they are prepared to consider other small grants for causes that fit the criteria. Businesses are still enthusiastic to help them. Peter reported that the Trust is working on the Broads Discovery Hubs which should expand the reach of the Trust to contribute to the wellbeing of the broads in other ways. An application to the Covid Recovery Fund is presently being put together, which is supported by the BA through Defra. There are common themes throughout the north and south rivers areas with a diverse range of visitors to the area. They need to attract and engage their interest to widen the appeal of the Broads.

Peter also represents the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) and he reported that there had been nothing of significance reported in the last 6 months. Paul Rice has had contact with the Press Officer from CNP regarding What 3 Words. They would like the Broads Society to champion this because of the locality being close to the water. There would be a press release to say the Broads Society are involved in the campaign.

Updating the Website was discussed and many issues have been resolved. Progress continues and Di Cornell asked that a link to the River Thurne Tenants Association could be added to the website as the bungalows could be of interest to Broads Society members.

The chairman would like the Broads Society campaigns to have a higher profile with the press and with local issues. Recent incidents such as the last salt sea surge in the Broads were an example. The Broads Society had been contacted by many members who were concerned about the number of dead fish in the river systems. George Elliot reported that the fish had no chance, so many had died and are now rotting in the dykes and rivers. He had spoken to the Great Yarmouth Mercury about this environmental problem. Keith suggested speaking to Steve Lane, Natural England and the Environment Agency about issues as these bodies are charged to protect our environment. Keith went on to say that there are salt and tidal warning systems to Acle Bridge and Repps Staithe. Paul Rice, chairman, agreed to write the necessary letters to the authorities and circulate them to the Committee before sending.

Sarah reported that the Broads Society AGM has been booked for Saturday 20th November at How Hill, all being well. Debra Nicholson from the Wind Energy Museum and Thurne Mill has agreed to be the speaker. Last year Thurne Windpump celebrated its 200th anniversary, although it was not possible to hold any events due to the Covid restrictions. These they hope to hold this year. The Lady Mayhew Trophy, which is

presented at the AGM, was discussed and committee members asked to consider possible recipients and report back to the administrator.

The Committee went on to debate raising the profile of the Broads Society. The Norfolk magazine had requested comments regarding the Broads Society's view on the Broads being labelled a National Park. Paul Rice and Paul Savage have already made a response which should be in the next edition of their magazine. Country Life magazine had recently had articles from the NFU about flooding and access to the countryside. The magazine may possibly be interested in having an article from the Society or even run a small advert for membership, which would be great publicity. Peter Smith reported that the merchandising is selling well and we now have a pennant.

Under 'Any Other Business' the committee discussed a letter that had been received about a property on the Southern Rivers. The committee agreed that the issues in the letter were not something that the Broads Society should be involved with. Paul Savage and Paul Rice would respond to this letter on behalf of the BS.

Two other issues debated were that Barton Turf Parish Council seems to be having difficulty renewing the lease with the Broads Authority and that Broadland Flood Initiative does not have its own website where we can contact them, or their project progress can be viewed. It is possible, however to access BFI progress through updates via the Broads Authority website.

As usual the range of Broads topics covered in the meeting were wide ranging and varied in nature. The meeting closed at 8.25pm and fond farewells were said by all until the next meeting. No doubt sometime in the near future meetings will resume in a local hostelry and may be longer than the present ZOOM meetings. Fingers crossed for normality resuming.

Di Cornell



Successful grant applications

Despite the many challenges which Love the Broads has faced recently, we are delighted to announce that we have been able to provide two small grants thanks to the support of our business partners and visitors to the Broads.

Locks Inn, Geldeston

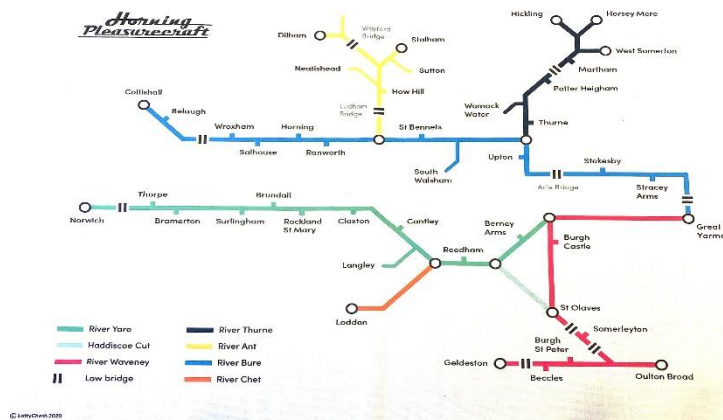
The well-known Locks Inn at Geldeston, was bought in October 2020 by a community group for £405,000 who offered the opportunity to the public to purchase shares. It is hoped that this 300-year-old iconic pub will, once again, become the thriving venue it was for musicians and music lovers, serving quality local food and drink. Love the Broads provided a grant of £700 which will be used for equipment in a Community Room which will host learning courses, events and meetings.



Business Supporter update

Love the Broads now has 85 business supporters all raising donations in many different ways and to suit their business. Many come up with their own creative ideas as to how they can help raise donations for our important work to keep the Broads special. We thank them all.

Broads National Park Tea Towel in the theme of the “London Underground”. Horning Pleasurecraft are kindly donating £2.50 from the sale of each tea towel to Love the



Broads. These unique tea towels cost £10 each and are only available by collecting from Horning Pleasurecraft, Ferry View Estate, Lower St, Horning, Norwich NR12 8PT. Telephone 01692 630614. Please check opening times before visiting. Our grateful thanks to Clive Richardson for his great idea.

Wroxham Barns – the Government has just introduced a requirement for all businesses to charge 10p for every carrier bag sold and to donate the money to charity. Wroxham Barns has kindly decided to pass the money they collect to The Broads Trust. Thank you Wroxham Barns.

You could win £25,000 whilst keeping the Broads special too.

Broadland District Council's Community at Heart Lottery is a weekly online lottery created to support local good causes such as the Broads Trust.

Tickets cost £1 and when you buy a ticket you will be able to choose where you want your money to go – 50% of ticket sales will go to your nominated good cause and 10% will go into a community fund run by Broadland District Council to benefit local good causes. The remaining 40% will go towards the prize money.

There will be a weekly draw with a jackpot of £25,000 for a matching sequence of six numbers. The other prizes available are £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets.

Just use the link below and search for “The Broads Trust” and you will find us. We have already had winners! Thank you for your support.

www.communityatheartlottery.com/support/fund-a-good-cause

All images © Love the Broads

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 £75, £25 or £12. 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.

UPDATE FROM THE RIVER WAVENEY TRUST



I am pleased to say that we continue to grow as a Trust, with new staff and trustees. Jane Newbold, Gen Broad and Louise Bond have all joined us as trustees replacing two that stepped down. However, we are still looking for new trustees and if you, or you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact me.

Martha Meek has become our Development Manager and continues to develop our Strategy and focusing on projects. We have also recruited Emily Winter as our Catchment Project Officer who has been facilitating important, good work with landowners. Emily is facilitating a landscape-scale farm cluster project, already encompassing 12 farms and over 2,000 hectares of farmland. The overarching priorities of the group are to improve water quality and to protect and enhance woodlands throughout the Waveney catchment. A drive to work together forms the core of this group, where farmers are building long-lasting relationships, sharing experiences, and learning from each other about best farming practices and conservation successes. The group strives to reduce pollution from nutrients, pesticides and sediment run-off in the Waveney, as well as improving woodland biodiversity and connectivity. Members receive advice and support with agri-environment schemes and project delivery, as well as regular information and training in topics of interest. If you are a farmer or landowner and interested in joining or learning more about this group, please contact Emily Winter at emily@riverwaveneytrust.org

The Frenze Beck reserve, situated on the eastern side of Diss, suffered a considerable amount of flood damage this winter but is well worth a visit now, as the volunteers have been working hard to clear the debris and reinstate the footpaths.



Further work at Geldeston Lock should go ahead this August, continuing to restore the lock chamber. If all goes to plan, we will be assisted by the Waterways Recovery Group who plan to be on site from 1st -13th August (a continuous two week camp) but it is dependent on the Covid restrictions. It is anticipated that, all being well, we will complete the south wall. It is also worth noting that the Locks Inn has been taken over and owned by the local community so the area will be a great place to visit.

We continue to monitor the health of the river with volunteers up and down the river using a system called 'Riverfly'. We are looking for (and planning to train) further volunteers in September. We are also looking to increase our membership. We now have 3 different levels of corporate membership (bronze, silver and gold) for businesses, whom we hope will support our work.

To obtain the latest information please go to our own Facebook/Twitter page or our website at: <http://www.riverwaveneytrust.org/>

Keith Lead, Trustee Chair, keithjpb@gmail.com

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RECENT NEWS FROM THE BROADS AUTHORITY



Items of interest from the Broads Briefing for May 2021, published on the Broads Authority website on 6 May.

Maintenance Update

- New bridge height gauge boards have been installed upstream of Ludham Bridge to replace and relocate the old signs, which had been hit and badly damaged.
- The grass at all BA moorings has been cut twice during April.
- Our water cutting programme has started up again on the River thurne in the Somerton and Matham area.
- Two concrete pads have been installed at Peto's Marsh at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Carlton Marshes nature reserve, in preparation for a new pontoon.
- In-house work is due to start on a 200m improvement to a permissive path at How Hill between the skeleton mills on the riverbank.
- Several days have been spent at St Benet's 24-hour mooring, installing 60m of timber capping to open up as much mooring as possible, prior to contractors completing work on site.

- Also at St Benet's, to aid navigation, we have installed two new Sutton and Stalham directional signs, which can be clearly seen from both directions at the Ant mouth from the River Bure.
- Contractors have refurbished 100m of quay heading timber at How Hill as part of a three-phase work programme to refurbish the 300m long moorings.
- Bank and riverside tree work has been completed by Operations Technicians at Sutton Fen on the River Ant, along the Upper Bure and at Rockland Broad.



One of our new trainee Operation Technicians cutting the grass at Langley moorings and Volunteers and staff installing concrete pads at Peto's Marsh

Ranworth Information Centre

The re-opened Ranworth visitor centre has had a makeover and we hope visitors will enjoy the new video display of vintage films showing the history of Broads boating holidays throughout the 20th century. There's lots of useful information about things to see and do in the Broads, as well as souvenirs and Norfolk made ice cream.



of useful information about things to see and do in the Broads, as well as souvenirs and Norfolk made ice cream.

Ranworth Information Centre (Farm Lane, The Staithe, Ranworth, NR13 6HY) is open from 9am – 5pm daily until the end of October.

Information Officer Maureen inside Ranworth Information Centre

Dredging progress

- Planned dredging work at Catfield Dyke is now complete and the navigation is open again.
- Dredging is taking place on the River Waveney at Oulton Broad.

- We are required to replace our work excavators every 10 years and so we've recently purchased a new JCB 180 excavator to replace the identical one purchased in 2010. It weighs 19.5 tonnes and has a 12 m reach. It is being used to move dredged material removed from Oulton Broad back in 2020 and then pumped into the site alongside Carleton Marshes. After a number of years, the area will eventually become reed bed habitat.



New JCB 180 excavator and One of the new gauge boards near Ludham

Safety videos

The Authority and partners have released a new series of videos, to help inform all boat hirers how to stay safe on the Broads. The videos cover topics such as: preparing for your holiday before you leave, how to stay safe, what to do if someone falls overboard, navigating bridges, ropes and knots, how to moor up, crossing Breydon Water and a guide to paddle sports. Visit our YouTube channel to view and share the videos.

New Rangers settling in

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new recruits and returning seasonal staff, who started at the beginning of March, a little earlier than the usual start of the season. This was to fit in extra training necessary to ensure their work is COVID-19 compliant. Two new Seasonal rangers also started on 1 March (from existing posts). As part of our new package of safety measures and to increase Ranger patrols, we welcomed four new Assistant Seasonal Rangers, two of which were former Ranger Volunteers.

All photographs © Broads Authority

NEWS SNIPPETS

Programme for upgrading of railway swing bridges announced

Network Rail have announced that the programme of works for upgrading of the three historic swing bridges at Oulton Broad, Somerleyton and Reedham will begin early next year at a cost of £5.5 million. Work will start on the bridges at Reedham and Somerleyton in February 2022 with rail replacement busses in operation and works on all three structures expected to be completed by Summer 2023. This will involve replacement of the winch system, hydraulic jacks and pipework, lighting across the bridges and the installation of new power systems to make the structures easier to maintain. Network Rail have already completed the survey work using drones to allow engineers to undertake the work with the railway still operating.



The Wherry Line Railway swing bridge over the River Yare at Reedham.

© Mike Page www.mike-page.co.uk

Marina Quays, Great Yarmouth

As part of the proposed redevelopment of the Marina Quays site in Great Yarmouth a section of riverside footpath has now been secured as a public right of way and will appear on the definitive map as Great Yarmouth Footpath No 11, providing a continuous path between Great Yarmouth and Stokesby. The importance of retaining

the footpath within the new development was a matter raised by the Broads Society in its response to the consultation on the planning application.

Update on the redevelopment of the Bridge Hotel Site, Potter Heigham



Site of the former Bridge Hotel to the left of Potter Heigham Bridge

As reported in the April 2021 edition of Harnser, a planning application had just been submitted for the redevelopment of this site which has been vacant since the Bridge Hotel was destroyed by fire over 30 years ago. The Broads Society raised concerns about the proposed design, flooding issues and the provision of moorings in its response to the consultation on the planning application. Some minor revisions and additional information have now been submitted but a decision on the development is awaited. The proposals include 8 x 1 bedroom and 4 x 2 bedroom flats for holiday let, a restaurant and associated car parking.

Update on proposals for Ludham Bridge Stores & Wayfarers Cafe



Existing buildings adjacent to Ludham Bridge

Proposals for the demolition of the existing stores, café and flat and redevelopment of the site at Ludham Bridge were reported in the July 2020 edition of Harnser. The application was refused for a number of reasons including concerns about the proposed design, flooding and lack of evidence to demonstrate the need for holiday accommodation. At the time of writing a revised application has just been submitted which the Broads Society will be considering with a view to submitting comments to the Broads Authority.

News from the Government


DEFRA (The Department for the Environment Farming & Rural Affairs) (Yes they who are still working on the Landscape Review) together with the Rural Payments Agency who make the payments under the current EU based Farm Subsidy scheme have recently issued a revised “*Countryside Stewardship Statement of Priorities : The Broads (NCO080)*”. It is a very interesting document best accessed via Google or similar. A version is being issued for every region of the countryside – the accompanying maps for most are not helpful to the untrained person with the exception of that for “The Broads”. The document shows the great detail that DEFRA have gone to, in order to plan for what will happen to the future of Farmland. It is well worth a read for those interested in the long term future of the area we all love and appreciate.

Let’s hope it ties in with the many other new Bills currently making their way through Parliament, including the *Environment Bill* which includes proposals for the standardisation of waste collection (and re-cycling) throughout England. Let’s also hope that some thought is given to the collection of Boat Waste which boat hirers must currently find bewildering as they pass from District to District.

*****STOP PRESS*****



Reporting Flooding Issues



Norfolk County Council have just launched a new single point of contact for flooding in Norfolk, allowing residents to report any sort of flooding quickly and efficiently. In the event of flooding residents can now call **0344 800 8013** to report it.



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BROADS SOCIETY MERCHANDISE



We are happy to be able to announce that Society branded merchandise is available once again. We are offering as a start, five items, plus a safety sticker, as detailed below. More are planned. We have tried to select useful, attractive and sustainable products which by ordering you will be helping to promote the Society, contributing to funds and helping with *Harnser* production costs. (Images for guidance only). For ordering, postage and payment details please email : boathousenorfolk@btconnect.com or call 07393 422006.



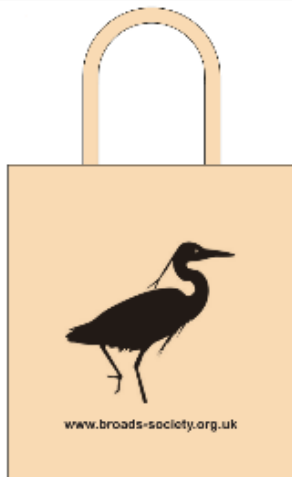
1. Pennant



2. Pens



3. Coffee Mug



4. Tote Bag



5. Note Book



6. Sticker

1. Triangular pennants with cords, 160mm vertical, 220mm to the point, white with black heron and website address, £7.50; 2. Quality Broads Society pen with logo and website imprinted, choice of black or green, from £1; 3. Bamboo reusable coffee mug with lid approximately 12cm x 7cm with BS logo and website imprinted, £6; 4. Long handled cotton 'Tote' bags 380 x 420mm with large heron and website address beneath, £1.95; 5. 'Soft-touch' note book 210 x 142 mm with Broads Society logo and website imprinted, colour may vary, £4.95; 6. 'Wear Your Lifejacket' Broads Society Safety Sticker 6" diameter, free (donations welcome).

THREE RIVERS RACE 2021

Some images of the 60th Anniversary race which took place on Saturday 5th June, 2021, taken from the start of the race at Swan Green, Horning.





Three Rivers Race, Horning 5th June 2021

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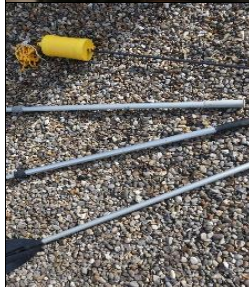
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