



HARNSER

Magazine of the Broads Society
Friends of the Broads

October 2022

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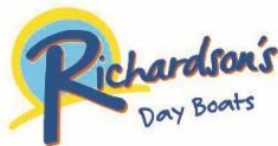
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Our Members share a common purpose to help secure a sustainable future for the Broads as a unique and protected landscape in which leisure, tourism and the local economy can thrive in harmony with the natural environment

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President Hon. Robin Godber

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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 : Dusk on the River Bure at Coltishall © David Edleston

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I travelled in July with Publicity Chairman, Peter Smith, to Parliament where the winners of this year's Park Protector Awards were revealed at a Parliamentary ceremony in the House of Commons. The event brought together National Park protectors with MPs and Lords and friends of Campaign for National Parks in what proved to be a brilliant celebration of our National Parks and the people who work hard to protect and improve them. This was a great networking opportunity and I managed to "collar" Lord Benyon for a brief chat. "How are the Broads?" he said. I replied "How long have you got?" We briefly touched discussion on the positives and negatives and the chat ended with my invite for him to join us "on the water" before year end to which he said he planned to do so (watch this space comes to mind).

Now comes the tricky subject of the Society roles and responsibility and trustees. Tricky because, frankly, we have the same "few" doing so much and some Trustees will shortly come to the end of their tenure.

We definitely need more Trustees, especially as there are many roles and responsibilities that need to be undertaken and, it seems, are undertaken by the same "few" on the Main committee, Northern and Southern Rivers Committees and Publicity Team.

We need committed Trustees and are now seeking new Trustees (to assist the "few"). We need Trustees who are prepared, for example, to attend around five meetings per year (including our AGM), help with such roles as attending events to promote the Society, assist with the collation and production of our quarterly Harnser magazine, helping to recruit new members, looking at Broads issues and researching them to perhaps start campaigns and engage with the authorities responsible for such things as e.g. flooding, mooring provision and water safety and quality. The list is pretty long.

We seek Trustees that perhaps may have specialist knowledge, for example, we now have a new Planning Committee on which we are fortunate to have a couple of planning experts. Perhaps you are a recruitment specialist, or have publishing knowledge or an engagement expert, a hydrologist or drainage engineer.

Whatever your background, if you have a love for the Broads and want to be involved, please consider becoming a Society Trustee. There is no financial commitment (nor payment), just a time commitment.

I am happy to discuss the role, so please feel free to contact me.

Paul Rice, Chairman

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. A hot lunch will also be available with a choice of menu prior to the meeting at 12.30pm. A separate booking form leaflet is enclosed with this edition of Harnser, which provides further details and should be completed and returned to the Administrator with your payment, to confirm a booking by 10th November 2022.



Following the formal proceedings, the guest speaker will be our new Patron, Henry Cator OBE. Winners of the Broads Society Photography Competition 2022 will also be announced and prizes awarded.

Details of the Audited Accounts are published on page 6, but further information, including the Agenda, AGM papers and lunch booking form are available on the Broads Society website at www.broads-society.org.uk Please contact the Administrator if you require paper copies.

NOMINATIONS TO THE MAIN COMMITTEE

Nominations are invited for Officers and Ordinary members of the Main Committee. Nominations in writing should give the name of the proposer and seconder and, for individuals not currently serving on the Committee, should be accompanied by a short curriculum vitae. Each nomination, together with the written agreement of the nominee, should be sent to the Administrator, Sarah Vergette, 3 Rosebery Road, Great Plumstead, Norwich, NR13 5EA or by email to broads.society@sky.com in writing no later than 10th November 2022.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Broads Society

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income:			
Donations and subscriptions	2	12,757	13,728
Activity generated income			
Christmas card/calendar sales	3	1,750	1,477
Bank interest		11	30
Advertising income		1085	754
Total incoming resources		15,603	15,989
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds	4	2,096	829
Charitable activities	4	15,664	14,299
Governance costs	4	150	150
Total resources expended		17910	15,278
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		-2307	711
Fund balances brought forward		32,112	31,401
Fund balances carried forward		29,805	32,112

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank		
Current accounts	3,800	6,119
Business premium account	6	6
COIF charities deposit fund	25,999	25,987
General fund	29,805	32,112

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2022

I begin my Membership Report with an analysis of membership numbers. Total number of members at 1st September 2022 was 859 compared with 863 last year. The total is made up as follows (2021 figures in brackets):- Life 194 (198), individual 334 (341), joint 306 (300), parish councils 16 (16) and corporate 9 (8). 23 new members joined since November 2021.

The Publicity Team have started to attend events again to try to generate interest in the Broads Society and bring in much needed new members. They have also been working hard to produce Harnser which goes from strength to strength and has received many favourable comments.

Christmas card and calendar sales last year generated a profit which was a welcome addition to funds and also helped with publicity. I hope members will continue to support for this initiative. This year a calendar has been produced with photographs very kindly supplied by David Edleston, this proved very popular and again raise awareness of the Society and bring in additional funds.

Finally, a report on the 500 Club. We currently have 170 members which sadly means we have to reduce the prize money to £50, £20 and £10 each month for eleven months and an annual prize of £500 in November. The 500 Club generates additional income for the Broads Society, anyone wishing to join should contact me.

Sarah Vergette Administrator

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Mr & Mrs T E Smith, Little Staughton
- Dr N Mark Collins, Acle
- Mrs P M Skelton, Norwich
- Mr R J Pike, Chepstow
- Dr P Boshier, Horning
- Mr & Mrs P Pearson, Thetford
- Mr I Montgomery, Thorngumbald, East Yorkshire
- Mr S Hooper & Ms M Alexander, Crouch End, London
- Mr D Chandler, Bury St Edmunds
- Mr M Church, Reedham

REPORT ON THE BROADS SOCIETY MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING July 2022

Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe gave an update advising that Broads Charitable Trust (BCT) would welcome working more closely with the Broads Society after having attended the Horning Boat Show alongside the Society had proved useful, and they would welcome the opportunity to repeat this at other events.

Peter advised that the BCT have recruited David Ansell to engage with supporters and project manage the discovery hubs project. The BCT has been running for ten years and have reached a level of funding but need to build on what they have achieved. They currently have sufficient funds to provide a few small grants. The Discovery Hub project which will create hubs around the Broads area is getting support. Salhouse Broad has been identified as a suitable location for the Dark Skies platform. Norfolk County Council will fund this project. Beccles is another location for a hub and support is being given by Beccles Town Council. Peter stated that more connection is needed between north and south, east and west to encourage people to travel further and explore. These projects will not be instant and need to be developed. The BA are behind the projects in principle.

The Trust is supporting two projects this year, one for the safe disposal of fishing lines and they have also helped with the restoration of the disabled toilets at Burnt Fen Alpacas. It is proven that interaction with animals and nature can help with those less able.

CNP

Peter Smith advised of new staff at CNP who are very active. Paul Rice and Peter Smith attended the Parks Protectors Awards in Parliament the previous day. The BA Water Mills and Marshes project had been nominated for an award by the RSPB but the BA were not represented. At the awards, Lord Benyon, Minister for Rural Affairs informed us that parts of the Landscape Review (Glover) were being incorporated into the Levelling Up Bill currently making its way through Parliament. Paul managed to illicit the attendance of North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker to the gathering. Overall, this was a useful networking event.

Northern & Southern Rivers Committees

Northern Rivers. Paul Savage stated that it had been noted that businesses are becoming dissatisfied with the lack of engagement from some governing organisations and authorities and there is a desire for a new association to represent their interests.

Southern Rivers. Martin Thirkettle is keeping an eye on the Broads Local Plan and the East Norwich Regeneration scheme is being monitored.

Committee procedures. The draft procedures document had been amended and circulated. There was much discussion regarding the way forward. Peter Smith stated that there is much on the agendas which should be covered by the Main Committee. Keith and Colin agreed that the Rivers Committees cover more than planning, they also cover the parochial issues of both areas. A separate planning committee was suggested to encompass both the Southern and Northern rivers. This committee could meet or deal with applications electronically. Both committees have planning experts on the committees, whose knowledge is invaluable. It was agreed to accept the draft document and continue with the two rivers committees and this would be reviewed in six months' time.

Trustees

A discussion was had on how to attract new Trustees. Colin stated that the committee is low in numbers and there are not enough female members. Paul Rice stated that he has three potential new Trustees, he will also draft an appeal advert. Paul will also look at working with Voluntary Norfolk to help with this. Social media can be used to promote the Society and try to get new interest.

Mooring provision

There was much discussion on this issue. George Elliot reported that people are struggling to moor up, there is a huge demand. Paul Savage stated that the EA had removed piling in places, a discussion with them is needed, this could be done through BFI. Paul went on to say that the EA are in breach of their statutory duties. Paul Rice stated that a strategy for mooring needs to be drawn up and asked committee members to think about this. Keith reported that twelve moorings have been closed in Potter Heigham, the BA were offered them at a peppercorn rent but they were not interested. George stated that boats are getting larger, there should be a size restriction. There should also be quay rangers at Ludham Bridge to help with mooring more effectively. It is necessary to speak to and engage with the boatyards.

Publicity

Peter Smith reported that the last Harnser had been late due to a shortage of paper & printers work load. The Publicity Team had attended some events and had some more coming up. The Royal Norfolk Show was better with new members coming forward but the Society needs to move out of the Broads Village. It is suggested the Society can join with Love the Broads (Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust) in the future. Paul Rice thanked Colin Dye, David Edleston and Peter Smith with their help at the RNS.

Any Other Business

George reported that the British Marine Federation are putting a charge on all the boatyards so that they comply with regulations. This follows the recently published Marine Investigation Branch Report into one of the 2020 accidents.

Paul Rice stated that some boatyards and businesses on the Broads do not feel they have a voice, there is a desire for a voice for Broads businesses. Perhaps a new organisation could be formed such as 'Broads Business Federation'?

Paul went on to say there had been problems at the Eel Sett (the Society are joint owners with the BA and Kinder family) and surrounding banks with people using it and roping off the area denying public access along footpaths, littering, defecating and using threatening behaviour.. The EA, BA and Police Broads Beat have been informed.

Paul Rice, Chairman



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HICKLING BROAD

Hickling is the largest of all the Norfolk broads and consists mainly of open water, with extensive fringing reedbeds, marshes and some woodland. It is home to many rare and protected plants, insects, birds and mammals, but also has a long heritage of human use, formerly for fuel-gathering and duck shooting, and nowadays for its recreational navigation, natural history and footpaths. It is the base for a commercial boat hire and excursion industry as well as for several water sports clubs. How do the various organisations working in Hickling Broad manage the area to suit such a wide variety of uses?

Hickling Broad and Marshes National Nature Reserve is more than four times bigger than the 1.4km² broad itself and is situated 4km southeast of Stalham in Norfolk. It is managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust but is also part of the Broads National Park designation, where the Broads Authority has an additional responsibility to maintain the navigation.

Hickling was first designated as a reserve after the Great War and today is an important part of the Upper Thurne Broads & Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Hickling Broad & Horsey Mere Nature Conservation Review Site Grade 1; the Broadland Ramsar Wetland Site of International Importance, the Broads Special Conservation Area and, of course, the Broads National Park. Hickling attracts thousands of visitors every year, some of them via the Weavers' Way, a 95 km public footpath from Cromer to Great Yarmouth, which passes directly through it.



Hickling Broad and Pleasure Boat Dyke



© David Edleston

Hickling National Nature Reserve is important for its populations of rare birds such as the common crane, bittern, marsh and hen harrier, merlin, bearded tit and Cetti's warbler, as well as for mammals such as otters, red and Chinese water deer. Notable insects include the fen mason wasp and the British swallowtail, while rare plants include the swallowtail's foodplant, milk-parsley, several species of stonewort and the holly-leaved naiad. The gradual improvement in water quality at Hickling in recent

years has seen the return of aquatic plant biomass and enhanced biodiversity benefits, such as fish spawning, mollusc diversity and bird nesting. Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Broads Authority have worked together to attract external funding for joint projects, such as the creation of a new reedbed at Chara Bay using dredgings, thereby benefitting both nature and the navigation.

In addition to its extraordinary wildlife interest, the Upper Thurne is famously attractive to the boating community. Hickling Broad is the head of navigation in this tributary, but craft there now come up against three interlinked challenges: the increasing abundance of water plants, the shallow water, and the low bridge at Potter Heigham, resulting in the loss of business for commercial boatyards, fewer dinghy and paddle-board sailors, very few visits by motor cruisers and less interest from organisers of regattas. Water plants tangling with propellers, rudders and keels are causing damage and costly rescue callouts. Why is this happening and what can be done?

Until 1973 the water was relatively clean and dominated by macrophytes (larger freshwater algae and flowering plants) that were cut back to maintain commercial navigation to and from the staithe. But in the 1970s and '80s, Hickling suffered nutrient loading from two sources; runoff of agricultural fertiliser and guano from a gull colony that roosted here after feeding at a rubbish tip in Martham. As a result, suspended microscopic plants (phytoplankton) began to cloud the water, killing the bottom-rooted macrophytes. In these nutrient-rich, eutrophic conditions, navigation became easier and a vibrant commercial and club-based sailing community established itself at Hickling.



Swallowtail Butterfly and Chinese Water Deer with Fawn

© Hans Watson

However, in 1979 the Martham tip was closed and, together with better control of agricultural runoff, this gradually improved the water clarity and quality, resulting in the regrowth of macrophytes. Pioneer species of freshwater algae called stoneworts, which are of principal importance in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan¹, began to do very well, alongside flowering plants such as holly-leaved naiad (the first British record was at Hickling in 1883), spiked water-milfoil and various species of *Potamogeton*

¹ List of species and habitats of principal importance in England. Wikipedia.

pondweed, all of which provide important food for breeding and over-wintering waterfowl.

From 1994, cutting of macrophytes was again needed to allow navigation through Heigham Sound to Hickling Broad Sailing Club, the Pleasure Boat Inn and the boatyard businesses catering for incoming tourism and local private boaters. The Broads Authority was prepared to harvest water plants from 38 hectares, but Hickling was already recognised as internationally important for nature conservation and various precautions ultimately confined the cutting to a dredged navigation channel.

The Broads Authority has two weed harvesters, but floating rafts of cut water-milfoil, a vigorous species in the slightly saline water² of the Thurne, is often the target of complaints. At one time, powerful hire cruisers helped to disperse floating weed, but they now rarely venture past Potter Heigham and smaller motor, sailing and self-propelled craft are the order of the day, being better able to avoid risky areas and costly rescues.



Ruddy Darter and Marsh Harrier cock

© Hans Watson

Hickling Broad is shallow, and dredging is necessary for safe navigation. Achieving the required depth of 1.3m below mean low water level³ has involved the Broads Authority in removing about 16,500 m³ of mud, but to dredge the broad more widely would have required more than ten times as much work. Just dredging the marked access channel was only possible with funding from the European Union. The Broads Authority's 5-year work plan does not foresee additional dredging taking place at Hickling between 2022 and 2027, but the channel must be maintained for navigation, and made sufficiently wide for sailing boats to tack safely while cruising or racing. It would be helpful if improvements could be made to boundary marks, and signage added to warn of the risks beyond the channel. Continuous monitoring is needed to ensure that the navigation channel is kept to depth and is clear of floating debris.

² Hickling is slightly brackish because it is close to the sea. Seawalls are resilient but not impermeable, as evidenced by seawater entering the marshes through the Crag aquifer in the Brograve catchment near Horsey.

³ Broads Authority Waterways Management Strategy and Action Plan 2022/23-2026/27, 54pp.

Mean low water level at Potter Heigham Bridge rose from 0.23m to 0.39m between 1993 and 2020, significantly reducing the air draft for navigation. With climate change and sea-level rise, this will become worse. The Broadland Futures Initiative⁴ predicts that in the next 20 years sea level could rise by 19-22 cm, in 50 years by 33-46 cm and in 100 years by 54-102 cm. Such increases would cause significant additional flooding and salinisation at Hickling. In the 50-year scenario, the whole area of the reserve could be underwater⁵, and yet inaccessible to boaters from beyond Potter Heigham, unless the bridge is raised by engineers.



Great Crested Grebes at nest and Bearded Tit

© Hans Watson

The management priorities in this man-made but biodiverse environment are inevitably controversial⁶. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Broads Authority have a difficult task in striking the balance between environmental stewardship for nature recovery and the maintenance of navigable waterways for sport, recreation, leisure, and well-being and yet, in the final analysis, these different communities have many interests in common. Norfolk Wildlife Trust, with its 37,000 members and income of £7.25M (2020/21), play a key role in financing the maintenance of biodiversity and ecology in a landscape much enjoyed by boaters. But at the same time, the boating community, through paying their £3.4M tolls (2020/21) and regularly navigating the broad, enables the Broads Authority to keep the channel clear and the navigation open. Without this work, siltation would occur and natural ecological succession would gradually encroach on the open water, thereby much reducing the ecological interest and eventually reducing the biodiversity as well.

⁴ https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0036/258759/broadland-futures-initiative_leaflet_web-version.pdf

⁵ Collins, N.M., Hills, S. & Lillywhite, H. Will the swallowtail survive in Norfolk? *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society* 2019 52(1):62-68.

⁶ The Upper Thurne Working Group is an important organisation that works with the Broads Authority to bring together the varied interests and needs of visitors, boating groups and local residents.



Bittern and Common Crane & Lapwing

© Hans Watson

The only way forward is for all concerned to continue to cooperate in mitigating the impact of climate change, promoting good water quality and assisting nature recovery, while at the same time ensuring that the navigation channel is clear of hazards and large enough for watersports, leisure boating and the related commercial services.

Mark Collins PhD

In addition to being a member of the Broads Society, Mark is Vice Chair of the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA), Commodore of the Northern Rivers Sailing Club (NRSC), and Chair of the Research Committee of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS).



Hickling Broad & Heigham Sound

© Mike Page www.mike-page.co.uk

NWT BARTON BROAD HOSTS MEMORABLE LIGHT ARTWORK



Lumenators in a fleet of heritage vessels including wherry yachts, punts and half-deckers joined by kayaks and dinghies created a memorable light artwork at dusk on NWT Barton Broad in the Broads National Park.

Green Space Dark Skies, led by Walk the Plank, worked with local partners and artists to create a magical event at NWT Barton Broad celebrating the beauty of the Broads National Park. The historic event brought together the largest collection of heritage boats seen on NWT Barton Broad with local communities, many of whom had never visited before. Partners included the Broads Authority (Broads National Park), Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Nancy Oldfield Trust, Norfolk Punt Club, local boating organisations and heritage boat owners.

Gathering at NWT Barton Broad around dusk on Wednesday 15 June, local participants including disabled and homeless people who are rarely able to access the water of the Broads, became Lumenators for a stunning *Green Space Dark Skies* secret gathering. Developed by outdoor art experts Walk the Plank, *Green Space Dark Skies* is part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, which ran from April to September 2022.



Green Space Dark Skies Event at Barton Broad

© Broads Authority

A newly composed acoustic soundtrack by Oliver Payne from Musical Keys in Norwich was created to complement the surrounding sounds and environment. A narrative,

specially commissioned for the film by Cromer-based writer Hugh Lupton, focused on themes such as Barton Broad's unique history and importance, beauty, nature and wildlife. The resulting short film is available on the Green Space Dark Skies website, giving everyone the chance to experience the event. Local groups with staff who joined in included Great Yarmouth based charities Herring House Trust, GYROS and Feathers Futures as well as the Nancy Oldfield Trust.

The Barton Broad event has been produced by John Wassell, Green Space Dark Skies' Creative Producer, an experienced sailor and former boat-builder, who said: *"Illuminating one of the most precious wetland habitats in the UK - for one hour at dusk - is important to our ambitions to create more guardians of our landscapes. To do this with the combined heritage fleets of wherry yachts, half deckers and Edwardian pleasure wherries is extraordinary - they are a precious part of this landscape, as are the sailors within them, many of whom may never have had the chance to do something like this before."*



Green Space Dark Skies

© Malachy Luckie

Carrying a Geolight specially developed by Siemens to minimise its impact on wildlife and dark skies, Lumenators helped to celebrate nature and everyone's right to explore the countryside. The event at Barton Broad was one of a wider series of events taking place across the UK in the coming months, that will culminate in a finale taking place on and around the UK's four peaks: Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Slieve Donard and Ben Nevis.

Visit: www.greenspacedarkskies.uk to view the film and find out more about Green Space, Dark Skies

THEN AND NOW
The Wherry Inn, Geldeston



The top postcard image shows the Wherry Inn, Geldeston, c1910 and the photograph below was taken in August 2022. The Wherry Inn is the sole surviving part of one of the two great maltings complexes built in the 18th century in the village of Geldeston.

It stands gable end onto the street opposite the lane which leads down to the staithe and alongside a group of buildings and dwellings which included the former village shop. The construction in the late 17th century of the navigable cut from the River Waveney (Geldeston Dyke) along with Geldeston Locks, allowed the commercial development of the village and its local importance to grow. From the early 18th century river traffic could reach the centre of the village using the New Cut and this new accessibility led to the construction of two great maltings. One of these stood at the staithe, the other, including a brewery, behind the Wherry Inn. The advent of the railway and building of the station in 1864 did not bring further prosperity and led to a decline of the waterborne maltings traffic in favour of newer buildings elsewhere with their own rail sidings. Coal wherries were undercut by the railway and by 1914 the staithe maltings were closed and subsequently demolished in 1922. The brewery had closed in 1858 but the remaining maltings carried on business until the 1930s when the economic depression finally killed. then off

David Edleston

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BROADS



This photograph was taken at around mid-morning on 17 July 2022 by Marc Chattle and shows St Benet's Level Drainage Mill with its sails removed and encased in scaffolding while repair works are in progress.

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.

WALKS AROUND THE BROADS

Bramerton and Surlingham



This 7-mile walk starts from the River Yare parking area at Bramerton (Explorer Map OL40 G/R TG294061). There is a bus service from Norwich. The walk includes part of the

Wherryman's Way long distance path. St Mary's Church, Surlingham, round tower is topped by a 15th century bell stage. The Norfolk naturalist, Ted Ellis, is buried at nearby St. Saviour's Church ruins, Surlingham.

Refreshments: The Ferry House, Surlingham; The Water's Edge, Bramerton.



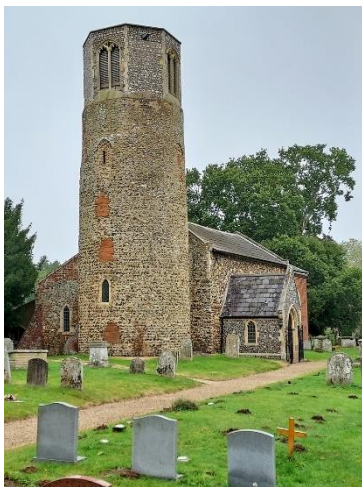
From the parking area, go along the road with the river on the right past The Water's Edge. Just before the bend, turn left into the restricted byway. Follow it uphill to a lane by Rose Cottage. Turn left. Then, immediately beyond Bramerton Village Hall, turn diagonally leftwards into the park. Keep to the right of the bowling green. Take the small gate on the right back into the lane. Turn left along it. Turn left at the junction and fork right at the next junction (signposted Surlingham).

Opposite the 'Bramerton' sign, immediately past Heathgates, turn left into the conservation walk (to the right of the hedge and marked by a route map). Follow the field-edge left, then right. Keep to the field-edge, which goes rightwards, then arcs left, and then turns right again. Follow the walk round to the left at the hedge-end, then right to the stile. Cross into an enclosed path. Turn right to follow the path downhill and up the other side. Then go down and up again, passing a stile on the left. At the field corner, follow the walk to the right heading towards a Dutch barn. The path goes under this to reach the lane. Turn left. Follow the lane past Hill and Hare's Farms. Just before the junction, turn left opposite The Willows into the footpath with a fingerpost (part of The Wherryman's Way). Follow this path uphill, with wonderful river views, and then round to the right. Follow the direction of the arrows at the gate down the track to St Mary's Church. Turn left alongside the church wall. Then go round to the right, ignoring the path to the left on the bend. Follow the track along the edge of the churchyard. At the bend, go ahead uphill to visit St Saviour's Church ruins. Then return down the path and turn right along the track which bends right to the Gun Club. Follow the path beside the club entrance, ignoring the path to the left. Climb the stile on the right and go uphill to another stile and the sunken path ahead. Follow this path which flattens and emerges onto Ferry Road.



Views of Surlingham

Turn right along the road to the junction by Hill House. Turn left (signposted Rockland St Mary) and go round the left-hand bend along New Road. As the road bends right, go ahead through the gate to the left of a drive onto a path beside it. Follow the path for a third of a mile to reach The Street. Turn left and follow the street past a bus shelter on the bend. Keep ahead at the junction to reach The Ferry House by the river. Turn left along the jetty. At the end, enter the path (part of The Wherryman's Way). At the path junction, keep right and continue past the bird hide overlooking the nature reserve. Continue along the riverside path which eventually bends left and reaches St Mary's Church (passed earlier).



St Mary's Church, Surlingham; Sculpture of Billy Blue Light & The Green, Bramerton

Turn right into the enclosed footpath to the right of the drive. Follow this path right and left to the track. Turn right and then go left by the marker post. Follow the path round the bend to the right to pass beside the large thatched house. At the bottom of the hill, by the thatched boat house, follow the path to the left. Then keep ahead past the bridge on the right. Turn right through the gate beside the bungalow. Go through two more gates to the track ahead. Turn right into the enclosed path by Heron's Reach to the next gate into the green by the river. Cross the green back to the start.

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

Sue Walker

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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.

BECCLES CHURCH TOWER

The view from the top



The Grade I listed detached bell tower of the Church of St Michael dates from the 16th century and stands tall, as a landmark feature above the market town of Beccles. There are 122 steps to the top of the tower via four steep and narrow, winding stone staircases. It is however, well worth the climb for the views over the town and the Waveney Valley, where it is possible to see up to 20 miles on a clear day. Within the tower, the first level is the ringing chamber, above which is the clock room housing the clock mechanism followed by the bell chamber before finally reaching the roof. The tower is open to the public on Saturdays from Easter until the end of October from 10.30am until 4pm with a charge of £2.50 to go up the tower. Further

details can be found at www.becclestowncouncil.gov.uk The top photo opposite shows the view looking north with the River Waveney and Beccles old road bridge in the centre. The photo below is the view looking west where the River Waveney can be seen twisting and winding its way towards Geldeston and Bungay

David Edleston



NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BROADS



We are now nearing the end of the 2022 summer season with just a few weeks left to when the museum closes its doors for the winter. It's been an interesting year with the prolonged warm weather and the Broads generally busy with visitors again although slightly less than 2021. We have had encouraging numbers of visitors enjoying all we have to offer but it has been challenging – as with many other organisations that rely on a full volunteer force, volunteer numbers have not recovered from the effects of the pandemic, so we have had to carefully plan our opening times reflecting difficulties staffing reception.

Nevertheless, results are very satisfactory and will help to see us through the winter months. It has been brilliant to see the return of some events this year including our popular 'Boat and Fishing Jumble' in May and of course the wonderful Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. Every Thursday in August we held special events including the 'Steam and Sail' days in conjunction with Wherry Yacht Charter of Wroxham, we had children's activity days with artist Jo Couldrey and we were pleased to welcome Shelley Hoskins from the Family Learning Centre at Norfolk County Council. We have also had quite a number of schools visits this year – always a delight to welcome children to the museum. We now look forward to our ever popular 'Halloween Week' during the last week of October – always fun!

Huge thanks go once again to 'Love the Broads' for their funding to enable us to acquire a new events gazebo. This very smart addition replaces a rather old and decrepit one! Now that many events are returning, it will enable us to provide much improved displays. I must also mention the introduction of evening group visits to the museum with wildlife boat trips aboard the electric launch 'Marsh Harrier'. It makes a wonderful evening event and it's surprising how teeming with life Staham Dyke is – we regularly spot kingfishers, otters and *marsh harriers!* We can 'design' an evening visit to suit personal needs and it's very affordable too. So why not give us a call to see what we can offer your family or group.



Kingfisher, Otter and 'Falcon' embarking on a trip from the Museum of the Broads

When the doors are finally closed at the end of October, work will start once again on planning for next year. We will be mounting a major volunteer recruitment drive, reviewing our marketing techniques and upgrading signage around the museum and

on the A149. Not to mention further development work inside the museum, renewing displays and generally enhancing, where we can, the visitor experience.

I will end this report with yet another appeal for volunteers – if you are interested in maybe just a few hours each week in one of the many roles around the museum – reception and front of house, documentation and archives, boat and building maintenance, helming and crewing on one of our boats, steamboat ‘Falcon’ or electric launch ‘Marsh Harrier’ or assisting with administration, we would love to hear from you. You are always sure of a warm welcome!

You can get in touch via the website www.museumofthebroads.org.uk , Facebook or Twitter or just call on 01692 581681 but please bear in mind the phone is not always manned, so leave a message and we will get straight back to you.

If you haven’t been able to visit The Museum of the Broads this year, do come next year, there will be even more to see in 2023!

Thank you to all our supporters and friends.

Robert Paul, Chair of Trustees

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- Broads Authority Local Plan Public Consultations : Brundall Memorial Hall, 10 October, 4.00-8.00pm; Oulton Community Centre, 2 November, 4.00-8.00pm; Potter Heigham Village Hall, 12 November, 10.00-11.00am.
- 18 October : Quiz Evening, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Carlton Marshes Visitor Centre, Carlton Colville 6.30 for 7.00pm start £12 including refreshments www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events
- Thurs 20 – Sun 30 October : ‘Broadland Ghosts’ Halloween Trail’ children’s activities and spooky boat trail. Museum of the Broads www.museumofthebroads.org.uk
- 29 October : Broads Hidden Heritage Conference, University of East Anglia, Norwich £10 including tea/coffee and buffet lunch www.watermillsandmarshes.org.uk
- Until 31 October : ‘Between River & Reed’, Assembly House, Norwich Exhibition of artists’ work (further details on page 34)
- 19 November : Broads Society AGM, Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham, Guest speaker Henry Cator OBE, Broads Society Patron (see details on page 5)

DUTCH TOUCH, POTTER HEIGHAM

An unusual (locally) listed building

As a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) East Anglia Branch Committee, we produce a regular newsletter for distribution to our members. Each edition includes an unusual listed building within the region and the topic for the latest newsletter was on the subject of locally listed buildings. These are buildings which do not satisfy the criteria for inclusion on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, but have been identified as being of local interest, making a positive contribution to local character. The following article written by Kate Knights was included in the last newsletter as an example of an unusual locally listed building, which I thought would be of interest to Broads Society members. Kate has kindly agreed to let us publish her article in Harnser.

David Edleston



Throughout the 19th century, the Broads developed as a holiday destination. With the advent of the railways, access to the area became easier and by the 1920s the area was well-established as a tourist hotspot. The Broads' unique selling point was its network of waterways and the relative ease of navigation and after the First World War, the development of the motor cruiser opened up boating holidays to all. Everyone could now enjoy a boating holiday. With the opening up of the Broads, some visitors wanted a more permanent base on land and waterside chalets began to be developed.

Local manufacturers developed their own simple vernacular style for these buildings which were of light-weight timber construction, with timber cladding and thatch, timber shingle or sheet metal roofing and were suitable for the unstable ground conditions in the area. Boulton and Paul were one of the main manufacturers.

During the inter-war years, a series of chalets were developed along the River Thurne near Potter Heigham. The chalets here, known as 'The Bungalows', were generally smaller and simpler than the chalets elsewhere, for example at Wroxham. However, there is an exception to every rule. Dutch Tutch, sits incongruously amongst the rows of simple timber chalets lining the riverbank. It began life as a helter skelter, sitting at the entrance to Great Yarmouth's Britannia Pier. So how did it end up as a holiday home on the banks of the River Thurne?


The first Britannia Pier was erected in 1858, but was replaced in 1902 as the popularity of Great Yarmouth as a holiday resort grew. It boasted a spectacular Grand Pavilion that could seat 2500 people and the entrance to the pier was marked by the 'On the Mat' helter-skelter. Unfortunately, in 1909 a fire occurred and the pier and Grand Pavilion were badly damaged. There was some damage to the helter skelter and the following year it was moved to Potter Heigham. The bottom part of the building was converted for holiday accommodation and the top was positioned adjacent to it and used as an outside WC. The upstairs of the accommodation was originally reached by an external staircase, which was later enclosed in the extension that you can see today.

In 2015 a number of the chalets were Locally Listed by the Broads Authority, including Dutch Tutch, which I think you will agree certainly qualifies as an Unusual Locally Listed Building!

References: *"Dutch Tutch" – a phoenix from the ashes* Broadland Memories Blog.

Historic Waterside Chalets of the Broads: The Significance of the Waterside Chalets and the Contribution they make to the Broads is not Fully Understood Dissertation by Kayleigh Wood, University of Reading, February 2015.

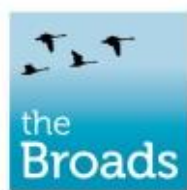
Kate Knights, Historic Environment Manager, Broads Authority



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Grant awarded to Museum of the Broads



Love the Broads' latest grant has been awarded to the Museum of the Broads. A grant of £700 has been provided to the Museum towards the cost of a new gazebo.

The Museum of the Broads is one of the Broads' premier visitor attractions. The Museum was in need of a modern, vibrant and durable gazebo in order to expand the reach of the museum into

local and regional events. This new branded gazebo will help to increase the Museum's brand with the local community as well as visitors to the Broads National Park, which in turn will increase visits and memberships and ensure the museum's financial viability.

Out and About – visiting our Business Supporters

The Love the Broads team have been out “on the road” across the Broads National Park recently, visiting and engaging with our loyal business supporters, collecting donations and restocking with supplies of our fantastic merchandise.

While we have had a wonderful summer, these are difficult times for many people, including businesses, and we are amazed at everyone's continued generosity. Our 80 business supporters range from boat hire operators to Broads gin distillers, cafes to caravan sites, bike hire to B&B and so many in between.



www.broadsgin.com

The donations raised enable us to provide grants for wonderful projects across the Broads. We thank everyone for helping us.

Do you know of a business that may want to join us and support our important work? Businesses can choose a way of being involved which would suit them. There is no cost to be a Business Supporter – all we ask is that they become Ambassadors for our work. There is also a corporate membership opportunity and, in return, we offer businesses marketing benefits. Contact lynne@lovethebroads.org.uk for an informal chat.

LET'S MAKE SURE THE RIGHT PEOPLE ARE MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT OUR NATIONAL PARKS



Earlier this month, the Government made five new appointments to the boards of the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors, Lake District National Park Authorities and The Broads Authority. These are important appointments as these boards are responsible for making decisions on planning and other matters that have huge influence over what happens in National Parks.

It's essential that the people making these decisions have the right expertise in issues such as nature recovery and diversity which will ensure National Parks deliver their full potential for nature, people and climate.

We're broadly positive about these new appointments but they account for only two per cent of the National Park Authority members in England. Wider changes are needed to ensure these boards are both more diverse and better equipped to tackle the challenges facing National Parks.

The changes we're calling for are set out in this blog written jointly by our Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw and RSPB England campaigner Pooja Kishinani.

In 2019, the landmark Glover Review concluded that the boards that lead England's national park authorities were "shockingly" "lacking in diversity" and "lacking in people who emphasise the purposes of securing nature and connecting people with our special places." Three years later, the government's long awaited response to the review declared that "boosting biodiversity" and "improving public access" for all should be priorities for England's national parks.

Five new appointments have expanded nature expertise

The government has announced five new appointees to the boards of the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors, Lake District, and Broads Authority. With the right membership, these boards could play an instrumental role in driving nature's recovery, connecting people with nature and delivering nature-based solutions to climate change across great swathes of England. So, has it, with these appointments, equipped national park authorities with the boards they need to deliver on these priorities?

Overall, this is an exciting set of appointments as all the new members have significant expertise in national park objectives including restoring the natural environment, and there are more women and younger members. This is a step in the right direction and we look forward to working with the new board members on the huge and important task of recovering nature in these special places.

It's worth noting though that these appointments only make up two per cent of national park authority members in England. More members are needed with professional expertise and knowledge in nature conservation, given the scale of the nature and climate emergency. Without this, the authorities will struggle to deliver on their purpose to conserve and enhance wildlife. This is especially important for the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the Lake District, which have all suffered severe declines in biodiversity. Natural England data, published by the Campaign for National Parks in 2018, showed that less than a third of protected wildlife sites in these national parks are in good ecological condition.

There's still no improvement in ethnic diversity

Our excitement at these appointments though is mixed with disappointment as the opportunity has been missed to increase representation from minority ethnic groups. Much more needs to be done to achieve diverse boards. According to the Glover Review, in 2019, 32 per cent of authority board members were female, 0.8 per cent were from black, Asian or ethnic minorities and the average age was 64. National parks are for everyone but, despite the recent small steps forward, their boards still do not reflect this. Natural England estimates that people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are only one per cent of visitors to national parks, despite making up about 14 per cent of the general population. How can national park authorities address this when such a small percentage of their board members are from those backgrounds?

This highlights the systemic problems in the governance of these landscapes. There are 220 national park authority members across England, so these issues cannot be fixed by a handful of new appointments alone. Under the current legislation, around 75 per cent of board members are chosen because they are local or parish councillors, not because of their expertise in wildlife conservation or the other purposes of national parks. Only 25 per cent are selected on merit, following open competition, and our experience is that only a few of those have professional experience in recovering nature. Although the recent appointments go some way towards addressing this, there is still a marked lack of expertise and skills related to nature's recovery across the 220 members. This is a barrier to the national parks being able to deliver their objective of conserving and enhancing wildlife.

The government hasn't listened to the Glover Review

To tackle these problems, the Glover Review recommended that board members should be appointed nationally, based on merit, and that achieving diversity should be a priority. It also proposed long term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors, akin to the Campaign for National Park's Mosaic project, which helped connect community champions to boards. But the government's response to the review has not taken forward any of these proposals.

There should be a more balanced representation of local and parish councillors and national appointees. At least half of board members should be national appointments

made by the secretary of state. The government could use them to bring in many more nature champions who know and care deeply about the protected landscapes they govern, and to widen representation of genders, ages and ethnicities.

Importantly, appointments – both locally and nationally – should be based on skills and experience in national park purposes. Legislation should require that the board has such expertise in the same way as it does for other comparable bodies, such as Natural England and the Broads Authority. Merit-based appointments will inevitably drive better outcomes for nature and other objectives.


Not acting on these recommendations will hold back the ability of our national parks to take the bold steps needed to drive nature’s recovery across England, at a time when it has never been more urgent.

Ruth Bradshaw, CNP and Pooja Kishinani, RSPB England



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CHURCHES AROUND THE BROADS

12. Loddon : Church of Holy Trinity

The Church of Holy Trinity lies to the east of Church Plain (formerly the Market Place), a focal point within the small market town of Loddon. The church is large and impressive and rather urban in character, although its scale is somewhat disguised by the sheer size of the churchyard within which it sits.

The church is listed Grade I and is built of flint with stone dressings. It has a nave with clerestory, north and south aisles with chapels, a south porch and a tall west tower. It was rebuilt in the late 15th century with bequests from the local Hobart family, especially that of Sir James Hobart, and completed in the early 16th century, with the south porch being built last around the 1530s. The porch is a particularly fine example with panelled flushwork, carved friezes and battlements and is reminiscent of its contemporary equivalent at Southwold in Suffolk, a church which bears a number of similarities with that at Loddon



View of the church from the north-west

On entering the church, the immediate and overwhelming impression is one of height and light with an uninterrupted view of the window to the east, one of the tallest in Norfolk. There is a fine hammerbeam roof to the nave, a 15th century font, early 16th century parclose screens to the north and south of the chancel and an early 16th century screen with an unusual painted dado. There are several monuments including

various brasses along with tomb chests to Henry Hobart 1541 and James Hobart and wife 1613 and 1609.



South porch, View from the south-east and Hammerbeam roof to the nave

The nearest moorings are at Loddon Staithe and it is a short walk to the church along Bridge Street. There are also moorings at Pyes Mill where it is possible to walk along the footpath to the churchyard. Parking is available immediately outside the church at Church Plain. Loddon is an interesting place to explore with numerous historic buildings and there are several pubs and cafes.



View from the war memorial, Church Plain and View from the south-west

David Edleston

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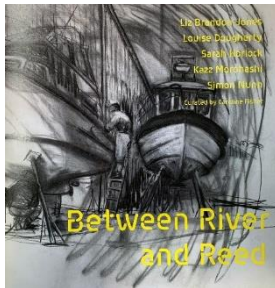
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5% discount for insertions in 4 consecutive issues invoiced after publication

NEWS SNIPPETS

Proposed development at Horning Ferry Inn and Simpsons Boatyard, Stalham

A recent planning application at the Ferry Inn, Horning proposes two-storey extensions and alterations, additional tourist accommodation, demolition of a single storey building and a new building with a micro-brewery and gift shop. Although the Society has supported the proposals in terms of economic benefits, we have raised some concerns regarding the adequacy of car parking provision, and foul water/sewage disposal and suggested further landscaping enhancements. At Simpsons Boatyard in Stalham, proposals involve the removal of 3 houseboats and the construction of 3 holiday chalets, and at the time of writing, comments from the Society are being considered.

Between River and Reed Exhibition



The *Between River and Reed Exhibition*, which is part of the Water Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme, is on display at the Assembly House, Norwich until 31 October 2022. Five artists were selected for the project, the emphasis being on the relationship between the landscape and the people of the Broads, with each artist responding to this brief in distinct and creative ways.

Agricultural Trends in the Broads

Whilst rarely mentioned in Harnser agriculture is still an important feature of the Broads and the Government have been providing annual statistics via The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) specific to the Broads National Park (their description). As the Broads Society support all aspects of the Broads, the following trends may be of interest especially as changes in the UK Agricultural Policy & subsidies following Brexit. Some key changes between 2007 and 2021 are noted below.

- The total number of holdings have roughly halved, though size of each has increased with the average size going up from 53 to 85 hectares. However, the total farmed area has dropped from 20.6 thousand hectares to 15.2. The amount of land used for cereals has dropped slightly as has permanent grass.
- More dramatic is the drop in cattle numbers from 14,606 to 8,908, there had also been a drop in the number of pigs. Sheep, despite fluctuations, remain fairly stable at 3,380 and poultry show a slight increase across the period
- Full time (123) & part time (135) farmers numbers are remarkably stable but with a considerable drop in full time workers have declined (now just 60 from 125), part time (38 from 64) & casual workers (halving to just 55). This bit does not really make sense.

It will be interesting how the “Re-wilding” subsidies currently being implemented will affect the Broads in the future. More details are available on the Broads Authority

website <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/projects/schemes-that-reward-environmental-benefits>

Peter Smith

STOP PRESS Broadland Futures Initiative : September Newsletter

At the time of going to press, the BFI Progress Newsletter has just been published for September 2022, which can either be viewed or downloaded from their website Broadland Futures Initiative at www.broads-authority.gov.uk BFI will have a stand at the Broads Authority Local Plan consultation in Brundall on 10 October 2022, at the Memorial Hall between 4.00 and 8.00pm. There will be a BFI update in the January 2023 edition of Harnser.

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The full range of Broads Society branded merchandise is still available including pennants, pens, coffee mugs, tote bags, note books and stickers. Further details can be found on our website in the section headed 'Merchandise'. By ordering you will be helping to promote the Society, contributing to funds and helping with *Harnser* production costs. For ordering, postage and payment details please call 07393 422006 or email : boathousenorfolk@btconnect.com

-----END OF SEASON DISCOUNT 10%-----

SUMMER EVENTS 2022

It has been a very busy period over the summer months for the publicity team who have attended several events with the Broads Society stand. After a couple of years of cancelled events, it has been good to get out and about to promote the Society and meet many new faces, with a view to recruiting new members. Most places have been very busy, with people being encouraged to get out and about by the exceptionally good weather. In addition to the Horning Boat Show held in May, as reported in the July edition of Harnser, Peter Smith, Paul Rice and David Edleston attended the Broads Life Festival at Beccles Quay on 11 June, Ludham Open Gardens on 26 June, The Royal Norfolk Show on 29 and 30 June and Hoveton Village Fete on 7 August. At the Royal Norfolk Show we were pleased to be joined by Colin Dye. Paul also displayed his Broads model on the stand at the Royal Norfolk Show, including a windpump and moving boat, which attracted a lot of attention, particularly school groups. Peter also attended the Village Fetes at Thune and Potter Higham and a number of events at the Museum of the Broads.



Broads Life Festival at Beccles Quay

We will be publishing a list of events for 2023 in the April edition of Harnser and it would be good to have more volunteers to help with setting up the stand and display material, to promote the Society and to encourage new members to join. If you are interested, even if you have limited time available, please contact the Administrator (details on page 3) or Peter Smith by e-mail p.smith40@outlook.com



Ludham Open Gardens

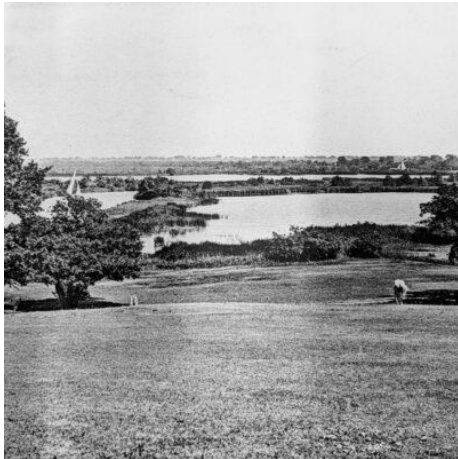


Royal Norfolk Show 2022

RECENT NEWS FROM THE BROADS AUTHORITY



Broads Hidden Heritage Conference



Are you fascinated by the unique history of the Broads?

The Broads Authority's Water, Mills and Marshes: Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme is hosting a Hidden Heritage Conference, on Saturday 29 October at the University of East Anglia (UEA).

Salhouse & Hoveton Great Broads

Talks include:

- Aerial Perspectives on the Broads, by Sophie Tremlett (Norfolk Historic Environment Service)
- Monastic Landscapes in the Broads Area, by Tim Pestell (Curator of Archaeology, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery)
- World War Two in the Broads, by Rob Liddiard (Professor of History, University of East Anglia (UEA))
- The Waterside Heritage of the Broads, by Alison Yardy (Norfolk Historic Environment Service)
- The Landscape of the Broadland Marshes, by Tom Williamson (Professor of Landscape History, UEA)

And lots more!

Tickets are £10 per person, booking details & more information are available via the Water, Mills and Marshes website:

<https://watermillsandmarshes.org.uk/broads-hidden-heritage-conference/>

This special series of talks showcasing Broads Hidden Heritage Projects is presented in association with Norfolk Archaeological & Heritage Research Group. For enquiries please email: enquiries@nahrg.org.uk

Water plant management

The Authority's busy programme of water plant management helps us to maintain a balance between the requirements of boaters and the conservation of habitats for wildlife.

What we do

The waterways of the Broads provide an important habitat for a number of water plant species which provide refuge and sources of food for fish, birds and water invertebrates. However, plant growth in certain areas can severely impact upon the navigation and therefore needs to be managed. The Authority has two plant cutting vessels, one in the Northern and one in the Southern rivers. We prioritise cutting in the main rivers and marked channels throughout the Broads so they are clear and accessible to vessels. Between April and October (the summer season when the plants grow) both plant cutters have an extremely busy schedule, work continuously and are out cutting every day. During warmer months plants are likely to grow more vigorously due to favourable temperatures and conditions, although after October they will die down naturally. Each cutting vessel has a set of cutting knives attached to a conveyor belt, which cut the plants about a foot above the riverbed. Removed plants are usually placed in low heaps on the bankside.

Where we cut

- Bure – Horstead to Belaugh
- Ant – Cutting did not take place on the Ant in 2022 due to floating pennywort in the river system
- Upper Thurne – Hickling Broad, navigation channel, Waxham Cut, Meadow Dyke, West Somerton to Martham Ferry
- Wensum and Yare – Norwich city centre to Thorpe
- Waveney – Barsham Marshes to Beccles Marshes, Geldeston Marshes

In addition to the main rivers and marked channels in larger broads that we already manage, some new locations have been added this year (2022). The marked channels through Rockland and Bargate Broads now feature in the annual programme. To protect fish and bird populations, it is essential we leave plants on the river edges / broad margins and do not entirely remove them from the river bed, where many rare and protected species of plants and wildlife live.

Why are there so many plants?

In recent years, a reduction in the amount of nutrients and sediments entering the Broads waterways has produced clearer water, which means that plants have thrived. As water clarity improves, it is likely that increased growth of water plants will become more common across the Broads waterways.

What to do if you are concerned about water plants?

Please only contact the Authority if you are concerned about water-plant growth within the main channel of rivers and broads. Be aware that plant growth in many areas of outside the main channel may be prohibited to prevent damage to wildlife. We do not cut privately owned Broad's such as Wroxham Broad and Hoveton Little Broad (Black Horse Broad). Once the plants are cut we aim to collect them, however some are missed and may float away naturally. To report excessive water-plant growth, please email: Broads.Control@broads-authority.gov.uk with an exact location and preferably some photographs.

Surveying

Oxygen-loving water plants only thrive in cleaner water and their abundance is evidence of the efforts of the Authority and partners over the last fifty years to remove the harmful nutrients and contaminants which had previously polluted the broads. Environment Officers and Rangers will identify cutting locations by working with the sailing community, partners including Natural England and by monitoring the local environmental conditions necessary for aquatic life. Cutting locations vary depending on where plants grow during the growing season, changes in temperature and oxygen levels in the water. The final locations are then planned by Environment Officers, who monitor variations in temperature and oxygen levels in the water before scheduling in the cutting by the Operations team.



Water plant harvester in action on the River Thurne, West Somerton

See our webpage on water plants for more information:

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/water-plant-cutting>

Discovering Oulton Broad by Kayleigh Judson, Broads Authority



I'm Kayleigh Judson, Heritage Planning Officer for the Broads National Park. I've worked for the Broads Authority in planning since 2008, specialising in Heritage, after my Masters in Conservation at the University of Reading. Having grown up in the Broads with a strong connection to the houses and developments within it, I am now extremely proud to be able to influence decisions on how to manage appropriate change to the historic environment, while balancing many (often conflicting) issues and opinions. The highlight of my job is visiting the many old houses in the Broads and discussing their history with their enthusiastic owners.

Oulton Broad is like no other Broad within the National Park. Just as there are two sides to every story, there are two very different, yet beautiful sides to Oulton Broad. Located in Suffolk, it is often forgotten in publications on the 'Norfolk Broads', yet I find it the most vibrant and also the most calming of them all.

The town straddles the eastern shore of the Broad, and during the summer it comes alive with many pubs, bars and restaurants. On balmy summer evenings live music and animated conversation can be heard floating across the water.



This place is particularly special to me – it's where I grew up. I have so many fond memories as a young child enjoying the boating lake at the play park, the huge orange slide, the trampolines and endless ice-creams on the bandstand on the green. As a teenager, the Broad remained the go to place for my friends and I – enjoying freedom from our parents – on our bikes and headed for makeshift smoking shelters. Later in life, the long walks on the marshes (along its west and southern banks) would tempt me outside.

The north bank is punctuated by a mix of large houses with long gardens and moorings that extend out into the Broad. To the south-east, Nicholas Everitt Park is home to a large play park and gardens, the Lowestoft Museum (a beautiful flint building) the Boulevard Amusement Café, and when I was younger, the Oulton Broad Lido.



It was of no surprise to me that street artist Banksy marked his staycation by visiting this park and chose an old bridge for one of his masterpieces, now enjoyed by many. While this side of the Broad is a hive of activity, towards the south and west, the hustle and bustle gives way to open marshland. Here, an abundance of quiet and wildlife can be experienced, only disturbed occasionally by the passing trains that serve two of Oulton Broad's stations.

There is a particular spot in the southern part of the broad – a concrete pontoon – that I'd visited many times as a child, but it wasn't until later in my life that I realised its importance to me. I would often head for it when I needed some time for quiet reflection. I'd take my parents' dog for company and sit, crossed-legged, staring across the lapping water towards the marshes. I'd listen to the clanking of boat metal masts and flapping of sails, children laughing while learning to navigate canoes or dinghy's, I'd smell the meals cooked on houseboats close by, and I would be enveloped by a sense of belonging and wellbeing.

It made me realise that National Parks can be so much more than just a photo opportunity. They are living, breathing, adaptable places, where people grow up, work, enjoy their pastimes, where they can be loud and have fun, and most importantly where they can find quiet contemplation at times when they need it.

Photographs © Broads Authority, unless otherwise stated

Broads Society Photography Competition 2022

Final call for entries – competition closes 16 October 2022
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places plus 'Under 18' winner
First prize £250 plus the 'David Blair' silver trophy for one year



Two Categories
'People and the Broads' and 'Broads Landscapes'

Full details of rules and how to enter www.broads-society.org.uk



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BECCLES TO GELDESTON

A Trip along the River Waveney on the Big Dog Ferry



Access to the upper reaches of the River Waveney beyond Beccles is restricted by the height of the Old Road Bridge, with only smaller craft being able to navigate this part of the Broads. In addition, the loss of boatyards and hirecraft over the years in both Beccles and Geldeston has contributed to this stretch of the river being relatively quiet.

Having not been on this part of the River Waveney for many years, I took the opportunity to take a trip on the Big Dog Ferry which operates from Beccles. The ferry departed from Beccles Lido going upstream along the river which meanders its way up to Geldeston and Bungay beyond with its peace and tranquillity creating a haven for wildlife, including otters, marsh harriers and kingfishers, often see as a flash of blue and orange, darting along the river bank.



Big Dog Ferry at Beccles Lido and Geldeston Lock



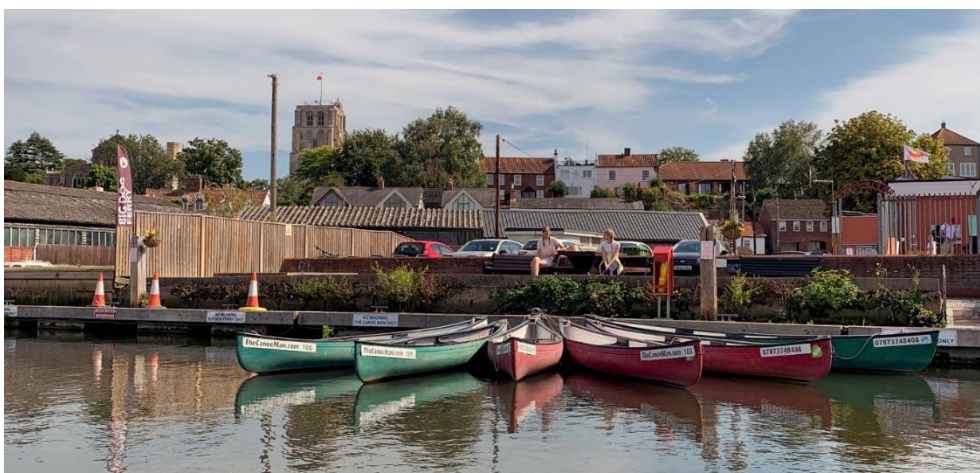
Upper reaches of the River Waveney

The area has become very popular with canoes and paddleboards and there were many people out on the water enjoying the sunny weather. Paddleboards, canoes and kayaks can be hired from Three Rivers Pitch & Paddle at Geldeston. On arrival at Geldeston Lock, there is around 20 minutes to briefly explore the area, including the lock which was recently restored by the River Waveney Trust, or stop for a quick drink at The Locks Inn which is now a community owned pub, before the return journey. Alternatively, it is possible to stop at the pub for a meal and a drink and catch a later return ferry to Beccles, or to book a single trip and walk the Angles Way footpath via Shipmeadow or the Norfolk River Path via Dunburgh to Beccles.



The Locks Inn, Geldeston and Canoeists on the River Waveney

The Big Dog Ferry operates from Beccles Lido to Geldeston Lock and return from Easter until October, taking approximately 40 minutes in each direction. Departures from Beccles are at 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00 and returns from Geldeston at 12.00, 14.00 and 16.00 with additional departures at 17.00 and 18.00 at weekends. Fares for a single journey are currently £6.50 for adults, £3.50 for children between 5-16 with children under 4 and well behaved dogs being free of charge. Bookings can be made on line and further details are available at www.bigdogferry.co.uk



The River Waveney and Tower of the Church of St Michael, Beccles

David Edleston



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BROADS SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD & CALENDAR 2023



The Broads Society Christmas Card this year is a photo of 'Fleet Dyke, South Walsham' taken by David Edleston. Cards measure 8 x 6 inches and are priced at 90p each, plus post and packing costs of 75p for three cards, £1.70 for five cards, £2.20 for ten cards and £2.75 for twenty cards. David has also produced another A4 size calendar for 2022 which can be purchased for £9.50 each, plus

postage cost of £1.70 for one calendar, £2.20 for two, £2.75 for three or four and a maximum of £3.40 for five or more calendars/cards combined. Our blank cards and merchandise can be included in this P & P cost. Paper presentation envelopes for calendars are available at 10p each or card backed at 25p each. All surplus from the sale of cards and calendars goes to Broads Society funds. Orders should be placed with Peter Smith, 14 New Road, Reedham, Norwich, NR13 3TR or by e-mail p.smith40@outlook.com Payment should preferably be made by bank transfer to The Broads Society, account number 60202770, sort code 20-99-21 adding your surname as a reference. Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque payable to 'The Broads Society'. Please allow up to 7 days for delivery from the date of placing your order. Orders can be collected from the AGM. For NR postcodes orders can be delivered free of charge. Last date for orders will be Monday 21st November, or when stock is exhausted. For delivery or stock enquiries please phone 01493 701516.





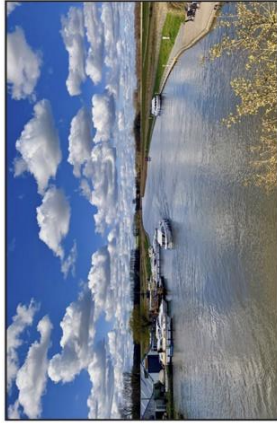
JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



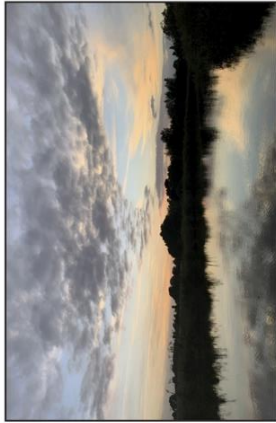
JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Photographs by © David Edleston
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The Broads Society
Friends of the Broads

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The only voluntary organisation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all aspects of The Broads.
We welcome new members. Details from our Administrator:
Sarah Vergette, 3 Rosebery Road, Great Plumstead, Norwich, NR13 5EA
Tel: 01603 714172 e-mail: broads.society@sky.com

Cover photo: River Bure at St Benet's Abbey