

Newsletter No. 3

We are now at the end of the second season for **Wherry Maud Trust**. It is time to look back on our achievements during the year and to look forward to 2017.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

RICHARD JEWSON JP—LORD LIEUTENANT OF NORFOLK HAS WRITTEN AS FOLLOWS:



“This year, in my first full year as your patron, I have followed Maud's activities with great interest. My prime sources of information have been the new website and emails advising me of forthcoming trips. Unfortunately due to pressure of work I have not been able to be with you at any of your events but very much hope

that I will be able to attend in the future. It is extremely encouraging to hear that Maud has sailed more this year than in any year since her restoration and that she has attended a number of other events.

Maud's presence on the rivers and broads this past year has contributed greatly to the appeal of our beautiful area for tourists, whether from elsewhere in Britain or from farther afield.

Well done to the trustees and to all those volunteers who have worked hard to make Maud's 2016 season a successful one. I hope that 2017 will bring even greater successes.”



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MEMBERSHIP

Our target was to have 200 paid-up members by January 2017 and we are thrilled to say that by the end of October 2016 we actually had 215. Our aim now is to keep our existing members and add a further 100 in 2017.

We hope that you will recommend WMT membership to your friends or even contact us to arrange a gift membership as a Christmas present.

We've had some nice things said about trips on Maud this year from both old members and new:

"...my second sail with you and I cannot wait for my third.."

"...a pleasure to be on board. Restoring Maud and keeping her on the water is a magnificent achievement"

All renewals are due in April.

Forms for annual membership are available on the boat, on the website under Membership, and by email request to Linda - address at the end of this newsletter.

"...a pleasure to be on board. Restoring Maud and keeping her on the water is a magnificent achievement "

MAUD'S 2016

2016 began with **maintenance**. Working parties took place over the winter beginning on 7 February. We re-rigged and went for a test sail on Sunday 20 March, a good early start due to the efforts of our member volunteers. Maintenance was not over however and we continued painting and other tasks between sailings up to the beginning of June. One task was to make our hold area more pleasant for members and to reduce trip hazards, so Neil Thomas made a table over our water ballast tank to provide a bag storage area. It was a great improvement.

On 10 April we had our **first day sail** and made trips in the area local to Womack until the middle of June. On Friday 17 June Maud started on her journey to the southern rivers. The first stop was at Acle Bridge Inn where the public were invited on board in the afternoon. The view, (right) was taken from the bridge.





At the Ferry House, Surlingham.

MAUD'S 2016

While away Maud spent time on the Waveney, being on display with other historic vessels for the Charter Weekend at the beginning of July, before transferring to the Yare in mid-July. Our first mooring was at Hardley Mill where a group of the Friends of the Mill joined Wherry Maud Trust and sailed with us up to the Ferry House at Surlingham, see picture taken on arrival above. There we enjoyed the meals and hospitality offered by Sonia, the landlady, and her staff. Over the one weekend that we were at Surlingham many new members joined and some had their first sail on a wherry. We returned to Hardley on the Sunday evening, making a total of six trips during the weekend. Our action-packed few weeks ended when we returned to the Bure on Saturday 30 July, making a stop for public viewing again at the Acle Bridge Inn.

A brief respite for skippers and crew and then we were off again, this time journeying up the Ant to the Museum of the

Broads at Stalham. We arrived there in time for Pirates Day and volunteers had fun showing children over Maud.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET

Our FACEBOOK page, www.facebook.com/wherryMaudTrust continues to be very popular. Don't forget that you do not need a FACEBOOK account before you can view. Anyone can use Google or a similar search engine to find the page and have a look.

Website

wherrymaudtrust.org came into being about six months ago and combines up to date articles about Maud's activities with information about her history. The Upcoming Events give advance warning about trips and other events, so that you can put dates in your diary well in advance. We intend to put more about Maud's history on the site over the winter.

An interesting article on shaping Maud's mast will soon be posted on the site. Watch this space.

MAUD'S 2016

We then had a couple of very well-attended day trips with lunch at the Sutton Staithe Hotel and a further day trip to watch the racing on Barton Regatta. Maud was again on display and open to the public at the Museum for one final day on Sunday 28 August.

We left the Museum of the Broads on Friday 9th September in order to get to Thurne Windmill for the Heritage Open Days on 10th and 11th September. There we believe that we made history, showing the public how trading wherries used to be loaded and unloaded using the mast, see right.

It would be good to know exactly when and where that was done last. Has anyone got any information or photographs?

It is always a good idea to be at Womack before autumn begins in earnest and it seemed a long time since we had last been in the wet boatshed for more than a couple of weeks. In the evening of 10th September we returned and had one day sail from the base to Ranworth on the 25th September and a joint event with the Wind Energy Museum on 9th October. The final day sail of the year was on 22nd October. There may be other day sails as and when weather permits between now and next spring.



For those who like some statistics last year we sailed only about 18 times. In 2016 up to/ including October we will have made 28 trips. By October 2015 we had 88 paid-up members and this year the number is 215.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers have helped in many ways. You will probably be most familiar with those who crew on our trips, but there are also the faithful people who come out and help paint and maintain and those who act as guides when Maud is open to the public. Without all those people our programme in 2016 would not have been possible.

VOLUNTEERING FOR MAUD

Does any member have experience of **fund-raising** or know of someone who might help us? With the prospect of Maud's out of the water maintenance in 2017 it is extremely important for the trustees to have some help to raise funds. Please contact us via the website or by email to Linda if you can suggest anyone. This doesn't necessarily have to be anyone who lives in the area, although a willingness to attend one training day in the Norwich area would be useful.

As usual we will be drawing up a list of jobs to be done to make Maud look smart for the new season. None of the tasks will be too difficult for an enthusiastic amateur as most involve cleaning and painting. Even if you can only come along once do please volunteer. Probable dates for maintenance are: 11 Feb, 4 March, 11 March and 18 March. A few of our new members have asked to be included in the working parties (maybe they have heard that they will be rewarded with home-made cakes and teas and coffees).



“...in August it will be all hands on deck to help with painting etc., while Maud is out of the water.”

There will be plenty of opportunity to help with **maintenance** this year, as in August it will be all hands on deck to help with painting etc while Maud is out of the water.

Are there any history buffs out there who would like to do some further **research** into wherry history? There will be opportunities in the future to help gather information and organise our archive.

See the **Historical Research** article below.

We do have some of Maud's original planking in store. May we have suggestions for items to make as **souvenirs** and for anyone perhaps with a skill in woodturning to make them. This year we have sold a small number of key fobs, fridge magnets and postcards. We would like to offer a greater variety of souvenirs in 2017. Is there any member who would like to volunteer to **manage our souvenirs**?

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Occasionally we are fortunate to learn something new about Maud's history or the history of other wherries. This year we had on board two people who had fascinating stories to tell. One was a member of the team of trainees who shaped Maud's mast at the IBBTC at Lowestoft and another had been on board Albion carrying the last cargoes of sugar beet to Cantley.

In addition we have members who are related to the Hall family of Reedham who built Maud, and other members who are descendants of wherry skippers.

We've also been thrilled to learn about the history of our tender "The Gem" from the well-known East Coast author Robert Simper.

There is history that needs to be captured and recorded. Are there any members who would like to get together occasionally over the winter and talk about how we could do that? Please contact Linda if you would be interested in taking part.

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Our trustees do not only undertake the planning of Maud's year and look after her well-being. They also act as skippers, crew and maintenance people. There has been at least one trustee on every trip this year. On two of the Surlingham trips all four trustees were on board. Hence most of you will know at least one or two of them. In the first two newsletters we introduced you to Neil and Joe.



This time we would like you to meet Nigel >

Nigel Gutteridge has been a wherry enthusiast for many years, first sailing with Wherry Yacht Charter in the late 1990s. An electrical engineer by trade he enjoys practical things such as maintenance and crewing on Maud. He is also a volunteer with his village conservation group.

Nigel now gives talks about Maud to other groups, thereby raising public awareness of Maud and making a contribution to funds.

Nigel Gutteridge

“There has been at least one trustee on every trip this year.”

OTHER NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES



Joe Farrow - see Newsletter no. 1 (or above) for his picture - got married to Eve Cronin in September and, yes, it was done in style.

FORTHCOMING WMT EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

December to March sailing - we will let you know if the weather looks suitable for a trip or two. We are dependent on having a dinghy/support boat available for winter sailing. We will send an email if/when we have made arrangements.

25 Feb - an opportunity for members to get together over lunch at The Ferry House at Surlingham.

29 April - the second of our annual meetings for associate members to get together and discuss the Trust and its activities. Venue and content of meeting to be decided. **Suggestions from members are most welcome.**

April to August trips - a calendar is being drawn up and will shortly be available on the website. From the middle of June Maud is likely to be on the Waveney and the Yare.

3rd week of August - the approximate date for Maud to be lifted out at Burgh Castle for 3-yearly maintenance.

October- Maud will return to Womack once she has been re-launched.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

On Tuesday 31st January Nigel Gutteridge, one of the four trustees, will be giving a talk on Maud to the Strumpshaw & District Association at Strumpshaw Parish Room, Barn Hill, Strumpshaw NR13 4NS at 7.30pm. Non-members can attend for £2.50. Coffee and tea included in the price.

Wherry Yacht Charter Quiz Linda Pargeter has entered a Maud team for the above for many years. It always took place in November, but in 2016 it was decided to have a change and the next quiz will probably be in April 2017. Details will be sent out as soon as available.

Talks to other groups. Please do let us know if you can suggest other opportunities for us to talk to local groups about Maud.

CONTACT US

To book places, volunteer, give feedback or give suggestions for events, Linda can be contacted by email: admin@wherrymaudtrust.org, by mobile during the week (preferably text message) 07990 523131, or by landline at weekends 01379 677666.

Please note: the Trustees will always endeavour to keep to timetables of events but sailing is dependent on availability of skippers, weather conditions etc. However last minute cancellations will be kept to a minimum.

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