

Maud Matters

Newsletter No.4

We are now nearly at the end of our third sailing season for **Wherry Maud Trust**.

It has been our busiest year yet and the trustees hope you have been able to sail in Maud or see her on view at one of the locations we have visited.

Unfortunately it is a short season due to the out of the water maintenance beginning in August.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

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

“I am delighted that Maud has had such a busy and successful season this year and applaud the efforts of all those volunteers who have made it possible. Their contributions are so valuable, whether it is making tea for those doing maintenance, acting as skipper or crew on Maud, or doing some of the many small jobs that keep the Trust running smoothly.



This year, for the first time, Wherry Maud Trust is responsible for organising the three-yearly out of the water maintenance at Burgh Castle. It is an extremely expensive project for a small trust that has

only been running since 2015. The trustees have launched an appeal for donations to fund some of the materials needed. I hope that members and non-members will support the appeal generously.”

NEWSLETTER

One of our members suggested that we call our newsletter "**Maud Matters**". Did you notice the new title at the top? We hope you will approve.



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APPEAL FOR FUNDS

We have sent an appeal to organisations such as National Historic Ships and to publications including Classic Sailor in order to raise funds for the materials needed for Maud's major refit this year. We will need to spend in the region of £15,000 on materials and labour but we have to do this in order to keep Maud in good condition.



In the photo above, taken by Linda on 9 August, Maud's mast is about to be lifted off. A series of photos were taken by several people and will be put on the website soon. Provisional dates have been set for members of Wherry Maud Trust to view the work in progress. These dates will be sent out by email in the near future. As a new charity with a very low subscription it is difficult to raise the money needed and we hope that members will spread the word for us. To avoid making this newsletter too long we are sending a copy of the appeal to all members in a separate email.

Please do forward it to any friends who may be interested in supporting Maud.

There is more about fund raising in "Other Volunteering" below.

SKIPPERS

We are pleased to welcome **Jeff Stamps** to our authorised skipper list this year.

In the next issue we will have a "Meet the Skippers" section with photos and short biographies of each skipper. Grateful thanks go out to all our volunteer skippers who generously give their time to ensure that Maud sails regularly.

Neil Thomas (trustee) has continued his training under the watchful eye of **Kim Dowe** and looks forward to getting more practice next season.

There are others who wish to progress to Wherry Maud Trust authorised skipper status but training opportunities have been limited.

NEWS AND LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The story of **Betsy Hurst** is a most unusual one.

On about 12 June an email was sent to members saying that there were still places available on Sunday 18 June for the trip from Acle Bridge, across Breydon to Hardley Mill on the Yare.

Almost immediate response from Betsy who lives in Florida, USA. She would like to come, her husband Tom would find her a flight! So that is what happened. Betsy arrived at Heathrow on Friday 16 June and met us all at Acle Bridge in the afternoon of 17 June. She stayed with Linda for a few days and made the trip on Maud on 18 June. She was thrilled as, being a great windmill enthusiast, she had long wanted to see the drainage mills from the river. Is this a record for distance travelled to go on a wherry trip?



Betsy is on the extreme right of the picture. [Photo from Betsy's own camera].

Olwen, who joined as a member this year, sent in the following letter:

Our group of friends from the Civil Service Sports and Social Club had a wonderful day out on the Maud on May 7th. From hearing the cuckoo as we waited at the staithe, admiring the wildlife and views of mills and St Benet' Abbey, gentle progress along the river to Ranworth, the convivial lunch, taking turns at steering and working the sail, the day was perfect. Even the cold weather didn't damp our enthusiasm and Linda's welcome tea and cake warmed us up well. Thanks to skipper and crew for making it a really memorable day.

NEWS AND LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Ron, our 87 year-old member from Crawley, is our star volunteer of the year. He booked a 3-week holiday in Great Yarmouth at the beginning of August so that he could come over to Burgh Castle by bus nearly every day to see Maud lifted out and to help us with the work. He's great at working out practical problems and makes a good cup of tea as well. **Thank you Ron!**

MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have **223** paid up members for 2017. That is far short of our rather ambitious target for the year of 300 but there is time yet. A few members have done a marvellous job of recruiting from family and friends. **Please could you all renew your efforts to recommend us to your friends.**

Don't forget that we can supply gift membership certificates for birthday and Christmas presents.

Unfortunately we have decided that we have to increase the annual subscription for associate members to £12 from 1 May 2018.

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.

MAUD'S 2017

At the end of January the trustees got together to make a plan for maintenance on Maud and The Gem (our tender). Working parties on Maud began on 11 February and continued until 18 March. Volunteers were the usual faithful helpers (they will know who I mean) plus a few newer ones such as David Pilch and Jonathan Parke. All the usual jobs were tackled, the hold was emptied and scrubbed out and much rubbing down and painting was done. The halyard was renewed and all blocks inspected, repaired and oiled as necessary.

During those two months Nigel Gutteridge assisted Paul Reynolds with some modifications to The Gem and Nigel did the lion's share of preparing and painting her.

On Sat 25 March Maud came out of the shed for her first trip of the season. We did not sail but just quanted her from base round the island in Womack and back. That served to remind us that our quants are heavy!

On Sunday 26 March we had our first official crew training session and handed out the first draft of our new training manual to those who attended. We have been happy to welcome as trainee crew on subsequent trips several of the people who came along. Our thanks especially to the two Steves, to Trish, Ian, Malcolm, Brian, Glyn and Haydn. They are making good progress and have helped a lot.

MAUD'S 2017



Crew, regular members and trainees, looking down into the forepeak to observe foot of mast and mast gate. [Photo by Sue Hines]

Our first members' trip was on Saturday 1 April.

Nine people, some new and some old members from the Civil Service Social Club, joined two of our local members and the crew for a trip to Ranworth. The weather was not unkind, considering the time of year, but we thought it sensible to arrange a hot meal at Ranworth at lunchtime. Here you see some of the party going ashore in The Gem. [Photo by Martin Carruthers]



The next trip was on Sat 15 April. The main purpose of the trip was to enable some of the new volunteer crew members to get some practice, but we were contacted by a few members who were very keen to make a trip on that date, including two from Hampshire who were in the area. They did enjoy themselves, as the photo below shows. [Photo by Linda Pargeter]



MAUD'S 2017

Between mid-April and starting our journey south on 17 June we had many enjoyable trips and a few viewings of Maud at Thurne Mill. The gusty winds at the end of May caused us to cancel a couple of trips, including our members' picnic due to be held at St Benet's Abbey. However on Saturday 3rd June we did sail to St Benet's with Peter Johnson as skipper and had a very pleasant time watching the Three Rivers race and walking around the perimeter of the abbey enclosure in the sunshine.

On Saturday 17 June we began our voyage to the southern rivers. In the morning we sailed to Acle Bridge and invited the public on board on the afternoon. The following day we crossed Breydon and arrived at Hardley Windmill in the early evening. On the following Saturday, the 24th June, the Friends of Hardley Windmill had their BBQ. Their social events are becoming legendary. It was a beautiful evening with yummy food as usual including delicious desserts made by the members. Only a few Wherry Maud Trust members attended but those who did thoroughly recommend you to come along on another occasion.

Our next event was the Beccles Charter Weekend where Maud was on view and we did loading demonstrations on the Sunday. Again the weather was kind and we enjoyed the hospitality of Simon, Mary and Nate at Hippersons as well as the holiday atmosphere.

From Beccles we sailed to St Olaves. then back to Hardley and on up the Yare to Surlingham for our next event, viewings of Maud at the Surlingham Ferry on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July. At Surlingham we received the usual warm welcome from Sonia and her staff and tried some of the delicious food on the menu.



On the afternoon of Sunday 23 July we left Surlingham and sailed Maud to the Frostbites Sailing Club at Thorpe for the first time. Two of our trustees and one of Maud's regular crew are members. On the following Wednesday evening Bill Housden skippered Maud for a short but very pleasant sail down river and back to Frostbites. [Photo above by Linda Pargeter]

MAUD'S 2017

Saturday 29th July saw us leave Thorpe to go down river to Hardley again. On the following weekend we tried a new venture in the shape of a trip up the Chet to Loddon where residents were very welcoming, older ones reminiscing about the days when wherries frequently came up to the Woods, Sadd & Moore flour mill there. It was "interesting" taking a large craft like Maud up that narrow twisty river.

On 6th August we embarked on Maud's last trip before her lift out. We motored down the Chet and through Reedham bridge before hoisting sail and going down river to the confluence of the Yare and Waveney. We then turned up the Waveney and moored at Goodchilds ready for a working party to come on Monday 7th August and start unloading as many loose items as possible from Maud's hold.

Maud is now safely on Goodchilds yard at Burgh Castle waiting for Colin Buttifant's team to overhaul her hull and do necessary repairs.

VOLUNTEERING FOR MAINTENANCE ON MAUD AT BURGH CASTLE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

By the time you receive this newsletter you will have received a further email asking for help during this period. Our thanks to those who have responded so far. If you haven't yet volunteered and have some spare time at weekends or even on weekdays please **email Linda or text or call her on 07990 523131**. We normally start at 10am and aim to pack up by 5pm. Volunteers are welcome for the whole day or a part day.

OTHER VOLUNTEERING

- ◆ **General Fund raising.** Your trustees have made a good start with appeals on Facebook and in the press, but there is much more that could be done. If anyone has any experience in this field or is keen to learn then please contact Linda or another of the trustees.
- ◆ **Crowd funding.** Is there anyone with experience who could advise the trustees on raising money via sites such as Just Giving?
- ◆ **Ebay fund raising.** It has been suggested that we open a trust ebay account for selling items donated by members. Would anyone like to help us with that?
- ◆ **Admin tasks.** If you have administrative experience and are willing to take on small or large projects as/when they occur please do contact Linda or another of the trustees. As Wherry Maud Trust grows it is essential to get more people involved in the work of the trust.

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Neil (left) and Nigel (right) featured in Newsletters 2 and 3. Here are their photos to remind you.



- ◆ In Newsletter No. 4 we are introducing Linda to those who don't know her yet :



Linda and her late husband Vincent were responsible for rescuing Maud in 1981 and she was heavily involved throughout the 18-year restoration project, travelling with Vincent to source timber, scraping and painting and of course doing the admin. She was a founder trustee of Wherry Maud Trust and continues to spend most of her spare time on Maud-related activities.

Recently she has given talks about Wherry Maud Trust to U3A and smaller groups and has more U3A bookings in the next 12 months.

Linda is also a trustee of Wherry Yacht Charter and in 2016 joined the Norwich Frostbites Sailing Club.

- ◆ Nigel and Neil continue as trustees and again this year there has been at least one trustee as crew on each trip. This makes us unusual. Wherry Maud Trustees are very much "hands on". This ensures that individual members booking trips can be sure that they will know at least one or two people on board.
- ◆ Early this season Joe Farrow resigned as a trustee. We are grateful to him for his role as one of the original trustees and for giving his time in the first two years.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- ◆ Our next archive meeting will be on Saturday 18 November at Acle
- ◆ We will have a speaker giving a short talk about a wherry-related topic
- ◆ Martin, our archivist, hopes to be there with his camera so if you have any photographs or documents that you would be willing to share with us he can copy them then and there. We know that we have members whose families had wherry connections. Let's make sure that their stories are not lost.
- ◆ By the time you read this some of the history of our tender The Gem should be on wherry-maudtrust.org.

There is wherry 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.

WISE ARCHIVE—BROADS MARSHES AND MILLS PROJECT

The following describes the work being done:

WISEArchive, the local history group who collect stories about working lives are interested in hearing from anyone who has memories of living and working on the Broads and Marshland areas. Several people have already told their stories and they can be found on the website www.wisearchive.co.uk in the “Norfolk Marshes” section. Eventually they will be producing a book about life on the marshes and broads. They would like to hear from you. Contact admin@wisearchive.co.uk or **Olwen** at 01692 402856.

This is an interesting project and one that should appeal to those of our members who are keen on keeping history alive.

Two of our members, David High and Paul Reynolds have been interviewed and you can read their stories on <http://www.wisearchive.co.uk> and listen to excerpts from their interviews. In due course there should be other interviews with people who have been involved with the wherry scene.

FORTHCOMING WMT EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

9 August until early October - Maud will be out of the water at Burgh Castle for repairs and maintenance. You will be invited to view the work in progress.

October - a limited number of places will be available on the trip back to the Bure. Date to be circulated nearer the time.

18 November - Archive Afternoon at Acle. Wherry Maud Trust souvenirs such as fridge magnets and key fobs will be on sale and would make useful stocking fillers for Christmas.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

There will be talks by Linda on the following dates. If you know anyone living near those venues who might be interested in attending please let them know.

18 September - U3A at Shenfield in Essex

11 October - Probus in Diss

11 January 2018 - the local history group at the Galleywood Heritage Centre, Chelmsford, Essex

6 March 2018 - the Parkinsons Society in Norwich

26 June 2018 - U3A in Haverhill, Suffolk

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

Fri 13 Oct 2017- one of our members, Sue, a member of the Rogues Chorus, will be taking part in Shanties, Sails & Smugglers' Tales at the Seagull Theatre Lowestoft. 01502 589726 or www.theseagull.co.uk.

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.

Wherry Maud Trust
Newsletter No. 4



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