

# Maud Matters

## Newsletter No.5

Here we are at the beginning of a New Year.

We have more members than ever before and we hope many of you will participate in the varied programme of events we have planned for 2018.

If you can please do come to our lunch at Acle Bridge on Saturday 17th February. For other events please see details under Upcoming WMT events below.

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

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

“Since my last message to you all in August 2017 I have learnt of the successful completion of Maud's maintenance at Burgh Castle and the excellent results of the appeal for money to fund that maintenance. I was very pleased to learn that more members than ever before came to Burgh Castle in August and September to assist with the work. Their help enabled Maud to be re-launched earlier than expected. In addition, a plan has been set out for her further restoration in 2020 and 2023. In today's economic climate it is essential for charities such as ours to have plans for the longer term, so that funds and volunteers are available when needed.



Now we can look forward to a happy season of sailing when we all reap the benefits of the hard work last year. The programme of events contains some new fund-raising events like the Ranworth art show as well as old favourites such as Maud's attendance at the Beccles Charter weekend and of course plenty of day trips. Please do tell your friends and relatives about Wherry Maud Trust and encourage them to come and experience Maud for themselves. They will be made very welcome.”



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2017 Appeal Results ..... 2
- Out of water Maintenance ..... 2
- Grants Awarded ..... 3
- Upcoming WMT Events..... 4
- Associate Membership..... 5
- Late Summer/Autumn trips ... 5
- Social Events News ..... 6
- Skippers ..... 6
- Crew Matters..... 7
- Wherry Archive Story ..... 8
- Other Historic Vessels ..... 9
- Volunteering ..... 11
- Historical Research..... 12
- Broads Marsh & Mills Project . 12
- Social Media..... 13
- Other Events Upcoming..... 13

**Wherry Maud Trust**  
**Reg. Charity No. 1161285**

## FINANCIAL RESULTS OF OUR 2017 APPEAL

We are pleased to confirm the results as stated on wherrymaudtrust.org in October. Our total spend was £11555 and the appeal raised the extremely useful sum of **£3830.00** towards those costs, the remainder of which were paid out of the trust's reserves. Our grateful thanks again to those who donated so generously.

## MAUD'S OUT OF THE WATER MAINTENANCE 2017

The first task was a thorough inspection of the hull, a report to trustees of their findings and agreeing a schedule of work. This was rapidly achieved, a benefit of using Colin Buttifant's team again. Trustees were happy to accept the suggestion that a six-year plan would be appropriate. The plan consisted of replacing a few sections of planking in 2017 and further more substantial sections in 2020 and 2023, thus enabling the trust to build up funds to pay for the work.

By the completion of work in 2023 nearly all the bottom planking will have been replaced. We all know that wooden boats need periodic restoration work and Maud will be no exception. However the work of the Trust and the support of you, its members, will give her the best chance of surviving to sail for many more years.

Here are a couple of photos of Maud airborne. They will show those of you unable to view the lift for yourselves exactly what Maud looks like under the waterline.



*P9081032 Photo by Martin Carruthers*

## MAUD'S OUT OF THE WATER MAINTENANCE 2017 *CONTINUED...*



*P9081026 Photo by Martin Carruthers*

Should members wish to see more photos of the professional and volunteer work done while Maud was at Burgh Castle, there will be an opportunity to do so at the social event on 28th April.

## GRANTS AWARDED

Local members will have seen in the press that we successfully applied for two grants from Love the Broads in 2017. The largest award was £1500 towards the cost of a GRP tender to enable us to make winter trips in Maud and the second was £500 to fund materials to enable us to use Maud's hold for educational slide shows.

Grant funding is difficult to obtain and your trustees have to be careful to spend such money wisely. Hence at the time of writing we have purchased a sturdy second-hand tender but not put it in the water and trialled it. It is not the ideal time of year for such jobs but we are making progress as weather permits.

The purchase of a digital projector is the most expensive item to be purchased for educational purposes and once we have chosen the best model we will buy one. Then talks on board Maud at Beccles, at the Waveney River Centre and other venues will be able to go ahead.

## GRANTS AWARDED *CONTINUED...*



*New member Nick pictured after volunteers have given the new tender a coat of anti-fouling.  
W20180106 Photo by Linda Pargeter*

## UPCOMING WMT EVENTS

Events in the next few months will include the following:

- Lunch at the Acle Bridge Inn on Saturday February 17th
- Trips beginning in March
- On view at the Museum of the Broads at Easter
- Social evening and annual meeting for members on Saturday 28th April
- Art show at Ranworth Village Hall on May 6th & 7th

**For a full list please see Upcoming Events on [wherrymaudtrust.org](http://wherrymaudtrust.org)**



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 301 paid up members for 2017-18. We thought our target of 300 rather ambitious but it seems it was not. A few members have done a marvellous job of recruiting from family and friends, especially by gifting memberships for Christmas. **Please could you all renew your efforts to recommend us to your friends.**

Regretfully we have decided that we have to increase the annual subscription for associate members to £12 from 1 May 2018 with the junior subscription (16 and below) being increased to £6.

**Don't forget that we can supply gift membership certificates as presents for that special occasion.** A trip on Maud makes some very special memories. With the appropriate notice we can even supply birthday cakes!

**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.**

---

*“Don't forget that we can supply gift membership certificates as presents...”*

---

## MAUD'S LATE SUMMER & AUTUMN 2017 TRIPS

As Maud was re-launched and back at base by Monday 18th September we were able to fit in three trips in October. They were much enjoyed by existing and new members. We planned to continue into November but the only trip we had planned was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.

The trip on October 14th was memorable for trustee and trainee skipper Neil Thomas, as it was the first time that he had taken the helm for the whole trip under Kim's watchful eye.



## SOCIAL EVENTS AT THE END OF LAST SEASON

A "welcome back" viewing of Maud at Womack was staged on Saturday 21st October and about 20 people dropped in to see Maud, eat delicious home-made cakes and drink tea and coffee. There was also a display of photographs of volunteers painting and doing other jobs at Burgh Castle in August and September.

Our second Archive Meeting took place at Acle Church Hall on Saturday 18th November. Short talks and slide shows all had links to Maud's history or to those connected with it such as the river contractors Hobroughs. The talks were as follows:

- a slide-show and talk by Geoff Doggett who told us many interesting facts about the river Waveney and the locks on the canalised sections.
- Martin, our archivist, revealed some fascinating social history on the back of wherry postcards
- Linda Pargeter and Thelma Waller spoke about drawings of wherries and poems about them in the works of the late Ted Ellis and the late David Poole

The usual refreshments, tea, coffee and home-made cakes were provided. Our volunteer members do make some rather delicious cakes!

## SKIPPERS

*In each of the following newsletters we will profile one of our volunteer skippers, not in any specific order.*

**Jeff Stamps** joined our authorised skipper list in 2017 and some of you will have got to know him already. It is always interesting to learn people's background and how they got involved with wherries and Jeff kindly agreed to tell us something of his boating history:



Canoeist - Wild Water Racing and Marathon (medals at National and International races). Sailor - Wayfarer; Int'l 10sq m Canoe (British team at World Champs); River Cruiser RC45, Buccaneer sailed for 20 years, now sailing a Delphia 26 on the Broads.

Moved from Solihull to Stalham in 2010 and joined Norfolk Wherry Trust, progressing from Trainee Mate to present position of Skipper. Had brief association with WYCC, but now sails only Albion and Maud.

Also restores old boats, including Int'l 14's, sprint kayak from Mexico Olympics and full rebuild of 1913 'B' Class sailing canoe, 4, Pampatha.

Time now divided between winter maintenance of various boats and sailing them in the summer-time.



## NEW CREW MEMBERS IN 2017

Here we welcome some of our new crew members: Steve Hewitt, Steve Hiscox, Haydn Claridge, Trish Hudson and Nick Prior.

**Steve Hiscox** is certainly not new to wherries as he already volunteers on Albion and the Wherry Yacht Charter vessels.

**Steve Hewitt** is new to crewing on wherries but is very keen and will be doing his Power Boat Level 2 course this month.

**Haydn** is also new to wherries but not to boats or the broads.

**Trish** is our only new female crew. She is an experienced sailor, a past commodore of Hickling Broad Sailing Club, and keen to sail on Maud, other boating commitments permitting.

**Nick Prior**, a windmill enthusiast and a broadsman, has some "previous" as evidenced by a photo seen recently of him as a very young man quanting Albion.

## OTHER CREW NEWS

Last spring the first draft of our crew manual was produced. It is being revised, added to and re-formatted and the aim is to have the new version available this spring.

Some crew members are taking courses to improve their skills and by the time our season restarts will have Power Boat Level 2 and/or new First Aid certificates.



*Skipper Ian advising Steve on helming. Photo by John Cook.*

## A STORY FOR THE ARCHIVE FROM ONE OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

Unexpectedly an email appeared in the Wherry Maud Trust Inbox last autumn. It was from John Ecclestone in Canada, a cousin of one of our members. Subsequently John sent me a Christmas card featuring a photograph of wherries and wrote me the following account of his family connection with the photograph.

*“The picture on the front of our Christmas card was taken sometime around 1900 at Bunns Wharf, Great Yarmouth ... according to family lore it was initially thought to be Lowestoft, but my cousin Malcolm Kiddle, my Dad's sister's son, corrected this inaccuracy with the Bunns Wharf location. My Dad was visiting the Maritime Museum in Lowestoft some years ago, when he noticed the picture in the gallery. He was pleasantly surprised to see it was his father William Wodehouse Ecclestone at the helm of the wherry with the patched sail on the left, the Agenora, later renamed to the Mildred after WW's wife. Contacting the curator of the gallery he was able to obtain copies of the picture taken from glass negatives in the archives of the gallery. These copies he gave to us when he arrived back in Canada.*

*So this makes the person at the helm my grandfather, William Wodehouse Ecclestone, and in the photo he is at the helm with Mr Hardiment standing forward as they leave the harbour to go back to Norwich after taking on cargo. WW was the owner and Master of the wherry and flew a red cockerel from the masthead, you can just make it out in the picture. He had a prized berth at Bishop's Bridge in Norwich, a berth of privilege, to be won, so we are told ... “*



*Photo from John Ecclestone, Agenora with patched sail on the left. Timber laden wherry being quanted on the right. Family tradition was that two other people in the photo, maybe skipper and crew on the right-hand wherry, were Mr Cates and Mr Amos.*

## OTHER HISTORIC VESSELS AMAZING SURVIVALS IN ENGLAND

Another new member, Brian Corbett, a yachting historian suggested that we might like to learn about a couple of other restorations of boats of a similar age to Maud. They are a Tamar barge and a Rochester Bawley and their current operators have kindly supplied the following information.

### **Tamar Barge "Lynher"**

Barbara Bridgeman has sent us the following before and after photos and a potted history of Lynher's life. The photos show that even boats in worse condition than Maud can be resurrected.

The Lynher Barge is a typical Tamar sailing barge originally built in 1896 by James Goss of Calstock. The barge is registered in the Customs Records in 1896 with the correct dimensions of 52ft LOA, 18ft Beam and 4.5ft draught. At the end of her working life, she was hulked on her namesake river. 30 years later, an eccentric and ingenious Cornish inventor, Mr.Charlie Force, decided to dig her out of the mud by hand. After a 9 years rebuild with the help of expert boatbuilder Ralph Percy of Megavissey, the Lynher was re-launched. Sadly, Charlie Force passed away soon after and the barge was sold. In 2004 the Lynher was slipped up Cremyll Shipyard, on the Hamoaze with rot problems. In 2016 Lynher was donated to Dominic and Barbara Bridgman who established the Lynher River Barge CIC and proceeded to restore the barge which was re-launched in May 2017.



*Lynher as a wreck, photo by Barbara Bridgeman*

## AN AMAZING SURVIVAL IN ENGLAND CONTINUED...



*...and Lynher restored and sailing in 2017. Photo by Barbara Bridgeman.*

### **"Thistle", the last of the Rochester Bawleys**

We will feature Thistle's story in our next newsletter. If you would like to learn about her before then there is information on the web.

## OTHER HISTORIC VESSELS AN AMAZING SURVIVAL IN GERMANY

### **"Sampo", a former customs cutter**

In September last year when Maud was on the yard at Burgh Castle we had a visitor from Germany, Klaus, a relative of our archivist. He told us about a German project to restore and sail a traditional wooden vessel. The vessel was the "Sampo", a former customs cutter, built in Germany in 1896 and now converted to a gaff ketch. "Sampo" was one of a series of four customs cutters built for the Prussian customs service. She is probably the last remaining wooden workboat afloat to be built at the boatyards in Kiel. In 1992 the boat had been found in Denmark by three friends and repatriated to Germany.

After a couple of seasons sailing it became evident that "Sampo" needed more than three people to look after and sail her, so in 1993 they formed an association for her conservation and use. Currently there are 5 owners and 25 members of whom 12-14 are currently actively working on and sailing the cutter. It can take 16 people on board for day tours; when touring for several days 8 people can sail and sleep on board.

## AN AMAZING SURVIVAL IN GERMANY CONTINUED...

If any members wish to learn more about this vessel they can look at the website: <http://www.gaffelketch-sampo.de>. It does give an option to translate into English. "Sampo" is moored in the Museumshafen Kiel in the Hörn at the end of the Kiel fjord, and available for chartering with the crew. Anyone interested should contact Georg Frenzel <[frenzel.shg@t-online.de](mailto:frenzel.shg@t-online.de)>.



*Sampo under sail recently. Photo courtesy Martin Carruthers.*

## VOLUNTEERING FOR MAINTENANCE ON MAUD THIS WINTER AND EARLY SPRING

We have our reputation to consider. Last year Maud was the earliest wherry of the season to make a trip, even though that was only a short training trip using quants rather than sailing. However we also sailed three times in April whereas the Norfolk Wherry Trust and Wherry Yacht Charter usually do not sail until May.

Our first trip of 2018, to the Museum of the Broads at Stalham, is set for Saturday 24th March. Maud has to look smart by then and for that we need volunteers to clean and paint.

Depending on the weather we hope to have working parties at Womack on the following dates: Saturday 3rd February, Monday 19th February and/or Friday 23rd February, Saturday 10th and Saturday 17th March.

## OTHER VOLUNTEERING

As Wherry Maud Trust grows it is essential to get more people involved in the work of the trust. We need occasional help to do many things as well as regular help from people with more time to spare.

- ◆ **Showing visitors over Maud.** Talking to visitors is often an enjoyable opportunity for a chat with people from other areas and countries. On one occasion at Stalham our first visitor of the day was a Russian lady who had lived in Siberia! We do have notes to enable you to give key dates and information.
- ◆ **General Fund raising.** Ideas for fund raising events are most welcome. All ideas will be considered so please don't hesitate to come forward by contacting one of the trustees.
- ◆ **Crowd funding.** Is there anyone with experience who could advise the trustees on raising money via sites such as Just Giving?
- ◆ **Twitter.** A young or young-at-heart volunteer could usefully tweet about Maud and raise the profile of Wherry Maud Trust on social media.
- ◆ **Ebay fund raising.** We still need someone to come forward to sell donated items on Ebay. That could be a job for the boring winter months. **Would anyone like to help us with that?**
- ◆ **Admin tasks** ranging from keeping crew training records to holiday cover for our person handling booking for trips.



## HISTORICAL RESEARCH

There is wherry history that needs to be captured and recorded. Often a small snippet of family history can fill in a piece in the jigsaw. Things come to light from unexpected sources, such as the story of the Ecclestone family on page 8.

If you know anyone who might have any information at all please do ask them to contact Linda or another of the trustees. All information collected will eventually be digitised and made available to others doing research.

## WISE ARCHIVE

### BROADS MARSHES AND MILLS PROJECTS

In our previous issue there was a description of the work being undertaken by this project. There will shortly be a further interview on their website, this time featuring a conversation with Linda Pargeter, a Wherry Maud Trustee, in which Maud's rescue and restoration is discussed. See [www.wisearchive.co.uk](http://www.wisearchive.co.uk) .

The Archive are also hoping to record an interview with a well-known wherry skipper this year. Watch this space.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET

Our FACEBOOK page, [www.facebook.com/wherryMaudTrust](http://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](http://wherrymaudtrust.org) has been updated with a few new articles about **Maud's activities** this year but due to Maud's busy calendar of events has not been developed further.

We urge more of you to view the Upcoming Events section and book trips ahead with Linda this year. That helps with organising trips and members avoid missing a trip that they would have enjoyed.

**You will be alerted by email when substantial amounts of new information are put on.**

## OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

There are talks about Maud on some of the following dates. If you know anyone living near those venues who might be interested in attending please do encourage them to go along.

If you can suggest other opportunities for trustees to talk to local groups about Maud we would appreciate hearing from you.

**6 March 2018** - Talk on Maud to the Parkinsons Society in Norwich

**14 March 2018** - Harlow Heritage Society

**13 April** - one of our members, Sue Day, sings with the Rogues Shanty Chorus. For information please look at the programme for the Seagull Theatre Lowestoft.

**26 June 2018** -Talk on Maud to U3A in Haverhill, Suffolk

**17 August** - Talk to the Friends of Diss Museum

## CONTACT US

To book places, volunteer, give feedback or give suggestions for events, Linda can be contacted by email: [admin@wherrymaudtrust.org](mailto: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. 5

