

Maud Matters

Newsletter No.6

Your trustees are happy with Wherry Maud Trust's progress and glad that this year we have even more members who take an active part in sailing on Maud, maintaining her and showing her off to the wider public.

We should all celebrate the fact that this year there are eight wherry-rigged vessels afloat. Each plays an important role in the Broadland wherry scene and your membership and support enables Maud to play her part.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

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

“It has been interesting for me this year to see how Wherry Maud Trust is growing and using new ways to bring "our" wherry to the attention of the public and of course to generate funds for her upkeep.



In May I was pleased to attend the Wherry Maud Trust art exhibition at Ranworth. It showcased the work of local artists and was the Trust's first large-scale funding event . The success of the event was due to the many volunteers who helped over the two days. Volunteers were serving light refreshments, meeting and

greeting the public and explaining the purpose of the event and the importance of Maud in the Broads scene. A visit from BBC Radio Norfolk Treasure Quest helped to publicise the event. From the lane leading to the Village Hall, Maud looked really splendid sitting on the Broad and we were so lucky with the weather.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the Trust and I am gratified to hear that more people are volunteering as crew and helping with events. Maud will be venturing into Norwich for the Heritage Open Days this September and the Trust will need a team of keen helpers for that period. It can be most enjoyable talking to the public and passing on your enthusiasm for Maud so I hope to hear that more people have come forward.”



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Wherry Maud Trust
Reg. Charity No. 1161285

GRANTS AWARDED



We reported in Newsletter No. 5 that two grants had been obtained from Love the Broads and in this section you will see how the money has been spent.

In 2018 Love the Broads have again generously awarded us a grant of £250 to buy a generator for an independent power supply for maintenance work at Ludham and for use while on tours away from base. The generator will be used to re-charge batteries for bilge pumps and lighting and also to run the projector when we are doing several slide shows in a day .



*Love the Broads. Presentation of awards to 11 projects including the WMT generator.
Picture Lynn Finnigan*

Now to confirm how the 2017 grants were spent...

Firstly the new tender "Silver Star" has proved to be sturdy and will push Maud along nicely when wind and tide are adverse. So far this year we have taken both tenders on our trips. This has the advantage that one tender can remain in place to push Maud when needed, while the other can be used to take members away from Maud to take photos of her. It also increases our ability to operate safely as one tender can always be available for rescue work in the unlikely event of anyone falling in the water.

Secondly a new projector was purchased and trialled in Maud's hold at Easter at the Museum of the Broads at Stalham. Slide shows on board were an added attraction for visitors on what was an extremely wet weekend. The projector has since been used at other venues to assist with talks about Maud as well as at the Beccles Charter weekend. We have plans for further talks going into the autumn. A recent request for a talk in 2019 has come from as far away as Manchester! By giving talks we can spread the word about Maud, wherries and the Broads in general as well as generating some regular income.

STOP PRESS : MAUD AT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS (HODS) AT PULL'S FERRY IN NORWICH THIS AUTUMN...

We are delighted to tell you that Maud will be taking part in Heritage Open Days for the first time.

The public can learn about Maud by booking a **tour and slideshow lasting just one hour**. These are taking place at 2-hourly intervals (10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm) on both Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th September.

Booking is via email to admin@wherrymaudtrust.org, or by phone 01379 677666.

You may have friends who are not familiar with HODS so do tell them that during the period 6-9 and 13-16 September in Norwich they can visit places that are not normally open to the public, **free of charge**. Brochures are available at libraries and online at www.heritageopendays.org.uk. There are drop-in events as well as bookable events such as ours.

MAUD'S WINTER MAINTENANCE 2018

Between 1 February and 17 March we held 4 major working parties at the base at Ludham, with a few small sessions in between.

In spite of bitter weather volunteers achieved a lot. Some jobs are done each year and others at longer intervals. Thanks to Mike the stove in the cabin was disassembled and all parts cleaned and painted before being reassembled, a job that had been neglected for a few seasons.

Thanks to Ruth and Gertraud a lot of white paint in the hold was freshened up, while more hardy souls like David were painting outside. Another special "thank you" goes to Nicki and Roger who began work on the name boards on site, only to decide that it would be better to finish the job in their workshop at home. The last time the name boards looked that good was when they were new, a splendid job.



MAUD'S TRIPS AND OTHER EVENTS FROM MARCH TO THE END OF JULY 2018

Our first sail was on 24th March. The trip was a passage to the Museum of the Broads at Stalham and those on board were 50% existing members and 50% new members who had been gifted their membership by others at Christmas 2017. We do appreciate it when our members introduce their friends and family. Unfortunately it was extremely wet at Easter so we didn't have a great number of visitors at the Museum. Those who did come benefitted from an un-crowded space to view the exhibits and some ducked under the covers on Maud for slide shows and ended up spending more time than they had thought chatting and learning about Maud's history.

After two weeks at Stalham we returned to Womack which was to be our base until mid-June.

This year we had scheduled three events as part of the Broads Outdoors Festival, with the aim of supporting tourism in the Broads and making the public more aware of Maud. The first event was "Maud on view at Thurne" on 29 April. It was a bitterly cold day with strong wind so unfortunately, for the safety of Maud and those on board, we decided that it was prudent to cancel. We had good weather for the second viewing of Maud at Thurne on 19 May and had some interested visitors on board.

In between the viewings above, during the early May Bank Holiday we had our third event in the Outdoors Festival programme - the **Wherry Maud Trust Art Exhibition at Ranworth Village Hall**. This was the first major fund-raising event that our trust had staged and it raised about £600.

Volunteers put in many hours of hard work to achieve that result. We are already planning a bigger and better exhibition for 2019.



Three volunteers setting up the Exhibition, masterminded by Hilary, centre. Photo by Linda Pargeter

MAUD'S TRIPS & OTHER EVENTS CONTINUED

Our next trip after the exhibition was with Trustee Neil Thomas and some other members who are his fellow bell-ringers. The trip was staged because Neil knew that our skipper, Bill Housden, had done some bell-ringing in his youth. Bill was "encouraged" to see if he still had the skill to ring and he proved that he had not forgotten.



Well done Bill! Photo by Linda Pargeter

On 2nd June we had a trip to St Benet's to view the Three Rivers Race. An attempt to reserve a mooring failed but we put down mud weights in the reeds and ferried members ashore when they wanted to stretch their legs and look round the Abbey ruins.

The weather was kind. On board were 12 members, two of whom were on holiday from France and had been gifted their membership by existing members who won the raffle at Ranworth Art Exhibition. The most enthusiastic junior member so far this year was on board with his parents. Ralph, aged 10, happily helmed the tender (under supervision) and learnt to push Maud with a quant "planted" by a taller crew member.

On 8 June it was time to begin our journey to Beccles, the first leg being Ludham to Acle Bridge. A beautiful evening drifting down river. On the following day we crossed Breydon with Kim as skipper and Malcolm as trainee skipper and arrived at Hardley in the evening. On 23rd June Maud was open to visitors for the Hardley Summer Frolic, a beautiful evening with bar, BBQ and music. The final leg of the trip was on 29 June and Maud arrived at Beccles that evening with Peter Johnson as skipper.

The Beccles Charter Weekend was on 30 June and 31 July and Maud was again the only wherry present. Historic vessels were moored at Hippersons Boatyard and were open to the public, free of charge, for the two days. We staged loading demonstrations as in 2017 but had two new Wherry Maud Trust attractions this year. Local author Chris Crowther did readings from his new children's novel Time-cruiser set on the Broads and signed copies of his book. We also had a slide show of Maud's history on board on the Sunday evening. Grateful thanks to Chris and to our volunteers who talked to the public about Maud and the trust's activities.

It was time to move on again and on 8 July we set sail for the Waveney River Centre.

MAUD'S TRIPS & OTHER EVENTS CONTINUED...

Arriving earlier than we thought we were able to make a detour into Oulton Broad and back to the River Centre where we had arranged to moor for a fortnight. On Sunday 15 July Chris Crowther again came on board and talked to children about Timecruiser. For all of them it was the first time that they had met a real live author. Unfortunately we were not very busy that weekend due to Wimbledon final, a certain football match final and Latitude. We will plan the timing of a future visit better.



Photo by Linda Pargeter

A return to Hardley on 22 July was the next trip and the weather was just as hot as before. Some friends of our crew member, Glyn, had joined as members and booked for the trip all bringing their ukuleles which they played as we went along.

At the end of July Maud was back at Hardley with the prospect of a trip on 5th August and another summer evening by the river with Friends of Hardley Windmill on 18th August. Grateful thanks to those Friends who keep an eye on Maud while she is there.



UPCOMING WMT EVENTS

Maud will be based at Hardley until, at the beginning of September, we start to make our way to Norwich for the Heritage Open Days. Members will be notified of places available on each stage of the journey but for a full list please see Upcoming Events on wherrymaudtrust.org.

- After HODS closes on 16th September we will be beginning the first stage of the journey back to Ludham, with the aim of arriving there on 19th or 20th September.
- Two October day trips are planned and other trips may take place in late autumn and winter depending on the weather.
- An entertainment evening on 27 October at Hoveton Village Hall is being organised by two of our volunteers. The main feature will be a second screening of the film *Vanishing Sail* that we showed at Halesworth in January.
- A date has yet to be set for our tea, cakes and archive event in November but you will be notified before long.

For a full list please see Upcoming Events on wherrymaudtrust.org

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

At the end of July we had 219 paid up members for 2018-19. With your help we will again reach the 300 mark by the end of February 2019.

Our aim is to ensure that we give our local members enjoyable events to attend so that they remain members in the long term and look forward to watching Maud's progress and meeting each other at least a few times each year. For our members who live further afield (and we have members in the States and Canada) we keep them informed about the Trust's activities by regular emails and via this newsletter.

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.

CREW NEWS : MEET THE SKIPPER



In the last newsletter, and not in any particular order, we began putting in a profile of one of our volunteer skippers. In this newsletter it will be Ian Scowen, seen on the left in the picture (above) supervising one of our members at the helm.

Most wherry skippers have taken part in waterborne activities from an early age and Ian is no exception. He writes as follows:

"I began canoeing in Medford at the age of 6 years, but when the family moved to Sussex I purchased my first dingy, a Mini Sail Sprint, and sailed with the local club along the south coast and attempted a few MiniSail nationals.

In the early 1970s I moved abroad to the Solomon Islands and again purchased a small sail catamaran and continued sailing in and around the Florida group of islands.

On returning to the UK and moving to Norfolk, now with my wife Rita and a young family, I worked in the Oil and Gas industry as an electrical technician and then as an OIM (Platform Manager) for 23 years.

During this time I started crewing on Broads Racing Yachts and eventually purchased in 1996 Pirate, a 30ft 1901 Walter Woods-designed racing yacht and commenced restoring in 2001.

On retirement I joined The Norfolk Wherry Trust and commenced crewing, starting as a trainee mate and then promoted to Skipper in 2015."

NEW CREW IN 2018

Here we welcome some members who are already, or we hope will soon be, on our crew list: Inger, Eamon, Neil and Adrian.

Inger has recently reduced her working hours and wants to do more sailing. She has previous experience on Albion and has already crewed a few times on recent trips.

Eamon is a keen sailor and has always wanted to sail a wherry. He comes out on Maud frequently and will be joining our crew list as a trainee.

Neil is an experienced crew member with both the other wherry trusts and we hope will be able to spare the time to sail as crew on Maud sometimes in the future.

Adrian is also a keen sailor who has joined as a member recently. Interestingly he is an artist who has painted Maud several times. Our trust is about to start selling some of his greetings cards. You will have an opportunity to buy before Christmas.

OTHER CREW NEWS

We now have a more comprehensive Crew Manual as a point of reference for skippers and crew.

OTHER HISTORIC VESSELS AMAZING SURVIVALS

You may remember that in the last issue 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. We featured a Tamar barge in Newsletter No. 5 and it is now the turn of Rochester Bawley "Thistle".

"Thistle", the last of the Rochester Bawleys

THISTLE RR2 is 130 years of age - an old beautiful boat.



THISTLE on the left, racing with sailing barge Greta following. Photo supplied by Lena Reekie.

She is the last of the Rochester bawleys, built by Gill in 1887. She has a 34ft keel, 13ft beam and 5ft draft. After a long working life out of Rochester and Gravesend a smack and bawley enthusiast found her sunk in Kingston-on-Thames. He acquired her in 1976 and, having rescued her from an almost certain bonfire, began a thorough rebuild to get her back afloat and sailing again. A remarkable achievement by one man.

THISTLE was later owned and sailed by a local yachtsman and based at Hollowshore near Faversham. With her loose-footed mainsail, very tall top mast and low bowsprit she was a beautiful sight and often seen sailing in the Swale, Medway and on the East Coast.

Sadly, about 10 years ago, she was no longer looked after, finally sunk again, and no longer wanted. It seemed to be the end as she was about to head for the chainsaw.

THISTLE : AN AMAZING SURVIVAL CONTINUED...

But - it was NOT the end. A group of friends from Iron Wharf (Faversham) was so appalled by her demise that they decided to act quickly. They got the 'go ahead' to re-float the old bawley and at the end of July 2017 she was towed to Iron Wharf. The group also purchased her sails (which were in quite good condition) and a smack boat dinghy from the previous owner. They also have the mast which on the Medway bawley was stepped in a tabernacle to be able to 'shoot' Rochester bridge. Topmast and bowsprit will have to be found.

In October 2017 THISTLE was lifted out for a short time to assess the work and cost for future work. The old engine came out and will have to be replaced. She was stripped and re-caulked below water-line and then re-launched back in the creek for the winter. We recommend that those interested in wooden boat-building look on Facebook at the pics and videos of the work being done. A very good record of what volunteers can learn to do. THISTLE would need new covering boards and new decks as well on some new planking.

Over the winter a lot of planning was done and work resumed in June this year. In mid-July THISTLE took part in the 6th Annual Nautical Festival at Faversham and had a stall selling nautical bits and bobs to raise money. The Facebook pics show that this is an event worth attending.



The 'owners' have many skills between them and much enthusiasm but unfortunately very limited funds. They aim to supply all the labour and raise money only for materials. In 2017 they had a successful crowdfunding project and that enabled them to complete the work on the hull. This is a project that deserves support from other wooden boat enthusiasts as well as the general public.

OTHER HISTORIC VESSELS - ONE OF OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATES THE 100TH YEAR OF HIS "PRAWN".

Bill Glover is justly very proud of his Norfolk Punt "Prawn" and writes as follows:

"100 years old, a survivor, a fine craft and a blast to sail! Built in 1918 by Walter Woods (snr) of Potter Heigham for 'quanting, rowing and sailing' and now the only original gunter/gaff rigged punt still sailing.

Gun punts and sailing punts in Norfolk are intertwined by history.

Wildfowling for the table, and later for sport, proliferated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Gun punts were either shoved (quanted) or paddled around the broads and rivers. Propulsion by quant and oar is all very well for close quarters stalking but punting across open water is back-breaking work. Hoisting a sail to lessen the labour when sailing downwind, wildfowlers soon discovered that the slim, shallow draft, double-ender sailed like a phantom.

With the development of boating and sailing for pleasure, the progression towards a punt with a centreboard, rudder and a sail rig to suit was inevitable.

One such craft was Shrimp, built in 1916 for 'quanting', also by Walter Woods (snr) and only 17ft long, she was probably the first Norfolk Punt after the Great War to be equipped for racing.

Prawn followed on soon after. 19ft 9ins (a bit under 6m) long and originally rigged with a balanced lug sail and jib, she was surprisingly quick. Records by her first owner, Harold A Morris, a founding member and the first commodore of the Norfolk Punt Club, indicate that, out of 127 race starts over a period between 1924 and 1933, she won 55 races. Her best years being 1927 and 1928 when she won 25 out of 30 races.

The sail number, 19, came off Harold's Restricted Norfolk 14ft dinghy when it was allocated a new number by the RYA and is not related to the chronological order of punt builds. At some point in the early '30's, the lug sail was changed in favour of a gunter/gaff rig.

As Harold's health declined she was sailed in 1932 and 1933 by his son, and later to be Olympic gold medallist, Stewart Morris.

Very little is recorded after Harold died in 1935. She is known to have only three subsequent owners between 1936 and 2007 when I became her custodian.

Later punts were given the more modern Bermuda rigs but Prawn, still sporting her gunter/gaff rig was eventually outclassed.

When I first saw her in 2007, stowed away in a barn, she looked in a very sorry state, dirty, covered in leaves and various 'creature' droppings with a completely rotten foredeck, a moth eaten main sail and no mast or jib. However, the remainder of the woodwork was surprisingly sound. She was exchanged, as a restoration project, for a case of Claret.

OTHER HISTORIC VESSELS - “PRAWN” CONTINUED...

I had no previous experience for something like this. To be honest, I really had no idea what I was doing! I did know, however, that if I was going to stand any chance of making a proper job of the restoration, I would have to engage the services of 'proper' craftsmen.



Photo provided by Bill Glover from his collection

I stripped her back to bare wood and then asked Paul Bown, an exceptional craftsman boatbuilder, to carry out the necessary repairs and improvements. Collars of Dorchester on Thames supplied the mast and the sails were made by Mike McNamara of Catfield. Her bamboo gaff and boom are original and very light. I added modern 'conveniences' such as buoyancy bags and bailers and after many long days and late nights of painstaking work she was relaunched in July 2008.

At only just over 4ft (1.25m) wide and with a freeboard of only 5ins (12.5cm), she can be quite a lively boat to sail and the occasional capsize is not unknown!

Prawn is however not a museum piece. She is regularly sailed and raced at the Norfolk Punt Club on Barton Broad, and has twice taken part in, and completed, the gruelling 3 Rivers Race, and in the process she has raised over £5000 for Cancer Research.

She is much loved and a true classic of the Norfolk Broads.”

VOLUNTEERING

We would be pleased to hear from you if you are able to help with any aspect of practical or admin work. A long commitment is not necessary, but if, for example, you can help for a few hours at any of our events it will be much appreciated.

As this newsletter demonstrates we are always keen to put on different events to give enjoyment to existing and new members and to raise funds for Maud.

We need your help to make a success of those events. This year is proving that we have members with hidden skills and talents.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET

Our FACEBOOK page, www.facebook.com/wherryMaudTrust is feeling a bit neglected. A reminder 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.

Members are encouraged to post on the site.

Linda is happy to report that more use is being made by members of the Upcoming Events list on our website wherrymaudtrust.org to see what trips are planned and make an early booking. Some groups have found our website and contacted us to give talks to them, all useful for raising Maud's profile.

Who has heard of The Marine Quarterly? "112 pages of intelligent sea reading".

Go to www.themarinequarterly.com to buy a single issue or take out a subscription. *A Christmas present for someone who has everything?*

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Talks about Maud

There are upcoming talks to various groups about Maud on the following dates. If you know anyone living near those venues who might be interested in attending please do encourage them to go along. Details of venues etc under Education/Upcoming Talks on our website or by email from admin@wherrymaudtrust.org

- ◆ Beetley, 2nd Oct 2018
- ◆ Chelmsford, 13th November 2018
- ◆ Norwich, 14th November 2018
- ◆ Brentwood, 7 January 2019
- ◆ North Walsham, 1 February 2019
- ◆ Brundall, 11 February 2019
- ◆ Bawdsey, 23 February 2019

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

A musical play set on a wherry

At the Turning of the Tide, a tale of waterways and river people.

Do look out for performances of this play at a venue local to you. Several members saw it in the grounds of the Castle in Norwich and it is highly recommended.

Well done to Jo Edye, writer and producer.



CONTACT US

To book places, volunteer, give feedback or give suggestions for events, Linda can be contacted by

- email: admin@wherrymaudtrust.org
- or 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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