

Maud Matters

Good news at last!

We have been able to re-start members' trips. The first was on 26th June and there have been seven of them since then.

Our trustee Neil Thomas has qualified as a Maud skipper and our new trainee crew members are making excellent progress.

Several people have volunteered to help with cleaning and painting Maud while she is out of the water for maintenance at Goodchild Marine, Burgh Castle, in September. We will be scheduling working parties nearer the time.

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter.

Message from our Patron

Sir Richard Jewson KCVO JP has sent us the following message:



Another six months have passed and, as many predicted, Covid 19 is still very much a part of daily life. We have all got used to taking sensible precautions to prevent the spread. At last, however, we have more optimistic news about Maud sailing. It was good to hear that members' trips resumed at the end of June.

A very important thing for all charities as we get back to normal activities is to recruit more members and to encourage all new and existing members to spread the word about their charities. There are many benefits of membership of Wherry Maud Trust. For all members there is the feeling of helping to preserve an important part of our East Anglian heritage as well as the social

benefits of belonging to a friendly group of like-minded people. It is encouraging to learn that this year the Trust has already gained 23 new members and that one of them has become a trainee crew member.

Another important task is to re-build the finances of the charity. Some existing members of Wherry Maud Trust have put their time and effort into a crowdfunding campaign to buy a new support boat for Maud. The campaign has required the Trust to expand its social media presence.

You will learn in this newsletter that the Trust's current programme for training skippers and crew is making good progress. A new crew training log has been introduced to document the skills learned and practiced by each trainee. A clear explanation of how to progress to the next crew level is included so that trainees know what is required of them.

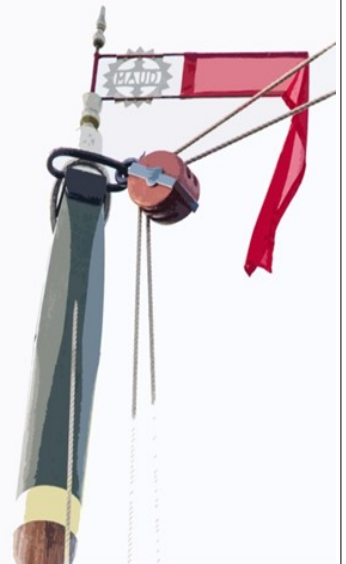
We all look forward to the time when other Trust activities such as the Art & Craft Show and Film Evening can take place. Both those events are scheduled but we have learnt that it is hard to predict with certainty that such events will take place. The trustees are tentatively planning a small outdoor event in the autumn to celebrate Maud's return from her major maintenance at Burgh Castle.

Some of you may remember seeing small booklets about Maud that the Pargeters produced when in the early stages of the restoration. A new booklet with much more detail about Maud's history will be available by the time this newsletter reaches you. I look forward to reading it.

Stay well and enjoy the rest of this summer. My very best wishes to you all.

Wherry Maud Trust
Reg. Charity No. 1161285

Newsletter No. 12
August 2021



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Associate Membership

At the time of writing, we have 216 paid up members for the year to 30 April 2022. Sadly numbers dropped during the pandemic. A couple of years ago we had around 300 members. This year with a short season we will struggle to recruit members, most of whom join initially to make at least one trip. Please do help us by telling colleagues, friends and relations about Wherry Maud Trust.

Members' Trips

At the end of July one of our members celebrated his birthday on Maud. After the trip he kindly sent a message which included the following:

"...a big thank-you for a wonderful day's sailing on Maud, not to mention the birthday card and cake! We had a great time, and it was one of the most memorable birthday treats I've had (and that includes flying a jet aircraft and parachuting).....We have also made new friendsThanks again, and we'll be back for a second trip some time."



Photos: Graeme Taplin

For the first few trips of the season Maud's trustees decided to limit numbers on board to 10 and to gradually increase that number. As of 19 July we increased to 14.

It has been so good to get together again. People have been confident that, with most of us double jabbed and out in the fresh air, the risk of catching Covid is minimal.

At the time of going to press we have just a few places left on August members' trips.

Maud will be out of the water at Burgh Castle during September.

We hope to run some members' trips in October and November but only if the weather is suitable. It will be a bonus if we have a golden autumn.

Some members will remember that in 2019 there were October and November trips on Maud. They were very popular indeed. We have some beautiful photos that were taken on the November trip to Horning. It was a sunny autumn day with very blue skies and a fair wind. Skipper Kim Dowe and all on board were wrapped up well and thoroughly enjoyed the trip.



Volunteering

The good news is that, although membership numbers have fallen, we have an increased number of volunteers. Some take on regular tasks such as crewing while others help on an “as needed” basis. All are extremely valuable and keep the Trust running smoothly.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance has been minimal this year as Maud was used so little last year.

At a small and socially-distanced working party on 14th May Dave Paddick, Mike Delf and Linda painted Maud’s decks as bare wood was showing in some places.

We will be asking for volunteers to help with painting Maud’s hull above the waterline and painting the bin irons (the iron strips round the edge of the deck) as those jobs have to be done while she is out of the water. Some people have already come forward but more will be needed and we will be sending out an appeal for help. You have been warned!

Progress with spending on The Water, Mills & Marshes grant for the Pop up museum and displays

You may remember that we obtained the grant to do three things. The first phase was to have the photo cut out boards made up. We used them for the first time in 2019. The second phase was to install in the hold photo boards depicting Maud’s life. The third and final phase was to design and make up displays for the interior of the Pop Up Museum. New members will be able to read more in our February 2021 newsletter.

This spring a trial board for the displays in the hold was made up and declared successful. We will be having the rest of the boards made up in the autumn/winter. They will then be ready for when we have Maud Open Days in 2022.

We gathered information about digital displays for the Pop Up Museum and intend to make purchases in the autumn/winter.

To read how volunteers are helping with other matters, there are separate sections below on training, fundraising and archive work.

Wherry Watercolours



Kind members occasionally donate items for us to sell to raise money for Maud. These two small watercolours fall into that category. The left-hand painting is clearly of Albion while the right-hand one appears to be of a clinker-built wherry in earlier times. The frames are quite old and each measures approx. 11” (28cm) x 9.25” (23.5cm).



Would anyone like to give a home to either of them in exchange for a small donation to WMT?
Please email Linda on admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.

Training trips and other training matters from May to July 2021

In this period seven trips took place with up to six regular crew and trainees on board but no other members. On normal trips the crew have constantly to be mindful of members on board and their safety. While on training trips they can concentrate on practicing skills that they may not have used for some time, and on learning new ones.

When crew members attended their first training trip of the season they received their new training log book and were advised on how to complete the forms it contained. The logs will be reviewed on an annual basis.

A newly qualified Maud skipper

On 29th May our trustee Neil Thomas had his assessment trip for



progression to qualified skipper and Jeff Stamps was able to

approve his promotion. Neil is the first of our trainee skippers to qualify. By the end of July he will have been skipper on three members' trips and is thoroughly enjoying his new status.

Neil is also a keen photographer and was recently one of the winners in the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Photo Competition with a photo of Maud. All the winning photos will feature in the charity's calendar for 2022 and on their greetings cards. Here is a link:

[Photography competition winners - Priscilla Bacon Hospice](#)

Other trainee skippers

Trainee skippers Eamon Green and Malcolm Duffield are following on Neil's heels and we hope they will soon qualify. They have to juggle the training with their day jobs and, in such a short season, the problem is getting enough trips to practice.

Trainee mates

We have at least three experienced crew members who are intending to progress to mate. Due to lack of trips this season they may not qualify until 2022.

Trainee crew

Eight trainee crew members (Simon, Inger, Tony, Nicki, Niklas, Malcolm, Dave and Haydn) have had opportunities to learn more. For some new members it is a shock to realise the physical strength needed for quanting and lowering the gaff, but they learn correct techniques in order to minimise the strength needed.

Thanks to all these members of crew, especially our skippers, without whom we would be unable to sail Maud frequently.

WHERRY MAUD TRUST

Crew Training Log Book

Name:

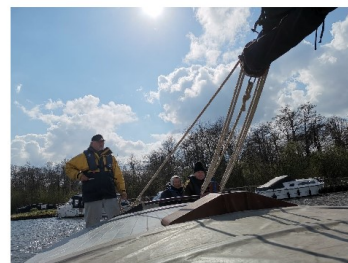


Photo by Malcolm Duffield

Meet the Skipper - Malcolm Duffield



Malcolm Duffield (left). Photo: Graeme Taplin

This photo, taken on 31 July, shows Malcolm on the tiller, with mate Neil Case standing on the deck next to him.

Malcolm has written a short history of his boating life for us below. With many hours under his belt helming, we hope that he will soon qualify as a skipper. Malcolm also crews with the Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust.

“I was born in Great Yarmouth and my family have been very involved in the Broads and in particular with the River Thurne since 1927 when my grandfather and great grandfather leased a plot on the Repps river bank and built one of the first bungalows.

I have been sailing since before I was born (my mother was also a keen sailor) and I was probably rowing boats almost before I could walk. Enjoying most weekends and some school holidays at Repps, I have a wide experience of sailing Broads yachts and half deckers, as well as dinghies. As well as Broads sailing, I have raced dinghies at sea from Gorleston and have sailed various yachts on the Solent and the Mediterranean Sea.

I was introduced to Maud about 10 years ago and have worked my way up from novice crew to trainee skipper. I am an enthusiastic member of our team, happy to undertake (almost!) any task on board.”

Fundraising

Our skippers have been advising us that Maud would benefit from a tender with a more powerful engine. You may remember that we obtained a grant for buying “Silver Star” in 2017. Having a fibre-glass boat with an outboard motor has solved the problem of winter sailing as Star does not have to be lifted out of the water in winter. However, her outboard motor is old and at the end of its life. The wooden, clinker built tender “The Gem” has an inboard engine that is not powerful enough to push Maud against strong winds and tides.

After due consideration, the trustees decided to raise money to buy a new fibreglass tender with a powerful inboard engine. A minimum of £10,500 would be needed.

It became evident that, in the wake of the pandemic, it would be difficult to obtain a grant. Other historic vessels have successfully raised money through crowdfunding and a team of volunteers pooled ideas and set up the GoFundMe campaign.

The initial sum needed from crowdfunding was £9,350 as £1150 had already been raised from donations and a bequest.

The success of crowdfunding is dependent on generating a large amount of publicity. The team has done an excellent job of this. Articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines including the following:

Eastern Daily Press
Norfolk Magazine

Classic Boat
The Harnser (Broads Society)

Practical Boat Owner
The Bugle

We are grateful to all those who have given us publicity.

STOP PRESS: we reached our target on 4th August and hope to take delivery by mid August.

Silver Star for sale

Our current tender Silver Star is now for sale, and the following advertisement will be placed shortly:

For sale - Silver Star, an Orkney Strikeliner



Silver Star. Photo: Linda Pargeter

This is a very sturdy 16' (approx. 5m) length, 6' (1.85m) width open boat of grp construction with three bench seats, a forward locker but no cuddy. It was previously used on the Norfolk coast for sea fishing but more recently has been in regular use on the Norfolk Broads. It comes with a well-used 6hp Mercury outboard + sea anchor + two fuel tanks and rowlocks. There is no trailer and buyer must collect.

If any member knows anyone who might be interested in buying will they please email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org or phone Linda on 01379 677666.



Archive

Some more progress has been made with digitising the Maud collection but work has slowed down over the spring and summer. We will be doing more over this coming winter.

We will be happy for you to contact Linda by email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org if either of the following apply:

- ⇒ If you have any wherry related material or reminiscences that you would like to share
- ⇒ If you wish to ask if we have any material about individual families or wherries.

Talks about Maud

Unfortunately the demand for talks has petered out due to the pandemic. We are very much hoping that when confidence returns and face to face meetings resume, we will again receive requests to talk to groups. The talks gave good opportunities to spread the word about Maud and to recruit members. They also provided a small but steady income.

If you belong to any groups who will be booking speakers in the near future please email Linda on admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.

Diary Dates

Heritage Open Days in Norfolk in September

Maud will be unable to be on show by the river as in recent years because she will be on the yard at Burgh Castle for major maintenance.

To continue to support these open days our member Graeme Taplin is producing a 4-minute video of Maud sailing. You may see yourself on it. Event listings go live on 9 August at 10am. Click on [Homepage | Heritage Open Days](#) to search for wherry events that you can attend in person or online.

Three-yearly maintenance

Maud will be lifted out of the water at Burgh Castle on 3rd September. It will be four years since the last lift out there in 2017. The lift will be accomplished by Alan Goodchild's team at Goodchild Marine Services Ltd. The skilled boatbuilding work will be done by Paul Buttifant and his team, with our volunteers doing much of the semi-skilled work such as spraying the inside of the hull with preservative and painting the outside. We hope that the work will be completed ready for re-launch by the end of September.

Maud's Return from Burgh Castle

We are hoping that Maud may be ready for re-launch and return to Ludham at the end of September. If our busy schedule permits there will be a "welcome back" event with refreshments in October.

Autumn Trips

These, as always, will be weather dependent and members will be invited by email to book on them. Sunny days in October and November are ideal for sailing on Maud as the rivers are less busy and trips offer the opportunity to take beautiful photos.

Art & Craft Show and Film Show in November

Sadly we have just learnt that Hoveton Village Hall will still be in use as a Vaccination Centre in November and we have to find another venue. We have timetabled these events for the weekend of 20 and 21 November and will email members once we have a venue booked. We do have an enjoyable programme ready for the Film Show.

The Art & Craft Show will enable artists and craftspeople to display their wares in time for Christmas and will help you all to find presents for those "difficult to buy for" people.

Archive Afternoon

Acle Parish Rooms has just re-opened and we hope to arrange an afternoon there before the end of the year or alternatively sometime during the winter months. We have in mind two possible speakers who we are sure would give entertaining and informative talks.

A New Year lunch and get together

You may remember that we were only able to run one social event for members in 2020 and that was the January lunch at the Thurne Lion : photo →

About 40 members came along and enjoyed watching a film of Maud on the screen after they had eaten their excellent lunch.

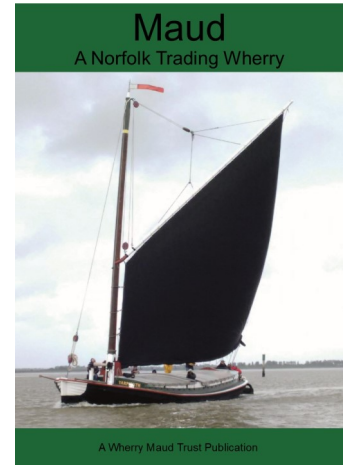
There will be a similar event in January or February 2022.



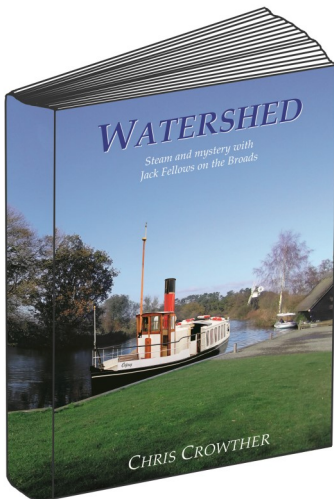
Recent Books

Maud – A Norfolk Trading Wherry

By the time you receive this newsletter a new booklet about Maud's history will be available for you to buy on board Maud and at future events. Our aim in writing the book was to tell our members and the general public about Maud's amazing story. The booklet is illustrated with both black and white and colour photos. We hope that even those who read previous booklets in the 1990s will find something new to interest them.



Watershed



This new novel is from Chris Crowther, the well-known writer of detective novels set on the Broads.

“When a group of steamboat enthusiasts choose the Norfolk Broads for their annual rally, Ranger Jack Fellows is delighted to be assigned to mentor them. However, the members of Steambuffs turn out to be as disparate as their classic craft and spooked from the start by a succession of strange visitations.

Could the shades of a two-hundred year-old Broadland steamship disaster really be haunting what was supposed to be a long-weekend of fun?

As pistons hiss and funnel-smoke trails astern, Jack senses impending trouble and, when events turn even darker, realises that nothing and no-one is quite what they seem.”

You can order from Chris Crowther's website. Alternatively, save postage and buy a copy on board Maud or at one of our events. Chris has kindly offered to come and sign copies at a future event, perhaps at the Art & Craft Show in November. Look out for dates from us.



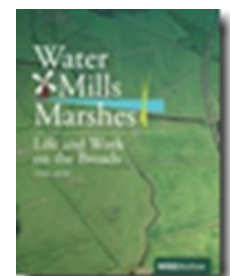
Water Mills Marshes

Water Mills Marshes – Life and Work on the Broads 1920-2020, ISBN 978-1-8381087-0-0 is still available to our members and their friends at a 20% discount on the purchase price. It features stories by some of our members as well as by others involved in wherries, boatbuilding and marshland management. Enthusiasts for the rivers and broads are bound to enjoy this book.

To buy telephone Barbara on 01603 626432. Books cost £12 if collected or £16 including UK post and packing, payment in advance.

Cheques payable to “WISEArchive”. Please include your name, address and phone number with the cheque. Address: WISEArchive, 4 Burton Close, North Walsham, NR28 0EX.

Or **bank transfer**: WISEArchive Sort Code: 20-62-57, Account No. 40302880 and put “Book + your name” in the reference. Please email admin@wisearchive.co.uk to say you have paid.



Obituaries

We have happy memories of trips made with the following people who have sadly passed away since our February newsletter.

Derek Gibbs

In March we were sad to learn of the death of our long-standing member Derek Gibbs. Derek had been a good friend to Maud and her owners from soon after Maud's restoration. He gave advice about sailing and kept those on board entertained with his stories. At working parties, if a new task needed doing, Derek would always declare, with a serious look on his face, that he had read how to do it in a book the night before and then proceed to demonstrate. He was always happy to pass on his knowledge. Derek was an enthusiastic and skilled volunteer on the Lord Nelson, the training ship for the disabled. He must have been sad when Lord Nelson was decommissioned in 2019, although her sister ship on which he also sailed continues to be operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust.



Derek Gibbs. Photo: Linda Pargeter

If you wish to hear an example of Derek's stories listen to <http://voicesofhickling.co.uk/d-gibbs-1.html>.



Dirk Bouwens. Photo: Linda Pargeter

Dirk Bouwens

In June, Dirk Bouwens, another good friend of Maud in the early days, passed away. Dirk was a building conservationist and clay lump specialist. He was an enthusiast for both mills and wherries and frequently crewed on Maud in the early 2000s.

Anna Reeves

Anna died in July. She and her good friend John Cook had been coming on trips with us since 2016 and have been very supportive members. Anna was a great animal lover, being especially fond of cats. The photo shows Anna in the centre.

Billy Lacey

The last traditional marshman, Bill Lacey, also died in July. You can hear a BBC "Last Word" interview with his daughter, which uses some WISEArchive recording too, here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09qxgy1>

Condolences

Our condolences to the friends and families of these kind people.



Anna Reeves (centre). Photo: John Cook

Social Media, and Website



Our FACEBOOK page, www.facebook.com/wherryMaudTrust is updated regularly. Recently videos of Maud taken by Ian Wakefield and Graeme Taplin have been posted. **If you are not a Facebook user you can see Graeme's video by pasting this link into your browser: <https://vimeo.com/579043284>.** The film is of the training trip on Maud on 28 June plus some other footage.

Crowdfunding has prompted us to create more social media accounts. Wherry Maud Trust now has an Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/wherrymaudtrust> and a Twitter account <https://twitter.com/MaudTrust>. Both Instagram and Twitter also have Graeme's video.

Our website wherrymaudtrust.org normally carries a list of Upcoming Events. By the time you read this newsletter we intend to have updated that list to include future events we are planning to hold. The list will be updated when we have further news.



Please note: 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.

Contact us

- To book places, volunteer, give feedback or give suggestions for events, trustees can be contacted by email: events@wherrymaudtrust.org
- For membership matters please email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.
- Alternatively text Linda on 07990 523131 or call 01379 677666. Messages can be left on the answerphone and Linda will return your call.



Photo: Graeme Taplin