

Maud has a new mast

A new wherry mast is not something you can buy off the shelf. It takes time. The project of ensuring Maud has a spare mast began in 2020 and has only now been completed.

In 2020 timber was sourced for a spare mast. It was to be laminated from Douglas Fir as a log of sufficient size and quality could no longer be obtained.

The mast was made up by Broadland Boatbuilders at St Olaves and after rather a lot of skilled shaping the result is in the photo below.



*The sawn Douglas Fir log
photo: Mike Barnes*

*The new mast on 20 August 2021
photo: Henry Harston of Broadland Boatbuilders*

The new mast was put into storage until this year (2025) when it was decided to remove Maud's existing mast and install the new one. The old one would be inspected and stored until needed.

The masts were changed over at St Olaves in September, a process that involved having some new metal parts made, removing the counterbalance weight from the old mast and attaching it to the new.



*New crane iron at the top of the mast
photo: Nigel Gutteridge on 15 September*

Fitting the mast counterbalance weight on the bottom of the mast
Photo by Nigel Gutteridge on 17 September



The South River Marine crane lifts the mast
Photo by Nigel Gutteridge on 17 September

and lowers it into position in the
tabernacle
Photo by Nigel Gutteridge on 17 September





Maud at the start of her first voyage with the new mast
Photo by Linda Pargeter on 14 October

Maud made her first voyage with the new mast, from St Olaves back to her base in Ludham on 14th October. A journey with very mixed weather as shown in the photos but doesn't that mast look grand!

Sailing up the Bure
Photo by Linda Pargeter



Under tow for part of the journey
Photo by Linda Pargeter on 14 October



Users of social media will find many more photos on Facebook and members will be able to read a longer article in the February 2026 issue of our newsletter Maud Matters.

Linda Pargeter, 23 October 2025