

Maud Matters

This year we have had a full calendar of events to celebrate Maud's 125th year. Trustees and volunteers have worked tirelessly to organise the events, to raise Maud's profile and give enjoyment to members, visitors and bystanders. We are all about to redouble our efforts as there is a lot of maintenance work to be done in August and September.

We are looking forward to welcoming some of our new members at working parties. The trustees look forward to working with volunteers to get Maud ready so that members can enjoy sailing again in the autumn. Thank you all. We wish you an enjoyable second half of 2024.

Message from our Patron

Sir Richard Jewson KCVO JP has sent us all a message of support and encouragement:



Sir Richard on board Maud, 2023. Photo: Neil Thomas

This year many events have taken place to celebrate Maud's 125th birthday and I congratulate all those who have worked so hard to make it a very special year.

The highlight of the year has been a tour of the Broads covering the rivers Thurne, Bure, Yare, Wensum and Waveney. On 4th July Maud went under Fye Bridge and moored opposite Friar's Quay, the site where the Jewson timber yard, owned by my family, used to stand. You can read more about the tour on pages 2-5.

I personally enjoyed a sail aboard with some of my friends on the 14th May. It was my first opportunity to sail with skipper Jeff Stamps who not only acts as skipper but also does an excellent job organising crew training. In recent years a trip in May has become an annual event for me, and it has been much enjoyed by us all.

As I write a few more events are planned, the major one being the three-yearly maintenance at Goodchilds. That event begins with Maud's arrival at Burgh Castle on the 4th August and lift out on the 9th August and finishes when the work is completed towards the end of September. It is my intention to visit Goodchilds to see Maud on the yard and observe the boatbuilders at work. While Maud is there maintenance volunteers will be busy painting. Sailing will resume after the relaunch.

We are all hoping that the autumn weather will be kind and allow regular trips in October and November. None of this would have been achievable without the leadership and labour of the Trustees assisted by all the volunteers. I wish the Trustees every success in the second half of Maud's 125th Anniversary year.

Wherry Maud Trust
Reg. Charity No. 1161285

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Maud's 125th Anniversary Tour of the Broads

Our itinerary for the tour was detailed in two leaflets that have been on sale on board Maud. The intention was to give information about the places Maud would pass by or stop at, and the reason why they were considered significant in Maud's story. Those who wish will still be able to collect copies later this season. Below we will not repeat that information but we will add some photos of places taken during the tour.

Part 1 of the tour opened with a talk about Maud at Upton on Saturday 20th April in conjunction with Upton History Group. Maud should have made the trip from Womack for the occasion and been open for viewing at the end of Upton Dyke. That was not to be as the forecast was for rather strong winds and the sailing was cancelled. A walk round the village with Ginny from the Upton History Group was able to go ahead and was much enjoyed by a small number of members. Ginny is a mine of information about the buildings in the village. The talk was attended by a small but enthusiastic number of people and we gained a few new WMT members.

The Wherry Maud Trust Artists & Makers Show took place on 5th and 6th May at the Ranworth Village Hall. This has become a popular event for participants, the general public and members alike. It raises more money for Maud than any other of our events. It was much improved this year by having Maud alongside the Conservation Centre enabling visitors to support the show, to view Maud and to appreciate our reasons for raising money. It was an extremely significant mooring as Maud was sunk near the Conservation Centre at the end of her working life as a cargo carrier.

A couple of months before the show WMT had been given a model wherry by Ann Basey. In return for the gift we had promised to display the model and Ann



Ann Basey with the model. Photo: Nigel Gutteridge



Maud at Ranworth. Photo: Neil Thomas

came along to the show to see it and to view Maud. The model has a fascinating history. Her father won it in a raffle in the 1920s or 1930s at his place of work – Johnsons Fish Merchants in Great Yarmouth. Maybe one day we will find out if it was made by another employee.

Mal Duffield was hoping to add another stop to the tour by taking Maud to Acle Regatta for the weekend of 18/19 May to re-enact her visit there, decked with bunting, in the early 1900s. That was not to be because of a lack of available crew



that weekend. The Regatta Committee were pleased to buy a few of our new Maud mugs to give as prizes – see photo (right) of the Trophy Table.

We will try to include attendance at the regatta in our programme of events for 2025.



Part 2 of the tour began with the crossing of Breydon to the southern rivers on 16th June.

Maud's first destination was Hardley Mill, just downstream of Cantley Sugar Factory.

After exchanging a few emails with British Sugar, we were invited to moor Maud in front of the factory on Friday 21 June to re-enact her carrying cargoes of sugar beet there in 1935-7. One of our first thoughts was to make sure that Kim Dowe was on board. Why? Because Kim, a wherry skipper and son of wherry skipper Vic "Moses" Dowe, had brought a cargo of beet to Cantley from Great Yarmouth, single-handedly, when he was 13 or 14 years old. We asked Kim to come, and he was delighted to accept. Nicky Darrell and Roger Hewins offered to film an interview with Kim while at Cantley and you can view the result on our YouTube channel.



Photos: Nigel Gutteridge

From Cantley we made a trip into Rockland Broad, returning to moor above the Beauchamp Arms. A few days later, on 29 June, we continued upriver, making a stop at the Surlingham Ferry where we moored for lunch.

From Surlingham we made our way upriver, dipping the mast to go under the Postwick bridge. An opportunity was then taken to stop at the Broads Authority Dockyard where we had permission to take photos of Maud with, in the background, the cottage in which Maud's old skipper under engine, John Fox,



Above: Maud heading up the Yare. Dawn Falconer-Smith.

Right: John's Fox's cottage, Thorpe. Roger Scarff

had lived. During his lifetime the dockyard was owned by Hobrough and then later by May Gurney. The cottage garden is now overgrown with derelict boats and equipment around it.



Our last stop before going into the city of Norwich was at the Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club at Thorpe St Andrew. Maud stayed there until the 4th of July.

A trip on the morning of 4th July, the date of the election, proved to be very popular with our members. Maybe they were all avoiding the media coverage of the election. Unfortunately there were not enough places for all who would have liked to come along. Viewing the city from the river, and from onboard a wherry, is a unique experience not to be missed.



Photo: Linda Pargeter



Many photographs were taken of Maud's progress, especially from Foundry Bridge up to the Ribs of Beef. One of our enthusiastic followers filmed Maud from each bridge on the way. We may be able to show it to you at a film night over the autumn/winter. It is well worth watching, especially if you failed to secure a place on the trip.

Once at the Ribs we all had lunch and then got ready for customers of the pub to come onboard. From 2pm until 4pm we had a steady stream of visitors. They were able to view our Timeline Photos and talk to volunteers. Everyone is looking forward to a repeat visit next year, perhaps going even further upriver.

We returned to Frostbites that evening ready to start our journey back down river towards the Waveney.

We left Frostbites on 7 July to make the trip back to Beauchamp Arms. On the way Roger Scarff caught sight of Maud dipping the mast again to go beneath Postwick Bridge. We were fortunate that he had his camera ready to get the photo below. It was taken from Griffin Marina looking downstream before Maud got to the bridge.



Maud in Norwich. Photo: Adrian Wincup



Photo: Roger Scarff

It will be quite nostalgic coming to the end of the tour. Maud will be lifted onto the yard at Goodchilds at Burgh Castle on 9 August. The out-of-the-water maintenance is essential to ensure that Maud is kept in top condition. The plan is for the Buttifants boatbuilders from Swallowtail Boatyard at Ludham to replace two of the original bottom planks and make any other necessary repairs. From 6 August for a few weeks our band of volunteers will be working to do as much painting as the weather allows so that Maud looks smart again when she is re-launched.

In the afternoon of the 7th July we returned to the mooring at Beauchamp Arms where Maud was due to stay for a few days. On the 11th Eamon as skipper, with Kim Dowe advising and taking the tiller part of the way, sailed to Oulton Broad, mooring at the Yacht Station.

At the time of writing the most recent leg of Maud's tour has been to Beccles on 13 July where she is currently moored at Hipperson's Yard.

The final two trips of the tour will take place on 1 August back to Oulton Broad and on 4 August onward to Burgh Castle, probably via the New Cut. We have a full complement of 14 people including crew on both those trips.



Associate Membership

From 1 March 2024 to date we have gained 55 new members. Whilst we still have to delete those who have so far not renewed this year, we are confident that membership will be at or above the 350 that we recorded last year.

For our new members a reminder that membership confers the right to book for trips and there is no charge for bookings. To cover our running costs, we do ask those who come on trips to consider putting a suitable donation in the box. Please do bear in mind that other wherry trusts charge a minimum of £45 for a day trip.



Education for younger people

In May our crew member Chris Erni arranged a visit to Maud and has written the following article about the occasion.

The 1st Martham scout group visited Maud on 11th May at Womack. Linda, Nicki and Gary were on hand to give a guided tour of the main features and layout of the vessel. They also provided a talk about Maud's history and also an overview of the Norfolk wherry design and class of trading vessels.

The scouts were very interested to learn about how the wherries were operated around the Norfolk rivers, and the numerous and varied activities they got up to in their heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were surprised to learn how so many have fallen into disrepair in recent times.



It is always great to have a group of young people visit Maud. Many of the scouts are keen sailors, so even more important for them to add a little more knowledge about the history of the Broads. Who knows, one of them could end up crewing or even skippering Maud in the future?



Photos: Chris Emi



Outings for the Pop-Up Museum

The Pop-Up Museum should have been used on 20th April, the day of the opening event of Maud's Anniversary Tour, but the weather prevented that.

The Open Day at Cantley on Saturday 22 June was the only occasion when we have erected the gazebo so far this year, but we have used the roll-up banners on other occasions. The weather forecast for the 22nd was rather mixed but people from Cantley and others who moored up near the Reedcutter pub provided a slow but steady stream of visitors. We only had four volunteers, Gary, Nicki, Roger and Linda to show people round Maud and the museum, so it was fortunate that we did not have more visitors.

We will be appealing for volunteers to help with the Pop Up on the two days of the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Festival on the 7th and 8th of September. [Do contact Linda admin@wherrymaudtrust.org](mailto:admin@wherrymaudtrust.org) if you would like to try volunteering at that event.

Social Events for members in February to July this year

On 3 February we held our winter lunch at Acle Bridge Inn. It was well attended and members enjoyed getting together and having some lively discussions.

Then, for the first time in the history of WMT, in June we had a party with cooked food. After finding that the costs of hiring an outside caterer for a hog roast or pizza were very high, Alison Prendergast came up with a suggestion for a do-it-yourself hog roast. It had been tried and tested by the scout group where she and her husband Luke volunteer and it proved to work very well.



Photo: Nigel Gutteridge



Photo: Alistair Graham Kerr

The entertainment was provided by the Ludham Ukulele Band, recommended by our members Martin and Lynette Taylor. What a good choice! They played for two sessions, a variety of popular music with some from the sixties and seventies that some of us could remember quite well!





Maud's volunteers for non-sailing events

Are there new members who would like to help in any of the following ways? You do not have to make a regular commitment but help at peak times is very much appreciated.

Major maintenance in August/September

Why not spend some of your holiday having a very enjoyable time with a nice bunch of people at Burgh Castle?

Our first work party for painting and routine maintenance will be on Saturday August 17th and we will be scheduling further dates in August and September. Goodchild Marine is in a beautiful spot with views across Halvergate and a pub next door. We all enjoy working together to get Maud looking smart again.



Linda Pargeter's photo shows volunteers "bending on" the sail after Maud had been relaunched following her major maintenance at Burgh Castle in 2021. Volunteers had done all the painting over a period of six weeks and Maud's smart appearance was a tribute to their hard work.

Making suggestions for future events

New ideas are always welcomed and seriously considered by the trustees. If any member offers to organise an event their help will be much appreciated.

Raising money through social media

Is there a member who would be willing to assess fundraising opportunities sent to us by Give as you live? None of the trustees has expertise in this area and we would welcome some help.

Taking photos

Several of our trips and social events in the past have not been adequately recorded in photographs. The trustees are often too involved in the proceedings to use their cameras. Are there a couple of members who would be willing to fill that gap? **Please do email any photos you believe to be special to admin@wherrymaudtrust.org and say whether you give permission for their future use for publicity purposes.**

Other ways to help

Showing people over Maud when we have viewings

Staffing the Pop-Up Museum

Helping with social events

Joining our baking team to make cakes for events

Working on a project for the Wherry Maud Trust Archive

Once again, our trustees extend their grateful thanks to all the volunteers who make our trust such a successful one.

If you are not sure whether your name is on one or all of our volunteer lists please do email Linda admin@wherrymaudtrust.org and put

Volunteering for Maud in the subject line.



On 6th May, when Maud returned to Womack from her visit to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust at Ranworth, she was quanted on to the Broad and the sail raised. This photo, taken by Nigel from the tender, shows the conservation centre in the background as she sailed out of the broad.



Plans for autumn 2024

Welcome back Maud. A small get-together at the Womack base when Maud returns from her refit at Burgh Castle. Date to be circulated once the work has been completed and a date for the return to Ludham has been set.

The photo below, taken by Nigel Gutteridge on 6 November 2021, shows that year's welcome back party at the base in Ludham. We had returned from the refit quite late in the season and 6 November was our first opportunity for a get together. We were still taking care not to spread Covid as evidenced by one mask wearer. In 2024 we are optimistically planning to return at the end of September and hold a "Welcome back" get together early in October.



Autumn Trips – in the past we have had some beautiful trips in October and even November. If the weather permits we will be doing the same again. They will be shorter day trips, leaving base no later than 9.30 and returning at around 16.00 to make the most of daylight hours.

Film afternoon or evening. This is still in the planning stage but we are gathering together a few films about Maud and other historic vessels that will doubtless interest our members.

Archive meeting on Saturday 23 November with speaker George Cooper talking to us about "Bringing the Broads to life – a talk about the various roles and history of the Broads including the marshmen, wherry men and everyone in between".

A tour of British Sugar at Cantley.

This would be for a small group of interested members. The factory, built in 1912, was the first sugar beet processing factory in the UK. It is a familiar sight across the marshes as it continues to process sugar beet each year.

Email Linda admin@wherrymaudtrust.org if you wish to be included in a visit.





Maud's crew and their Training this year

Congratulations to Eamon who is now a qualified Maud skipper and to Nik and Dom who were upgraded from trainee to crew status.

Eight of our crew took a First Aid qualification that will last for three years. Courses will be arranged in 2025 for those whose qualification expires in 2025 and for any new crew members.

A Man Overboard course took place in March and nine of our crew attended and were awarded certificates.

Skippers Neil Case and Jimmy James acted as mentors on two sail training days in April. Weather permitting, Jeff intends to resume sail training in October.

The trustees are extremely grateful to Jeff Stamps for continuing to shoulder the responsibility for training.

Obituaries

While not currently members, the two people below had played their part in Maud's story since her restoration.

Margaret Turner and her husband were past members of WMT and both were regular volunteers at Hardley Mill. Sadly Margaret died suddenly in February. Our condolences to her husband, Michael.

Noel Morris owned Womack House where wherries are moored for the bi-annual Ludham Open Gardens. He died at the age of 97 in June. His daughter now resides at Womack House and I'm sure will continue the tradition of giving a mooring to wherries for the Open Gardens. Our condolences to her and the wider family. Sailing was one of Noel's great enthusiasms. He towed Maud with his yacht Cara after she collected her new mast from Upton in October 1998. The photo below shows them passing Thurne Mill.





How to come Sailing on Maud

Due to Maud's major maintenance this August and September Upcoming Events on our WEBSITE wherrymaudtrust.org has only a few events listed. **Please do look at the list towards the end of September when we hope to be in a position to tell you when normal service will resume.**

Please note: Trustees will always endeavour to keep to timetables for trips but sailing is dependent on availability of skippers, weather conditions etc. However, last-minute cancellations will be kept to a minimum.



Maud at NWT Ranworth. Photo: Neil Thomas

Messages from members:

After a trip in April this year, from Iain:
Alison and I had a brilliant day out on Maud, we really enjoyed ourselves.

After receiving one of our newsletters, an email from Geoff:

Thanks so much for this excellent newsletter! Full of interesting information and activities. I'm of the firm view that good newsletters are a key part of all membership organisations and keep volunteers on board - WMT is a shining example!

After the trip on 4 July this year, from Sue, a new member:

We had a lovely day with you all and sailing on Maud was very special. We will return. It is nice to be with like-minded people and also seeing the skill and knowledge of the team who sail Maud.

Talks about Maud

We have two talks booked for the rest of 2024 – Newmarket U3A on 30 September and the Norfolk Austin 7 Club at East Tuddenham on 19 November.

In 2025 we have a further two bookings – Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society on 10 April and Thorpe History Group on 30 May.

Talks are listed on wherrymaudtrust.org under Learning More. There may be one near you so do look at the list.

Please do give our contact details to any of your clubs or societies who have not yet booked a talk about Maud. Our talks are popular with a wide variety of clubs and societies from those with specific interests such as archaeology and classic vehicles, to Rotary and Probus Clubs, U3A groups and Women's Institutes. In the past we have travelled farther afield but now only accept bookings from Suffolk and Norfolk.

Email Linda on admin@wherrymaudtrust.org with details and she will make contact.



Social Media

A chance meeting at the Ferry House at Surlingham led to a talented film maker producing a video of Maud. His YouTube channel is YouTube@lovelifeloveboat and the video is: **Exploring the 125 year-old trading wherry 'Maud'.**

He has also made videos of other wherries and we recommend that you watch them.

If you would like to share your videos on the WMT You Tube channel, then please Direct Message our Facebook Page or email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.



Our FACEBOOK page, www.facebook.com/wherryMaudTrust, is updated regularly but due to malicious posting on our page we have had to restrict posting only to admins of the page. If you have photos/videos that you wish to post on the page, please Direct Message the page and an administrator will make the arrangements to post on your behalf.

Our other WMT social media account is:

<https://www.instagram.com/wherrymaudtrust>

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: David Cole