

Maud Matters

The last six months have flown by, and it does not seem possible that we are already making plans for Maud's 2025 season.

The Trustees would like to thank all our members for their support in making Maud's 125th Anniversary Tour in 2024 so successful. A huge "thank you" also goes to the maintenance volunteers who spent more than 800 hours working on Maud while she was out of the water at Burgh Castle in August and September.

We must not forget to thank skippers and crew who all give their time freely enabling members to go on regular trips throughout the season. The Trustees especially wish to thank Jeff Stamps for ensuring that we start 2025 with an increasing number of well-qualified crew, without whom we could not sail Maud.

We are looking forward to good weather and plenty of sailing in 2025.

Message from our Patron

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



During the second half of 2024 I was able to visit Maud while she was out of the water at Burgh Castle. I spent an interesting few hours there, initially talking to the boatbuilders from Colin Buttifant's Swallowtail Boatyard at Ludham. Paul Buttifant and his team were busy fitting planks into Maud's hull. Then the owner of Goodchild Marine came over for a chat and extended an invitation to look round his yard. As we walked round Mr Goodchild told me that wherries were once built at the yard and were able to be launched via a ramp into the water.

Goodchild Marine build state-of-the-art pilot boats that are in use all over the world. I was fascinated to learn more about such a high-tech operation and encourage you all to take the opportunity for a tour if your trustees can arrange it.

It was good to learn in October that Maud was back at Womack following her major maintenance and that sailing trips had resumed. The last trip of the autumn took place on 16th November, but it was not the last event of Maud's year. The annual archive afternoon was held on 23rd November, while in the second week of December volunteers helped with the conversion of more oak logs into planking. I was able to make a short visit to view that work.

Now that the new year has started, your trustees are busy planning events for 2025. We should all be grateful to them, and to the volunteers, for all the work they do in caring for Maud and arranging so many opportunities for the Members to enjoy.

It remains for me to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year and a successful one for Wherry Maud Trust.

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

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Information for Members

The Trust has gained 73 new members since the beginning of March 2024 and membership is currently at 350.

Last December we did not promote our Gift Memberships for Christmas presents for your friends and family. We are pleased to offer those as presents for birthdays and other special occasions during the year at the price of an annual membership. Just email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org for details.

For our new members, a reminder that membership confers the right to book on 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.

There are other events for members during the year and you will receive email invitations to those. On the website you will find an Upcoming Events page that gives you advance notification of such events.

Our next members' event - film on 15th March

'From Wood to Wherry', a film following the progress of oak timber from a living tree to planks on the hull of the wherry 'Maud', will receive its first screening to members in March. Almost two years since the oak tree was first sourced it records both the specialist skills of contractors and the contributions of supporters and members to the success of the project.

We will be seeking to show the film more widely. Do let us know if you have any suggestions for groups who may be interested in a screening.



© Roger Hewins

Education for younger people

We were pleased to make contact with Martham Academy recently and to donate to them two offcuts of oak to make benches for their sustainability garden area.

We look forward to a visit from their students, maybe in 2025.



Major work in 2024 at Burgh Castle

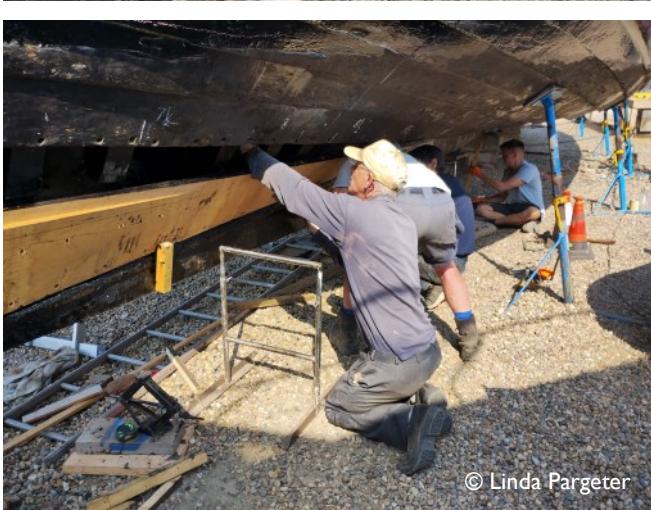
Maud was lifted out by the team at Goodchild Marine at the beginning of August for the work to be completed. On their yard just by the river they supported her on bearers at a comfortable height for the repairs to take place. When all was finished, they lifted her back into the water. As usual we were all impressed by their efficient service and helpful staff.

The main job was planned to be the replacement of lengths of the garboard plank (the very bottom plank nearest the centre backbone of the wherry) on Maud's starboard side, and the plank above it.



As before, the Buttifant team from Swallowtail Boatyard at Ludham did the skilled boatbuilding work. The stern end of the garboard was an original 1899 plank, and a small leak had been found in that area. Even small leaks must be investigated and the decision was made to replace the whole length of the garboard. To give access for the replacement the plank above had to be taken out. That was essential even though it was in fairly good condition. In total the work entailed replacing around 120ft of planking, for which oak from the Meynell tree felled in November 2023 was used.

A picture paints a thousand words. Shown below are photos of the work completed on the planking during August and September.





The other job to be tackled in September was repairing the rudder where a rotten knot had been identified in one of the vertical sections. The rot was fortunately found to have travelled under the surface of one vertical plank only. A patch was considered but it would have been difficult to fit, and a better job would be to replace that vertical section. One of our members kindly donated a suitable piece of 4" thick air-dried oak and so the boatbuilders had the rudder lifted off, did the tricky job of dismantling it as necessary and inserted the new section.

After which Goodchilds had to lift the rudder back onto Maud's sternpost.

Throughout August and September our volunteers worked very hard indeed. The sequence of the



© Linda Pargeter



© Linda Pargeter



© Roger Hewins

work for them was de-rigging and unloading ballast, dismantling internal fittings, spraying out the inside of the wherry with wood preservative and then putting everything back together again. In between there was lots of painting to be done. On this occasion all painting of the hull was done by volunteers, saving the Trust a significant amount of money.

YOUR WHERRY NEEDS



Recruiting a Publicity Volunteer

We have just published in Voluntary Norfolk a vacancy for someone to take responsibility for some or all of our publicity. The best way to recruit is often via existing members, so we would be grateful if you could give some thought to whether you have any friends or family members who would enjoy helping Wherry Maud Trust in this capacity.



Outings for the Pop-Up Museum in September 2024

September was a very busy month for WMT Trustees and volunteers. Maud was out of the water for major maintenance at Burgh Castle and earlier in the year we had agreed to take the Pop-Up Museum to two events in September.

The first event was the **Dilham Canal Festival** on the weekend of 7-8 September.

It would be the first time that WMT had taken part. Brian W made it possible by volunteering to tow the Pop-Up trailer to the site on the Saturday and to collect it on the Sunday. Another first as the trailer had not been used previously but Brian confirmed that it towed well, only proving a little difficult to reverse.

Nine volunteers formed a rota to look after the stand. There was a hook-up to the electricity making it easy to show videos to our visitors.



Albert (Tubby) Bunn or Mr Cooper. An identically designed sweater appears in an image (circa 1913) of the skipper of the Wherry Yacht Norada, hired out by Ernest Collins of Wroxham.

We always hope to meet people with family collections to wherries and one such person who came along was Donald C. He told us that both of his grandfathers were wherry skippers and showed us a photograph of one of them. Unfortunately, he did not know whether it was Albert Bunn or his grandfather Cooper, whose first name he had forgotten. Can any of our members identify the man in the photo? Many wherrymen skippered wealthy people's yachts in the summer. Perhaps somebody recognises the yacht name "Rainbird"?

On the following weekend we had been invited to the Cantley Fun Day. We did not take the trailer as nobody with a tow bar was available. We took the roll-up banners, TV set etc and set up our stand in Cantley Village Hall with just four volunteers forming the rota for the day. Looking back, we should have set up on the field. It was a lively event on a beautiful sunny day with lots of visitors. While it was not practical to use the roll-up banners in the open we could have taken space in one of the marquees. If we attend in 2025, we hope for similar weather and a more prominent stand.



Maud's Autumn Trips in 2024

Trips in the colder months of the year are rather shorter, starting at 10am and finishing at around 3.30-4pm to get back before dark. For those who have good cold-weather clothing it is a very pleasant experience, rather different from the busy river traffic in summer. Only two trips were fully subscribed while there were just a few spare places on others.

After Maud's return from the re-fit at Burgh Castle there were a further seven sailing trips, the last one being on Saturday 16th November. It was fortunate that the weather was kind and allowed for an extended autumn season.

Maud's first members' trip was on Monday 14th October when Jeff skippered her on a day trip from Womack to South Walsham and back. Colleen H was on the trip and you will read her comments about it in the next section.

On Tuesday 15th October Jimmy James was our volunteer skipper for a members' day trip for lunch at Ranworth.



© Colleen Hornsby



© Linda Pargeter

On Saturday 19th October there was a sail training day with Jeff Stamps as skipper/mentor.



©Adrian Wincup

On Saturday 26th October there was a members' day trip, not initially very promising due to a misty start.

The mist cleared and we had a gentle sail up to the mooring at Cockshoot Broad where we stopped for a picnic lunch. There were other boats moored there, cabin cruisers with people on board. All were able to go for a stroll in pleasant weather with sunny periods.

As we motored down the Bure on the return trip we saw Southern Comfort out for a day trip.



© Linda Pargeter

Sunday 27th October saw a further sail training trip with Bill Housden as skipper/mentor. Read more under the Crew Training section below.

The two November members' trips were on Sunday 10th and Saturday 16th. Eamon Green was skipper on the first and Jeff Stamps on the second.

The photo (left), taken on the 10th November, shows skipper Eamon and crew member Dom enjoying the sailing in the bright sunshine and blue sky.

What our members say about trips

From new member Sue B who came on our trip to the Ribs of Beef in Norwich on 4 July.

“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”.

After the same trip on 4 July this is what our member Penny M wrote. She has come on trips regularly since she joined in 2019.

“It was so interesting to see the city from the water, and to chat with the visitors, who really enjoyed it.... And I saw a kingfisher fly past us twice, plus a grey wagtail, so a red letter day for me.”

Colleen H has been a member since October 2021. She does not live in Norfolk but took the opportunity of her first trip on Maud on 14th October when she was in the area. She wrote the following “thank you” email and sent copies of photos that she took on the trip.

“Just got home after a really lovely day onboard Maud. It was a dream come true. Everyone was so welcoming and helpful. Please pass on my thanks to them all.”

And, after the same trip on 14 October, David C wrote “Just wanted to say thanks for organising today's trip, and to the crew. Weather forecast was far too pessimistic - we returned in bright sunshine and blue skies.”

It is rewarding for our volunteer crew to hear these comments so a big “thank you” to those who write.



© Linda Pargeter



Crew Training in 2024

Crew training comprises sail training mentored by our own skippers, training by external tutors such as Mark Elson for Man Overboard Training, and formal courses in First Aid and Power Boat handling. The latter is a Power Boat Level 2 qualification enabling crew safely to use our tender. It is compulsory for skippers and mates but only desirable for other crew.

It is interesting to learn exactly what happens on a sail training day. We must thank our trustee and trainee skipper Mal Duffield (MWD) for writing the account below of how time was spent on Sunday 27 October. Bill Housden was the mentoring skipper on that occasion and five crew took part.

“During the day we did the following:

- ◆ Martin provided a full check of Dora [the tender] preparation, explaining what he was doing and why.
- ◆ Maud out of shed and mast raised. Sail set with 2 reefs as likely to be lots of raising and lowering.
- ◆ Quanted down Womack towards the river, sail up and sailed the last reach, turning down river.
- ◆ Between Coldharbour and Thurne Man Overboard exercise (just as Martin had finished handing out the biscuits) mud weight put in, sail lowered quickly and casualty recovered. Sail raised whilst quant employed to get some movement.
- ◆ Imaginary Bridge over the River Thurne at St Benet's Level Drainage Mill successfully undertaken in plenty of time.
- ◆ Plan to sail down the Bure and practice mooring with the tide under us had to be amended as there was another boat moored at the southern end of the Oby 24hr mooring.
- ◆ Turned Maud downstream of the moorings and came alongside without problems.
- ◆ After lunch quanted off mooring and raised sail.
- ◆ Simon took the helm whilst the rest of us took turns at quanting and practiced tacking using quants (NOTE looking forward to the lighter quant arriving).
- ◆ Turned Maud just after double bend to head back to base.
- ◆ Skipper overboard exercise with MWD and Nik taking Dora (Nik on helm).
- ◆ Back on the Thurne MWD took over helm and at Coldharbour sail lowered, reefs shaken out, and mast lowered.
- ◆ Quanted up Womack to base; Dora put away and Maud nicely tucked up in the shed.

A good day.”

Progress with the WMT archive

Good news – after a period of ill health Derek Allday has recovered. Following his resignation from the Archive Team at the Museum of the Broads he will be working on our collection for one morning each week.

That will give the other members of our team an incentive to resume work.

Have you any family connections with wherries? We would love to talk to you and hear your stories.

If you are interested in recording wherry history and would like to join the team, please let Linda know by emailing her at admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.



Oak timber for Maud's future repairs

During Maud's 2024 refit at Burgh Castle the boatbuilders used some of the planks from the Meynell tree sawn in November 2023 but there is still a good quantity of that oak in store.

A further three logs had been purchased at the end of 2023 and were stored at St Olaves. In December the sawyer Sam Allen came to St Olaves to saw those logs. With help from WMT volunteers the work was accomplished in one week. The logs yielded a further stock of oak planks and your Trustees decided to keep some for Maud and to sell on the rest. Purchasers have been found, and you will be pleased to know that some oak has gone to the Lowestoft smack Excelsior and some to restore a collection of farm wagons. The remainder may be sold for use on another similar project!

Firewood

Is there any member who would like to saw up for firewood the two bases of logs in the foreground of the above photo? They cannot be transported whole, so you would need to chainsaw them up on site and take the wood away on a trailer.

A small donation to Wherry Maud Trust could be made if you wish.



© Henry Harston

Trustees

For members who have joined since our last newsletter, we will repeat the details of our trustees. We currently have four trustees. They are very "hands-on" and you will meet them when they are crewing on Maud and at other events. They are Malcolm Duffield who was elected as a trustee in March 2022, and three of the original trustees who continue to serve: Neil Thomas, Nigel Gutteridge and Linda Pargeter.



Clockwise from top left: Nigel, Malcolm, Neil, Linda

WMT Fleeces

A big "thank you" to Jeff for arranging for our crew and members to buy WMT fleeces from a shop in Stalham.

We will email you all shortly with details of how to order. The fleeces are good quality and nice and warm. We recommend them! Here you can see Gill, Jeff's wife, modelling hers.





Plans for 2025

Sailing on Maud

Dates for members' sailing trips will be on wherrymaudtrust.org under Upcoming Events in the next month. We will aim to send emails to you all when the list is available.

Film afternoon on 15th March. See above for more information about the film to be held at Strumpshaw Community Hall.

Routine maintenance day on Sat 29th March

As usual your trustees will draw up a list of tasks and invite volunteers from the maintenance team to come along. It will be a busy day, doing those paint jobs that could not be done in cold weather.

Annual meeting of members on the afternoon of Saturday 19 April

[This will take place at our usual venue of Acle Parish Rooms](#) and we hope to feature a talk by volunteers from the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust.

WMT Artists & Makers Show at Ranworth on 3rd & 4th May

This is a very popular event and our major fundraiser of the year. It is being held on the **Saturday/Sunday** of the first weekend of May in 2025, rather than Sunday/bank holiday Monday as previously.

Tour of Goodchild Marine on Saturday 24 May

Our member Richard M is organising a tour of Goodchild Marine at Burgh Castle on 24 May. The tour will primarily be for members of the Norfolk Farm Machinery Club and the Vintage Motorcyclists Club. There may be a few spare places. We will be able to let you know about those at the end of March. Be aware that you will need a reasonable level of fitness, as a bit of climbing about on boats is involved. **If you would like to go, please keep the date free in your diary and email Linda (events@wherrymaudtrust.org) to put your name down.** First come first served as usual.

Tour of the Southern Rivers

Maud will again spend some weeks in the summer on the southern rivers. The exact dates are yet to be decided.

In previous years the trips into Norwich have been very popular, not because of the sailing experience, but because seeing Norwich from the river is so interesting. The Trust has received an invitation to take Maud to the Water's Edge bar and restaurant at Bramerton on the way up to Norwich. There we will have Maud open for their customers to come on board. The farthest point in our trips to date has been to The Ribs pub just above Fye Bridge. This year we intend to go further up towards New Mills.

Archive afternoon on Saturday 22 November

This will take place at our usual venue of Acle Parish Rooms. A speaker is yet to be arranged.

Our Archive Afternoon is becoming increasingly popular with WMT members and others with an interest in Broadland history. It provides an opportunity for those whose families have been connected with the rivers and/or wherries to get together and swap stories.

A tour of British Sugar at Cantley.

Linda is still trying to arrange that tour and it is now likely to be in the early winter of 2025. It would be for a small group of interested members. Email Linda admin@wherrymaudtrust.org if you wish to be included in that group.



© Nigel Gutteridge



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 always appreciated.

Publicity Volunteer

This role has been advertised on Voluntary Norfolk as nobody has been found from among our members. If you have any friends who may be interested please direct them to Voluntary Norfolk.

Routine Maintenance of Maud

Our first work party for painting and routine maintenance will be at Womack on Saturday 29th March and we will be scheduling further dates as and when required.

Those who come along enjoy getting together at the beginning of the season to spruce Maud up before the first trip of the spring. As a reward for the hard work there is always a break for coffee or tea and cakes. The photo (right) shows what a difference can be made by a few hours spent painting Maud's decks. Very rewarding.



Making suggestions for future events this year and next

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.



How to come Sailing on Maud

Just a few tips for new members: look at Upcoming Events on our WEBSITE wherrymaudtrust.org regularly and watch out for emails with details of places available on trips. We do occasionally receive cancellations and will email you with any last-minute opportunities. Reply swiftly and you may just be successful.

If a trip is full do ask to be put on the waiting list. Then if a place becomes available we will call or email you.

Cancelling bookings: We ask members who need to cancel to do so with as much notice as possible. It is a shame if we do not have time to contact those on the waiting list.

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



© David Cole

Maud sailing to Ranworth on a nearly empty river Thurne



Talks about Maud

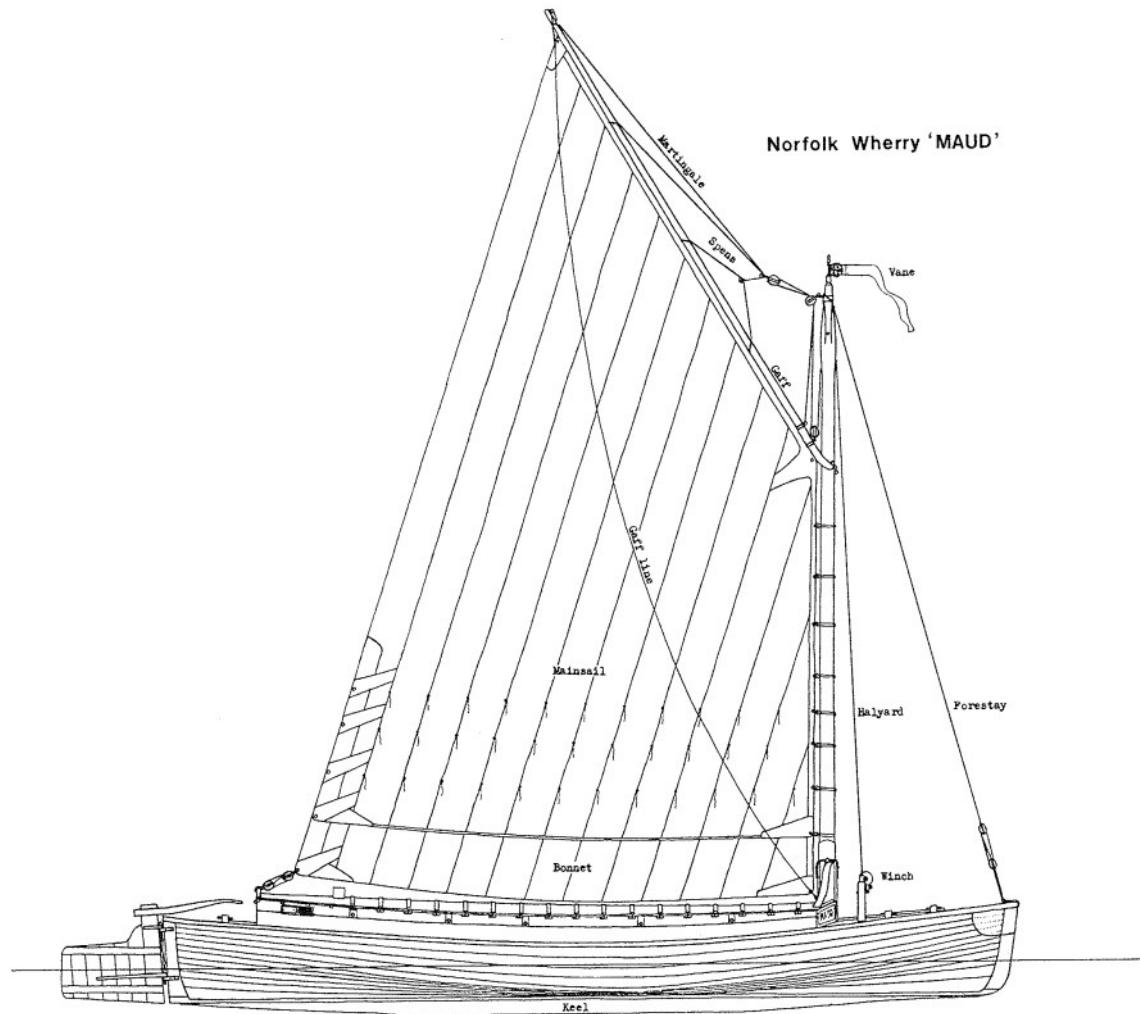
We have three talks booked for 2025:

- * 4 February, East Point Rotary Club at Lowestoft
- * 10 April, Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society
- * 30 May, Thorpe History Group

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.



From the Archive: This drawing was made by Vincent Pargeter, Maud's restorer, before he and Linda embarked on the project to restore Maud from a sunken hulk to the beautiful wherry we sail on now.



Social Media

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.



Maud sailing on the Bure just above Oby Mill, on 14th October 2024