Maud Matters

In this newsletter we celebrate 10 years of Wherry Maud Trust. Soon after the Trust was granted charitable status in 2015 Sir Richard Jewson became our patron. We thank him for continuing to serve and for being such an active and supportive patron. He helps us behind the scenes in many ways, and we are fortunate indeed to have found him. Some members who joined in 2015 are still members today and we thank them for their loyalty and their significant contributions to our Trust.

We thank all our members for their continuing support of our lovely wherry Maud and hope they will be with us for many more years.

Message from our Patron

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


© Linda Pargeter

As you will see this is the 20th newsletter of Wherry Maud Trust. The first issue was sent out in July 2015, just a couple of months after the charity was registered. Later that year your trustees kindly invited me to become your patron, and I continue to enjoy serving in that role. In 2025 the Trust is celebrating its 10th anniversary and has continued to send you two newsletters each year during those ten years. Issue No. 4 was the first to carry the title "Maud Matters" and I am sure we all agree that Maud matters a great deal and is close to our hearts. We should all be grateful for the outstanding leadership given by the trustees, in particular Linda Pargeter. They give so much of their time and inspiration to underpin the success of the Trust.

I am told that this issue will be slightly different as it features some interesting articles sent in by members, as well as accounts of all the usual sailing events and one very special one on Wroxham Broad recently.

You will also read about the Trust's initiative to recruit more volunteers, for crewing Maud and for assisting with other roles.

I wish you all a happy and healthy second half of 2025.

Maud's Skippers

We are delighted to report that Malcolm Duffield has graduated from Trainee Skipper to Approved Skipper, having passed assessments from two of the other Maud skippers.



Wherry Maud Trust
Reg. Charity No. 1161285

Newsletter No. 20
August 2025



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Membership

Maud's membership has increased this year. We cannot give an accurate number of current members as our over-worked administrator is only now about to send out reminders to non-payers for the current year. Our best estimate is a 2025-6 membership of around 400.

The first six months of Wherry Maud Trust's 2025

A Winter Social

Our first event of the year was a post-Christmas lunch for members on 1st February at the Acle Bridge Inn. The staff provided us with an excellent lunch and entertainment consisted of a quiz, a raffle with lots of prizes, and passing round a model of Maud made of Lego by Norfolk Wherry Trust member Kevin Tassell. The model will be used at talks and in our Pop Up Museum.


© Linda Pargeter

Training

Crew at all levels are asked to have a current first aid qualification. Some existing crew needed to update their qualification and for those newer members a new qualification was needed. Jeff arranged a one-day course at Stalham for up to 12 people. Only nine crew attended so the remaining places were offered to the membership and two members took advantage of that.


© Linda Pargeter

The spring nearly always starts with sail training. Full day sessions were held on March 16th and on April 11th and 19th, courtesy of skipper mentors Neil Case and Jimmy James. Crew at all levels are encouraged to join these sessions to practice skills that they do not always use during the season. It is also an opportunity for those more experienced to pass on tips to trainee crew members. In this photo Trainee Crew member Peter is given the opportunity to helm Maud.

Another training course that is regarded as essential is Man Overboard Training and that took place with trainer Mark Elson at Ludham on April 26th. After a session reviewing the theory of rescuing a casualty, the trainer, dressed in a dry suit, goes into the water alongside our tender and crew practice using the different methods to pull him out of the water into the tender.

This course has to wait until the water has warmed up a little, but even so Mark changes clothes and is given a hot drink in the wherry shed to warm him after his swim.


© Jeff Stamps

Maintenance

Maintenance volunteers were invited to a party on the 29th of March, a working party to get Maud ready for her first members' trip of the year in April.

There were naturally some jobs that had not been completed during the out-of-the water maintenance in August/September 2024 and those had to be tackled. Trustees Neil and Linda had agreed a list of jobs and they were mostly completed with the help of seven other members.

The photo shows Kevin covering the faded green on the right-ups with a fresh coat of the traditional oil-based green paint.



Members' Trips



The first trip of the year was on April 13th. In the photo (left) you can see how smart Maud's paintwork looked after the working party at the end of March.

Maud was to be on view at the Ranworth Conservation Centre during the WMT Art Show on Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4thof May and so there was a trip to the show with members on board on the previous Friday and a trip back to base on the 5th of May.

Due to lack of crew Maud's attendance at Acle regatta on the weekend of 17th and 18th May had to be cancelled.

The following week normal trips resumed and continued until the 29th of June.

Visit to Goodchild Marine at Burgh Castle

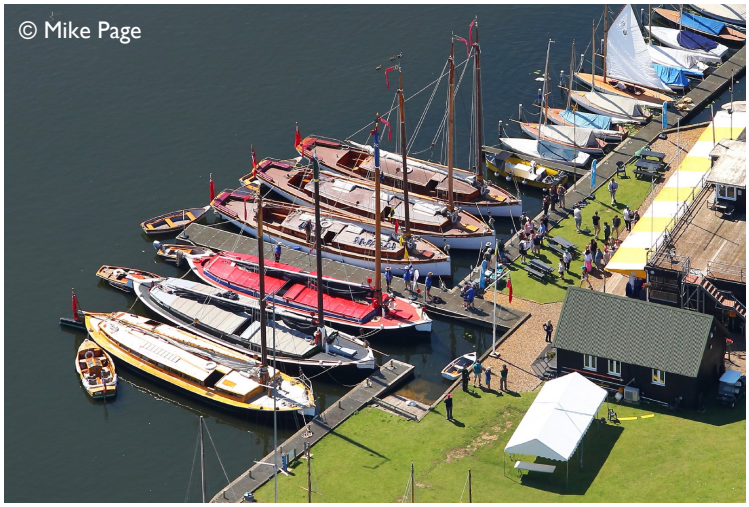
Richard Mack kindly organised a tour of Goodchild Marine on Saturday 24th May with the owner Alan Goodchild. The tour was for members of the Norfolk Farm Machinery Group and members of Wherry Maud Trust. As you can see from the photo the visit was well attended.

It was a rare opportunity to see how a high-tech company in Norfolk builds pilot boats that are supplied to customers all over the world.

Wherry Maud Trust has a link with Goodchild Marine, dating back several years. In 2024 and usually every 3 years, Goodchilds lift Maud out on their yard for Colin Buttifant boatbuilders from Ludham to overhaul her hull and repair or replace planking as necessary.



A Wherry Gathering on Wroxham Broad in July



A local company, McTear, Williams & Wood, had invited all the remaining wherry-rigged vessels to take part in their 25th Anniversary celebrations on Wroxham Broad on the 9th and 10th July. That was an event not to be missed for Maud. Other wherries taking part on the 9th of July were Albion, Solace, White Moth, Olive and Norada.

On the 10th of July the fleet was joined by pleasure wherry Ardea. The only wherry-rigged vessel not to take part was Hathor and she remained moored at How Hill. We all hope for a future gathering with all of the eight historic wherry-rigged vessels present. Maybe there will also be the new trading wherry Lady Garnet that is currently being built on the Thames.



One of the company's guests sent us an email after the event: "*Thank you. It was great to learn about Maud and spend some time aboard on what was a beautiful day to be on the water.*"

We are glad that we had the opportunity to introduce a few new people to sailing on Maud. Already three of those new members have booked further trips with us.

There are several videos of the event on YouTube.

Outings for the Pop-Up Museum in 2025

The Trustees regard the Pop Up as an important part of our mission to educate the public about wherries in the transport history of the Broads. We have used some of the roll-up banners in recent months but have not found an occasion to use the gazebo.

We wish to recruit a team or teams of people to take the Pop Up to suitable local events. The team leader needs to have a car with a tow bar to collect our trailer from South Walsham and return it after the event. **Our pressing need is to find a member who can do that on Saturday 13th September for the Cantley Fun Day.** We attended last year and had limited success because we were not able to take the gazebo. Please email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org if you can offer help with this.

Historic gatherings of wherries on Wroxham Broad,

by Roger Scarff

When was the last time so many wherries sailed together? Other than perhaps, if some were held up by tides or bad weather at Yarmouth then sailed together across Breydon, I'm sure it would have been in wherry races. Most of the races with large numbers of entrants had died out by the 1890s but I thought you might be interested in this photo. It shows the start of the 1911 Wroxham pleasure wherry race which featured six wherries and was the last race with so many competitors.



Image from Roger Scarff collection

The competitors left to right are RED ROVER, SOLACE, another wherry obscured by SOLACE (you can just see the foot of her sail and mainsheet below SOLACEs sail) which I think must be BLACK PRINCE. In the centre of the photo is EMPRESS OF INDIA. CLAUDIAN is next and she is partly obscured by the newly built carvel hulled CYCLOPS (later bought back by her builder, Ernest Collins, and renamed LIBERTY). CYCLOPS' owner, Robert Gurney, had previously owned the pleasure wherry GIPSY from 1900, renaming her CYCLOPS, before selling her in 1910 and getting Collins to build the new wherry.

SOLACE won the race, followed by BLACK PRINCE, CLAUDIAN, RED ROVER, EMPRESS OF INDIA with CYCLOPS trailing in last.

To find seven (and briefly eight) wherries sailing together we must go back to the 1899 Wroxham wherry race when the competitors were (in the order they finished) RAMBLER, BRITISH QUEEN, CLAUDIAN, VIOLET, BERTHA, EMPRESS OF INDIA and WARRIOR. RUDDER GRANGE also started but gave up after the first round. Interestingly, WARRIOR was being hired by Edward Boardman.
Unfortunately, I don't know of any photos of this race.

Film events past and to come

In Maud Matters No. 19 we wrote about the film "From Wood to Wherry" made by the WMT film team of Roger Hewins, Graeme Taplin and Nicki Darrell. In March this year the premiere of this film was screened for the first time at a members' event at Strumpshaw. It was a great success.

New members may not know that the film shows an oak tree standing in woodland and how it was felled, converted into planks and fitted into the hull of Wherry Maud. It records the specialist skills of the tree fellers and the Buttifant boatbuilders as well as the contributions of supporters and members to the success of the project.



Further exhibition opportunities for the film are being explored.

Again, for new members, you can watch the film by following the Vimeo link: From Wood to Wherry, password: **maud.**

If you have an old-style DVD player or a computer with a DVD slot, we have a limited number of DVDs for sale at £4 each. If you wish to purchase, please email admin@wherrymaudtrust.org.

Earlier this year we heard about a film "Wind Tide and Oar" that had been touring the East Coast in 2024 on board a Thames barge. We have permission to screen the film to you all for a modest fee and will be looking for a suitable venue to do that in October. Here is a short description of the film:

"Wind, Tide & Oar is a compelling exploration of engineless sailing, shot on analogue film over three years. The film delves into the experiences of those who travel solely by harnessing the natural elements alone, following a diverse array of traditional boats and uncovering the unique rhythms and motivations of engineless navigation."

Member's stories about joining WMT

Part 1 by Richard & Jackie Mack

We became members of the Wherry Maud Trust due to asking Linda if she would kindly give the Norwich section of the Vintage Motorcycle Club a talk at one of our monthly evening meetings, we found it very interesting and thought that Linda had done a wonderful job of keeping it all going with her tireless work for Maud. We have since then had her give a talk to the Wymondham centre of the Norfolk Farm Machinery Club, just to make sure she did not get bored!

We find all the members very friendly and enjoy our trips out on Maud, five to date I think, we have also helped with several little engineering jobs that needed sorting out.

Well done Linda and all her helpers.

Member's stories about joining WMT

Part 2 by Mike Nicholls

My wife was invited to exhibit some of her paintings at an Exhibition hosted by the Wherry Maud Trust at Ranworth Village Hall and we both went on the Sunday to view all the exhibits and of course to see if there had been any interest in her work.

We had our own yacht at that time but despite having been on the Broads for over 40 years I must admit we had not heard of the Wherry Maud. No doubt we had seen her during this time and mistook her for Albion, but we have now been educated as to the difference.

At the exhibition there was a display depicting how Maud had been raised from her watery grave at Ranworth and rebuilt by a Millwright and his wife with photographs of the various stages. A lady seeing my interest approached me and introduced herself as Linda. Need I say more.

She was able to explain in detail the raising of Maud and the work which had gone into the re-build, and how, shortly before the loss of her husband, a Trust had been formed to safeguard the future of the Wherry. Being an admirer of Wherries in general and being aware of their evolution from the Norfolk Keel, to me it was a wonderful opportunity to get involved, although at this time I was heavily involved with golf, playing at least 3 days each week. However, I felt that I would still like to do something and felt my best avenue would be to join the group to at least provide membership support.

Regrettably my mobility became an issue and that plus covid has limited my involvement. Oh, to be twenty years younger.

Despite these setbacks, I was able to join Maud for my first trip in September 2018 from Reedham to Womack, and what a trip and adventure. I say adventure as on that day there were gale force winds and obviously on the leg from Reedham to Gt. Yarmouth it was crucial to catch the turn of the tide. Also, for me, despite all the sailing I had done on the Northern Broads , it was my first trip across Breydon and definitely more exhilarating than crossing the equator.


© Linda Pargeter

We crossed Breydon using the wind on the mast and the tide, so strong was the wind that no sail or tender assistance was necessary. Turning up the Bure we had tender assistance as far as Acle, the point where I dis-embarked. A great memory and wonderful crew who delivered Maud safely back to Womack.

My next trip was again in September but in 2023, on my 87th Birthday, a shorter trip Womack to How Hill. My son Mark accompanied me on this trip, no gale force winds this time but a steady breeze and again a memorable trip with a lovely crew who made all feel most welcome.

So, to all those who are able, if you love boats and the Broads, I recommend you to join the Maud charity and get involved as much as possible, and of course there are other events besides the sailing.

Hopefully I may have one more trip in me before Valhalla.

Boats in Bottles

by Jan Nudd

Late autumn 1985 brothers Jack and Bill Jenner decided it was time to step down from the helm of their business Maiden Craft based at Thorpe St. Andrew from the early 1960's to retire and sold the yard and all the boats.



Jenner had been one of the best-known names on Norfolk's waters since my great grandfather John Henry Jenner set up business in Thorpe St. Andrew in 1923 and was succeeded by my grandfather William Bramwell Jenner. The Jenner family was among the first to hire boats on the broads. The brothers started work for their father William after leaving school. Jack trained as a marine engineer and Bill as a boat builder.



Dad (Bill) just didn't know how he would spend his time in retirement, although along with mum Jac they enjoyed the summer months sailing river cruiser Dragonfly 51 on the Broads, but what to do in the long winter months was of concern. As a retirement gift I gave dad a book "Ships in Bottles". Dad was hooked, as a boat builder he now filled some of his dark winter evenings with carving model ships to put in bottles. The first model was trading wherry Albion.

Many more followed to include river cruiser Hiawatha 168 and sailing drifter Toil of the Deep.

Unfortunately, dad didn't get round to carving Maud to put in a bottle.

The funniest joke at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024? Comedian Mark Simmons was voted the winner with his gag. *"I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it".*



Images, top to bottom, from Jan Nudd:

Albion
Hiawatha 168
Tail of the Deep

Recruiting Volunteers



In June we took a stall at the Volunteering Extravaganza in the Forum in Norwich. It was a very popular event with stalls for many large and small local charities. Amongst our friends and collaborators there were the Wind Energy Museum and the Wise Archive. A steady stream of people came through, surprising as the event was held in the middle of the day on a Thursday.

We distributed many flyers and asked potential volunteers to fill in an Expression of Interest Form asking which areas of volunteering with WMT they wished to learn about. We then sent invitations to come on a taster trip to those who had completed forms and eight came out for short trips on Maud on the 22nd of June.

As a result, we now have three new members and others who are keen perhaps to join at a later date. We welcome Simon and Ian who have signed on as trainee crew and are already booked on trips. One volunteer will be coming on a taster trip soon, with a view to learning more about our Trust and possibly writing publicity material for us. Another will be meeting with us in September with a view to organising events next year.

Maud's trustees are pleased that attending the Extravaganza has proved so useful.

Publicity Volunteer
We are still advertising that role on Get Involved and are actively seeking to recruit.

Social Media Champion
We are keen for one of our members to take on the challenge of ensuring WMT has a higher profile on social media such as Facebook. We currently have a couple of busy members who help when needed, but we would like someone to take charge and ensure posts and reels of interest to our readers are put on our page more regularly than at present.

Progress with the WMT Archive

Derek Allday has been making good progress, while working through various health issues. Currently he is cataloguing and putting on the database copies of the Pargeter diaries of work done during Maud's restoration in the 1980s and 1990s. During the winter Linda resumed work on transcribing interviews recorded in the 1980s with various people connected with Maud. She will continue as time permits. The recordings are of historical value as the people interviewed are no longer with us.

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.



From the WMT Archive (WMT.2020.004.106): *a photo of Trading Wherry Lord Roberts, from the collection of the late Dave Thompson.*

Obituaries

Sadly, in this issue we have to report the passing of several members and friends of Wherry Maud. They were all incredible people and will be much missed by those family and friends they leave behind.

Pat Thomas 1934-2025



With our trustee Neil Thomas, we mourn the passing earlier this year of his mother, Pat, who joined Wherry Maud Trust in 2019. Neil gave us a copy of the celebration of her life that was composed for her funeral. I include below just a few details of her varied life.

Towards the end of WW2 her family moved from Kent to Surrey and there the young Pat learned farming skills. Leaving school at the age of 16 she went to study photography and during that year she met Neil's dad ,and they married in 1955. Until 1962 she worked in London hospitals, giving up work to become a full-time housewife in 1962. The couple moved to Norwich in 1964.

Pat found time for hobbies including flower arranging at which she excelled, even exhibiting with a friend at the Chelsea Flower Show. In 2015 she and her husband celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and received a much-prized card from the Queen. Pat leaves three sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rodney (Rod) Clark 1942-2025



The name Rod Clark may not be familiar to many members. Wherry enthusiasts though are sure to know of the late Roy Clark, Rod's father, who wrote "Black Sailed Traders", first published in 1961.

Rod was a character and a friend of the Pargeters and other members like Mike and Liz Delf. He always followed Maud's progress, although he did not approve of everything we did. As an example he hated to see photos of Maud being pushed with her tender tied to the stern, thinking it looked ugly and not traditional.

Rod's life took a different turn to that of his father. Between 1967 and 1970 he played bass guitar for the Rockin' Berries. in 1984 his band Roller Coaster played for the first time in East Anglia and he continued to play and sing for the rest of his life. In November 2022 there were two 80th Birthday Shows to celebrate his life in music at the Seagull Theatre in Lowestoft. His energy was phenomenal, and the house was packed for both shows. He leaves two children, Billy and Holly, and a sister, Linda.

Hilary Fett 1965-2025



Hilary was known to many of you, especially to those who have been involved in the Wherry Maud Art Show since it began in 2018.

An artist herself and an efficient administrator, Hilary curated the show for us until last year. She was renowned for her paintings and her quirky craft items such as her glass flower garden ornaments. She made those from threaded steel rod and glass dishes mostly sourced from charity shops. She was a person with a good imagination and many talents.

From her early days until the year 2000 Hilary spent much of her spare time as a Brownie, a Girl Guide and eventually a District Commissioner for North Bedfordshire. She had the opportunity to visit World Guiding Centres in India and Mexico and through her guiding friends travelled to Australia and Tasmania.

Amongst her other interests she counted sailing, long-distance walking and playing several different musical instruments in bands local to her home near Bedford. In 2020 she joined enthusiastically with WMT members Roger and Nicki to form a band to play carols outside Waitrose in Eaton. Nine brass band players and five singers took part, playing for four hours with only a short break and earning nearly £600 for WMT.

Hilary leaves a brother, Adrian, and we have sent him our condolences.

Deborah Meynell 1953-2025

Deborah, the beloved wife of Anthony Meynell, died suddenly on Easter Sunday, the 20th of April this year. Both Deborah and Anthony had joined WMT in the last few of years and were both enthusiastic members. Deborah came on a trip across Breydon in July 2023 and wrote to us about her memories of the day - see Maud Matters No. 17. Another memory of her was when we went to inspect the oak tree that we subsequently bought from Anthony. Looking smart as always, she walked across the field with her much-loved dog to greet us.

Our condolences go to Anthony, to Deborah's brother Paul and to the rest of her family.

Future visits suggested by our members

By the time you read this newsletter you should have received details of two visits that are being planned. British Sugar at Cantley have agreed that a group of 12 of our members can have a tour of the factory in the autumn.

The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company are building a replica of the 90-foot ship that was found buried in a mound at Sutton Hoo in 1939. You may have watched the Netflix film "The Dig" about the excavations? We are told that we may take a group of members for a visit while the boatbuilders are at work on a weekday. The build is taking place in Woodbridge - another potential visit for this autumn.

We will wait to find out how much interest there is before booking either of the above visits.



Image from the SHSC Wesbite

How to come Sailing on Maud

Just a few tips for new members: look at Upcoming Events on our WEBSITE **wherrymaudtrust.org** regularly and if you wish to come on one of the trips email events@wherrymaudtrust.org and request a place..

Trips are occasionally undersubscribed and sometimes we receive cancellations. We will email members 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.

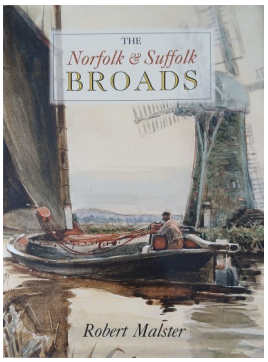
On trips you can help the crew, watch the wildlife or bring your sketchbook as June did on the trip back from Wroxham on the 11th of July.

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.



Book Reviews by Jeff Stamps

Jeff has jotted down details of some of the books on his shelves. We will continue with more of these in our next issue. Some of the books will be out of print. For those he recommends you try Abe books online uk. Good local bookshops are City Bookshop and Tombland Bookshop, both in Norwich.



THE NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS, Robert Malster. Bob Malster was a prolific author and is probably best known for Wherries and Waterways, but this is a fascinating book on the history of the broads. An easy book to read which leads you through the various aspects of the Broads.

THE MAN WHO FOUND THE BROADS, by Jamie Campbell and Cliff Middleton. An interesting book on the life of G C Davies, who fell in love with the Broads and moved from Shropshire to become a solicitor in Norwich. A biography with a large number of contemporary photos. (Acquired as a sailing prize)

NETS AND CORACLES, J Geraint Jenkins. Something completely different. A history of coracles which are predominantly in Wales and the Welsh borders, with designs varying from river to river and stretches along the same rivers. Also includes a section on poaching. (I once made two Ironbridge coracles and raced them at a VWBA meeting at Horning.)

THE ADLARD COLES BOOK OF BOAT WORDS, Denny Desoutter. Does what it says on the tin. A none-too-serious dictionary of nautical terms. What is the difference between a boomkin, a bumkin and a bumpkin?

Talks about Maud

We have three talks booked for the future:

* 7th October, Beccles Camera Club (Beccles)
* 13th November 2025, North Norfolk Volunteer Hub (Cromer)
* 21st April 2026, Norwich Probus (Norwich Mercure)

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.

Where is it?



This photo is of a pretty flower bed in a Norfolk Town. Do you know in which town it can be seen? We would like to invite anybody who knows about this feature, who created it and when, to write a short article about it for our next newsletter.

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.



The story of Maud's Breydon crossing on 21st July will be covered in our next issue. The photo above by crew member Trevor Ellis gives a taster of the weather experienced that afternoon.