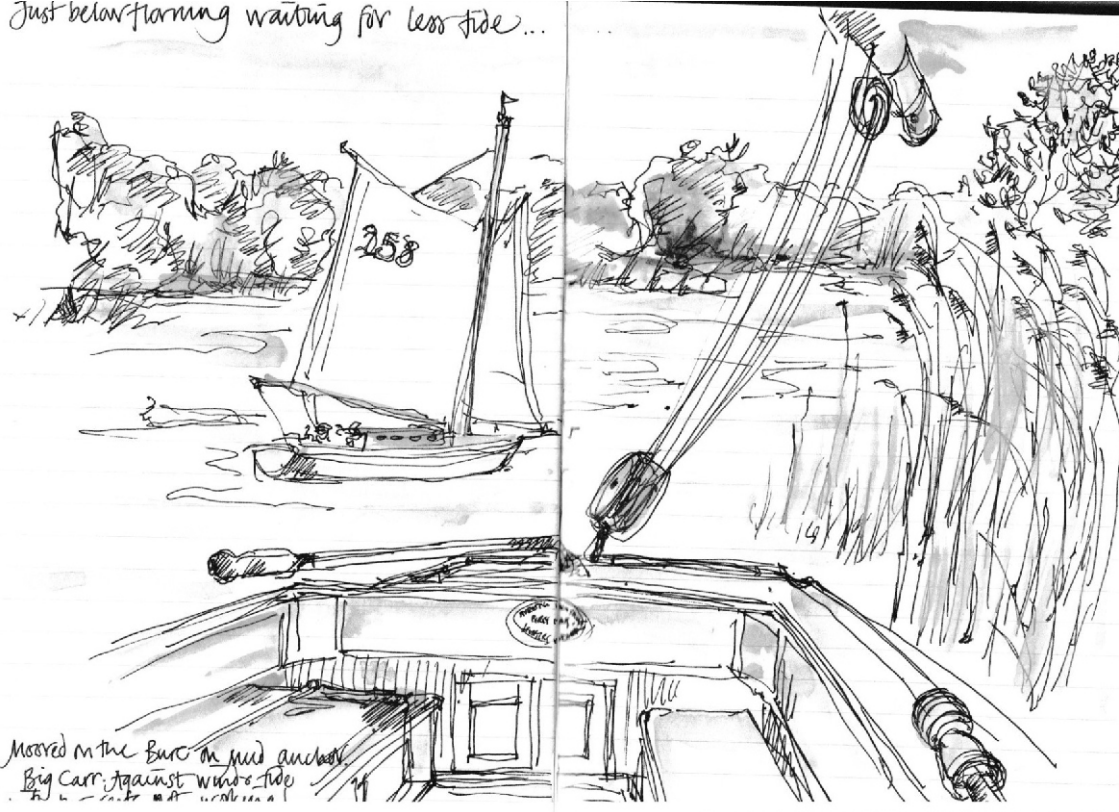


HUNTER'S YARD



Newsletter of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet

Just below Hanning waiting for less tide...



*Moved on the Burt on mud anchor
Big Carr. Against wind's tide
to the*

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Editorial

Welcome to another year and Issue 62 of the newsletter.

The lovely illustration on the cover was drawn in the log book by Anna MacInnes while sailing in *Lucent* last April, having moored just below Horning as they temporarily gave up their struggle against wind and tide, which was to our benefit. The young MacInnes, Lyla and Daisy also did some good animal and birds drawings in the log.

In this issue we welcome the first contribution from Helen Allen. Helen's appointment shows how times have changed and how we are having to move with all the new technologies in order to promote Hunters Yard. Helen explains her role on p.8.

You will see that there are quite a number of exciting events taking place at the Yard this Summer, apart from the AGM and BBQ, there is to be an Open Day, a Treasure Hunt, a Festival of Sail and a ceilidh, and a great offer, see p.16) and don't forget that there is another photo competition this year(details on p.4). Some of the lovely 2017 winning photos can be seen on p.10 and 11.

The boats are to be launched on Monday 19 March and are now all ready for another sailing season which we all hope will be blessed with suitable winds and fine weather.

Happy Sailing!

Christine

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The Chair Rambles.....

As I write this ramble the sun is shining brightly, hail is bouncing off the windows, and dark clouds are heading in from the west. Welcome to another year.

Annual maintenance on the lovely ladies is proceeding as planned, but this year, for the first time ever and after much public discussion, arguments, heart searching etc., and, more importantly, raising the necessary finance, an engine is being installed in *Lucent!*

Trees

With the new season on the horizon one's mind naturally turns to sailing, or at least in this newsletter they do, and it occurs to me that these days, whilst trees are usually subject to discussions such as preservation, diseases spreading from overseas, leylandii blocking out the light and soaking up every drop moisture in the vicinity, etc. etc., the main topic on the Broads is the way they affect the sailing conditions on the rivers. This is particularly relevant when it comes to yachts without auxiliary engines i.e. the Hunter Fleet.

Those of you familiar with work of the Victorian photographers Emerson, Payne Jennings and Davies, may well have noticed the sparsity of heavy woodland close to the rivers in many of their pictures. This was due in no small way to the fact that in the days before tourism, the broads was an agricultural industrial area on which the locals depended, to earn their living. These days their descendants' earn their living in the same area from the tourist industry.

The result is that without the continued cropping of the marshes, and river banks

the land has slowly transformed initially into marshy woodland then into firmer wooded areas. The procedure is well understood and a visit to the wildlife centre at Ranworth broad explains it much better than I can.

As far as sailing for pleasure is concerned it means that trees and bushes which formerly would have been cut back to keep the commercial navigation clear have been allowed to grow until they have a serious impact on sailing craft and are, from our point of view, a b---y nuisance!

I have heard many discussions, some of them very, very, heated, about whose responsibility it is to keep the waterways clear, but tree clearance is a very expensive business no matter who has to pay for it, and in the current economic climate doesn't come close to the top of anybody's priority unless the threat of litigation over health and safety takes a hand. In the meantime sailing craft have to take their chance, particularly in narrow waterways with adverse currents and/or winds, of taking an inordinate amount of time to navigate relatively short stretches of river as well as from catching and tearing sails when they drift helplessly into the bushes.

Doubtless other Friends will have their own opinions on this matter perhaps you might care to share them.

Turning back to my last ramble, I have to say I received a prompt and justified response, from one of the trustees no less, reference my comment about people eating out rather than cooking on board. It reminded me that for non-holiday makers, people who own a boat of their own and use

it regularly, eating out is far too expensive, and in his case he always cooks when they are on the boat. Sorry pardon. As a non-boat owning Friend one tends to forget that sailing on the Broads is not a strictly holiday only sort of thing.

However this mea culpa moment has given me the chance to make a late reference reference to that magical invention of the 20th century "Cadbury's Smash" which brought an entirely new dimension to broads holiday haute cuisine. No more peeling and an excuse to add far too much butter to the mix.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, please fill in the forms included in this issue so that the catering can be judged to a nicety, not an educated hopeful guess.

Rodney Longhurst

Membership News

I am writing this whilst sitting in a cottage on the bank of the Thurne. Unbelievably there is a heavy snow fall which seems to be settling! To our absolute joy we have had cranes & pink feet flying over this morning. I spend the first two weeks in February reconciling all membership payments that have arrived in their various forms. I must say an enormous thank you to everyone. The changing payment date and adding your personal Membership Number has made this a lot easier. The new database should be finished by April. At this point I am hoping to give Vikki & Helen

accessibility which will make any card payments easier for you all.

This year's membership card is enclosed within the Newsletter. It would be helpful if you could take a moment to check that the details are correct. Please contact me if there are any queries:

louise.hopkinson@huntersyard.co.uk or
+44 (0) 7939 014747.

Last year we had a huge increase of members from 850 to just over 910. I understand that hardly any new clients left the Yard without a membership form being given or sent. Thank you all!!!

Photo Competition

A full list of winning photos for 2017 can be found at:

<http://www.huntersyard.co.uk/learn-sailing/friends/photo-competition/>

This year's Friends of the Hunter Fleet Photo Competition will be open from 1st April 2018.

Categories: **Children** under 18; **Adults** -18 and over .

To enter just send your picture of 'a moment in time' whilst sailing one of Percy's boats to:-

louise.hopkinson@huntersyard.co.uk

Last entry date 7th September 2017. Winners to be announced at the Autumn Picnic on 29th September 2018.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at the AGM 12th May 2018.

Louise Hopkinson



Friends Events

AGM and Barbecue: Saturday 12th May 2018

This event is an indicator that spring has arrived with 'Percy's Ladies' lying resplendent in the dyke fresh from a winter of maintenance.

As last year we will have Pam Taylor from The Dragonfly Society taking a wildlife walk in and around Horsefen during the afternoon and you will also be able to book a skippered sail on the day so that you can get your first sail of the season underway.

Two Day Skippered Sails 10th- 15th June 2018

This popular event is already booking up for our return in 2018 to The Ant.

The narrowness of the river enables you to test your skills at tacking and using every breath of wind to keep way on. Barton Broad is the prize for your endeavours, with the shallows of Irstead Shoals the last challenge. Philip and Neil often have the opportunity to hone their quanting skills on this particular river!

On the way up, we shall visit How Hill.

Here you can walk up to the café for tea and cakes or enjoy an ice cream bought from Toad Cottage. You will see wildlife in abundance. One of the highlights of this sail is the vast expanse of Barton Broad where you can sail over almost all of its waters.

Half Decker Treasure Hunt July 14th & 15th 2018

This Treasure Hunt is ideal for family's and will be a mix of walking (a little), Sailing (lots off) a bit rowing (if the wind drops away) and a nights camping. The campsite has toilets and showers with an area for a barbecue.

Each boat will have a crew of up to four friends. If you are unsure of being able to skipper a half decker then do not despair as one of our skippers will be on hand to help, but not with the clues!!

We already have one boat booked so there are now only two places left for this inaugural Treasure Hunt

The cost will be £200 so give Neil a ring on 07930 910870 or send him an email to neil.hopkinson@huntersyard.co.uk

Neil Hopkinson

Junior Hunters

Below Richard Denby tells an amusing story of sailing with his granddaughter, Mia aged 8. We hope they both enjoyed the experience, I suspect that they did!

Not Coarse Sailing?

Unlike the storyteller in 'The Art of Coarse Sailing', I do not like quanting. The pole is heavy, clumsy and dammed hard work.

Being pinned to a lee shore by a fresh wind was not where I wanted to be. An attempt to moor on the windward bank was thwarted by a combination of dropping the main too early and a motorboat in the wrong place at the wrong time. By the time we recovered we were blown onto the reeds opposite.

It would not have been so bad if it had not been reeds, as I could have stepped off the boat and maybe, just maybe, pretended it was my plan all along and that was exactly where I wanted to moor. The audience on the other bank however, could see me in complete disarray. I am sure it made for entertaining viewing. I suppose its a form of divine retribution as the boot had been on the other foot many times before. (Would it be more nautical to say the oar in the other rowlock?)

A few days on Wood Sorrel with Mia, our granddaughter. She's eight, very bright and would surely love sailing? That was the plan.

To be fair, it really went very well and she enjoyed it immensely. She quickly picked up the strange language of sailing and was referring to controls and actions by their proper name. With supervision, she could raise and lower the jib and even helm the

boat. She repeatedly told me off when I did not use the correct terminology. 'You did not say either going about or lee ho' was her most common reminder! This was interspersed with playing Minecraft on her iPad.



Mia, aged 8

Oh yes - going back to the lee shore. As we were on the stretch leading down to Acle Bridge it has since become known as Bridgegate. The saga is known to all family members and it's mention is usually followed by giggles at my expense.

Nothing for it I thought, out comes the quant. Push us off the reeds and Nelson's your uncle. Well, that did not take into account the incoming tide and my first attempt was from the wrong side of the

the boat. The quant became firmly wedged under the boat and I nearly followed it. At this point in the fiasco, Mia took to playing Minecraft in the forward cabin. With the doors closed!

I lay precariously on the side deck and with a somewhat superhuman effort managed to retrieve the quant from underneath the boat. I think my audience on the opposite bank were further amused by this monstrous untamed length of wood then getting entangled in the shrouds as my strength waned. A long period of panting to recover my breath was followed by a more circumspect attempt to push off the lee shore and with more luck than judgement, getting the bows round meant that the tide helped us turn away from the bank. The main was quickly raised and we sailed off and back towards Thurne Mouth. There were no cheers from my audience and I did not look back, not even once! Later, back in Hunters Yard (and we managed a textbook mooring there,) Mia was on hand to swab the decks and get rid of the copious amounts of mud from the quant.

Lessons to be learnt? Maybe I should play Minecraft and leave sailing to others? Seriously, I really do need to master that art of mooring. That skill of gliding into the chosen space with all necessary operations timed to absolute perfection so that when six inches from the quay head all way has been lost and a crew member steps neatly ashore with the mooring line in hand. Probably a pipe dream but one can but aspire.

Richard Denby

Log Book competition,2017

My grateful thanks to Jennifer Mack for reading all the 2017 children's logs and selecting the winner.

The winners were Polly and Ruby Dudin who sailed in *Lullaby* with their parents Leo and Melissa and Annie from 12th August.

Jennifer commented" *This was an outstanding account written by Polly and Ruby (mostly Polly). In addition to the writing it was funny and interesting.*"...and with some nice illustrations as well!

There will be excerpts from this and the Highly Commended logs in the next Issue of the Newsletter

There were also three logs which were Highly Commended.

Firstly a school trip for Leah and Rachel in *Wood Sorrel* from 30th August. Jennifer said "*this totally different account should get a special mention because of the girls' enthusiasm for something obviously so different from their ordinary lives. Also "skipper Adrian obviously did a fantastic job".*

"*Some good stuff*" was also written by Freya, Carina and Amelie who sailed on *Lustre* from 22-29 July.

The final Highly Commended for the children's logs goes to James Buckley who together with father Dominic makes up the "Buckley Boys", who were the joint winners in the 2016 log book competition.

James, now aged 10, who was sailing with dad for the fourth year, once again wrote a log beside that of his father. Once again they had "*another great trip*" and you will all be pleased to know that James is still very keen on pizza and ice-cream!



From the Yard

Helen Allen Marketing Assistant

Pictures by Helen Allen

Hello everyone. Some of you will have heard about or met me already, though this is my first time writing anything for the newsletter.

As you may be aware, I started here working part time in May 2017, looking after the social media marketing for the Yard and then was lucky enough to be offered a full time position which began in September.

I feel very fortunate to be working here, being able to appreciate the beauty of the boats every day and playing a part in helping to keep them in operation.

Bringing the Fleet significantly into the modern world of social media for building awareness has had it's challenges, however, I am very mindful of the historic value and reputation of the Fleet and I am seeing progress with overall engagement and visibility to an ever increasing audience around the world... predominantly consisting of individuals, businesses, and organisations in the sailing world and travel industry. Unfortunately the tangible results from these activities do take time. For those of you unfamiliar with how the social media marketing works it really is a lot like good old fashioned networking and word of mouth except with a much wider potential reach. By sharing posts from and interacting with other online users it makes us not only visible to them, but to their

contacts and followers too. Similarly by getting our followers to engage with our posts, it then means that our posts appear to all of THEIR friends. Of course we can't guarantee who their followers are or whether they have any interest in sailing so being seen by as many people as possible is of value so we can stand more chance of reaching those who do.

Twitter is easier for targeting people interested in sailing as most users do write a bio stating their interests, so I have been seeking the sailors, adventurers, and travel enthusiasts and following them too.

All of this is getting our name, pictures of the boats and the Broads, and information about what we do here seen further and further afield through the world's sailing community which we hope will lead to new clients coming to sail with us.

I didn't get to spend a lot of time at the Yard through the busy summer months as part of my work was also done remotely and I still have a lot to learn about the rest of what goes on here so I can help out more with general duties as well as the marketing. I did however have the privilege of going out for a skippered sail with Peter Wall on the open day in April before I started working here. Although I grew up on the Broads, spending time on boats, and doing Saturday work at the boatyards before I left school, I had never been sailing until then

and I look forward to experiencing more of it. But I especially look forward to hearing more and more of Peaky's stories! It's good to laugh and I think he has enough stories to ensure we all get to laugh at least once a day for the whole year through!

The new electric pod for Lucent has been met with mixed views as we expected, although as people see what the benefits will be and realise it is to be used in place of quanting, not instead of sailing, it is receiving more acceptance. Lucent being the recipient of the pod has helped with it being accepted too, with people recognising that she isn't a Hunter original. Hopefully the trial will be a great success. The Pod has now been fitted to Lucent and I have included a photo of it for you.

The winter work is continuing in the sheds and the guys are working hard and enjoying

The pot belly stove on their break times! It sure has been cold lately. We have welcomed Curtis to our team and he's proven to be not only hardworking and capable, but a really pleasant young man too and he fits right in.

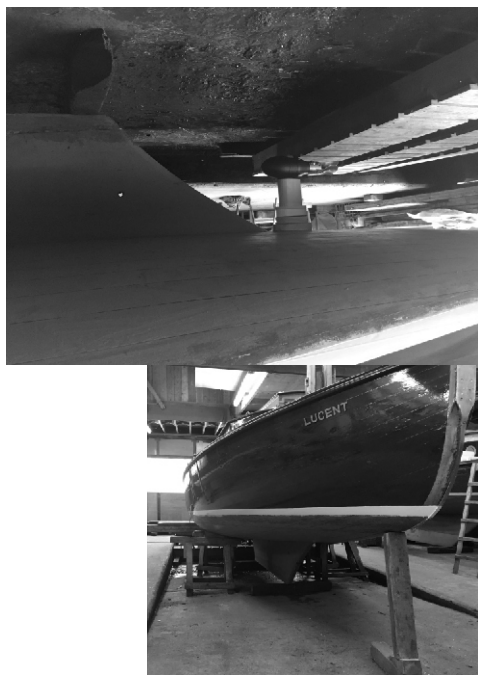
We have also had Trevor Smith here volunteering a couple of days a week, he's a dab hand with the varnishing, and with the sandpaper too... even dutifully moving on to starting to sand down Philip Bray's boat 'Brunette'... on the one year that Philip didn't actually WANT it sanded down. It caused some amusement at least and is easily rectified with a bit of varnish.

Only a few weeks to go and the ladies will be back on the water, hopefully the warmer days will be here then too. We're looking forward to both.

Helen Allen



*The new electric pod has been fitted to
Lucent*



**.PHOTO COMPETITION,
WINNERS,2017**

*On the right is the winning photo in the
11-18 section taken by Joseph Knight.*

*And below is the winning photo in the
Adult section taken by Andrew Dunsby.*

*(The overall winner's photo taken
by Missy Trethewy appeared on the
Cover of Issue 61)*

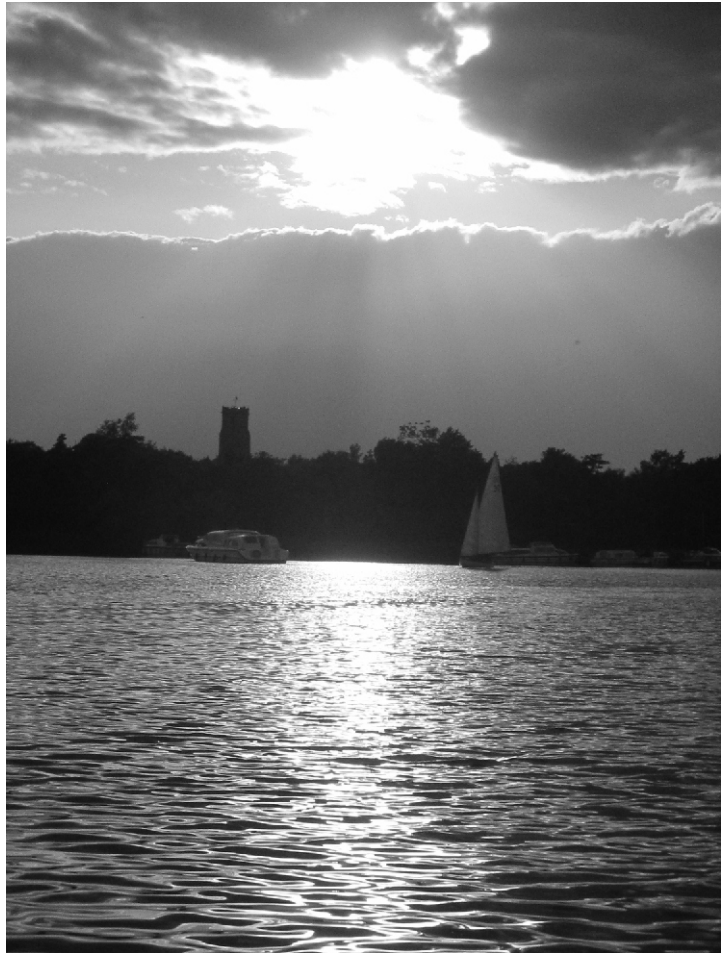


*Two further winners,
this time in the
Category “Weather”*

*On the right taken by
Pat Bray and that
below taken by
Dylan Allen.*

**Photo Competition,
2018**

*See details of 2018
Competition on p.4.*



FRIENDS AND TRUSTEES

NEWS; Friends News

ITEMS FUNDED BY FRIENDS IN 2016/7

Prizes for log book entries for 2016
Awnings for a Wood and an “L”-class
Sails for *Buff Tip* and *Sundew*
Sails- a set for each class
Roll of lino
Bedding- more for boats
Mattress underlay
More cutlery and glasses
Prizes for 2017 Photo Competition
Smoke Alarms (Boat Safety Requirement)
Improved Lighting in cabins

Items agreed for funding but not yet paid for: Prizes for log book entries, 2017

FRIENDS WITH SKILLS

Many Friends have talents and skills which could be useful not only to the Friends but also to the Yard, including working on the boats.

Do get in touch if this applies to you

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 19 March - BOATS LAUNCHED

Saturday 12 May - AGM & BBQ

Sunday 20 May - OPEN DAY, 10-5pm

Sunday 24 June - BROADS SAILING FESTIVAL, 10-5pm

Saturday 14/Sunday 15 July - TREASURE HUNT

Saturday 15 September - AUTUMN EVENT

2017 ADULT LOG BOOKS

This year I am indebted to fellow committee member Jennifer Mack for reading through all the 2017 log books and selecting the winners.

(The winners in the children's section are announced under Junior Hunters on p. 7).

The 2017 Adult Winner, Emily Nation gave an account of a “Familymoon” in *Lustre* 20-27 May. .

Jennifer comments”*this is something totally different!*

Ellie and Sam got married on 20 May and shared Lustre with sister Emily and brother-in-law Chris. Emily and Chris had come over from Australia The sister's parents had hired a boat from Buttifants (engine!). Other relations in the party hired a cruiser. It was a very good account of their week -it seemed long but they were all so active!

There were three Highly Commended.

Tim Steele and Jacqu Peel,” *first time keel hirers, gave a good account of their experiences* “in *Wood Sorrell* in August.

Three generations of the Ryde Weller family sailing in *Wood Rose* in July ranging from William(7) to grandfather Bruce. “*gave a good account of preparing the next generation for Hunter boats!*” and there was another good account from Emma Huwell and Nicola Evans sailing in *Hustler* 3 in May of “*how the inexperienced “girls” coped*”.

There were also some good drawings- by Anna MacInnes (see cover), Nick Bonner and James Curson, Wood Violet, 26 May and a “good paper swan” (Fish/Holland party, Luna, June 17-24).

SHEILA READ



Sheila at Open Day, April 2012 (photo Philip Bray)

Norwich Cathedral was packed on the afternoon of 30th January for a Thanksgiving Service for the life of a remarkable lady and one known to many Friends of the Hunter Fleet.

Sheila Read was the wife of Chairman of Hunters Trustees, Bryan Read, who has only recently retired from that position.

As Chairman of the Friends of the Sainsbury Centre, Sheila's input in discussions leading up to the formation of the Friends of the Hunter fleet was invaluable.

Percy Hunter's granddaughter Jennifer Mack writes, " In spite of Sheila's involvement in several other organisations, e.g. the Save the Children Fund, setting up the first Charity Christmas card shop, the

Sainsbury Centre, she was a great support to Bryan as Chairman of the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust.

Sheila attended the many events at Hunters Yard with Bryan over more than 20 years. Her activities ranged from helping at the more important events such as the 10th Anniversary celebrations, attending the annual Laying Up Suppers as well as talking to Friends and customers.



Sheila at 2010 AGM(photo Pat Bray)

Sheila was one of the first to roll up her sleeves and tackle the washing up, serve teas and coffees, prepare salads, etc. for the AGM BBQ lunches and sit round the pot-bellied stove chatting to the staff.

We shall all miss her tremendously. Sheila was a delightful lady. " This was borne out by the tremendous gathering in the cathedral and by the loving, thoughtful and innovative tributes paid by her children and grandchildren.

Trustees News

A brief personal history from Bruce Elson the new Chairman of the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust.

“From an early age I have been interested in all things nautical and on leaving school I attended The School of Navigation, part of Southampton University, before going to sea as a Deck Officer apprentice.

I spent my first years at sea with Canadian Pacific Steamships on general cargo ships, some time in the gulf of St Laurence working on an ice breaker and a short spell on one of the Empress liners on the North Atlantic.

The company then sent me to Nagasaki, Japan, to work up a new super tanker being built by Mitsubishi before being chartered to BP. As its third mate I spent a few years traveling the world shipping crude oil from the Persian Gulf to many corners of the globe.

I left the sea to get married and moved into engineering in the precious metals industry where, over the years, I enjoyed a range of jobs from Sales Manager to Sales and Marketing director, and finally Deputy Managing Director. During these years I traveled on business widely throughout Europe, North and South America, and Australia.

For most of this time I was based in Yorkshire until we made the decision to move to Norfolk in 1996, a long held dream. This move gave us the opportunity to undertake a barn conversion in the village of Ludham at Broadmead.

For the last years of my career I worked for

Norfolk Constabulary as a civilian manager, supporting a wide range of operational activities. This was fascinating work and huge fun.

My love of Norfolk, and the Broads in particular, started with cruising family holidays in the 1950s and 60s, and I learnt to sail on Barton Broad when I was seven years old. Over the years my wife and I have owned, and sailed, a range of boats including dinghies, river cruisers and now we enjoy our motor cruiser “Talisker”, cruising the northern and southern broads. I became involved with Hunters some 15 years ago when I was invited to become a Trustee, and a year ago, following the retirement of Bryan Read, I was asked to take on the role of Chairman.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees my key objectives are to maintain the current fleet in excellent working condition, consider fleet development where appropriate to support the ongoing business, and manage the business of the Trust in a professional and proper manner. My wife Tricia and I have been married for 47 years and have a son Mark (43) and daughter Vicki (41) and now living in Horning”.

Bruce Elson

OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 20 MAY 10AM-5PM
*Visit the Yard; view displays and
cabin craft; try taster sails; dinghy
races*
Refreshments

Friends Write.....

From Ian Cartwright

Good evening, Christine,

I went out in a *Woodcut* with my grandson last June, and enjoyed it a lot.

So here's an advertisement for *Woodcuts*; if you get the idea they are great fun to sail without being too adventurous, that's what I meant to impart.

Best wishes,

Ian

Sailing with my Grandson

Last June, I came sailing with my grandson, and took out a *Woodcut*. It was years since I had last sailed a *Woodcut*; I'd camped in one with my son (we were both a lot younger then, and the cockpit sole and its hardness were not quite so off-putting. I'd also spent time camping out on a Yeoman, which was no softer.) But my grandson and I were out only for the day, so such things were irrelevant. My memory was of a very pleasant little boat, but a bit cramped to camp out on with my son and two collie-sized dogs. I actually found a *Woodcut* was a superb boat for two people we could have taken a third with no trouble and one that my (novice) grandson could handle quite happily on his own. I was far enough out of

the way not to put him off, but near enough to take control if necessary. To be fair to him, I never did have to take control - or even to shout at him. The only drawback from his point of view was that, after I had tacked the boat down the dyke and onto the main river, I was reluctant to give it up and let him have his share.

I was expecting a pleasant sailing experience. What I found was that the boat exceeded my memories, and was a real delight to sail. One hand on the tiller and the mainsheet in the other, no jib and jib sheets to worry about, no need for muscles like Popeye to control tiller and mainsheet. And light enough, and with enough life in the boat even in light wind, to make it interesting, without being "tippy-uppy" like a dinghy.

If you think this is a shameless advertisement for the *Woodcuts*, then you're right; it is. For two adults and a child, a *Woodcut* must be almost ideal for a pleasant day's sailing. It isn't even difficult to reef if necessary and if the wind goes away, it's light enough to be rowed home. Of course, if you want something a bit more edgy and leave the child ashore there's always one of the Rebels!

Hunter's Woodcut I and II

Built by the Hunter Family; they're ideal for **beginners, solo sailors** and those wishing to **refresh** their sailing skills. Excellent for **camping** or outside your **holiday cottage**.

- Balance Lug Rigged
- Single Sail
- LOA 18' - (5.5m)
- Fixed Keel
- Each seats up to 3 people
- Oars and Camping Awning



And a bit more shameless advertising.....Ed.

AN EXCITING OFFER AND A NEW EVENT

IMAGE: RICHARD OSSOURNE



Special half-price offer: join today!

Free days out at Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserves!

Norfolk Wildlife Trust now offers membership to Friends of Hunter's Yard at **HALF PRICE** for the first year, providing **FREE** entry to NWT Hickling Broad and a guide book describing all our reserves, including eight on The Broads alone. Half price membership starts at just £16 (or £23.50 for a family).

Go to www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/membership
or call us on **01603 625540** quoting your special code **HY50**



Registered charity no. 208734

Saving **Norfolk's Wildlife** for the Future



Broads Sailing Festival Sunday 24 June 10-4pm

Look around beautiful classic sailing yachts available to hire on the Norfolk Broads, visit the Heritage fleet at Hunters yard, Swallowtail Yard and other yacht hirers exhibiting hire yachts on private Quay headings at Little Holland.

Arrive by boat! Try a taster sail on the river, refreshments, live music.

Organised by all the sailing Hire Yards in conjunction with Friends of St Catherine's

FRINGE EVENT 'Festival of Sail Ceilidh'

Saturday 23 June 7.30 – 10.30pm

See Hunters and church websites for further details

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