

HUNTER'S YARD



Newsletter of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet



Picture by Denis Verdon, winner 2016 photo competition

In this issue

Editorial-Christine Wall 2

The Chair Rambles-Rodney Longhurst 3

Membership News-Louise Hopkinson 4

Friends Write 5

Log Book competition, 2016 7

From the Yard-Vikki Walker 8

Trustees News 11

Friends events,2017 12

100 Volunteer sails-Rob Edson 13

The Way of the *Wood Violet*,1950-Ronald Ingle 15

Friends of the Hunter Fleet Committee Members

Chairman

Rodney Longhurst

129 Christchurch Road
Norwich NR2 3PQ
Tel: 01603 453889

Vice Chairman/Event Organiser

Neil Hopkinson

E:neil.hopkinson@huntersyard.co.uk
Tel: 01455 203167

Committee Secretary/NHFT Trustee

Philip Bray

5 Westfield Road
Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7HE
E: philip.bray@huntersyard.com
Tel: 01760 725931

Membership Secretary

Louise Hopkinson

8 Spenser Road
Lutterworth LE17 7HE
E: louise.hopkinson@huntersyard.co.uk
Tel: 01455 203167

Treasurer

Peter Wall

Flycatcher, School Road
Ludham NR29 5PF
E: thewalls@broadland.net
Tel: 01692 678060

Chairman-NHFT-Bruce Elson

E:teandbe@btinternet.com
Tel:01692 678789

NHFT Yard Manager- Vikki Walker

E: vikki@huntersyard.com
Tel: 01692 678263

NHFT Nominated Trustee

Jennifer Mack

Tel: 01692 403508

Pio Altarelli

Tel: 01986 895559

Linda Aspland

Newsletter Editor-Christine Wall

E:thewalls@broadland.net

Editorial

Welcome to Issue 59. Pictured on the front cover is the prize winning photo, by Denis Verdon, from the 2016 photo competition. The 2017 competition will be launched on 1st May (see p.4) and the prize awarded at the Autumn event. It would be great if there is a lovely display of entries on that day-the Yard, sailing and the Broads environment do provide so many photographic opportunities.

As always the newsletter is packed with your contributions- stories and accounts from yesteryear (1950s and 1960s) to right up to date (100 volunteer sails (p.13) including thoughts about whether the newsletter should continue to be produced in sepia and a call for more Friends to step forward and join the Friends committee.

As I am preparing this issue the sun is streaming through the window which makes me think of when the boats are back in the water (they are sitting in the boatshed looking wonderful and gleaming in their newly repaired and varnished state- it almost hurts the eyes).

The AGM and another sailing season will soon be upon us and following this year's AGM there is to be not only sailing but also a Wildlife Walk.

I hope to see many of you there and wish you a lovely sailing season.

Christine

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 1 July 2017

Newsletter editor:

Christine Wall

Flycatcher

School Road

Ludham NR29 5PF

Tel:01692 678060

The Chair Rambles.....

The beginning of another year, and, when the weather improves, another sailing season. The winter maintenance schedule of the lovely ladies has, so far, gone according to plan and they will be ready to return to the water on time.

Owning and maintaining your own boat can, particularly with a traditionally constructed wooden boat, be a time consuming, very expensive, and stressful experience, as I'm sure some of our members can vouch for. Mooring fees, where the boat just sits there, perhaps for most of the time, doing nothing, can absorb hundreds of pounds in a season; rather like owning a caravan/mobile home on a permanent site or a holiday cottage. After a while the dream can turn into a nightmare when the owner starts counting the running costs against the number of times it is used to fulfil that dream during the season. It may explain why there are so many boats apparently crumbling into rot and ruin all around the country.

Hiring/renting any of the above examples can also be an expensive experience, but at the end of the holiday the hirer just packs their bags and walks away leaving the owners to sort out any problems which may have arisen. Problems arise of course, when the owners fail, for whatever reason, to maintain the item for hire in the condition that the holidaymaker has been led to expect.

Owning a fleet of yachts for hire can also turn into a nightmare when, for whatever reason, a yacht is returned to the Yard with e.g. holes in the planking or a broken mast.

Repairs/spares must be provided as soon as possible without interrupting the clients holiday, unless they have contributed in some particularly negligent manner to the problem, and certainly in time for the next letting.

I have to say that, in the past I never gave such matters any serious thought. If there is a problem get in touch with the boatyard and they will sort it out. Only since my involvement with the Friends committee, have I come to realise the reality of running a fleet of traditionally built hire yachts in the crowded waterways of the Norfolk Broads!

I have been reading last year's contributions to the log books which are provided on every boat for anybody who wishes to enter the advertised competition, to fill in their own personal experiences of their time on a Hunter's boat. Whilst some of each entry is, perforce, similar to all the others e.g. we left Womack Water & turned left for Potter, right for Thurne etc., I was struck by the enthusiasm of the entries who, in spite of bad weather, adverse tides/winds, crowded moorings etc., all of which we have experienced at one time or another, enjoyed their holidays and hoped to return this year.

Sadly the number of entries last year was down on previous years, possibly due to the reduction in lettings, again possibly caused by our hirer's aging demographic which has been commented on at length before and which the Trustees are giving very close attention to.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter the AGM is on the 22nd April this year

when the new Chair of the Trustees will be making a presentation to Bryan Read who retired last year . I look forward to seeing you there, although I may not be the bloke organising the car parking.

Best wishes,

Rodney Longhurst.

Membership News

Whilst walking amongst Percy's ladies in the boat shed this week I was aware of the vast contribution you all make to enable this wonderful fleet to stay afloat. I know that many of you are unable to visit the yard as often as you would like. A winter visit can be an unbelievable experience. Watching the team at work is truly humbling. The smell of varnish and the sound of wood being whittled or sanded takes me back to my childhood. I cannot believe that in only a few weeks the boats will be back in the water. Where has the winter gone?

We have had six new Friends and a fantastically generous response to cheque renewals already this year. We currently have 850 members. It would be wonderful to think we could reach the seemingly elusive figure of 1,000 members by our 25th Anniversary.

I am hoping to launch an appeal for new members via our Friends Facebook page this year. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your overwhelming support and good wishes since taking on the membership secretary's role.

Photo Competition

The Friends of the Hunter Fleet Photo Competition will be opened from 1st May 2017.

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 8th September 2017.

Winners to be announced at the Autumn Picnic on 30th September 2017.

Unfortunately due to rescheduling of our flights, Neil and I will be returning from Namibia during the AGM. We both send our sincere apologies and wish you a wonderful year's sailing.

See you on the water.

Louise Hopkinson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22 April.....AGM

Sunday 23 April.....OPEN DAY

Sunday 25 June..... Hunters at Ludham
Open Gardens

Wednesday 28 June.....Hunters at

Thursday 29 June Norfolk Show

Saturday 30 September AUTUMN EVENT

Friends Write...

From Dr. M. Vickers, East Grinstead

Dear Christine Wall,

I do love the Newsletter. Just got the November issue today.

Packed full of info and much more.

But for quite a few issues, no sign of Vikki's column.

It is a little different. And expressed in Vikki's inimitable way.

It has always been a highlight.

Perhaps she's taking a break?

I do hope she is ok and that we may see more of her contributions.

All best,

Michael v.

(Michael, you and all of Vikki's other fans need wait no longer! The "From the Yard" column is back and in its usual position in the centre of the newsletter).

From Nicholas Bazley., Wimbledon

Dear Editor,

I was very surprised to learn of the moves to electric propulsion to the Fleet. It should be remembered that "vintage" is a major part of the appeal of the Hunter's yachts and should not be regarded as a handicap in the "increasingly competitive market". This is directly demonstrated by the apparently mystifying unpopularity of *Lucent*: she is not a vintage boat. Modifying the boats for hire to those past quanting and losing that infinitely valuable *je ne sais quoi* is not the future; the recent *Swallows and Amazons* film (and the anticipated sequels) is a golden opportunity to promote Hunter's

unique assets to a younger and fitter clientele.

By the way; are quanting lessons offered?

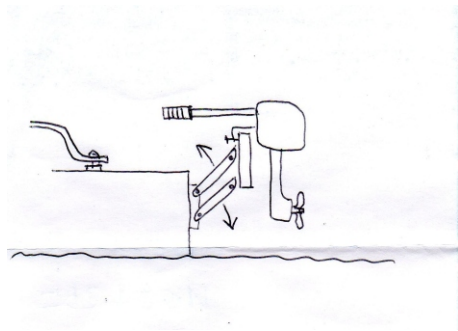
There is a technique to effective (and efficient) quanting and many coming from a yachting background will lack the necessary skills.

An alternative to engines for the more senior customers would be to offer a tow back to the Yard for boats stranded at the end of the hire period- for a charge of course. I have often quanted long distances at the end of a week simply because the wind had died and wouldn't get us back in time. I'm sure the more mature customer would be more than willing (and able) to pay for this service.

If it is decided that an engine is really necessary, may I counsel against electric?

Whilst I can see the attraction of electric boating, a decent battery bank is extremely heavy and boats away from the Yard for a week with no means of charging surely run the risk of becoming stranded? The West London Floating Classroom was a canalboat with electric propulsion- but with a powerful diesel generator to charge the batteries should they run flat when away from base. It spent much time as a diesel powered boat with electric transmission. A boat designed without an engine may not steer very well when retro-fitted with a propeller: my unpowered canal boat (originally horse-drawn) was fitted with a propeller through the stern post but would not steer satisfactorily with the engine in gear; to manoeuvre successfully the engine had to be in neutral before putting the helm over, or she would

continue powering forwards under the influence of the propeller. A better solution, I suggest, is one I experienced on the first Broads yacht I sailed *Gem*.



She had a small petrol outboard mounted on a board fixed on the transom; this board was pivoted in such a way that the engine could be vertically lifted right out of the water when not in use. It did not affect sailing performance, but functioned very well and economically when needed. I shouldn't imagine it cost a fortune to fit, it didn't interfere with the integrity of the boat and I envisage that a motor thus fitted could be easily removed if not required by the hirer. Of course, for those wishing to hire a vintage yacht with a (vintage) engine, I can heartily recommend Martham boats....

Your sincerely,

Nicholas Bazley

From Tim Hendley, Port Republic, NJ, USA

Dear Vikki,

Here are two photos of *Wood Rose* which I thought you might be able to use in the next newsletter (*see below and opposite*). The captions are self explanatory (taken in September. 1965)

The week's rental took place as we were starting to build a family, later additions to which plus a move abroad, meant that this was the last time I went on the Broads- having spent so many earlier holidays there as a teenager and "young adult"!

Please send the photos on to the editor. I hope they are useful.

Best wishes,

Tim Hendley



Wood Rose at Ludham Bridge, September 1965

LOG BOOK COMPETITION, 2016



*River Bure at St Benet's Abbey, September
1965*

And finally....

*Friend Dennis Oates, Romford, Essex recalls
his first holiday on the Broads in 1957.*

I do love the Broads. Gladys and I saw an advert ref boating holidays on the Norfolk Broads and booked our first holiday with Hoseasons. We hired the cabin yacht *Tiptoes, A 665* from A.H.Carr of Horning. It cost £21 for a week's hire (£1 per foot). The sun and rain came. We tried to sail but kept going into the reeds so resorted to the engine. It was magic- cooking our food and washing up- everything was so different. A really lovely first holiday together. I wish, as a lot of us do, to relive our first holiday together. We had other holidays with our two sons Tony and Danny.

Your sincerely,

Dennis

(Love to the Broads)

I am indebted to the Friends chairman Rodney Longhurst who once again has read all the entries in all 14 log books. This is quite a task and one which Rodney has performed several time previously over the years! Rodney makes some comments about the log books in the Chairman's Ramble.

Unusually this year we are awarding a joint prize. The winners are "The Buckley Boys on Tour". Skipper : Dominic Buckley; Crew: James Buckley; Supernumeraries: Twizzle the cuddly dog and Reuben the cuddly pig, who sailed in *Hustler 4*, from 30 August-2 September, this being their third annual "boys trip" courtesy of Hunters Yard. Their log is written as a joint log with father (Dominic) and son (James) each giving their impression of the day's events during their 3 day sail. It was most interesting to read of each day's events through the eyes of father and son and to put into context young James' log. Both father and son illustrated their logs. Some of these illustrations and excerpts will appear in the next newsletter, together with excerpts from other 2016 logs.

E-copy

Any Friend who wishes to receive their newsletter electronically should contact Louise Hopkinson:
louise.hopkinson@hunteryard.co.uk.



From the Yard **Vikki Walker Yard Manager** Pictures by Vikki Walker

Hello everyone, sorry we didn't manage to get something in the last issue, it has been a very hectic year for all of us. Here's just a bit of what's been going on.....

We've had lots of short break bookings in 2016 (which keeps us all extra busy during the week) and had a reasonable season in the end but still unfortunately finish a bit lower than the year before. No worries though, we have high hopes on improving on that this year, with a bit of help from one of our newest trustees Peter Joyner who know a lot about marketing.

We've also been busy with a joint marketing project we're involved in with Eastwood Whelptons and Martham Boats. We've set up a joint website and now have a booking page on there where people can visit one place, see what each of our yards can offer and then check availability of all three of us - you could call it a 'one stop shop'. It's hoped that by joining together we can help each make a difference not only to our respective bottom lines but also by helping to increase sailing awareness on the Broads. Well, over the years we've all passed on customers to each other if we didn't have a boat available so this is just the next step really.

Speaking of bookings on websites- we know that people encountered problems trying to book online last year with the booking system we had (yes it turned out to


be absolute rubbish, sorry) and so have decided to change it again to one that has been tried and tested by some of the other local yards. Our website will have a new system which means you can check availability and book there and then. We also hope to be adding the ability for people to pay online, through Sagepay but this is taking us a bit longer to set up. We are working with Holray Booking systems and it seems to be one of the better systems we've tried. Whelptons and Herbert Woods are amongst their clients so I'm hopeful it will be just what we need too. I must say a big thank you to Tony Southwood who has done so much work on our website on getting the booking pages right for us, thanks Tony, we couldn't have done it without you.

Another project we're looking forward to is the Ludham Open Gardens being held on Sunday June 25th. We'll be open and will be joined by Eastwood Whelpton and Martham Boats who will bring a couple of boat with them for people to have a look at and a chat about should they wish. We will also be working with each other at this year's Norfolk Show which is Wed. 28th & Thurs 29th June. A busy week for us all and let's hope with the three larger sailing yards working together we can get the 'word' out there and encourage more people to take sailing holidays on the Norfolk Broads.

www.norfolkbroadsailingholidays.co.uk

Apps Bookmarks Hunters Yard Book... Hunters Yard Twitter Hunters Yard Website Life Jackets Mail... SmarteMail Birdwatching Eng... Logon Administration Autograph Download... Other Bookmarks

Norfolk Broads Sailing Holidays HOME LEARN TO SAIL HOLIDAYS THINGS TO DO FEATURES CONTACT



Sailing in Norfolk

- Family Holidays
- Short Breaks
- Learn to Sail
- Group Events

Holiday Search

Where would you like to go?

Show All Broads Yachts

Starting between which dates?

3rd Mar - 30th Mar 2017

Preferred start day (optional)

1st or 3rd

Please choose length of holiday

Full Week

How many in your party?

2

Find your perfect sailing holiday

Norfolk Broads Sailing Holidays and Adventures

Your resource for holiday sailing fleets, sailing tuition and events

[Learn More](#)

Norfolk Broads Sailing Holidays

A gentle adventure in Britain's magical waterland - Live on-board your holiday yacht - Explore lowly rivers and lakes under sail - As much or as little tuition as you need. On this website you'll find out more about three of the leading Boatyards in Norfolk that offer Sailing Holidays and short-break yacht hire. Browse a range of choices and learn how you can build a holiday package that fits your needs and budget.

Pages from new booking system

www.huntersyard.co.uk/find-sailing-holiday/

Apps Bookmarks Hunters Yard Book... Hunters Yard Twitter Hunters Yard Website Life Jackets Mail... SmarteMail Birdwatching Eng... Logon Other Bookmarks

Find a Sailing Holiday

New Online Booking System

We are putting the final touches to our new online booking system which will hopefully be ready soon. Below, you can use our **Find A Sailing Holiday** feature. However, at the moment, making an actual booking has been DISABLED. So, **until we are up and running**, to make a booking or enquire about current availability, please contact us by phone or email.

Find A Sailing Holiday

Type of Yacht

Any

Number of People?

2

Holiday start date?

15/07/2017

For how long?

Week

Find...



Important Notes

- For Group and Youth Group Bookings (more than one yacht) please contact us directly to arrange your booking
- For our famous 2hr Skipped Sails please contact us directly to arrange your booking
- If you would rather NOT book online, contact us directly and let us book your holiday for you!
- We will need to check with you that the skipper of any yacht is **suitably experienced**. If you are unsure, please mention us when booking your holiday.

Call +44 (0)1692 678 263 for any help or information you may need

Sailing Holidays we have found for You...

Hustler Class

Features

- ★ Beautifully Maintained & Presented
- ★ Classic 24ft Cabin Yacht
- ★ Gaff Rigged Sloop
- ★ Self Tacking Jib
- ★ All Wood Construction
- ★ No Engine - Aux power by Quint
- ★ Counter Weighted Mast
- ★ Twin Berth Cabin
- ★ WC

From: Sat 15 Jul 2017
 Until: Sat 22 Jul 2017
 Your Price: £679.00
[Book Now \(disabled\)](#)

Price shown includes:
 Gas, Crockery, Cutlery, Pils & Pans, Linen, Toilet Paper, Binoculars, Binnacle, Boat, First Aid Kit, All Breading
 Optional Extras:

Woodcut

Features

Now I'm sure you all remember our emotive subject of motor/engine for *Lucent* from the AGM last year- So I'd like to take a moment to let you all know that we've not been able to go ahead with the trial yet due to the Trustees still looking closely into the best way of adding power but also because of the lack of funds. One of our Trustees has now been tasked with finding some funding so we can get on with this project. We do have people waiting to take her out once she has been fitted with an engine and so we can let you know when this has happened please contact the yard and let us know you're interested and we'll keep you updated on our progress. Also, if anyone knows of ways we can raise the funds for this project, such as organisations that may like to help, or someone who might donate some money towards it, do give us a call please.

We will be involved with Linda Matthews and her Brush with the Broads event again this year, we're not sure in which capacity at the moment but thankfully it won't I believe be on the same weekend as your autumn event. We will also be mindful of the parking and traffic situation that caused and will put better systems in place, learning from our mistakes I hope and we do apologise to our neighbours for all the problems those mistakes created.

As I write, Percy's Lovely Ladies are nearing completion and looking forward to seeing everyone this season. Launching, rigging and re-dressing back in their "finery", as I call it, will be happening middle of March so not long to go now! We're all looking forward to seeing you here at that Yard at some time and we wish you blue skies and fair winds.

Vikki





PRESENTATION TO BRYAN READ

The oil painting of Hunters Yard, pictured above, painted by Su Chisnell was presented to Trustees Chairman, Bryan Read on his retirement from the Friends committee. We are delighted to hear that Bryan really likes the picture which is now hanging by his front door where it is seen regularly. Bryan is to become Patron of the Trustees.

We are pleased that the new Chairman of the Trustees, Bruce Elson, has joined the Friends committee.

TRUSTEES NEWS

The Trustees wish to make a presentation to Bryan on his retirement as their Chairman. This will take place at the AGM, Saturday, 22 April.

TRUSTEE VACANCY

The Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust has a vacancy for trustees and needs someone with HR/Personnel Management experience although the Trust does employ a consultant to provide up-to-date details of legislation and advice.

The trustees meeting is normally bi-monthly in Ludham but trustees are encouraged to visit the Yard more often.

If you are interested and live locally, or you know someone who might be, please contact Bruce Elson on 01692 678789 or Hunter's Yard.

Friends Events 2017

AGM Saturday 22nd April

Your first event of the year is just after Percy's Ladies have entered the water.

This year for the first time we will have Pam Taylor taking you out onto Horsefen for a Wildlife Walk in the afternoon.

After the AGM itself the barbecue will be ready and waiting for you to enjoy before the afternoons skippered sail. Please note that we will only have a finite number of sails available.

There is a Booking Form enclosed for both events.

Two Day Skippered Sails 6th & 7th June

We only have two places left for this fantastic opportunity to enjoy sailing one of the *Hustlers* on the River Bure to Horning. One of the highlights is tacking through the narrow passage into Hoveton Little Broad.



This includes a night's stay at The

Moorhen B&B in Horning.

Either call or email Neil to book these last places. Mobile: 07930910870

Email: neil@impalaadventures.co.uk

The Autumn Sailing Picnic 30th September

This Friends Event has evolved over the years into a celebration of the Hunters Boats. Here you will have the chance to take the helm under the direction of one of our superb skippers. We sail both the cabin and half deckers. Neil will endeavour to ensure you sail in the boat that you request, unless you all want to be in *Brown Bess*, so book early!

Jeremy Halls will be running Wildlife Walks around Horse Fen in the morning and afternoon, which will include a bit of pond dipping.

For those of you who enjoy watching the boats sail from the water we will have the Nancy Oldfield Boat running both morning and afternoon.

NEW for 2017 will be sailing "races" in the fleets dinghy's during the afternoon.

Neil Hopkinson

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Friends committee is looking for new members. If you are able to attend committee meetings three or four times a year on Wednesday evening here in Ludham (at Flycatcher), do consider putting your name forward for election at the AGM to join this friendly committee and be involved in the continuation of the Friends organisation.

One Hundred Volunteer Sails

Hello Sailors everywhere.

I am celebrating a personal “Nautical Milestone”: At the end of this Summer 2016 I sailed as volunteer skipper for my 100th 2 hour sail.

It was a typical Hunters day, the twenty first of September, thick mist as I set out on my 70 mile journey, but it turned into a beautiful sailing day.

I always enjoy meeting everyone at the Yard, then unwrapping our assigned yacht for the day, *Valliant Rebel* this time, smiling at the varnish, then preparing the sails and sheets to suit the day and my style of sailing.

Ann, her husband and their collie Isla all came aboard and enjoyed their sail up to St Benet's Abbey ruins. Everyone had a go at helming except Isla. We dodged the motor cruisers and waved at anyone looking friendly, exchanging the time of day with the fishermen too.

Back to the Yard safe and happy, talking of coming again sometime.

A nice calm time for me to wrap the yacht again, have a little chat and drive South.

I started in 2005 and have been very pleased to be accepted by the yard each year to sail one these special boats and help people experience sailing, often for the first time, hopefully not the last.

I am sure there are other volunteer skippers who have done more, but I was pleased to complete 200 hours skipperin' and 300 hours spent driving, preparing the yachts and packing up, 9240 miles altogether.

As I was tidying *Valliant Rebel* for her

afternoon sail I met James, a new volunteer skipper who lives locally now. It's good to see more and younger skippers volunteering to share the joy and skills. I hope they all get their fair share of those glorious sailing days and can inspire youngsters with the wind in the reeds, the curve of the sail, chuckle of the bow and the thrum of the tiller when you're starting to pick up pace.

Thanks to everyone involved for the pleasure I have had and hopefully shared

Rob Edson



The Newsletter, Sepia (or not)...

Since Issue 5 (Autumn 1998), the Friends newsletter has been printed in sepia. The preceding four issues were in black and white and sepia was a great improvement. Since then for the next 18 years the newsletter has continued to be produced in sepia, which I guess has become the trademark of the newsletter.

However, technology has advanced tremendously in that time and I know that some of the Friends are now starting to ask, why sepia? (We are a heritage boatyard but we do not want to appear ancient!). And we on the Friends committee are starting to wonder the same thing.

When producing the newsletter, I am often saddened when I have to change beautiful colour photos into monochrome, and while I (and printer Roger) try to do our best with the reproduction, it is never quite the same.

Several alternatives have been suggested, which I shall produce and pass to the committee for their comments:

1. Remain the same. 2. Become black and white with colour photos. 3. Remain sepia with centre page of colour photos, perhaps with a border of sepia.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Please let me know. *Christine*

1950- “The way of the Wood Violet or Three men in a Boat Not to mention the dinghy

Being an impression rather than an exact log, by one of impressionable years, thank goodness.

Here is the final installment of this remarkable log from more than 65 years ago! I hope you have enjoyed reading the exploits of the author of the log Ronald Ingle as he sailed for two weeks on the broads together with his father and friend Jack Webster. I have found this log a fascinating read; in some ways so similar to a log which is written today and in some ways so very, very different.

WEDNESDAY 28th *(continued)*

The evening, if uneventful, was if anything pleasanter than usual, with again a fine evening sky and later a really full moon. In a short sing-song we brought the boat down with Green Grow the Rushes Oh! D(Daddy) pitched “I’ll sing you whatever-it- is-oh!” very low and his last note was really just a windy draft with a suggestion of pitch to it. Long before we reached 12, this had us laughing and by 12, the smooth sequence was quite lost owing to helpless laughter. A good time was had by all. The midges are out in strength tonight leaving Knobs (a good dog - alias Jack) with knobs on.

THURSDAY 29th

“Goodnight sweet prince, And flights of midges sing thee to thy rest.” (with apologies to Bill S.)

It was a glorious morning: the sun shone through the leaves of a willow into the well and the cabin. So we rose in great spirits. But the sun was high in the sky before we made sail, for we are encircled in our novel and read a long portion over the wreck of breakfast that lies on the cabin table, the cabin floor, the floor and lockers of the well, and overflows onto the decking and the stern: “mute evidence of a former” meal of some calibre.

We soon realized that this was one of the longed for days such as Jack had dreamed of, but has unfortunately not hitherto been vouchsafed. There was a cloudless sky and a strong breeze.

We swept up to the Ant Bridge for our last shopping expedition. R(Ronald) went to Ludham for rations. We swept down the Bure, and had a swim en route, being towed behind the dinghy- a terrific sport and quite a procession!

After lunch we swept on to Acle Bridge and had a running duel with a clipper, which turned out of the Thurne. It began by overhauling us to windward on the reach. We fall into line about 20 yds astern and held that distance. As the river swung into the wind we overtook on the tacking and just held a precious lead and challenge. On the last bend we sneaked the corner on a long tack and ran into Acle winners by perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Great precautions are being taken re burnt backs.

By tea time we had returned to roughly the same place in the South Walsham Dyke. J (jack) & R bathed before tea, after which we went our separate ways. D pottered about the boat. R was put off on the other shore among the bulrushes where he sketched the boat. J sailed. We rejoined the ship at eight and were soon tucking in to corn-beef hash and strawberries. Although we don't dress for dinner on this ship, we do not favour extremes (viz. the episode of the beard). Tonight twenty toes bristled under the dinner table. We spent the whole evening in the well, reading, drinking and singing: Ten Green Bottles rendered with delicacy and subtle interpretations. John Brown's Baby

(Wah!) has a cold (Tshoo!) on its chest (Thump!). Withal liberally sprinkled with D.D.T. by Jack who is a bit trigger-happy about it.

A sense of finality creeps into the atmosphere and the conversation. Though we laugh about it lightly, we must soon face it bravely. As we turned in, a tall spectral figure clad in shirt and underpants passed out into the night muttering imprecations. Yes, we knew too that there was something forgotten. Soon all was quiet with Drake in his hammock except for the throb of high flying mosquitoes, the puff-puff of Knob's D.D.T. Ack-ack and the scratch of the logging pen, under the lamplight - fitful on account of the enlarging hole in the lamp glass.

FRIDAY. 30th

"A boat, like the rest of us, needs to be loved." H.S.

Today was really more truly Broads-like than yesterday not cloudless, but with great white random masses of cloud stretched across the skies, the warm sun going in and out and good breeze with no reefs. We circled the Walsham Broad again and then went down to Acle in search of good sailing and competition both of which we found; lunch at Acle then up to Potter and finally to rest in Womack Water. After tea J & R had their best, or at any rate most enjoyable, dinghy sail, first to fetch milk, then to Thurne Dyke. Despite mutual sarcasm, ribaldry and surreptitious raising of the centerboard, the dinghy showed herself well. We returned with the breeze astern, the evening sun on our backs and songs sung and unsung. *"the apple-tree, the singing, and the gold."* Eurypides] Then a

Hunter Fleet Merchandise - Updated List

T-Shirts:

Child	£ 5.00
Adult	£ 8.50

Polo Shirts:

Child	£12.50
Adult	£14.00

Sweatshirts:

Child	£10.50
Adult	£16.00

Zippered Hooded Sweatshirts:

Child	£18.50
Adult	£22.50

Fleeces:

Child	£20.00
Adult	£25.00

Baseball Caps:

Child	£ 4.75
Adult	£ 6.00

Knitted Hats: £ 4.80

Hunter's Fleet White China Mugs:

Large	£ 6.00
Small	£ 5.00

Hunter's Fleet Blue Mugs: £ 2.75

'Friends' Calendar £ 7.00

Heritage Boat-Yard DVD £10.00

Hunter's Fleet Book £ 5.00

Hidden Broads DVD £12.00

Embroidered Badge £ 3.00

(Fleet Logo)

Teddy Bear £12.50

Clothing sizes:

Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL

Child 5-6yrs, 7-8yrs, 9-11yrs, 12-13yrs

Postage and Packing - Please Add:

Gift Vouchers, Calendars & DVDs - £1.00

All other items - £2.50

set to, to prepare the farewell dinner prolonged endeavour ending in a bit of technical failure, though most delectable, sausages, & fried potato & Christmas Pudd. By lamp light we were able, with minimal skipping, to finish There is No Armour. All thanks to the Owner for introducing us, & sustaining our interest by his genial rendering. It is cold & clear tonight. As if knowing it is the last night, the midges are off duty, The sails are furled for good & the cover particularly well applied. The food lockers are, not barren, but comfortably empty. Tonight the light is very dim for the

glass succumbed, this and everything, even the boat itself, recognise what is coming to pass. So I lay down my pen, stand on the bank for a few moments looking westward at the afterglow silhouetting the trees and a few masts, hear the clock of Ludham Church strike eleven, then creep into my envelope of blankets. Now there is silence but for a slight rapping high up the mast, the quiet breathing of tired, contented men, and an occasional slap of water on the hull. I turn the lamp down and it goes out gently and quietly. Tomorrow will be hurried and to-and-fro. This is how it really ends. *R.I.*

Printed by Century Printing
132 High Street, Stalham Norfolk NR12 9AZ
Tel/Fax 01692 582958
email: info@centuryprinting.co.uk