

# HUNTER'S YARD

## *Newsletter of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet*



*Lucent at her first AGM - being prepared for gusty conditions - Picture by Jennifer Mack*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue of the newsletter! This issue is so full of good stuff that what I'm about to say may sound slightly odd. (No matter, it's not the first time I've been accused of being odd...) This is your newsletter, and I really enjoy including accounts that Friends send me, but for some reason, they seem to have dried up over the last year. Next issue will feature some of the entries from the new Log Books, together with details of the prizewinner, but I would like to feature articles and letters from readers too, so please, put your thinking caps on and get your stuff to me before the copy date of 1 October.

Because of illness, I didn't make the AGM, so of course missed out on the barbeque etc, but I have the autumn event in my calendar, and am hoping for a seat on *Princess Katherine*. I've booked good weather, so here's hoping! (I would also quite like it to be my ticket that comes out of the bucket for the David Dane picture... see page 11 for details. His work is so atmosphere.

Inside, you'll see Jennifer has mentioned problems with standing orders. I was one of the people whose bank had failed, after two attempts, to establish the payments. Please, everyone, do check that your bank is following your instructions, so that the Friends funds don't lose out.

Zoë

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## The Chair Types...

I am writing this in the cabin of *Wood Violet* on one of the hottest days of the year so if the typing is a bit wobbly it's because of all the passing motor cruisers ignoring the 5 mph signs. I have managed sails on *Hustler 5*, *Luna* and *Lucent* as well so far this year so it's been a good one, especially as we have dodged the worst weather most of the time!

### AGM - 26th April 2008

The AGM was another success this year, thank you all for your amazing support as always. My only disappointment was that almost all of the cask of Woodforde's 'Sundew' golden beer was consumed so I have very little to take home with me! We haven't fixed the date of the AGM for 2009 yet so look out for it in the next Newsletter.

### Sailing Picnic 27th September 2008

Booking forms for the Sailing Picnic should be included with this Newsletter, please try to get them in as early as possible so that we can plan the crews. Obviously if you bring your own crew and would like a particular boat, the earlier the better! I hope some of those who support us year after year but are unable to sail for whatever reason may be tempted to use the water bus *Princess Katherine*, which will not only provide shelter and loo facilities at the picnic site but also an afternoon cruise so that people can follow some of the boats under sail.

### 'How to moor in style' feature.

No contributions yet for my suggested 'guide' with sketches of how best to come in (or indeed leave) under sail to some of the more awkward spots on the Broads. I was looking forward to some tips. When we took out *Lucent* for a week we were naturally cautious not to scratch her (any more than is unavoidably necessary

anyway) so coming in to the mooring to drop the mast at Potter Heigham we took particular care. Topping lift on, peak slightly scandalized, fully fendered; and then of course we stopped 2m short of the bank! Many thanks to the kind soul who caught my mooring rope. If anyone is interested, please give it a try, without the sketches if you prefer, and we'll see if we can share some 'good practice' with others.

### 'How to climb out (after falling in the water) in style' feature.

Here I am on firmer ground, as it were. My thanks to the crew who have recorded in their sailing log book the difficulties they had in getting someone back in to the boat after they had fallen in. This is something one learns quite quickly when taking out parties of school children. The secret is to work your way round to the back of the boat and ask a crew member to hold the tiller straight. Then you can stand on the rudder which gives a good leg up over the transom. It also helps if, after putting in the crutches, you tighten them down with the main sheet (not too tight) and loop it back over the crutches a couple of times to hold them down, before coiling up the rest of the sheet. The crutches are much less likely to come out if you hang on to them then and who knows, it may prevent some people falling in the water in the first place. Incidentally, I know we all laugh when people fall in but I have been surprised by how shocked they can be (even youngsters) by the event. These days my first reaction is sympathy with laughter only if/when they are laughing too.

### Autumn Event, or extra event in 2009?

Every so often people reminisce about the fun we had at the 'Autumn Frolic' back in

1998. We also organized all sorts of competitions for young and old around the Yard and it helped that the weather was great too. It included treasure hunts, rowing races, poems, sketches, sailing a course in a given time, put in two reefs and have them marked by Graham, music and much, much, more. We haven't done one since because I can remember how much effort it took to organize and I'm not sure my present commitments would allow me enough time and I wouldn't want to let the side down. However, it did provide a different experience from the popular sailing picnic and possibly appealed more to families. So, are there a few people out there who would be interested in forming a sub-committee to arrange another one? I would be prepared to sit in as a 'link with the past' but I would hope the various events could be divided up amongst a number of people to organize and arrange on the day. Please get in touch if you are up for it.

### **And Finally**

This week we have been sailing during the height of the Broads Holiday season and we actually had someone get very irate with us for zigzagging in front of them. I know we all joke about this but I was surprised when it actually happened! Thank goodness for Potter Bridge, we quanted through as fast as we could and have seen far fewer motor cruisers around Horsey and Hickling!

*Andrew Cowburn*

*July 2008*

### **Membership News**

I'm afraid it's impossible to give you an accurate figure for Friends membership at the moment. As many of you will know, I've been carrying out a detailed examination of Bankers Orders by taking a 'snapshot' of the

Bank Statements over a 12-month period. This was necessary because of the discrepancy between the number of Friends on my database and the number of subscriptions currently paid by Bankers Order - quite a marathon!

So far, I've had a response to just over half the letters sent and, apart from the inevitable bereavements and withdrawal of membership through age, the main reason for the discrepancy has proved to be the increasing inefficiency of the banks to process the Bankers Orders. For example, one family are on their third attempt to join the Friends! Therefore, may I ask you all to check your statements and let me know if there is a problem because some entries on our statements are impossible to identify, which adds to the confusion!

I would also be grateful for any outstanding forms to be returned to me as soon as possible please so that I will be able to tell you with more certainty how many Friends we have.

I've also taken the opportunity to chase up Gift Aid forms and there has been a similar encouraging response. Again, I would appreciate the return of the completed forms so that we can claim the extra 28% on each subscription.

There are still some outstanding subscriptions for payment by cheque, so some of you will be getting my 'Final Reminder'. I do hope we can continue to rely on your valuable support.

Finally, thank you to all who have answered my queries so promptly and also for your kind comments about both the Yard and the Friends.

With best wishes for a good conclusion to the season.  
*Jennifer Mack - July 2008*

***From Jennifer Mack***

*I had great pleasure in receiving this letter and a generous donation from Robert Banister from Westerham, Kent, last month. We get many letters of support which are most heartening and this one illustrates the aims of the Trust so well that I felt you would all like to see it. (With Mr Banister's permission, of course.)*

Recently whilst on holiday, I took my wife, who had never seen the Broads, to visit the 'The Museum of the Broads', and enquired about the fate of the 'Hunter' boats, which I had sailed on in the mid 1970's, when they were administered by Norfolk County Council. The Museum told me that your Trust had been able to acquire them and they were alive, active and still based at Ludham.

I was delighted to hear this news and, even better, on my way back to Norwich, to be able to call in and see them moored along Womack Water, bringing back many memories. I have lived in Westerham for over 40 years, and up to the mid 1970's we had a keen sailing Vicar. He had started by taking the (young) Choir sailing at Easter. This became very popular and the news soon spread until by around 1972 he was taking 20 -25 youngsters for a week each summer. As a 'Dad' (with three eligible sons) and retired naval officer, I was quickly encouraged to become one of the skippers. My wife staying behind to look after our home and young (toddler) daughter, so never saw the Broads.

I skippered for three years until the Vicar, who was our 'Admiral' and the inspiring

life and soul of the voyages, moved on to another Parish. At the peak we hired five yachts, averaging five children per boat, and became a formidable fleet for motor cruisers to cope with! All my three sons took part and like me have most happy memories of those exciting weeks.

The Trust's 2009 calendar and the booklet on Hunter's Yard provide me with an excellent record of those happy times. I congratulate all involved.

I believe that the spirit and ethos of this shared kind of experience remains as important as ever.

So learning about the formation of your Trust it gives me great satisfaction to send you a Payroll Giving Voucher for £100 as a donation to help you sustain your operations with young people. Since I am unlikely to visit the Broads area again, and am now of an age (having joined the Navy 65 years ago!) where I have given up active sailing, I do not feel it is appropriate to become a 'Friend' with the ongoing admin cost this would entail for you, so just regard it as a donation.

My sons and I send you our best wishes for the Friends continued success, and may those wonderful Hunter boats still be sailing in another 70 years time.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Robert Banister*



## Beccles Inner Wheel Presentation to Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust



Trust Chairman Bryan Read accepts the cheque from Mrs Greenfield  
Picture by Jennifer Mack

Every year, the Beccles Inner Wheel, District 1080, raises money for different charities and organisations, and every year, a decision has to be made by the President about which organisation to support. This year, thanks to President Jacquie Greenfield's childhood memories of the Hunter Fleet, the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust is the lucky recipient.

On 12 June, Mrs Greenfield, with Mrs Vera Walker, and Mrs Wanphen Martin visited Hunter's Yard to present Bryan Read, Jennifer Mack, and Rodney Storey, with their donation.

Mrs Greenfield said, "When I was a little girl, we started sailing on the Norfolk

Broads and in 1956 we took out a Hunter boat. I even remember the herringbone pattern on the pillows and the blankets having a red strip on them." She continued, "Then in 1996 when I heard about the plight of the Ludham Sailing Base, as it was known then, being sold off, the thought of the Hunter Fleet being split up was a worry. Since then Trust has always been in the back of my mind for future fund raising."

The ladies of the Inner Wheel set about raising funds by holding a charity dinner and raffle. Local businesses supported them; the Conservative Club donated the room and local shops donated raffle prizes. Mrs Martin did all the preparation for the

meal. "A fish monger in Lowestoft and a butcher in Gt Yarmouth helped to keep the cost of the meal down by giving us very good prices," she said. 65 people attended the dinner and a total of £610.00 was raised.

In accepting the donation on behalf of the trust, Bryan Read said, "I know I can speak for all at the Yard and the Trustees when I say, the ladies' efforts and hard work is greatly appreciated. We will putting the money towards the purchase of new regulation 100 Newton buoyancy jackets."

He went on to explain that the EDP got heavily involved with the campaign to save the Yard because the editor at the time, Martin Kirby, had sailed the Hunter boats and offered to help by covering the Yard's plight on the front page for a week. This was

instrumental in helping to raise the awareness and the funds. There was also a picture in the Daily Telegraph, which helped to get the word out nationally.

To raise the funds needed to purchase the Yard the Trust applied to the Heritage Lottery for £140,000. The Trust felt they could raise the money needed to match the grant so they held the fund raising event that Mrs Greenfield had recalled. Mrs Greenfield added: "The reason Hunter's Yard is so special is that they keep the memories alive of sailing on traditional boats with paraffin lamps."

She was able to recreate those memories on the day, as Rodney Storey and Jennifer Mack took her out for a sail on *Rebel*, and even the wind obliged.

## **Can you help #1?**

### **Do you have library or archiving experience?**

**Hunter's Yard is home to an extensive collection of material detailing the history of the yard and its owners. The Friends would like to see that material organised and archived, both to preserve it for the future, and to enable it to be shared.**

**If you have the necessary experience and would be willing to get involved, please contact Secretary Philip Bray by phone on 01760 725931, by email: [pp@pbray.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:pp@pbray.freeseve.co.uk), or by letter to 5 Westfield Road, Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7HE**

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# AGM of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet - 26th April 2008

## Chair's Report

### Introduction

1. It has become the norm to report another successful year for the Committee of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet and this year is no exception! Membership numbers continue to rise, donations have increased and sales of DVDs and calendars continue to bring in additional income. All this means that we have been able to pass on funds for 'extras' to the Trust as well as maintaining a healthy balance to help deal with future 'exceptional items' if needed.

### Committee

2. Since the last AGM, the Committee has met three times, in June and September 2007, and January 2008. Once again we are very grateful to our Treasurer, Peter Wall, for both his diligent keeping of the books and also his hospitality in providing a venue and provisions for our meetings.

3. Philip Bray, our Secretary, seems to have become even more efficient, if that is possible. As well as all the other things he does, like marketing, organising volunteers and so on, he is currently seeking an archivist to help to get the Hunter Fleet archives in to the public domain.

4. Jennifer Mack is still our 'firm but fair' Membership Secretary and continues to be a major factor in the continual rise in our membership numbers. She hopes we can achieve 1000 memberships (as they are mostly families they probably represent twice as many people) by 2010.

5. This has been John Marr's last year as a

Committee member. He is not standing for re-election because of ill health, both his own and that of Vera, his wife. We are very sorry that one of our longest serving Committee members will be leaving but as John and Vera only live down the road in the village we hope to still see them around quite a bit. Many thanks to John for his devotion to the Fleet these last 10 years or so!

6. The rest of our Committee is as committed as ever and when friends and partners are brought in too, there are numerous diverse skills for us to call upon in the service of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet.

### Financial Support for the Trust

7. The financial aid to the Trust has continued this year as usual. The key contributions so far have been new mahogany and oak logs, sails, pillows, awnings, "G" clamps and the funding of log books for each boat plus a prize for the best entries. As usual, we still have plenty of funds available to do more.

### Membership

8. Membership still continues to rise and stands at approximately 877 (835 last year). Although we only ask for an annual donation of £10, many people are donating larger sums by standing order which is both generous and helpful!

### Newsletter

9. Our Newsletter Editor, Zoë King, has



continued to make an excellent job of maintaining the high standard of newsletter despite the lack of discipline of some of her contributors (my copy is always late). I am sure she would welcome more (well behaved) contributors, both of articles and pictures.

### **Autumn Event**

10. We managed to enhance the sailing picnic this year with the addition of the water bus *Princess Katherine* and even though bookings were not very high the actual use on the day was greater than expected. It was good of the skipper to offer a cruise so that those on the water bus had a chance to see much of the fleet under sail during the afternoon. Unless there are strong indications for a change in format I suspect we will do much the same again this year.

### **Volunteers**

11. Philip Bray has again organised volunteer help around the Yard with the able assistance of Pat Bray, David Beckley and Peter Wadman. The regular tasks such as gardening, boat cleaning, the sale of Calendars and DVDs etc. has continued throughout the season. It looks as if we will

be doing more topsoil levelling etc. once the dredgings have settled down, so any new volunteers would be much appreciated!

### **Blue Skies?**

12. In January, the Trust held a 'Blue Skies' brain storming session to identify issues which may need to be addressed in the future. Jennifer kindly raised some thoughts that I had put together which might better be termed 'grey skies' so I am grateful to the Trust for their consideration. In the month when it has become clear that English Nature would consider allowing the sea to flood in to both Hickling Broad and Horsey Mere and up as far as Potter Heigham within the next 50 years, it is reassuring that the Trust should already be thinking ahead about their custody of the Fleet.

### **Conclusion**

13. As usual this has been a very enjoyable Committee to Chair. I have to thank my friendly and energetic fellow members for their efforts and support in another good year. I hope the next year will be a case of more of the same!

*Andrew Cowburn - April 2008*

## **Wanted!**

### **Volunteer Skippers for 2-hour Sails**

Do you live within easy travelling distance to the yard? Are you an experienced sailor of Hunter yachts, especially half-deckers?

If you can answer yes to both questions, and could spare a few hours from time to time to skipper the boats for our 2-hour sail customers, the yard would like to hear from you.

Contact Vikki on 01692 678263

or by email: [huntersyard@btinternet.com](mailto:huntersyard@btinternet.com) for more information



Too many chefs...?



Preparing to sail - AGM Pictures by Les Hendry

## Your chance to win a David Dane picture



### HUNTER'S YARD AUTUMN EVENT RAFFLE

Obviously our 'sepia' reproduction cannot do the soft blues and mauves in this beautiful picture justice. It is thought to be one of a series of Hunter Fleet pictures David Dane produced.

The picture, very kindly donated by 'Friend' Trevor Davies, can be viewed at the Yard, but to see more of the artist's work, take a look at his website:  
[www.dfdaneoilpaintings.co.uk](http://www.dfdaneoilpaintings.co.uk).

The raffle will take place at the sailing picnic on 27 September. Tickets cost £1 each, and are available either on the day, or in advance to visitors to the yard. *Good luck!*



## From the Yard Vikki Walker

It's a big Hello from the all at the Yard!

The very first week of the season saw the Yard swamped with water; the boats looked as if they might even sit on the quay heading if we got much more of it. In fact, there was so much water, the Swans Scout group couldn't even get on their boats safely on the Saturday. As we all huddled around the potbelly stove trying to decide the best way to sort out the problem, Colin Buttifant came to our rescue. He kindly offered to move the boats over to his Yard on the Sunday so they could get their sailing started.



So the yard doesn't flood? Photo by Vikki Walker

Then on the Monday, the Scouts woke up to 3" of snow on the boats! They did say they actually enjoyed the snow and in fact their whole week as they seemed to have every kind of weather condition possible. With snow, rain, sun, no wind and too much wind, if they didn't learn about sailing in all conditions that week then they must have been asleep! Bless them! I guess they will have many a story to tell their kids when the time comes. And I wonder how many of

them will change the story to flooded so badly the boats were floating on the grass, and the snow level was 10' high!

You know, last year about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the time the Yard seemed to be under water and everyone had to wear wellies to get on their boat. It's not been as bad this year thank goodness. However, after the trouble the Swans had, the guys are now talking about making some duck boards in readiness for next time. And we're sure there'll be a next time!

But thank goodness the weather did start to pick up a bit by the time the Friends' AGM arrived. It was great to see so many people there again and I think everyone enjoyed the Bar-B-Q and the sailing. I know we all enjoyed seeing ya'll again. Les Hendry, one of our new Friends, took a lot of pictures on the day, and I hope to put them on the website under the Event heading when it's up and running. There's a lil taster on pages 10.

At the moment the less said about the new website the better. It's a real sore point for me. If they go any slower it will be 2010 by the time it's up and running. I had hoped to be able to say 'go and have a look', but alas, no hope just yet.

Now that *Lucent* is in service, it means the guys can get started on some of the other jobs around the Yard. John has now started on *Zin Zin* our little Norfolk 14' dinghy. He's been lovingly repairing her and from what I've seen so far, I'd say she's almost being rebuilt from scratch! So many new



new bits of wood have gone over to his part of the shed that I swear it's not even the same boat! I don't think it will take them seven years like *Lucent* though, thank goodness.



(Photo by Vikki Walker)

They've been busy making spars, quant poles and the like, as well as cleaning up the place a bit. We now have proper racking for blankets, pillows and mattresses, and the buoyancy jackets have a racking system too, all hung up in size groups to make them easier to manage. Don't worry though; it's all removeable racking and shelving so the boats can be brought into the shed like normal. The guys can use them upstairs during the winter months to store things on.



(Photo by Vikki Walker)

We've also got some beautiful hanging baskets at the back of the Yard. I thought we could do with a bit more colour by the water, so Pat Bray sorted them out for us, (thanks, Pat!) and very beautiful they are too.

Celebrity status? Griff Rhys Jones was here in July doing some filming on *Wood Rose*. The BBC is making a programme about rivers that will be shown summer time next year. I think we'll see a bit of Ian in the programme because he gave Griff the take over and rigging talk. I had to tell him off though, he didn't have a Hunters shirt or hat on while they filmed him!



(Photo by Phillip Bray)

To be fair, none of us knew he was going to be filmed. They filmed Griff arriving at the Yard with his dog and bags.

They decided they needed help with getting around on the water so Ian put the dory in and pushed him around a couple of places. Ian said when they got to Potter Heigham, the film crew got Griff to quant through the bridge. He had to do it four times and he nearly fell in the water. Ian said it was hilarious, the director thinks they'll be keeping that bit in!

Well, as I'm writing this, the washing

machine has finally given up and decided to leak all over the place! Yep I can hear ya'll saying it... the seal has gone. It surely did! So we now have a new one that should hold a few more pillowcases and even manage to take a WHOLE blanket. I believe this is one of the things that the Friends are donating to the Yard along with a new dryer. So a big thank you to all you guys and gals for them.

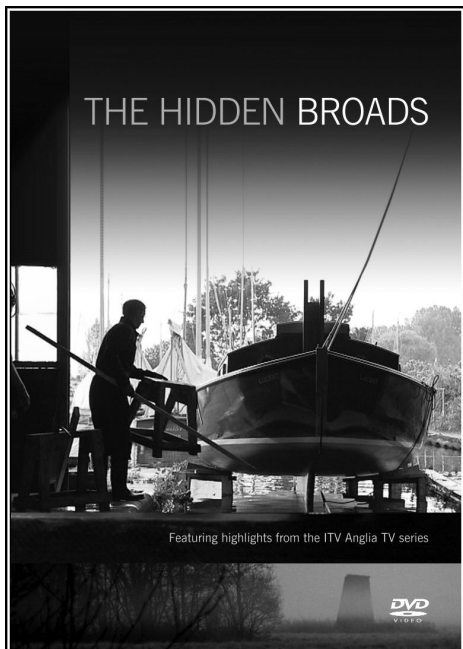
I thought it might be nice to mention the logbooks now. This is the first year there have been Logbooks onboard all the cabin yachts, with a competition for the best entry. We're very happy to say that there have been quite a few entries so far. There are fantastic drawings, little sketches, maps, and some very amusing accounts. They're all enjoyable to read that's for sure. We even have some of the children (some as young as

6!) writing in them so keep up the good work. The competition is not over until October so those of you who haven't been sailing yet still have plenty of time.

The season is now in full flow and we've seen quite a few of you already, though the weather hasn't always been good - lots of wind and rain. However, that said, as I write the weather has finally gotten warm. Hey, I think summer has finally arrived!

And with that wonderful thought... it's a goodbye from us!

Vikki



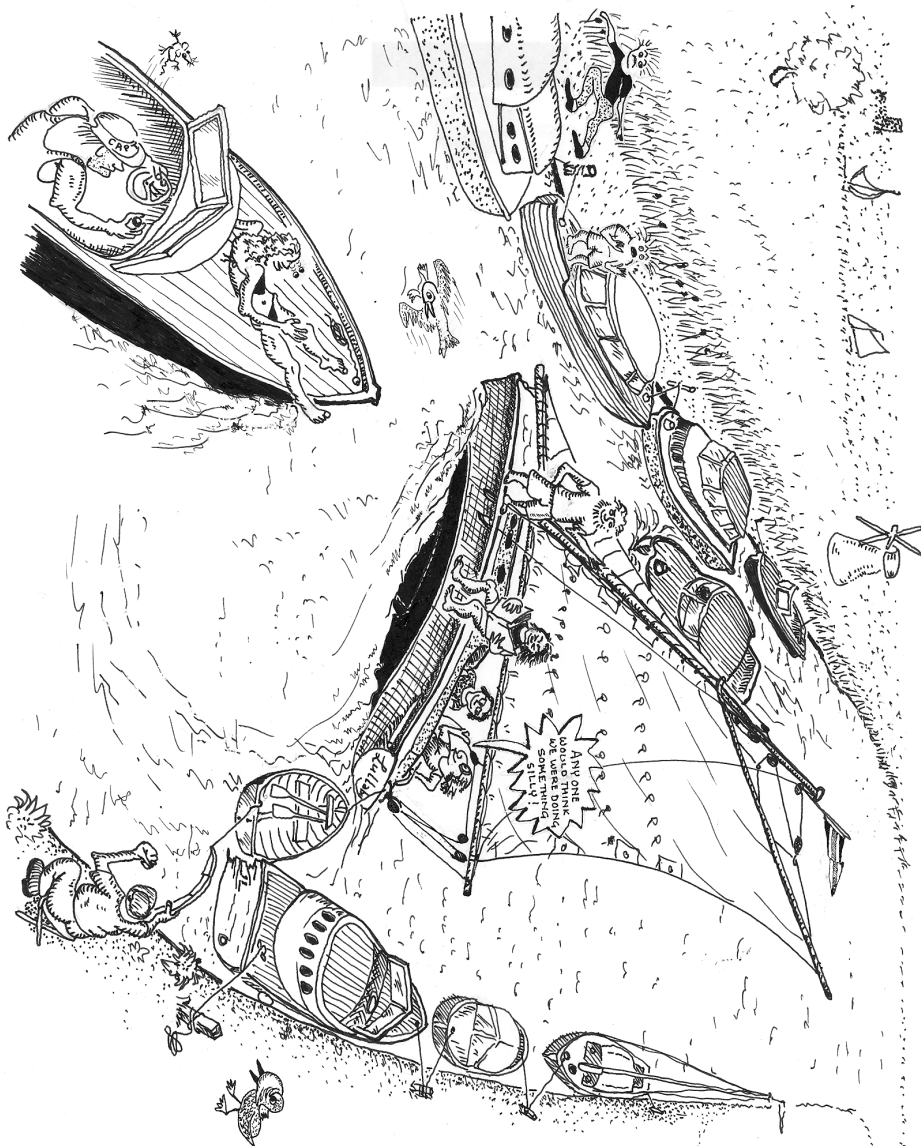
## **Wavelength Films THE HIDDEN BROADS DVD**

Now available - unique footage of  
Hunter's Yard, together with  
scenes from Norfolk Wildlife  
Trust, the Wherry Trust, and the  
RSPB, from the recent series  
*The Hidden Broads* shown on  
Anglia Television

Order your copy *now*  
£12.00 plus £1.00 p&p  
Cheques payable to: *Friends of the  
Hunter Fleet.*

Send to: Vikki Walker at the Yard  
address.





Kit Ellis produced this cartoon after his “unforgettable holiday” on Lullaby in July. He says, “it doesn’t, in any way, represent the way we sailed - promise!”

## Hunter Merchandise:

Before ordering, *please check* with the yard for latest p&p rates where not listed.

### T-Shirts:

Childrens	£ 4.50
Adults	£ 8.00

### Polo Shirts:

Childrens	£12.00
Adults	£13.50

### Sweatshirts:

Childrens	£10.00
Adults	£15.50

**Hooded Fleece** £27.50

**Crew Shirt** £37.00

(With 10th anniversary logo)

**Embroidered badge** £ 7.50  
+ p&p 30p. (10th anniversary logo)

### Baseball Caps

Childrens	£ 4.25
Adults	£ 5.25

### Engraved glass goblets

Large	£18.00
Small	£11.00

**Friends Burgee** £10.50 + p&p 50p

**Friends Lapel Pin** £ 4.00 + p&p 30p

### Book - Hunter's Fleet

Soft back £ 8.00 p&p £1.50

**David Dane Print** £10.00

Signed, limited edition

Print, unframed £ 3.00

Print, framed £ 8.00

**Mug** £2.75 p&p £1.50

**Tax disc holder** £1.00 p&p 30p

### 'Heritage Boat-Yard'

Video £ 2.99 p&p £1.00

DVD £10.00 p&p £1.00

### The Hidden Broads

DVD £12.00 p&p £1.00

## The 'Friends' and the 'Trust'

There seems to be some confusion about the difference between the 'Friends of the Hunter Fleet' and the 'Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust'. When Norfolk County Council put the Hunter Fleet up for sale in 1997, a group of concerned people organised a public subscription and a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This enabled the *Trust* to be formed as a charity which purchased the Fleet from NCC. The Trust owns the boats and the yard, and employs the staff who run them.

As a result of the public subscription, there was still much interest and good-will expressed towards the Hunter Fleet, so the *Friends* organisation was formed to keep those people informed of progress and to enable them to continue to provide support. The Friends have their own constitution and Committee but their accounts are technically part of the Trust, in order to enjoy the benefits of being a charity.

The Trust Chairman, a Trust representative, and the Yard Administrator are all co-opted onto the Friends' Committee, which takes a keen interest in the running of the Fleet. However, it is the Trust which is actually responsible for the Hunter Fleet's management.

### Fly the Flag...



Please note that because only Hunter boats are allowed to fly the Hunter flag, which is blue with a plain central red-on-white stripe, the Friends' version, which incorporates the international code flag F, can be flown on member's own yachts or attached to the starboard shrouds by Friends hiring Hunter boats. The pin is the normal hunter flag design. These items are available only to Friends. Orders for all merchandise (with cheque payable to Friends of the Hunter Fleet) to: Hunter's Yard, Horsefen Road, Ludham, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5QG

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