

PRESS RELEASE

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### **New ale will help keep Norfolk's wherry heritage afloat**

Norfolk's 116 year old wherry Albion once again carried precious cargo yesterday [Thursday 1 May] as it sailed the first barrels of a new ale, brewed in the boat's honour, to one of the Norfolk Broads pubs in which it will be sold.

The new 'Jenny Morgan' ale has been brewed by the Green Jack brewery in Lowestoft to help raise money for the Norfolk Wherry Trust, which originally restored and now maintains the wherry Albion as a living piece of Norfolk's waterway and transport heritage.

The charitable ale was sailed from the Albion's Ludham base and greeted at Ranworth Staithe by the Gold Star Morris who, in traditional May Day style, ceremoniously danced the barrels up to the village pub The Malsters.

Green Jack founder and brewer Tim Dunford has had a fondness for the wherry Albion since he was a boy and used to fish from the deck when she was at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft for winter maintenance. He has created this new ale, which is traditional in style but with a fruity hop character, and named it 'Jenny Morgan' after the 1700s folk art figure who was adopted as a mascot by many Norfolk wherryman and still to this day her figure is still featured on the wind vane which flies atop Albion's mast.

For every cask of Jenny Morgan sold the brewery will donate £5 to the Norfolk Wherry Trust to help it continue in its mission to keep the Albion sailing and open to visitors.

Henry Gowman, Trustee of Norfolk Wherry Trust and Albion Skipper, said: "This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Trust acquired the Albion and returned her to sailing condition and we still need continued support to maintain the Albion for the ongoing enjoyment and education of future generations. We are extremely grateful to Tim and all at the Green Jack brewery for their help, especially as it comes in the form of a great tasting ale which we can all enjoy!"

#### **How to experience Norfolk's wherry heritage**

Wherries are a famous part of Norfolk's heritage and there are still plenty of ways to discover more about the days when hundreds of these cargo-carrying boats could be seen across the county's waterways, and also to experience life on board.

### **Sail on the wherry Albion**

In the Edwardian era local wherry skippers used to scrub out the boat hold and remove cargo debris so they could take holidaymakers on sailing trips and earn some extra money. You can still follow in their footsteps today as the Wherry Albion is available to charter from May to September. There are also a number of planned day cruises and open events taking place between now and the end of August.

For more information visit [www.wherryalbion.com](http://www.wherryalbion.com) or call 07906 701891

### **Walk the Wherryman's Way**

The Wherryman's Way was named after these iconic vessels as it leads you through the heart of the broads and the River Yare along which they once sailed. There are a number of both short and long walks along this Norfolk Trail, which runs from Norwich to Great Yarmouth, with unique way-makers to guide you to sculptures, information panels and audio points which tell the tales of days gone by and the wherries and wherryman which once plied the waterways.

Visit [www.norfolktrails.co.uk](http://www.norfolktrails.co.uk) for more information or call Norfolk County Council on 01603 222774

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Images:



Wherry Albion - Camrovision Photography



Wherry Albion close up - Camrovision Photography



The Gold Star Morris at the Malsters Pub - Camrovision Photography

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