



Norfolk Wherry Trust

Volunteers Newsletter

Spring 2013

The Christmas Do On January 10th



For weeks the list of names attending the 'Christmas Do' had been pinned up on the notice board at the base, its length steadily growing week by week. This year it seemed different, there were "ladies names" on it. Would this be frowned upon by the regulars, would they be asked if they wanted separate tables, we would find out on the day.

The pub door opened onto a cheerful log fire and the babble of voices all, it seemed, talking at once. This was the scene that greeted the wherry volunteers as they came together for the 'Christmas Do' in January. You could easily make out one or two voices above the crowd: Phil and Pete were obviously well into having a good time. The shout went up as Gill made an appearance for the first time after her operation and there was a chorus of 'hello', 'how are you', 'good to see you' and with drink in hand she joined in the camaraderie.



The priority of the day was for all to have a drink or two before ordering food.



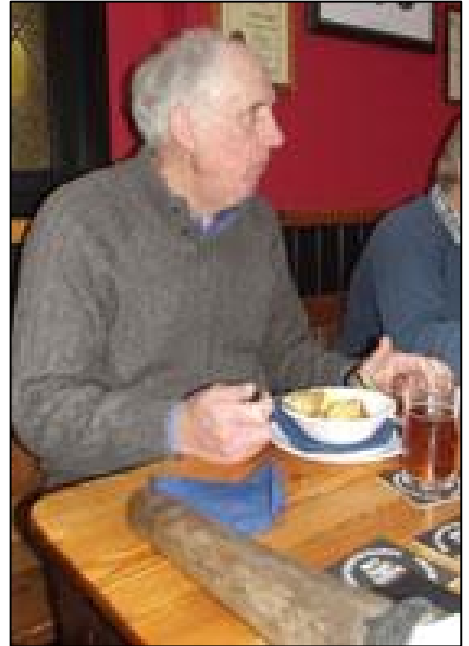
Eventually Pete with bum-bag at the ready collected our monies and made a note of what everyone wanted to eat. No mean task when there were over twenty of us there: the robust Thursday boat maintenance crew in force, plenty of skippers and mates and several that support the Trust in many other ways were also participating in this welcome get together. I think everyone appreciated



their meal by the time they got it, noting that Ivor was very quick to tuck into his Hungarian Goulash. Tony Risebrow had spent his time before lunch devouring two packets of pork scratchings, although I did see Jon taking a few pickings as well. Several ciders also seemed to disappear prior to us seeing Tony wade into a steak sandwich, complete with all the trimmings. His reply when Mike P. and I queried "Are you going to eat all that?" was a heavily

disguised "keep your 'ands off", quickly followed by an explanation of how he went to the gym regularly to work off the calories.

Chris was in a jovial mood as he tucked into his non-fattening meal and was made even more so when Pete presented him with the handle of the old 'Albion' tiller which we knew he had had a hankering for. There were one or two cryptic comments about this rather phallic object sitting there on the table. Boys will be boys, and all in good part, it raised lots of smirks.



The meal was good, even though I suspect many diets went out of the window, the company was even better and everyone had an enjoyable relaxing lunch which for some included the inevitable 'spotted dick' or 'Jam sponge pudding and custard'. The latter was much to the disgust of Pete as it needed him to make the rounds again with the bum-bag and shopping list.

Gradually we all began to disperse: some to cars, others phoning to make arrangements, and some making their merry wherry way down the road to catch a train home.

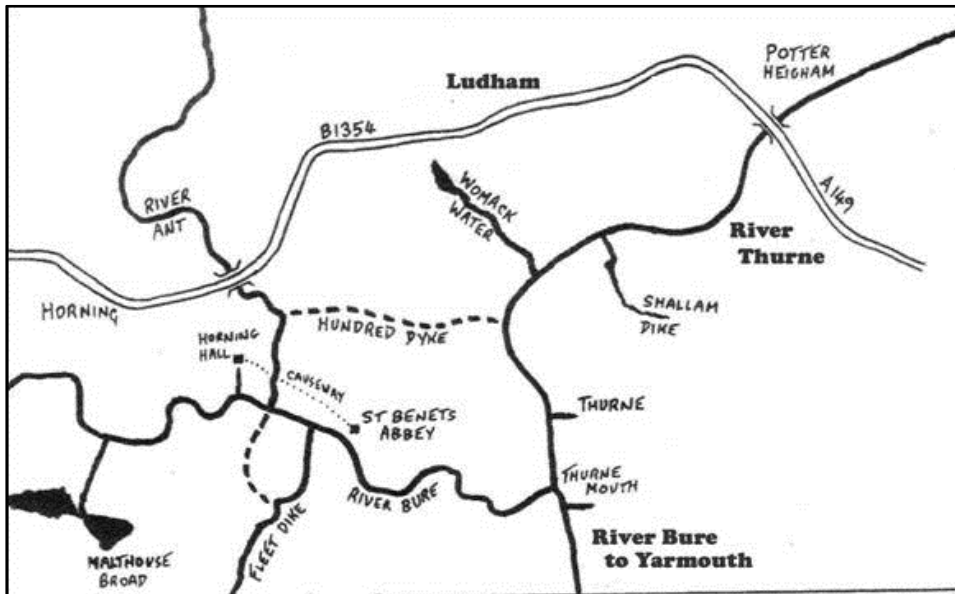


A real good outing, and a welcome curtain raiser on the new season.

Bron Simpson

Womack Wherries - Mike Sparkes

The Village of Ludham stands at the heart of Northern Broadland with three rivers on its boundary, to the west the river Ant over which at Ludham Bridge comes the road from Wroxham.



Wherries operated from Ludham Bridge bound for the upper reaches of the rivers Ant and Bure. To the East is the river Thurne. The village was connected to the Thurne by a cut called Womack Water this was where wherries operated from for the upper river Thurne and the lower Bure to Yarmouth.



Ludham Old Staithe close to the church

Womack Water was important to Ludham as the mile long navigation ended at village Staithe in the heart of Ludham near the church on Staithe Road. All the village goods coming by water would be unloaded here on to horse drawn carts. It was from Ludham Staithe that the little 'Cabbage' Wherry operated from, this was only a nick-name, the actual name of this wherry was the 'Little Georgie' owned by a Ludham market gardener

by the name of George Griffen. The wherry would have been about 23 to 25 tons burden, and around 35 to 40 feet long ('Albion' is 40 tons and is 65 feet long) to give you an idea of her small size. This was an ideal size for George Griffen to handle by himself taking his garden produce down to Yarmouth to sell. A couple of years back some workmen dug up the road alongside the new quay near the malt house and a little wherry was uncovered. It was thought to be the remains of the 'Little Georgie'. After the work was completed the hole was filled in, once again covering up this little wherry.



Harrison's Yard

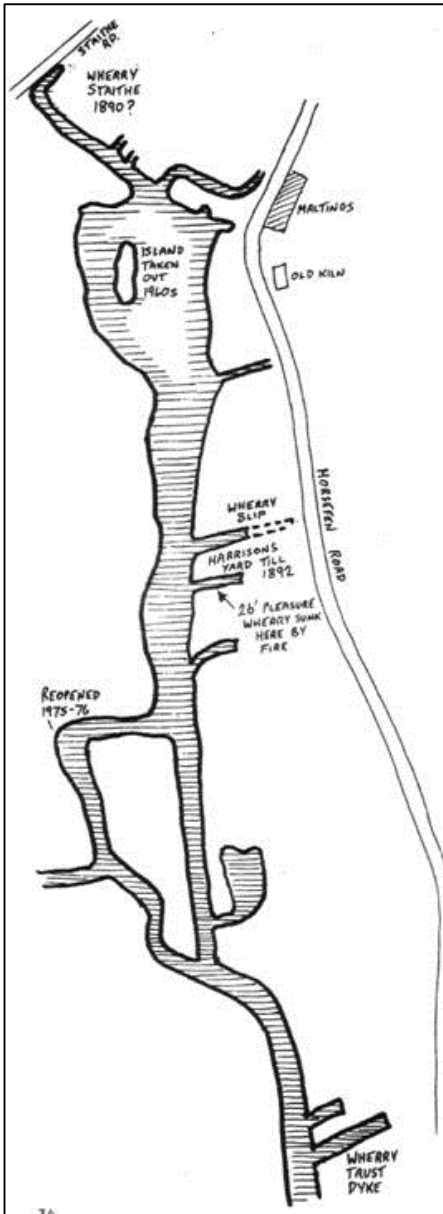
The wherry builder at Ludham was Robert Harrison. His yard was in Womack water, half way down Horsefen Road. One of the wherries he built in 1873 was the 'Zoe,' a pleasure wherry built especially for the purpose of carrying holiday makers on the broads. Zoe is featured in the book "A Month On The Norfolk Broads" by Walter Rye. This book was printed in 1886.

Over the years, Ludham has been served by many trading wherries. The 'Harriet' of only 18 tons burden owned by John Clark, another small wherry was the 'Nautilus' also of 18 tons burden was working around 1795, her last skipper was George Bowering. There is also the 'Samuel', tonnage unknown, and was owned by S. Clarke of Ludham. In the 1960's the trader ' Lord Roberts' was a common sight at the Womack's new staithe near the Malthouse. Later this wherry came into the hands of the Norfolk Wherry Trust, but sadly at the time, the money was not available to restore her.

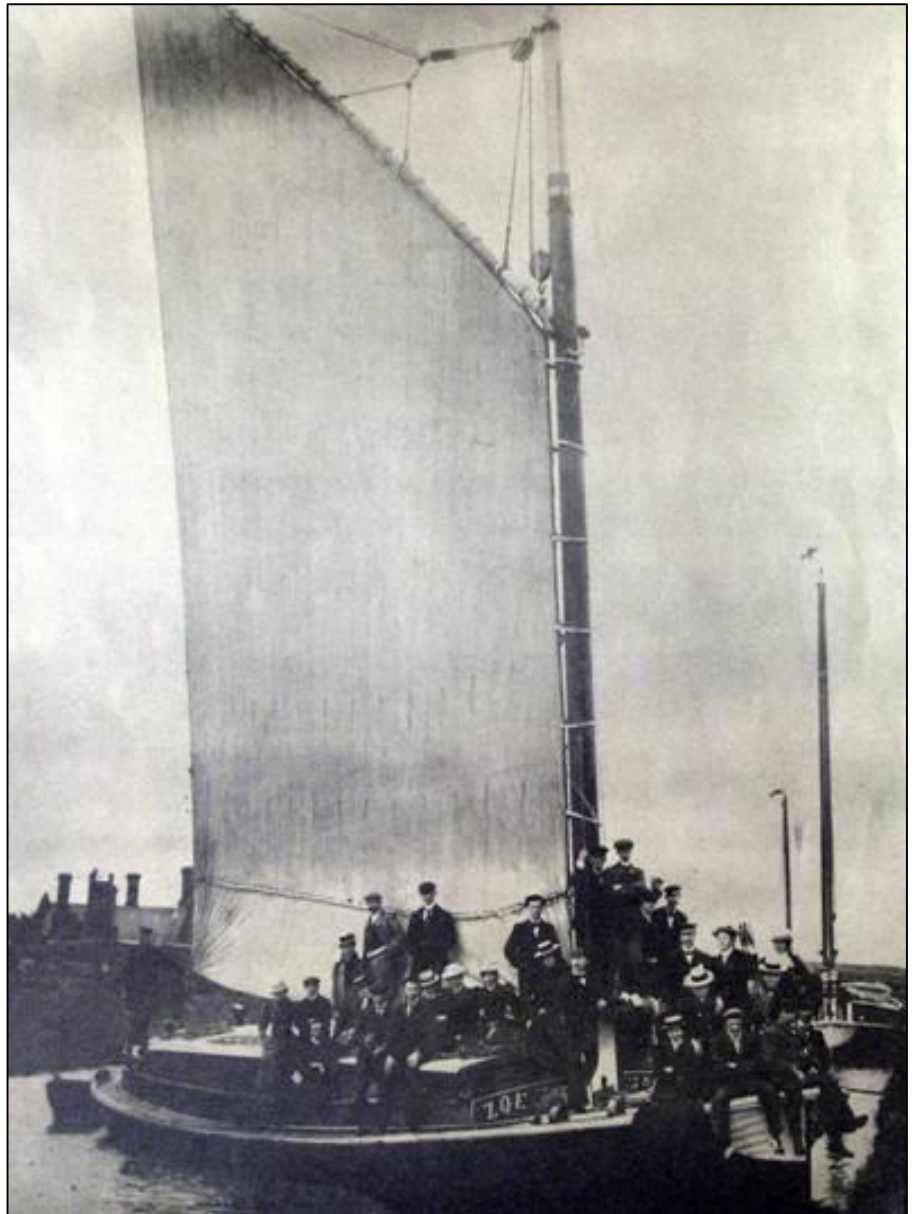


The Lord Roberts

Womack's connection with trading wherries is still strong today with Albion (built in 1898) at the Trusts wherry base in Horsefen Road. Also moored at the base is the Maud, built in 1899, both wherries can be seen being quanted up Womack and sailing on the Thurne, Bure and Ant from April through to October. Over the winter work parties practice their skills keeping these unique vessels in good condition for the oncoming sailing season. Wherries are still making history for Womack in the 21st century.



Womack Water



The Pleasure Wherry 'Zoe'

Forthcoming Events

As always, there is a lengthy list of events involving either the Albion or The Norfolk Wherry Trust (or both). We volunteers (no matter what level we occupy in the trust hierarchy) need to remember that they all need voluntary support, not just those events that feature the Albion.

Publicity events involving the trust are so important as they add to the public's awareness of us, and internal support is vital.

We should also remember that 'Members Cruises' have been re-branded as 'Day Cruises'. Places on these cruises are available to all members of the public, and we should take the opportunity to make people aware of them during open days.

Volunteers take special note that on June 23rd (Ludham Open Gardens day, detailed later in this newsletter) the base buildings will be open as we are hosting a local crafts event. Also, the base will be an active drop off point for the water taxi service, and volunteers will be required to help with moorings and advise members of the public.

2013 Events Calendar

Saturday 6th April	Crew meeting at base
Saturday 27th April	MoB training at base
Tuesday 7th May	<u>Day Cruise</u> - BA Outdoor Festival / Base to Base
Wednesday 8th May	<u>Day Cruise</u> - BA Outdoor Festival / Base to Base
Saturday 18th May	Open Day Host and Education Training at the Horning Swan
Wednesday 22nd May	Schools day
Friday 24th May	Schools day
Monday 27th May	<u>Potter Heigham Open Day</u>
Wednesday 5th June	Schools day
Wednesday 12th June	Schools day
Thursday 20th June	Maintenance day
Saturday 22nd June	<u>Day Cruise</u> - Base to Base and AGM at base in evening
Sunday 23rd June	Ludham Open Gardens <u>AND Craft Display at base</u>
Thursday 18th July	Base to Cantley training day
Friday 19th July	<u>Day Cruise</u> - Cantley to Oulton Broad
Saturday 20th July	<u>Oulton Broad Open Day</u>
Sunday 21st July	<u>Oulton Broad to Cantley</u>
Monday 22nd July	<u>Day Cruise</u> - Cantley to Norwich (Snowflakes)
Tuesday 23rd July	Snowflakes - Norwich - Snowflakes plus <u>Norwich Open Day</u>
Wednesday 24th July	Norwich to Cantley training day
Friday 26th July	<u>Day Cruise</u> - Cantley to Cantley with Hardley Mill visit
Tuesday 30th July	Cantley to Base training day
Wednesday 31st July	Maintenance day
Monday 12th August	<u>Day Cruise</u> - Base to Horning
Tuesday 13th August	<u>Horning Open Day</u>
Wednesday 14th August	<u>Ranworth Open Day</u>
Sat 7th/Sun 8th September	Great Yarmouth - Maritime Festival
Sat 5th/Sun 6th October	Masterpieces Exhibition / Art Show in Ludham Church



A New Boat Show for Norfolk - 4th May 2103

This year Norfolk is to have its very own Boat Show in the iconic village of Horning. Organised by a group of local volunteers, the Horning Boat Show, to be held on Saturday 4th May, is shaping up to be one of the biggest events the village has seen in recent times and an important fundraiser for local projects.

The Horning Boat Show already has over fifty definite exhibitors and enquiries are still being received from interested companies. In addition, the Boat Show has attracted two sponsors - Norfolk Yacht Agency and East Coast Training Services - while Anglia Afloat has come on board as media partner. On display will be traditional and modern, luxury and affordable motor cruisers, yachts and launches plus inflatable's and RI Bs. Other exhibitors include marine insurance and finance providers, hire fleets, yacht brokers, car dealers and some with a broader appeal.

While some boats will be on the water, other exhibitors will be displaying their wares on Horning's Swan Green, St Benet's Green, Recreation Ground and Village Hall while Horning Sailing Club will be helping new recruits to try sailing for the first time.

And it's not all about boats. Entertainment is planned in the form of the Broadbeat Choir and the East Norfolk Operatic Society, a photographic history of Horning will be on display in the village hall along with a range of other interesting exhibits and, for children, BeWILDerwood will be there with water-inspired crafts and other Twigglish stuff while Tom Blofeld will be reading from his Boggle Books.

Taking inspiration from last year's Olympic Games Makers, volunteer Show Shapers in distinctive uniforms will be on hand to welcome visitors, give directions, answer questions and be generally friendly and helpful to visitors and exhibitors alike. Also, local businesses are gearing themselves up for the day, laying on extra staff and offering special food.

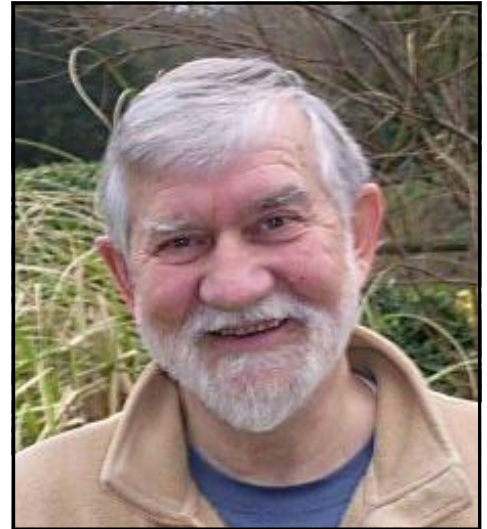
Entry to the Boat Show and parking at BeWILDerwood will be free and there will be a free shuttle bus to take visitors to the village. Visitors to the Horning Boat Show will also be able to obtain reduced price entry to the adventure park after 3pm, and the Ludham Art and Craft Fair, just three miles away, will also be worth a visit on the same day (free entry).

More information can be found at www.horningboatshow.org, on Facebook or on Twitter@boathorning.

A Training Day With a Difference

A Training Session for Open Day and Education Volunteers will be held at The Swan, Horning, 10 till 12, on Saturday May 18th.

Hosted by Henry Gowman and Ivor Stemp, the short programme will include a review of our updated policies and procedures, as well as practical aspects on dealing with our visitors and selling our wares. Steve Dowall, very recently retired from John Lewis, will give a talk on Customer Care and Retail Therapy.



Albion is part of the tourist industry and we need to consider how we relate to our visitors, customers and potential charterers, so that we make the most of every opportunity to secure Albion's financial future in a recession. This will be a thoughtful and fun session, and all our volunteers are urged to attend.

Best Wishes, Henry Gowman



Another View

We read many worthy pages of words concerning our boat and the people involved in all aspects of her wellbeing. Here's the thing, we hear very little from those who also serve. So here we go.

On a fairly regular basis during the winter months there are this group of coffee and tea slurpers, for the sake of brevity we will call them the CATS, who meet in the wooden fridge called the maintenance shed.

Now these CATS are a well loved group, by the Trust, and it relies on them to present our boat in good shape when the cold wind ceases and the others come to the location to "ooh" and "aaaagh" at this very beautiful piece of history. You should know that this is being written by an observer who has no skills whatsoever in the wielding of paintbrush and saw, but is exceptionally good at appreciating Jaffa Cakes accompanied by a cup of coffee, a skill which is sometimes not truly recognised.



Now, what can I get away with !!

I am not a great lover of the furry domestic cats, but can see their value like ones who control the pests. Conversely, I quite like our CATS but I find that our CATS converse with each other on many different levels, most of which I do not understand, nor wish to. Other areas are ones, which from a political viewpoint, should not be recognised by a past skipper. Things like painting Carling Hatches and Water Tanks, you know what I mean.



One just nods and smiles sagely as you walk by with a mug of coffee and three Jaffa Cakes, thankful that the feigned soreness of the shoulder prohibits any enquiry on whether one could apply a bit of paint here or lift a piece of wood there. I feel that there would be some discontent should one such as I be seen doing such tasks.

That's not to say that it has not been known for me to be seen with a spanner in hand, assisting with the reassembly of the Cuddy Stove, as film archive will

show or applying paint to a Hatch Cover, (No. XVI), see picture archive, or indeed giving technical advice, but one should not dwell on such things.

I am continually amazed and humbled by the skills of such amateurs in the maintenance of the Albion, nothing is done in a hurry, a meaningful debate is takes place over a cup of hot tea or coffee before the tool box is opened and tasks allocated. Then after some beard stroking moments and another cuppa, hell is released!

Because of the affection for Albion that all the CATS have, the work is completed to a very high standard, no shortcuts or 'that'll do..' attitude, coupled with the hierarchy that exists. All of the nine Managers and Kettle Boilers, will ensure that the four 'tradesmen' do not shirk their tasks, and are continually inspected and advised. In which, of course, I play my part.

Chris Shallcross

To My Darling Husband

Before you return from your overseas trip I just want to let you know about the small accident I had with the pick up truck. Fortunately it was not too bad and I really didn't get hurt, so please don't worry too much.

I was coming home from the park and when I turned into the drive I accidentally pushed down on the accelerator instead of the brake. The garage door is slightly bent but the pick up fortunately came to a halt when it bumped into your car.

Please Turn Over



I am really sorry, but I know with your kind-hearted personality you will forgive me.

You know how much I love you and care for you my sweetheart. I am enclosing a picture for you, and I cannot wait to hold you in my arms again.

P.S. Your girlfriend phoned

The Green Regime

As volunteers you will be aware that we hold the bronze award in The Green Tourism Business Scheme. I'm sure it has been noted by those of you that have visited the base that there is a 'green' notice board enlightening you all about green issues in and around the Broadland area. I hope that you will, from this, be able to make our visitors aware of them also.



There have appeared several rubbish bins for the recycling of various commodities and also for general waste. After a few hiccups these are now being used successfully. Eco friendly cleaning agents have replaced the more well-known everyday brands and thanks to donations we now have three compost bins to deal with grass cuttings, general horticultural waste and uncooked food waste. The resulting compost will eventually enhance any flower displays we care to have. The nettle patch will also be used to create our own liquid feed for the flower displays.

Helen Baczkowski, conservation officer from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust visited the site last September and gave Margaret Hewitt and me an overview of the Forsyth Wherry Yard which as you will all know, is in a conservation area. She was very enthusiastic about our patch and much to the relief of some I'm sure, she recommended that we did as little



as possible as it provided a wonderful natural area for wildlife. There are areas that can be cut back regularly so they do not get overgrown and prevent other native plant species growing and some coppicing would not go amiss to generate new growth. The nettle patch should be severely cut back after July, any earlier promotes even more growth! Helen queried the mulch used on our pathways as it contained too much plastic, laminated

board and painted wood which are all detrimental to the area. Perhaps this should be looked at.

As there are some interesting things to see at various times of the year I would like to see an illustrated information board erected so that charterers and visiting school parties can pause to see what this small natural piece of land is home to. As we have no bird boxes up it is planned that visiting schools adopt a box and help choose a place for it.

Are you interested in improving this natural wildlife haven with me, or are you better at passing on ideas for being green to our customers; are you good at bird box making; can you donate plants for tubs to brighten up the area during the Open Gardens event? If you can help in any way please make contact with me at the base on a Thursday morning or email me at jonandbron@googlemail.com

Bronwen Simpson.

Ludham Open Gardens
23rd June, 2013, 11.00am to
5.00pm

Ludham is a village on the Norfolk Broads and it opens its gardens bi-annually. This year, some 12 gardens will be open, mostly with river frontage.



Lunches, cream teas, tea & cakes, arts & crafts, wherries and a heritage fleet will all be available for you to enjoy.

Other facilities and attractions will include professional gardening advice, car parking, coach parking, toilets, ferries across the river to gardens on both sides (some ferries with disabled facilities), and a Vintage car display. Plant sales will be available in various gardens.



Entry will be £6.00 per adult which includes car parking and a ticket for all the gardens.

All proceeds for this event go towards the upkeep of the 11th century Parish Church of St Catherine.

Directions:

Ludham village is situated on the A1062 between Wroxham/Hoveton and Potter Heigham, car parking will be in Staithe Road which will be signposted from the village centre.

The Final Few Words

A few days ago the trust was given a wherry model by Martin and Susie Upton. Susie is the daughter of Julian Partridge, the maker of the model. It is about 68 cm. stem to stern, and not being a scale model, it is a close approximation of what a wherry looks like.



The interesting feature is that it is radio controlled, and at some stage we may well be able to show the model at open days etc., actually sailing upon the waters. Before that can happen, a few hours of renovation, restoration and testing need to be carried out, along with getting relief crews trained etc. This process will require the spending of

copious funds, mainly for a set of batteries plus bits and pieces, all in all, estimated at about £15.



Anyone that would like to see the model is more than welcome to visit its temporary base at 10, Broad Reaches, Ludham.

After issuing the first in this revitalised newsletter in January I received many comments and good wishes regarding my efforts, and I hope that the same thoughts go through your mind with this, the second issue. I have said all along that the future of the newsletter is totally in the hands of YOU, the readership. From this point on, it will only get produced if material is given to me to put into it, so if you enjoy the newsletter and do not want it to fail, the solution lies out there, with you.

The next issue is due for circulation at the end of June, so I need at least 4 or 5 articles please (more would be good), with relevant photo's. Any subject is appropriate, so long as it will have some sort of relevance to the membership and the volunteers.

- How about you skippers putting together a set of "Tales From The Tiller"
- Membership News
- Education News
- Archive News
- Trust News
- Maintenance News

It is all relevant, and important, so please, let's all try to keep the information flowing.

Jon Simpson, Base Manager