



Newsletter

Summer 1990

Editor: Richard Hare

Chairman's Comment

SINCE becoming involved in the Deben association numerous people have asked me what the association is all about, where it is going, and how.

In this first newsletter you each have your constitution. Apart from being a legal requirement, it ensures that the association is properly run and accountable to you, the members. As it is the first effort I can see that there are already some obvious areas that need tidying up, and you will get the opportunity to do this at the next AGM in April 1991.

Much of the constitution is what I call the 'nuts and bolts' of how the association will work and it may not be of much interest to you. The aim is quite clear though and it is spelled out in the

objectives'. The first two objectives are: (1) To encourage any proposals that would safeguard the river, support appropriate development, and (2) resist any detrimental proposals.

These objectives are what I feel the association is all about and I would like to see them pursued in a constructive way.

Each requires an input of information. The first concerns the environment and it calls for an immediate response from you on anything that is going on in your area that looks out of character, such as ploughing footpaths, erecting restrictive fencing, the cutting down of protected trees. Such action will often pre-empt

opposition. Sometimes, bringing issues into the light of day restores the status quo, and may have a deterrent effect on future similar action.

The second objective concerns building development and we need intelligence from you on anything that is being considered by developers and/or planners. Developers think many years ahead, and so must we if we are to be able to respond to changes in use that are likely to influence the area. An example of this on the east side of the river is Bawdsey. Should it not be required by the armed services what sort of development would members like to see or, or avoid? Another example is the Sutton Hoo dig which finishes in a couple of years. It will always remain a sensitive area, but is it completely protected against untoward development? On the west bank pressure for the development of marinas regularly crops up. Currently, there is an application from Robertsons for 12 flats, 8 shops and berthing for between 80 to 90 boats. Creeks like Martlesham and Kings Fleet are 'naturals'. On land there is a proposal for a new large village of some 2,000 houses in the Newbourne area. What impact will this have on the surrounding area - Waldringfield and the river in particular?

We need accurate first hand accounts - verbally or on paper - with photographs where applicable. People take notice of evidence.

The final three objectives of the constitution - 3, 4 and 5 - concentrate on the use of intelligence, gathered through objectives 1 and 2, and use it in

liaison and the development of good working relationships with parishes, local councils and the many organisations in the county at all levels. A mutually agreed plan always leads to faster progress.

If the association is to survive members must actually 'do' things and organise and become involved in collecting rubbish, maintain footpaths, perform surveys (chemical, pollution), and in other areas.

There are three things that I

would like to happen as a result of this newsletter. Firstly, an exchange of views - short sharp letters on you pet subject. Secondly, the submission of interesting articles, like the feature on Loder's Cut in this issue. It is important that local stories like theses are recorded. Thirdly, I would like to see a register made of the interests and activities of individual members so that anyone will know who to go to for information and help.

Ian Battye

New town proposed for Felixstowe peninsula

If existing proposals are passed Felixstowe peninsula will reel under the impact of a 2,000 dwelling new town development. It will not only infill a large tract on the Felixstowe peninsula and severely overload Waldringfield and the river but it contravenes the second alteration to the County Structure Plan.

Existing plans do not show the river on the map leading to fears that those with the power to approve plans are not being given the full information.

Waldringfield councillor Annie Hart reports.

The proposal, currently at the outline planning/public consultation stage, will not actually be voted on by county councillors until later in the year despite the fact that letters from the public had to be in by the end of June. This provides more time for you to make your voice heard and any letters, at any time, may help to avert the disaster.

The project is huge - twice the size of Aldeburgh or Martlesham Heath and almost 70% of the size of Woodbridge. Although the exact site has yet to be pinpointed, all potential sites are close to the river Deben and will cover 500 acres of countryside and house a population

of about 5,000 people.

A development of this magnitude cannot fail to have an enormous impact on the Deben and the villages in the narrow Felixstowe peninsula, as well as spoiling the rural surroundings of Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge. If implimented it will turn the peninsula into a conurbation, and the river and the 'area of outstanding natural beauty' into a park.

Ipswich Borough Council and all district councils in the region are voicing united opposition to the proposal, but that doesn't mean we can be complacent. The proposal has been drawn up by the county council planning officers in response the projected need for 52,650 new dwellings and a population increase of 93,850 between now and the year 2006, and the Government will be in hot pursuit to make sure that these targets are met.

Preservation report

The Suffolk Preservation Society is submitting a report questioning the desirability of such an increase, especially in an area where huge developments have already been completed or are under way - Martlesham Heath, Grange Farm, Kesgrave, Trimley Villages to name a few.

You, as members, may feel the

need to question the whole policy of development in the Ipswich sub-region, an area which already has 40% of the population and 50% of the employment in all of Suffolk.

We need to ensure that planners know that the river Deben exists - best kept secrets can backfire... Remember, it wasn't on the map presented at the Bucklesham parish meeting in April. If the proposal goes through there will certainly be pressure for access to the river at Waldringfield and Felixstowe Ferry and all river and river environment users will be affected.

Help prevent this disaster.
Write to:

The County Planning Officer, St Edmunds House, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 1LZ

The Director of Planning Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk

Mrs A. Rodwell, (county councillor for the proposed settlement area) 33A Trimley High Rd, Trimley, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Your own county councillor!

COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN (SECOND ALTERATION)

The criteria set out in the plan are that the location of any new settlement should:

- A) be north of the A45 and east of the A12 and provide for safe and easy access to the primary route network,
- B) avoid high quality agricultural land,
- C) avoid the area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and special landscape areas,
- D) avoid conflict with the villages of the area, and
- E) minimise the impact on the landscape of the surrounding rural area.

Fencing Kyson Point

Association chairman Ian Battye sets out the implications of the fencing of Kyson Point.

IT WAS just after the AGM that the new owner of Kyson House erected a substantial post and rail fence on the point. He felt within his rights as the deeds showed the land to be his and he wished to establish control over it. Equally, the public has full rights to the foreshore and whilst numerous locals with many interests had quietly enjoyed the area without let or hindrance by previous owners, there has never been a fence of any sort.

The association has been active in supporting all individuals and organisations and the town council in the submissions that have been made to the Highways and Byways Committee and the county council. So far, there has been no response and it may take time for them to consider the matter.

In the meantime, we ask all those who continue to use the walk, as they have done in the past, to be particularly sensible in helping to control any misbehaviour, noise, or litter etc that they may encounter. Provided the status quo can be restored, we will support the new owner in any practical way that will preserve the peace and beauty for present and future generations.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the River Deben Association is at 7.30pm at the COMMUNITY HALL, WOODBRIDGE on 5 October 1990. There will be guest speakers and a film, but please let us know if you have a particular matter which interests you. Contact Anne Moore.

Association holds first meeting

Richard Hare outlines points covered at the association's inaugural committee meeting.

THE INAUGURAL committee meeting of the 145 strong membership of the River Deben Association was held in the King's Head, Woodbridge during May.

Under the chairmanship of Ian Battye it was agreed that clubs and associations could join at a special £10 block rate, but in the case of youth or charity associations, - Scouts for example - this fee would be reduced to the nominal £2.

Issues discussed included a co-ordinated effort aimed at picking up all the rubbish that collects in the river. Although it is evident that various clubs and societies and individuals already hold litter collections on isolated stretches it was felt that it would be ideal for the Deben Association to take on the role of co-ordinator to ensure that no gaps are left uncovered.

No-one was appointed to this job at the meeting. "This important role of the Association needs careful co-ordination and will take time to set up," commented Col Battye. "Ideally we would like to see the whole river cleaned twice a year and if there is any individual or group who is interested in performing this function I would like them to come forward and contact our secretary Ann Moore."

Local historian Robert Simper agreed to undertake a boat survey to evaluate the density of leisure craft. "Without this data no-one can begin to put forward a sensible and rational argument for or against additional moorings or marina developments" said Battye.

The committee agreed that it should function as a planning watchdog for the waterway in much the same way as the Woodbridge Society did for the town, and the proposed development at Bucklesham was raised. Local Waldringfield councillor Annie Hart agreed to investigate the developers apparent conflicting claims as to

the size and scope of this development.

Dismay was expressed on hearing that the new owner of Kyson House had fenced off a large tract of land on Kyson point, a quiet area of marshland enjoyed by Woodbridge townfolk for centuries. The committee found it hard to identify a sensible reason for the defacement of probably the finest view on the river. It was pointed out that this was the first time that any stretch of the river below Woodbridge has ever been fenced off despite the fact that it is almost entirely privately owned and maintained.

Since the news was broken in the East Anglian Times last week the association has received a number of sad and angry letters it was reported. "All we can hope is that people of Woodbridge will contact the landowner, Mr Hewlett, to make their feelings known" said Col Battye, adding "The owner says that he had no intention of upsetting the community."

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

We would like to know what areas of our activities that you are particularly interested in - those which you are prepared to become ACTIVELY involved. Armed with this information we will be able to put you in contact with others of similar interest.

Planning.....
River walks (maintenance).
Chemical pollution.....
Litter clearance.....
Others

Please tick appropriately and supply your:

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel.....

Cutting corners

Clare Wade explains the background to Loder's Cut - an example of river development that benefits everyone.

DEVELOPMENT and change has no need to be unsightly and one project on the river which would surely have been sanctioned by our new association now blends so well with nature that many strangers search in vain for it. It is of course Loder's Cut.

This man made by-pass to the vaguaries of Troublesome Reach and the deep curve and mud banks of Kyson was excavated in 1879. Since then the strong Deben currents have scoured an even wider passage.

Named after its instigator, John Loder, a Woodbridge bookseller, printer and newsagent whose premises were in the Thoroughfare, finance came by a strange route. Loder was fined £100 at Bury Court after being found guilty of libeling a Rendlesham schoolteacher. Local people rallied to his side and over £250 was raised to help him pay the fine and costs. So touched was Loder by this community response that he requested that the money be used for public benefit instead.

For some time Loder had wanted to improve the tortuous route to the Woodbridge quays to improve trade. By this time the new rail network was taking its toll on river traffic and Loder said he would like the money to be used to fund his plan for a cut that would aid and encourage river transport.

That favourite Woodbridge eccentric Edward Fitzgerald headed the appeal fund. Fitz, as he was affectionately known, would no doubt have warmly welcomed the scheme for, although he wrote often about his love of sailing on the Deben, he wanted no part in the actual working of his boat, preferring to leave all that to his crew.

Not all vessels were able to benefit from the short cut. Today's East Coast Rivers advises that only boats of moderate draught use Loder's Cut, keeping to 1.5 to 2 hours either side of high water. Large trading vessels such as the 187 ton Ionian arriving from Stockholm on 16 October 1882 had to lie at Kyson Quay while her cargo of 4,821 pieces of lumber were taken off by lighter to timber yards further up stream.

Unfortunately records show that, as a boost to trade, the improvement to navigation did not halt the inevitable drain of goods transport to the railway, and later the road network. Nevertheless, a trickle of river trade continued well into this century - the last vessels being Dutch coasters carrying dried peas to the Woodbridge Canning Company's Sun Wharf up until 1939.

But, perhaps more important, is the fact that Loder's name will remain on the lips of East Coast navigators and Woodbridge townfolk for centuries to come.

Woodbridge people have shown this year, over a century later, how they can band together for a good cause. In this case it was with over 2,000 names on a petition which shows how much Kyson Point means to them. If the call had been for funds, what ideas for beneficial improvements to the river could be suggested in the 1990s?

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

Do you know and one who may be interested in joining the River Deben Association? If so, please cut out this box and ask them to fill it in and send it to the membership secretary (see 'Who's who').

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel.....

Origins of an association

Annie Healey, the founder of the River Deben Association, explains how it all started.

IT ALL started in April '89 with a walk along the river with Miss D. Eborall (the founder of the Maldon Riverside Association) and other members of that association.

They admired our river Deben with its unspoilt views, wild spaces, historic buildings and relatively unpolluted water, and offered advice on how a strong association could help fight the growing problems confronting it.

As a town councillor with special interest in planning and the riverside I was concerned that the Deben, and its surrounding natural areas, lay outside the Woodbridge conservation area and was zoned, in part, for industrial development as set out in the Town Plan.

The river, at the time, had been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the then discredited Suffolk County Council Structure Plan which gave minimal protection against developers. Despite its value to the community, the riverside area was being developed without hinderance at an alarming rate and there seemed little that Suffolk Coastal District Council planners could, or would, do about this.

The river now has over 1,000 moorings, and the prospect of several more marinas and the pressure is on for hi-tech leisure complexes. At the same time the river has seen the demise of the Kingfisher. Clearly, decisions have to be made. Do we want our river to end up like the expensive and glitzy play parks of the south coast or do we want to keep it, literally, an area of outstanding natural beauty? It seemed to me that there was an urgent need for the community's voice to be concentrated, and heard.

Right from the beginning of the formation of the association it was acknowledged that businesses were needed to keep river commercial activity alive

and benefiting the community, and it was recognised that one of the main successes of the Maldon association was that it had businessmen on its committee - but only those businessmen whose work was river related on the shoreline.

Woodbridge Society secretary Edna Cotgrove and myself decided to hold a meeting in September in 1989 to test public opinion. About 60 people attended and worries were expressed over leisure, litter, wildlife and the prospect of more housing estates encroaching onto the riverside.

A number of people came forward to form a steering committee and after some comings and goings a firm core of people battled out a constitution with aims and objectives.

Much time, partially alleviated by meetings in the King's Head, was spent struggling with words and ideas which finally resulted in the constitution. Without the enthusiasm and immense hard work of this group the association could never have been started and the inaugural meeting organised.

It was decided that the association would not just concern itself with the original set boundaries of Wilford Bridge down to Troublesome Reach, but embrace the river in its entirety, appreciating that most of the pressures are going to be on the tidal stretch. It was hoped that all organisations associated with the river would be represented and that a balance could be achieved between different needs.

The inaugural meeting in May this year attracted 240 people and well over 150 of them signed up as members. It was a lively meeting with contentious issues raised.

And now, as changes come in thick and fast, the membership is growing and it is up to us to challenge 20th century destructiveness and develop a river and riverside that will be of benefit and enjoyment to everyone.

Who's who

YOUR committee, formed at the AGM last May, consists of a mix of association founder members and a number that were elected at the AGM. To help make the society as broad based as possible the constitution embraces guidance to help ensure that no singular interest body gains unreasonable power.

Hopefully, you feel that your committee succeeds in this aim and if you have a particular interest or concern please contact the member whose interests you share most.

OFFICERS

Chairman	Col Ian Battye, Ferry House, Woodbridge (2338).
Vice chairman	Annie Healey, Jesters, Burkett Rd, Woodbridge (2291).
Secretary	Anne Moore, 2 Grundisburgh Rd, Woodbridge (3559)
Treasurer	Tom Zabel, 59 New St, Woodbridge (385007).
Press/newsletter	Richard Hare, The Boat Inn, Quayside, Woodbridge (2270).

Co-opted officers

Minutes secretary	Annette Burt, 21 Kingston Rd, Woodbridge (385535).
Members register	Valerie Richards, Metersgate Hall, Sutton (385928)

COMMITTEE

Anglers	Timothy Pryke, Old Wilford Barn, Station Rd, Melton (385658).
Bawdsey Ferry	Robert Wright, 5 Rectory Lane, Kirton (Kirton 761).
Business	Piers Venmore-Rowland, 63 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge (3388). Adrian Overbury, Mistletoe, Loudham Lane, Eyke (90394 461236).
Farming/Rocks	Robert Simper, Sluice Cottage, Ramsholt, Shottisham (993 411 273).
Melton	Brian Scott, Rose Villa, Hackney Terrace, Woodbridge (3989).
House boats	Lil Tudor-Craig, ML2604, Wilford Bridge, Melton (6011).
RSPB	Nick Marshall, 10 Drybridge Hill, Woodbridge (6740).
Wildfowlers	Adrian Judge, 29 Bredfield St, Woodbridge (3350).
Waldringfield	Annie Hart, Ryefield, Cliff Rd, Waldringfield (936 354).
Planning	Rosemary Schlee, Deben Lodge, Melton Rd, Melton (2740).
Water sports (Wdg)	Tim Midwinter, 37 Coopers Rd, M'sham Heath (9 623020).

NOTE: All telephone numbers are Woodbridge unless otherwise indicated.

Letters

LIKE any other newspaper we want to hear you views - and so do our members for that matter. Please write to us, providing your name and address but let us know if you don't want us to publish the address.

We would like to publish all the topical letters we receive but don't be too disappointed if you don't make it. Space, as they say, is the final frontier...

To start the ball rolling here's one from your editor on a subject dear to many of your hearts - Kyson Point. If you've already seen it in a local paper - apologies.

re:Kyson Point

Dear Editor

I've read the news stories and I've seen the fence on Kyson Point. Without doubt, it has hideously disfigured a place of immense beauty.

I have tried to put myself into the shoes of Mr and Mrs Hewlett and imagine what possible good reason they can have for their action. Certainly those they have offered through the press are transparent and ill-informed. I believe that if they had lived there for any length of time they might have realised this. After all, I think I am correct in saying that the whole river is bordered by privately owned land, but no-one yet has felt the need to stick up a fence.

So, after centuries and generations of use in which the point has been a quiet place of reflection for countless people, this area is to be de-faced and off-limits. My one message to the new owners of Kyson House is that although beautiful views are a bit like beautiful paintings they aren't always improved by the addition of a frame and a price tag. In the meantime we will have to watch with interest to see what the new owners make of their new pen.

Yours sincerely, Richard Hare, The Boat Inn, Quayside, Woodbridge.

CONSTITUTION
THE RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

AIM

To represent and reconcile the interests of all concerned with the future of the River Deben and its environs.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To encourage any proposal which would safeguard the River and supports appropriate future developments.
- (2) To resist any proposals which have a detrimental effect on the river and its environs.
- (3) To help reconcile conflicting interests, and avoid confrontations.
- (4) To establish a working relationship between the Association, River and Local Authorities.
- (5) To maintain liaison with other interested groups.

MEMBERSHIP

- 1 (a) Full Membership. Any individual over 16 years of age.
- (b) Group Membership as determined by Committee.
Example:- Youth organisation, school or business.
- 2 (a) Application for membership shall be made to the Honorary Secretary and any eligible person shall be admitted on acceptance of an application and payment of a subscription.
- (b) A register of members shall be kept by the Hon. Secretary or a person nominated by Committee.
- (c) Names and addresses will be entered on a register.
Members are responsible for notifying any changes of address and status.
- (d) Resignations to be notified to the Hon. Secretary.
- (e) Membership list will be available at the discretion of the Committee.
- (f) Membership will be annulled should a member's subscription be 3 months or more in arrears.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) After the first year the annual subscriptions shall be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting and decided by a simple majority of those voting. For the first year they shall be:-

(i)	single member	£2
(ii)	couple	£3
(iii)	Concession for Organisations	T.B.A.
- (b) Subscriptions shall be due on 1st April 1990 and on the same date in each following year and this date shall be the start of the membership year.

FORMATION OF ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with this Constitution, by a Committee elected by duly paid-up Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The persons signing these rules shall be deemed to be founder members and shall become the first members of the Committee on signing the Constitution.

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

- i. Chairman
- ii. Vice Chairman and Officers of the Association
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Press Officer
- iii. 12 Further representatives, including up to 2 representatives from each Group listed below.
 - 1. Residents of Town/Village/Parish.
 - 2. Business interests associated with the River.
 - 3. Recreational River users.
 - 4. Environmental interests.
 - 5. Riparian owners.
 - 6. Any other interested bodies.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to 5 additional members to the Committee, pending the next election.
- (e) The Committee shall have power to co-opt individuals in an advisory capacity.
- (f) The Committee shall be empowered to set up sub-committee's (not necessarily from members), for such purposes as it thinks fit, but such sub-committee's shall not cause any statement to be made in the name of the Association without the approval of the Chairman and/or Vice-chairman.
- (g) The Committee shall have power to conduct Bank Accounts, employ staff, take premises and do such other things as many be necessary to manage the business of the Association.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (a) The Committee shall meet at least 4 times per year, of which one will be to submit the Accounts by the Hon. Treasurer.
- (b) Minutes will be kept of the transactions of the Meetings.
- (c) The Committee will decide what is reasonable notice of a Committee Meeting.
- (d) In the event of a Meeting where Chairman and Vice-chairman are absent, the Committee shall appoint a Chairman for that Meeting.
- (e) A quorum will consist of 5 Members of the Committee.

FINANCE

- (1) All monies shall be passed to the Honorary Treasurer, who shall open a current interest-bearing account in the name of the Association.
- (2) The signatories to cheques shall be the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, of whom any two may jointly authorise cheques drawn on the Association's account.
- (3) The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare accounts which shall be approved by the Committee for circulation 21 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (4) The accounts shall be audited by a suitably qualified person who shall not be a member of the Committee.

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FINANCE continued:

- (5) For the first year only, the auditor shall be appointed by the Committee. In subsequent years, the auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (6) No Committee member shall receive monies from the funds of the Association, except to reimburse reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.
- (7) The members may resolve to wind up and dissolve the Association, by a majority resolution at a General Meeting. Upon this decision, the net assets of the Association shall be divided among the members equally.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- (1) Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent out to all paid up members of the Association 4 weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. For items to be included in the Agenda, a paid up member must submit their request in writing to the Honorary Secretary by 31st January.
- (2) Nominations for election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting must be made in writing, duly seconded, to the Honorary Secretary before or at the Annual General Meeting and must carry the candidate's written consent to nomination.
- (3) The Committee may at any time call a Special General meeting by giving paid up members one months notice in writing stating nature of business to be discussed and transacted. Any paid up member wishing to call an extraordinary General meeting shall have the right to require the Honorary Secretary to write to all members informing them of his or her desire, the reason for wanting the meeting and a request for written support. This letter shall be sent at the convening member's expense, but if at least 20% of the membership support his request he shall be reimbursed. The Honorary Secretary shall then call the meeting within 28 days of receipt of the request from the membership. Such meetings will be limited to two in a membership year.
- (5) These rules may be amended at any time by a majority resolution of the members at a General Meeting.

VOTING

- (1) Voting on all matters carried by a simple majority, at any meeting.
- (2) (a) The Chairman shall not vote unless there is an equality of votes, in which case the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- (b) If the Chairman and Vice chairman are absent, paid up members can appoint a Chairman for that meeting only.
- (3) The quorum at any Committee meeting shall be at least five members of the Committee.

Signed 1) IAN BATTYE...
2) ANNABEL HEALEY
3) BRIAN SCOTT...
4) MALCOLM BUDGE...
5) ANNIE HART...
6) ANNE MOORE...