

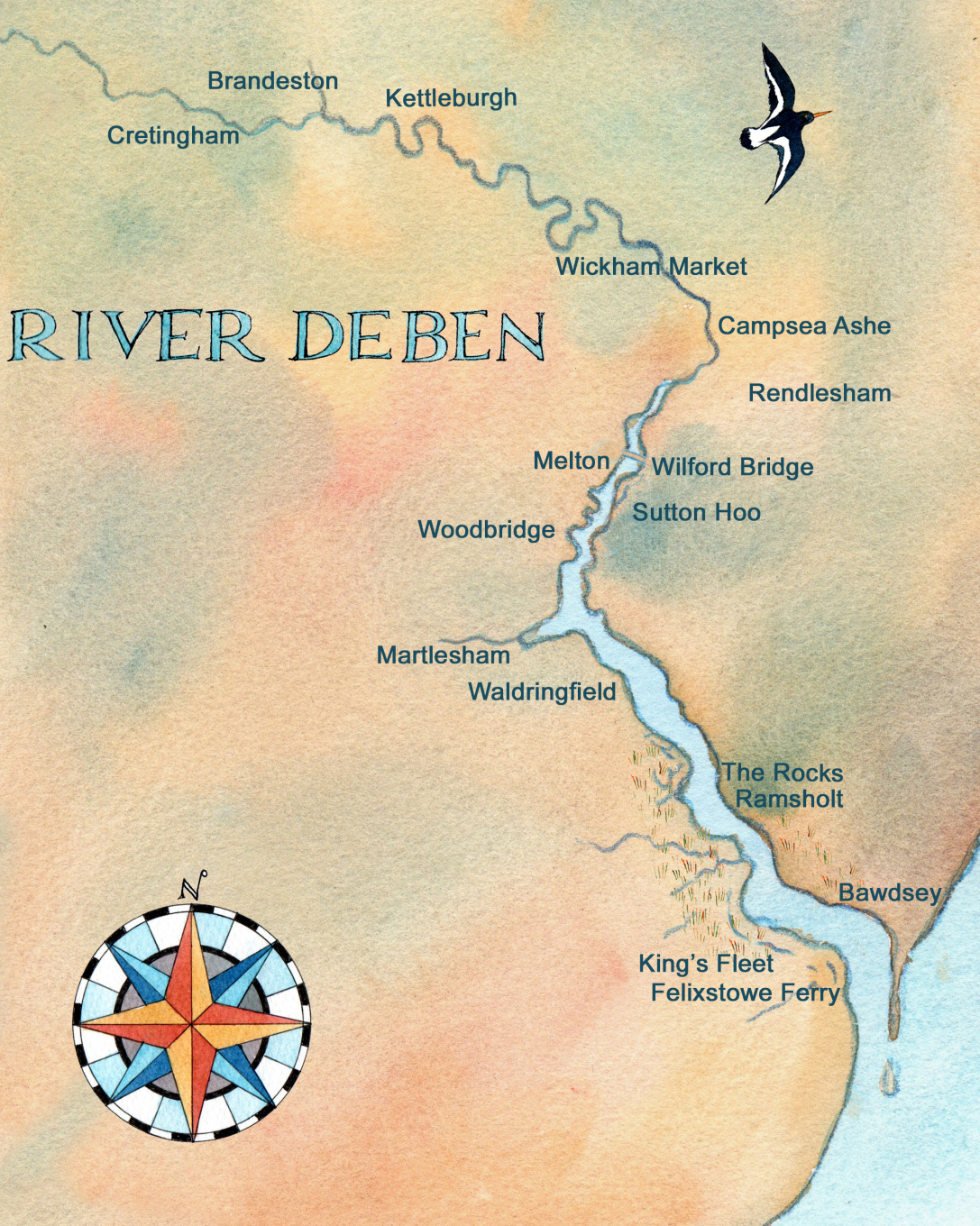
# The Deben



**Issue 65**  
**Autumn 2022**

*Anne Plummer*

Some of the places featured in  
this issue of The Deben magazine:



# RIVER DEBEN



# The Deben, Autumn 2022

<b>Editor's Introduction</b>	4	<b>Review: <i>The Good Stuff</i></b>	31
<b>Profile: Tam Grundy</b>	6	<b>(Books One and Two)</b>	
Julia Jones		<b>Review: <i>Swords of Kingdoms</i></b>	32
<b>A Swimmer's Eye View of the Deben</b>	8	Claudia Myatt	
Andrew Wright		<b><i>The Anglo Saxons</i></b>	33
<b>The Magnificent <i>Caricinus maenas</i></b>	10	<b>Music on the River</b>	34
Stephanie Perks		Julia Dansie	
<b>From There to Here</b>	12	<b>Suffolk and the Sea</b>	35
Anne Ley		Julia Jones	
<b>Hidden Birds of the Reeds</b>	13	<b>Getting Involved: Deben Yacht Club</b>	36
Sally Westwood		Jack Cade	
<b>The River Deben as It Passes</b>	16	<b>News from the Hards</b>	38
<b>through the Parish of Ufford</b>		Colin Nicholson	
Peter King		<b>News from Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club</b>	4[
<b>The River Rats Go to Sea</b>	18	Ben Whiting	
Roland Mann		<b>Getting Involved:</b>	41
<b>From Waldringfield to Australia</b>	20	<b>Universal Declaration of the</b>	
Gwen Thorogood		<b>Rights of a River (Deben Version)</b>	
<b>Felixstowe Hydrocycle</b>	21	Ruch Leach	
Colin Nicholson		<b>The River Deben Association</b>	42
<b>Co-chairs' Report</b>	22	<b>River Deben Events</b>	43
Jane Haviland and Colin Nicholson			
<b>RDA Journal</b>	25		
<b>RDA Fish Survey 2022</b>	26		
Richard Verrill			
<b>A Walk through the Landscape</b>	28		
<b>of the Upper Deben Valley</b>			
Sue Ryder-Richardson			
<b>Profile: Anne Plummer and Nigel Shaw</b>	30		

Cover painted specially for this magazine by Anne Plummer, using a chart of the Deben from a 1916 Cruising Association pilot guide. She is having a joint exhibition with Nigel Shaw at Artspace in Woodbridge from 17th to 23rd November 2022.



The historic Lowestoft drifter *Gleaner* (LT64), built in 1874, visiting the Deben from Cornwall.

# Editor's Introduction

I'm writing this introduction soon after the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th 2022. I don't think she ever specifically visited the Deben, though Prince Philip came to Bawdsey in the aftermath of the 1953 floods. I can remember being taken by my school or Brownie pack to line the road and wave as she drove by on her 'state visit' to Suffolk in 1961. I can't pretend it was overwhelming - even aged seven I wondered why we were waving at a car. Yet the memory has stuck for over sixty years.

Today I mainly feel grateful for the efficiency with which the mother-son handover is being organised. My summer reading this year included Marc Morris' new history of the Anglo-Saxons where almost every kingly death appeared to usher in a new era of broken promises and power struggle. Morris' understanding of the Staffordshire Hoard, which is currently on display at Sutton Hoo and is reviewed here by Claudia Myatt, presents it as the accidental leavings of violence, murder and treachery. Though some formal aspects of the current handover from Elizabeth II to Charles III seem faintly ludicrous, there will be no civil war. The succession narrative emphasises themes of continuity, stewardship, and dedication as well as the generational change.

Some of these themes resonate in our private lives as well – and our voluntary commitment to the things we love. Like the Deben, for instance. With our good fortune at living nearby comes a responsibility to conserve and hand on as well as to celebrate, enjoy and share. I think all the contributors reflect these themes in their different ways. The Co-chairs give an overview of recent and forthcoming environmental activity: Richard Verrill and RDA volunteers make good on a commitment to begin analysing fish stock in the river, Ruth Leach suggests a draft of the river's 'rights', Sue Ryder Richardson and Peter

King describe the special qualities of the upper Deben, Sally Westwood and Stephanie Perks help us see and understand some of the creatures with whom we share the river, Julia Dansie hears its music, Anne Ley describes it as a good place to live. Andrew Wright gives a swimmer's eye view; Anne Plummer views it as an artist.

Sometimes it feels necessary to develop new skills and perspectives by going away from the river. Roland Mann describes the experience of his family over the summer as they sail from Woodbridge to Norway, drawing an imaginary line between one ship burial and another. This winter some members of the Waldringfield Cadet Squadron will be traveling to compete in Australia. They'll have worked hard for this opportunity, but they also know how fortunate they are. Gwen Thorogood tells us how each team will be pledging to do something extra to support the environment or reach out to introduce someone else to the joy of sailing. Or both perhaps!

Inclusion strengthens us all. The need to value diversity and take positive steps to encourage involvement from people of all races, abilities, genders and income levels is something that we have learned during the late Queen's reign but which still has a long way to go. In this issue we welcome Jack Cade, new commodore of the oldest club on the river, the DYC, describing its ethos of accessibility and volunteer effort. We thank other clubs and organisations for their news contributions. These are always welcome both in the magazine and the RDA Journal and also our social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

The Queen, however, wasn't a volunteer and neither is King Charles. They are doing a job for which they are paid in money and esteem and which they can do either well or badly according



*Jubilee* at the jubilee. She was built at Eversons in 1935, the year of King George V's silver jubilee.



*Clytie* returning to her mooring at the end of the jubilee weekend and after her 100th birthday celebrations.

to their skills, personalities and sense of values – which includes the responsibility of stewardship. The working people of the Deben are no different, though we don't often line the route with flags as they go by. 'News From the Hards' is a central feature of this magazine and so is the interview series. Getting some of the key Deben figures to



Newly (and beautifully) built *La Mouette* was launched during Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee weekend.



Jubilee weekend at FFSC fundraising for the rowing group.

talk about themselves is about as hard as getting the Queen to open up, but it feels crucial to understand what they do and how and why. I'm very grateful to Tam Grundy for agreeing to be the subject of this month's 'interrogation.' I'm even more grateful for an approach to his work which is expressed as 'I don't want to lie awake in a Force Nine gale thinking that any of my customers' boats will be dragging their moorings.' I hope that those in charge of the Ship of State will take the same approach.

*Editor Julia Jones is a writer and lifelong lover of the River Deben. You can email her at [magazine@riverdeben.org](mailto:magazine@riverdeben.org).*

Julia Jones

## Profile: Tam Grundy

### The Man Who Keeps the River Running

On the day I met with Tam Grundy (23rd Aug) he'd had an 0815 call from the Woodbridge Boatyard advising him that channel buoy number 9 (between Martlesham Creek and Troublesome Reach) was out of position. Tam got down there quickly in his workboat to take a look and found that the warp attaching the buoy to the ground chain had been severed – presumably by a propeller blade. He collected the buoy and its tackle and took it back his yard to fix. By the afternoon of the same day when a message came up from John White at Felixstowe Ferry via Tony Lyon at Waldringfield, saying that a yachtsman had reported the buoy missing, it was repaired and back in position.

It was a minor example of the way the mechanics of the river work. There's an unobtrusive network of people who ensure that the river functions as it should. Tam Grundy is one of them. He's assisted by his son Ben, a tug master in the Port of Felixstowe, and a number of others, usually self-employed people, who make themselves available when there's a job to be done. There's a family feel to Tam's business. It's expressed through the names of the boats: there's *Patricia G*, the mooring barge, named for his mother; *Sam G*, the dredger, his younger daughter; the tug *Ben Michael*, his son and his father. Readers might worry that the name of the smaller tug, *Fury*, might also have a personal connotation. In fact, it's a tribute to the Dutch author Jan de Hartog, author of WW2 best sellers depicting the work and conditions aboard ocean tugboats. Later this year there may be another vessel on the river but her name is currently a family secret.

Tam arrived on the Deben aged four when his parents moved to Bawdsey. As he grew up, he was fortunate in getting to know two great mentors, Duncan Reed and Charlie Brinkley. He remembers spending hours in their company as a young boy, watching them fishing, running the Felixstowe–Bawdsey ferry and undertaking many other practical river-based jobs. The ferry, then, ran to a timetable linked with the bus service and with the requirements of the RAF personnel who then worked at Bawdsey Manor. Tam was trusted to undertake some of the evening shifts from the age of about 12. He thinks it's a great pity that 21st century youngsters aren't encouraged to spend time learning from older people and being given responsibility in this direct 'hands on' way.

Tam's school attendance was not exemplary. When the family moved to Shingle Street, the truancy officer became a regular visitor to Patricia Grundy. 'You want to know where he is?' she'd ask, with a sigh. 'Just take a look at that white and blue boat fishing in Hollesley Bay and you'll find him there.' Tam's father had taken the approach that if his son wanted anything he had to work for it. Tam had therefore put in hours of labour for local boatmen and ferrymen as well as working on the Simper family's farms. By the time he was about 15 he'd saved enough to buy his own boat. He'd get up early, bike across the marshes to Bawdsey and be out in Hollesley Bay after Dover sole and plaice which he sold to local shops and restaurants. Soon he also had a regular job running supplies out to 'Sealand' at Rough's Tower.

From 1978-2004 Tam worked on the tugs in Port of Felixstowe. When he was a single parent



Rescuing the gravel barge *Torksey* from Dunwich beach in 2005.

and it was necessary to take his two younger children, Ben and Sam, to work with him, he did so. Even the family dog came along. Their school attendance wasn't all that much better than his had been but he's rightly proud of their work ethic. When Ben Grundy presented his portfolio of experience to obtain his Master's ticket working on the *Felixstowe* tugs, the examiners had rarely seen anything like it.

When Tam took redundancy in 2004 he already owned the *Ben Michael* and was well-placed to build up a flexible and varied business. As well as working on the Deben, he undertakes regular dredging and mooring work on the Orwell, assists ships in and out of Oakley Creek in the Walton Backwaters, helps out as required in Melton Boatyard and ready to respond in emergencies. These can be a good deal more dramatic than the repair of a stray channel buoy. Though Tam is a personally modest man, he is also a great storyteller with a wonderful memory for details of jobs, ships and people. I was riveted by his account of the salvage of the gravel barge *Torksey* in 2005 and the collection of *HMS Vale* from Norwich in the summer of 2018.

'No job is the same, no ship is the same,' as Tam rightly says. Such varied work takes ship-handling skills of the highest level. He's also very aware of safety and reliability 'I don't want to lie awake in a Force Nine gale thinking that any of my customers' boats will be dragging their moorings.' I don't want to embarrass Tam or set a bad example but I came away from our conversation feeling that all those days when Tam skipped school to learn from older rivermen and to handle his own boat out fishing in Hollesley Bay, had been days well spent for the rest of us.

*Tam Grundy Marine Contractors can be contacted via Melton Boatyard.*



Tam Grundy

Bringing *HMS Vale* to the Deben in 2018.

Andrew Wright

## A Swimmers Eye View of the Deben

Andrew Wright



Dawn, shown on Anglia TV weather forecast.

Until Covid struck I only used to swim in the River Deben a few times each year wearing a wetsuit for practice for the Great East Swim. With the pools all shutting I was lost. I needed to swim!

Having bought wetsuit gloves and socks I started swimming in the Deben in early April 2020. Initially the 5 degree water temperature was a bit of a shock to the system but the body gets used to it. Five of us; Abi, Danny, Paul, Tom and I, continued swimming throughout the winter of 2020 even when the water temperature dropped



Andrew Wright

Swimmers congregating around *Jesus*.

below zero. Tom and Danny even swim without wetsuits! Swimming all year in the Deben has certainly helped our mental wellbeing.

Apart from the great company what I enjoy most about swimming in the Deben are the fantastic views. It is a stunning river. A photographer's heaven! Some of the sunrises are out of this world.

In the snow before a swim at Waldringfield.

Andrew Wright







Tom and the Tide Mill.

I sometimes swim with my underwater camera that I call Bob 4. Unfortunately Bob 2 might still be floating in the River Deben or North Sea as it came detached from the rope. Views from such a low angle give a very different perspective of boats, paddleboarders, various wildlife and swimmers too. The seal often follows us along and has deliberately bumped into at least one swimmer. It is a very curious creature. Egrets and other birds don't seem to bother about our presence either. Currently there is a brood of Shelduck ducklings swimming around the Waldringfield area. It is great to see them nearly fully grown now. Several of my river photographs have appeared on the ITV Anglia weather forecast.

In April 2021 I had a stent fitted. I was advised not to sprint and to take things easy. I decided to swim further rather than fast and to do three long distance challenges for British Heart Foundation. The first challenge was to swim from Lime Kiln



Andrew completing challenge 1.



Danny and the buoy Slow.

Quay, Woodbridge to Bawdsey (approximately 8.3 miles / 13.4km). At the time this was the furthest I had ever swam although challenge three along the River Alde at 10.7 miles / 17.2 km was longer.

We normally swim very early in the morning so only occasionally see any moving boats apart from in the summer. It is always good to have a chat with paddle boarders and the occupants of the moored boats. Meeting Julia in the *Peter Duck* introduced me to the superb *The Deben* magazine.

*If you would like to donate to the British Heart Foundation, you can give financially (either as a one-off or monthly) at [bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate/your-donation/get-started](https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate/your-donation/get-started), or you can donate unwanted items (either in store, via post, or using their free collection service) at [bhf.org.uk/shop/donating-goods/book-furniture-collection-near-me](https://www.bhf.org.uk/shop/donating-goods/book-furniture-collection-near-me).*

Meeting Julia and *Peter Duck*.

Stephanie Perks

## The Magnificent *Carcinus maenas* (Shore Crab, Green Crab or European Crab)

This wondrous creature that inhabits our River Deben, can grow to around 9cm across its carapace and has managed to travel the globe. So much so, that it has attained the reputation of being in the top one hundred worst invasive animal species in the world and allegedly responsible for over twenty-two million dollars of damage in Canada and the USA. It has single handily brought about the collapse of the soft-shell clam industry in Nova Scotia and New England.

It can be captured relatively easily from the turbid waters of the River Deben, for the inquisitive individual, by a length of string, an old metal bolt, or nut – to weigh the bait down to the river bed, and a piece of chicken or bacon as bait. Dangling these items off a jetty will soon attract a crab, most often a Shore Crab in the case of the River Deben.

Their global success depends largely on their function as water refuse collectors as they vigorously comb their immediate area for anything vaguely edible, from human waste, to dead rotting fish, dead marine animals, marine worms, shellfish, and particularly bacon (smoked or non-smoked, they do not seem too fussy). They live where ever there are rocks, or weed to offer them cover and can operate successfully in depths up to 100m. The brackish water does not seem to affect them and they happily live in the inter-tidal zones along the river.

They can be a variety of colours, such as green, through to browns, and reddish orange, depending on their immediate habitat and foodstuffs. They are not without predators



A freshly caught crab, with a small barnacle co-habiting on its carapace.

however, and can often be seen fighting capture from seagulls and other large marine birds. Bass and cod also enjoy the occasional crab snack. Anglers catch them for bait, particularly when they have just gone through one of their annual moults, when they are called 'peelers'. During these attacks, the crabs sometimes manage to escape with their lives, but often at the cost of losing one of their legs.

If these front claws, or any other of their eight



The freshly caught seven-legged shore crab.

Stephanie Perks

Stephanie Perks



However, this particular *Carcinus maenas* had some very fine front claws.

legs become damaged, they can regenerate them gradually up to almost 95% of the original, over a period of three or four moults (taking years). Indeed, on examining my freshly caught crab I found that it had lost one of its front legs (right hand side in the picture below-left).

As with all sentient beings, crabs feel pain, and the loss of a limb causes them considerable agony. So much so, that the practice of farming their larger relatives by ripping off a claw every so often in order to 'harvest' the meat, has been banned as being too cruel.

Their eyes are similar to insect eyes in that they are compound, made up of several thousand optical ommatidia or units, each one consisting of a crystalline cone, gathering light and information to keep the animal well informed of their immediate environment. Unlike insects, however, their eyes are on stalks, which can be lowered into sockets on the carapace for protection.

Along with being able to identify food sources visually, the *Caricinus maenas* can also smell possible food by the use of their chemoreceptors positioned on the hairs on their legs and antennae.

Whenever the female sheds her hard carapace to develop a new, hard larger one the males take advantage of her vulnerability and clasps her firmly underneath him. After mating, the female carries the eggs under her body, for up to eighteen weeks, protected by a wide, triangular shaped flap of shell. The males do not have this to such an extent as they do not carry the eggs. After this time, the larvae hatch to float around in the water for many weeks before they sink to the soft bed, to grow into adults.

Surprisingly, in this day and age, present knowledge of these creatures is incomplete, with precise information of the geographical distribution of the main species occurring in British waters being poorly known.

*Dr Stephanie Perks lives on her boat and has swum in, walked by, sailed on and generally admired the Deben for nearly three decades. She is fascinated by any creepy crawlies—insects, arachnids, gastropods, and other such delightful inhabitants of our planet.*



Eyes and antennae of this *Caricinus maenas*.

Anne Ley

## From There to Here

‘There’ was a house in North Yorkshire. ‘Here’ is a small Dutch barge on the River Deben which is now my home. In her youth, she carried cheeses around the Dutch canals but now she is home to an elderly middle-ager. She fits me so well. I have everything I need within arms reach (long arms, admittedly). She was never meant to be just a houseboat, but apart from a few trips down the river, she has turned into one.

Like me, she has her share of troubles. She was built in 1911 and I was built in 1946. It’s no good complaining, that’s boats for you.

My water supply is via a hose into the tanks from a tap on the quayside (keep an eye on the frost!). Electricity is supplied via shore power, wood from a local furniture maker and friends; coal from a coalman who also happens to live on the jetty.

The tide comes in and out and we go up and down. The wading birds are when the tide is out

and what a selection! Just now the river is alive with baby birds. It’s difficult not to feel protective as the gulls and crows are always on the lookout for an easy meal.

The community round me is just right. We are here for each other but don’t live in each other’s pockets – just like the good old days.

I remember the tidal surge in December 2013. 2am saw us on our decks with a cup of tea, in dressing gowns, making sure we were all ok. Great fun, except my bicycle got drowned and of course shore-dwellers were not so lucky.

I could expand on this wonderful life but I am limited, I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else but right by the water, the peace and wildlife. Have a go!

*Anne Ley has spent much of her life working with people with learning disabilities.*

*Anne’s barge, Tulip.*



## Hidden Birds of the Reeds



Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

We are familiar with seeing wading birds on the Deben searching for their food along the edge of the water, particularly when there is a falling or rising tide. Black-tailed Godwits search in the shallow edge of the river for snails, insects and worms. Redshanks also probe the shallows for crustaceans and molluscs. Similarly, the Greenshanks need the shallow water for their food, particularly fish, worms and snails. We have also observed waders search for food in shallow water where mudflats are exposed. This area is

where Oystercatchers catch crabs and swiftly pull lug worms out of the mud, and Black-headed Gulls who also have a taste for lug worms, catch insects, fish, and eat carrion.

But what of the birds we do not see? Those hidden birds who live, feed and nest in the secret world of the bull rushes and reeds. We might hear them

occasionally make calls, or catch a glimpse of them singing as they fly or perch on the top of a reed or a bush. Or we may never see them and only hear them. They may be migrants, here for the summer or resident birds.

The **Reed Warbler** is a summer visitor. It is a species predominantly found in reeds and scrubby vegetation although they do land on nearby tree branches. If you are lucky you can spot one singing in the breeding season from the top of a reed. It is more likely to be seen flitting from one area of the lower levels of the reeds to another. You may hear their 'churring' song from deep within the reeds. It is a rather plain warbler, a 'little brown job' with brown plumage above and buff below. It is 13 cms in length and weighs a mere 10 - 15 g. It is a delicate looking bird with a thin beak typical of a warbler. Reed Warblers eat insects, snails and spiders. This diet is supplemented in the winter months with berries. The species builds a deep cup nest low down in the reeds of soft plant material, spider



Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

webs, feathers and wool. However, the nest is not hidden away as far as Cuckoos are concerned. Cuckoos commonly choose a Reed Warbler nest for brood parasitization. This is not always successful, since Reed Warblers do manage to reject Cuckoo eggs but only in 20 percent of cases.

Another summer visitor is the **Sedge Warbler**. It may be easier to identify than the Reed Warbler as they are streaked with a bold, dark stripe across the top of the head and a lemon eye stripe, known as a supercilium. Their backs are also striped, with dark strips randomly placed here and there. They are slightly smaller than the Reed Warbler, weighing in between 10 - 13 g. It is said they weigh the same amount as an AAA battery. Sedge Warblers also eat insects and worms, slugs and snails. They also add to their diet in the wintertime with buds, fruit, flowers and berries. Like the Reed Warbler, they construct a cup-shaped nest low down in reeds. The nest contains animal hair, spider webs and grass stems.

The **Cetti's Warbler** also inhabits the mysterious world of the reeds and damp areas of wetlands. It is present all year in the Deben area and the South-east, but infrequent in the North. It is a hard bird to spot as it skulks about in the reeds and damp undergrowth. The Cetti's Warbler has a loud song that bursts out when you least expect it. It launches straight into the middle of a song, with a fast repetitive ending which has may be described as 'I'm a Cetti, Cetti, Cetti'. The Cetti pronounced 'Chetti', is warm brown above and buff and cream below. It has pink legs and also has the characteristic thin beak of the warbler. It has similar colour markings to that of the Nightingale, but not the orange in its tail like the majestic songbird. The Cetti's Warbler is a rather stocky bird, weighing in at 9 - 17 g, with a frequently upright tail that is rounded at the end. The species eats much the same food as the Reed and Sedge Warbler, but they supplement their diet with seeds.

The **Reed Bunting** is resident species in Britain, but less frequent in Scotland. The species frequents the thick sections of reeds fringing both areas of the Deben and streams along the river bank, they also inhabit farmland. It may be a little easier to see than the warblers, as it likes to perch on the top of reed stems to sing for some time during the nesting season. When it is in breeding plumage the male has a jet black head, a drooping white moustache, distinctive white collar, and it is grey buff underneath, with a thick beak, typical of all buntings. The female has a brown back like the male, with dark stripes and it also has the white moustache, but it is light brown underneath. It is a heavier species than the warblers at 12 - 25 g. It also tends to be larger, since it is usually about the same size as a house sparrow. Reed Buntings also feed on typical warbler food such as insects, snails and spiders but they also eat seeds.

Listen out for these hidden birds of the reeds, when you next visit the River Deben. You may be pleasantly surprised, like the young reader of this magazine who recently observed two birds squabbling with one another whilst precariously perched on reeds. Exciting news came from another reader recently. They mentioned spotting a young Gannet swimming in the river at Ramsholt. That is a scarce bird in this area. I have never seen one here. Thank you. Please do mention your sightings to the RDA Magazine and I will add them here. I have an interesting sighting to add. In the past, I have mentioned the spoonbills that have been seen on the banks of the Deben, at Ramsholt Marshes. In mid August, I was surprised to see what initially looked like a single swan walking along in the centre of a channel of shallow water, turning a bend in the course of the water, moving its head and long neck from side to side, it's head beneath the water. Was it a Spoonbill, I asked myself as I followed the river bank round the bend near Wilford Bridge. This was my regular walk, my usual birding patch. It was a Spoonbill. How exciting! Sadly, I was without my camera.



Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia Ceti*).

## Recent sightings in August

- 12th Pied Flycatcher at Felixstowe
- 16th Black Tern at Bawdsey, East Lane
- 18th Pied Flycatcher at Bawdsey, East Lane
- 25th Osprey observed between Hemley and Waldringfield.

Thank you 'Suffolk Birding.'

*Dr Sally Westwood is a professional bird photographer who has written many articles for Bird Magazines and Journals. She lives on a boat on the Deben, though she often migrates to warmer climes in winter.*

*You can report your rare and scarce bird sighting to: [suffolkbirding.webs.com](http://suffolkbirding.webs.com).*



A young RDA member seeing birds in the reeds.

Peter King

## The River Deben as It Passes through the Parish of Ufford

The lower non-tidal reaches of the River Deben meander through fourteen kilometres of largely flood plain areas sandwiched between steep rising sandstone scarps on either side, stretching from Kettleburgh Mill above Wickham Market to the Normal Tidal Limit (NTL) just below Ufford. The river over this stretch is punctuated by the sites / remains of no less than five tidal mills, of which the mills at Wickham Market and Ufford are the only preserved mills. The River passes within / forms the parish boundaries of Ufford for a total of 1.5km, fed by Byng's Brook from the North West.

The flood plains over this length are dictated by the water requirements of the mills the river hosts. The river has accordingly been dammed and re-directed to create elevated millstreams to provide the waterhead needed for the mills, with any excess natural river pouring off the millstreams by way of fabricated splashways, fixed or on occasions controllable, into stretches of waterway which roughly follow the mills' tail races until joining up again when a common level is achieved. The flood plain outwith the

main river tends to be pierced by a myriad of ditches and streams feeding the main river, many of them dry in summer.

The River Deben is tidal to just short of the southern extremity of the Ufford Parish boundary, just below the remains of the Old Mill between Ufford and Melton. The tidal cut-off is marked on the Ordnance Survey at the confluence of the River with one of its levelling streams which runs immediately to the north west of the railway. At high spring tides, the tide can in fact be seen reaching further up both arms, in the case of the levelling stream an estimate 300m above the confluence.

Located 1.5km upstream of the Ufford Parish boundary in the Parish of Rendlesham lies a yet-to-be fully explored riverside Anglo Saxon royal settlement, first recorded by the Venerable Bede in the 8th Century, but probably having its origins three centuries earlier. It is believed that the large, wealthy Rendlesham settlement was a port, which could be reached by ship. This would infer that the Deben was much deeper in its lower non-tidal reaches than it is today; indeed, it was said to have been navigable as high up as Wickham Market. Downstream, 3¾ km to the south of the Ufford parish boundary is the famous Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon burial site. The River through Ufford would thus have been the link between these two important sites. Extensive archaeological excavations on the Rendlesham site are in hand, programmed to be completed in 2024.

The River is spanned by two structures of interest as it wends its way through the Parish of Ufford:

Peter King



The Ufford water mill, viewed from downstream.





The Hawkeswade Bridge spanning the main stream of the River viewed from downstream across the Hole.

- The brick-built Hawkeswade Bridge twin bridge which spans upper and lower-level watercourses of the River, just down the road from the “White Lion” pub, immediately upstream of a pool locally known as the Hole, favoured as a bathing haunt by the local youth; and,
- The restored Ufford (water) Mill about ½ km upstream of the Hole bridge, which has been tastefully restored as a private dwelling, retaining most of the Mill’s external features.

The Hawkeswade Bridge was probably built around 1750, on a site which had accommodated an earlier river crossing – bridge or ford. The Hole immediately downstream of the bridge has probably been scoured out over the years by the whirlpool effect created by a concrete splashway diverting surplus waters to the lower level gutterway immediately downstream of the main bridge.

The Ufford Mill is thought to be on the site of a mill mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1087; the current watermill is a Grade II listed building and dates from the 17th or 18th Centuries. Timber framed and weatherboarded with two storeys and an attic, it has a gambrel roof, with plain tiles to its lower pitch and pantiles to the top. The mill itself was certainly



The second arch of the Hawkeswade Bridge spanning the adjacent (nearly dried up) gutterway.

operational in the late 1800s and early 1900s, probably ceasing milling towards the end of the 1930’s, whereafter the mill fell into disrepair. The mill was in a poor state until about 35 years ago when the current owners, the Cope family, took over the property. They have since lovingly restored the mill and installed a new mill wheel.

The “White Lion” pub at Ufford, situated just to the north west of The Hole bridge, amongst other things was the club house of the now defunct Ufford Sailing Club. The USC fielded two sailing events of note each year, a regatta on a nearby farm reservoir and the annual race on the tide from Waldringfield, up the River Deben to the Hole at Ufford by whatever maritime means as might be offering, a passage involving frequent portages around snags on the non-tidal reaches of the Deben. The USC’s ultimate claim to fame came when Ufford resident, Sean McMillan, founder of Spirit Yachts, chartered a Spirit 54 yacht to the makers of the James Bond film “Casino Royale”, which featured cushions in the main cabin discretely embroidered with the USC motif. The Ufford Sailing Club, along with its hallowed traditions, needs to be resurrected.

*Captain Peter H King has a lifetime of experience in the merchant shipping industry, and is the author of The Aberdeen Line and a member of the WCC.*

# The River Rats Go to Sea

“Slipped our mooring. Next stop Norway!”

So reads Charlie’s entry in the log for the 25th June 2022, as she, aged fourteen, Jasper seven, Nat one and myself and Martine headed down the Deben from Methersgate in our 33’ gaff cutter *Miranda*, for a ‘grab a chance’ adventure. And she was right; four days later after tossing about in the North Sea, we found ourself in Egersund. Since then, for two months we have been travelling up the west coast sailing in and out of the fjords, actually looking for a possible place to live.

The still unfolding story is in our blog [mirandaring.wordpress.com](http://mirandaring.wordpress.com). I am writing this in Florø, having arrived today from Nordfjord; so we still have our return journey ahead.

It has been an evolution for all of us. Five people in a 10 metre gaffer is quite tight. But

Roland Mann



Nat looking at a lighthouse on Dalsøyna.

things have worked out, and there has been a lot of laughter. Charlie has grown in leaps and bounds, not only vertically but also in capability; at first unsure of handling an 8 ton gaffer rather than her Pico, but now able to hand, reef and steer, handle mooring lines and fenders, as well as taking charge in the galley from time to time. And of course the ever present task of looking after Nat, who at a year and a half is quite a handful.

Jasper is not strong enough to work the sails, but he knows his marks, is pretty good on the COLREGS and familiar with a lot of our routines. He has a knack for observation, so he can often (delightedly) spot if someone has forgotten something. We rigged tiller lines with a purchase, and he

Roland Mann



The River Rats’ burgee.

Roland Mann



Jasper.

Roland Mann



Charlie helming in Nordfjord.

can steer a course pretty well now. He also has a keen interest in fishing, and is getting pretty good at casting.

Nat has changed a lot on this voyage. His speech has come on amazingly, both English and Norwegian, and he is now very steady on his feet, happily climbing boulders and running around, but also learning about where he can and cannot go, the natural boundaries of a little ship. Curious to think that all this is so normal for him now.

‘The ship comes first’ is a rule aboard *Miranda*. It’s a tough rule to follow at times, especially for children, but it’s an important one on a voyage like this. Looking after *Miranda*, and ensuring the smooth running of such a small space with young children, is everyone’s responsibility.

There’s been a lot to do. Every stop has new and interesting things to see, and we have done a lot of walking, scrambling over rocks, paddling in fjords, and foraging for the abundant and delicious wild food. Nat is an expert mushroom spotter, excitedly squeaking at almost (to me) invisible fungi.

The fjords are stunningly beautiful, and so varied in their landscape, from majestic towering cliffs topped with patches of ice and draped with ribbons of cloud, to sublime green pastures, rich and dense underfoot; barren skerries of weather-beaten rock to lush valleys with thickly wooded slopes penetrated by brilliant blue water and streaming with vigorous waterfalls. And space, so much space. It’s awe-inspiring – and dangerous; for Norway has changed us all, irradiating us with its enormous diversity, subtly undermining the established contexts of the past and presenting new and dramatic possibilities.



*Miranda* and her crew.

The limit and turning point of our journey was Nordfjordeid where, having sailed from our home opposite Sutton Hoo, we found *Miranda* had drawn a sea-track joining one ship burial to another. For we moored up near to the site and reconstruction of the largest known Viking ship, *Myklebustskipet*, last resting place of King Audbjørn of Fjordane.

Now summer is ebbing away fast; and the tidal pull of our voyage has shifted from north and east, to south and west. Suffolk is calling us back, but we have yet to know the seaways that will carry us there...

*Roland, Martine, Charlie, Jasper and Nat live ‘off grid’ on a houseboat opposite Sutton Hoo on the River Deben. They home school the children and are very keen on learning and spreading all manner of empowering practical skills and capability. Their yacht Miranda is a one off, a 33’ gaff cutter designed by the well known architect, builder and writer John Leather, and built for fisherman, writer and local character on the Blackwater Hervey Benham. Her keel was laid in 1959, and she was finished in 1960. You can read more about their Norwegian explorations on the blog [mirandaring.wordpress.com](http://mirandaring.wordpress.com).*

Gwen Thorogood

## From Waldringfield to Australia

One sunny Saturday morning, six years ago, I began my cadet sailing journey at Waldringfield sailing club by jumping in a boat with someone I didn't know. My nervous eight-year-old self could never have imagined that I would be lucky enough to be able to sail this incredible class of boat at an international level in somewhere as far afield as Australia.

This Christmas I will be travelling to Australia with the rest of Team GBR to compete in the world championship.

Team GBR consists of 10 selected boats who will race in the main fleet and 3 boats who will compete in the promotional fleet racing parallel to the main fleet. The selection process took place over three competitions at three different venues, unfortunately some of the people who were originally selected were not able to go to Australia so the boat who placed behind them filled their spot. I missed out on the team by only a few places but I am still very pleased with how close I got as this will be my first worlds as a helm.

Due to the cost of flights, containers (for shipping the boats), accommodation, entry fees and many more expenses, we have relied a lot on crowdfunding and sponsorship to get the team and their boats down under. I know I am speaking for the whole team when I say we are all incredibly grateful to our sponsors Golden Duck, Vaikobi, Kestrel Liners and Elevations Flooring as well as everyone who has donated,



Robert Deaves

Gwen Thorogood (helm) and Primrose Denny-Pickess (crew).

whether that be through one of the events we have done or through our GoFundMe page, for helping make our dream a reality.

Part of our sponsorship from Golden Duck is that each boat must make a pledge to do something that will lessen the effect on the planet or take someone sailing who would have otherwise not had the chance. I think this is a fantastic plan as sailing can be bad for the environment especially when traversing somewhere as far away as Australia, it also can be a very inaccessible sport to those who don't come from a sailing background.

I am very much looking forward to this great adventure and cannot wait to sail down under.

*Gwen Thorogood is a member of Waldringfield Sailing Club's Cadet Squadron and has been part of Team GBR at two world championships. She and her siblings - who are also in Team GBR - attend Thomas Gainsborough School in Sudbury.*

Colin Nicholson

## Felixstowe Hydrocycle

There is huge national and local focus on water shortages after the driest summer on The Deben for fifty years. In addition to this, water resources across the East of England are under ever-increasing pressure due to the combined effects of population growth, the upward demand for irrigated crops and climate change.

This is particularly pronounced on the **Felixstowe Peninsula** where the Environment Agency has calculated that, even during the winter when river flows are at their highest, there is no additional water available for abstraction. Compounding the issue, any further abstraction could also risk damaging the precious wetland habitats and rivers of the Peninsula.

**Felixstowe Hydrocycle Ltd** is an innovative, farmer led, water supply and management company working in partnership with the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board to bring sustainably sourced fresh water supplies, (of which more than 1 million tons of water each year is pumped into the tidal River Deben,) onto the Felixstowe Peninsula, with the support of a €969k EU grant to part fund the initial set-up and construction of an approx 11km pipeline.

On 10th June 2022 RDA Co-Chairs Jane Haviland & Colin Nicholson attended a project briefing at the site just to the North of Felixstowe Ferry.

**Environmental Benefits:** The project will decrease the amount of high flow draining water pumped out across the mudflats and saltmarsh. Also, 160m of brushwood faggotts have been installed. Together these reduce scouring and erosion which both helps protect these precious habitats and encourages saltmarsh establishment.



Colin Nicholson

Inside the Felixstowe Hydrocycle which involves fresh water being pumped back to farm reservoirs instead of out to sea.

**Agricultural Benefits:** Irrigated farming puts food on our tables and contributes £m's and 100's of jobs to our local economy.

**How it works:** Water travels along the pipeline to participating farms where it is stored in reservoirs ready for irrigation. The route was selected to avoid areas of conservation importance and architectural sites. Surplus water is pumped into shallow trenches and a novel infiltration method and the water soaks into the ground, helping to recharge groundwater aquifers. The benefit of using natural aquifers to store the water is that this avoids the need to construct large, resource and land hungry reservoirs. Any water that is not re-abtracted for agriculture can be left in the ground to supplement springs and river flows.

**The way of the future:** This self-funding, sustainable approach has now been proven for the Felixstowe Peninsula and there is little doubt that similar win-win projects, in multiple locations up the East Coast, could succeed given the necessary flexibility of farmers, landowners and regulators.

## Co-chairs' Report

We write this in the midst of a prolonged period of sunshine, this summer. On the one hand it is great to be able to rely on dry weather (especially if one is camping) but on the other, is worrying in terms of the long-term impacts of no rain. We are certainly experiencing more incidences of extreme weather which, of course we are all learning, are indicators of climate change. We will learn more about this when we welcome Lord Deben to our RDA Autumn Talk on 24 November this year. Hold the date!

Welcome to Colin Nicholson, our new co-chair, and Caroline Peeke, our new secretary who were both elected to the Committee at our AGM in April. They are already very active in the Association's proceedings and I am delighted that they have joined the team.

Many things have happened since the last edition of the Deben Magazine in April. Andy Went from the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust (ESRT) gave a fascinating and informative talk to the membership. He talked through the then recently published report *The State of our Rivers* ([riverdeben.org/blog/news/agm](http://riverdeben.org/blog/news/agm)). Andy went through the variety of parameters that are monitored and how the rivers of the nation are categorised in terms of water quality: chemical and ecological.

The report is on our website and well worth a look. It provides a number of links to publicly accessible data and an excellent overview of how things are changing. For example, very few rivers reached a good quality status following the most recent national monitoring exercise carried out by the Environment Agency. Many rivers, including the River Deben, went from Good to Moderate. But this is not solely related to what is the current topic of conversation, raw sewage. Also important,

especially for the Deben, is nutrient management and agricultural run-off from fields.

Additionally, the quality status change is closely linked to the Environment Agency now adopting more sophisticated chemical monitoring techniques, e.g. testing for chemicals that have never been tested for before. These include hydrocarbons and chemicals included in fire retardants. How they get into our rivers is a good question, but this is being addressed now the levels are being measured. Some is related to surface water run-off from road surfaces, and some may be related to fly tipping of sofas, mattresses etc., where fire retardants then leach into the ground water and contaminate our water courses. Fly tipping is an offence and should be reported to the Local Authority.

We are continuing to develop our relationship with the ESRT and have recently supported them in a bid to fund a Plastic Pollution Prevention Project that is taking place on a number of riversides in the east and southeast of England. We will let you know if the bid is successful and invite you to become involved.

Nationally, there has been a lot of recent publicity about discharges of effluent into controlled waters, including the River Deben. The spotlight has focused on the responsibility of water companies to undertake effective management of our sewage and associated discharges. Linked to this publicity, Anglian Water has reached out to the RDA, amongst others, and together with Ruth Leach, Councillor Eammon O'Nolan and Dudley Watson we have been in discussions about the current status of discharges and monitoring and how procedures can be improved. Whilst this is action that Anglian Water



are investigating, we are keen to continue positive consultation with them and have been invited to the Treatment Works in Martlesham to get a better understanding of how sewage treatment works work. We understand that Anglian Water are trialling novel ways of treating E.Coli and we are keen to learn more about this, the sources of E.Coli and how behaves it once in the water environment. We will keep you updated!

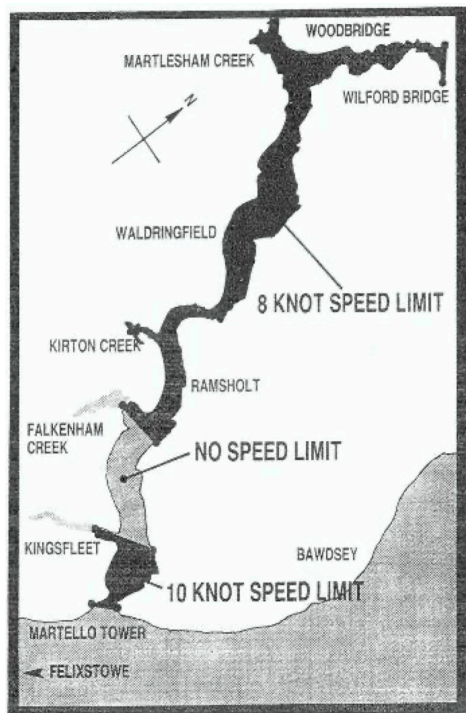
The RDA Committee will be taking a considered view on the impact of discharges on the overall water quality and will continue to liaise constructively and pragmatically with Anglian Water and other bodies in this regard. Some of us have noticed brown scum on the water, perhaps there has been more this year than others due to the warm weather. Some of this is due to rotting plant matter and dissolved organic carbon and some may be the result of man made products and human activities such as the introduction of detergents, fertilisers and sewage effluent. We are keen to understand the difference and how to distinguish between the different types. We will of course share more as we have become better informed.

Co-chairs Jane Haviland and Colin Nicholson visited the Felixstowe Hydrocycle project.

The Conservation Sub-Committee is looking into ways that we as an association can help monitor the wider health of the river. Such activities include undertaking fish surveys, which is being led by a former committee member – Dr Richard Verrill.

In addition, we are planning to meet with Penny Hemphill (Independent Ecologist) and Nicky Rowbottom (Coordinator of the Suffolk Otter Group) regarding setting up Otter Spotting volunteer groups. We are looking to secure some training about how to identify the presence of these creatures which is a positive indicator of a healthy river. We will be sure to draw on the experience of our members too, who have reported otter sightings on previous occasions. The RDA is also planning to meet with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to learn more about training volunteers to become River Wardens.

The RDA will have a stand at The Environmental Fair at Whistocks Place on Saturday 24 September, hosted by Transition Woodbridge.



Editor's note: Readers may like to visit the RDA website where they can view a copy of the Deben Byelaws. These were passed through Parliament in 1979. Byelaws are ultimately legally enforceable.

We understand that this is an awareness raising event at which a variety of talks and stalls that will be available for information gathering. Jan Pulsford's Ambient Music Festival will take place over the weekend.

Climate Change is an ongoing conversation and flood risk as well as drought are key indicators of this. Water conservation is therefore an issue which is becoming increasingly important. Colin and I attended the open day of the Felixstowe Hydrocycle Project in June. Located at Kingsfleet, near Felixstowe Ferry on the edge of the Deben, it is a fascinating project and if you are in the area, there are some useful information boards that provide the background and rationale about the team's activities.

The RDA has written the following guidance notes, "A Guide for Swimmers in the River Deben," ([riverdeben.org/about-the-river/swimming](http://riverdeben.org/about-the-river/swimming)) and "Protecting Wildlife when canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding on the Deben" ([riverdeben.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Protecting-wildlife-when-canoeing-kayaking-and-paddleboarding-on-the-Deben-2021-maps.pdf](http://riverdeben.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Protecting-wildlife-when-canoeing-kayaking-and-paddleboarding-on-the-Deben-2021-maps.pdf)) and with both these guides in mind, we draw your attention to the speed limit on the river which is 10 knots between Felixstowe and the water-ski area, and 8 knots between Ramsholt and the Wilford Bridge. There have been some incidents recently that have put swimmers, as well as the river ecology in potential danger and we all have a duty to act responsibly. Speed limits and breaches is high on the Agenda of the Committee which is aiming to develop a strategy for reporting speeding incidents. For now, please get in touch using the contact form on the website, should you witness any potential breaches.

In June, the RDA supported the well-attended "Suffolk and the Sea Day" ([riverdeben.org/blog/rda-journal](http://riverdeben.org/blog/rda-journal)) event at the Felixstowe Book Festival, in which several RDA members were involved.

Finally, a welcome to new RDA members and a thank you for those established members. We hope you find this account of your association's activities interesting and you feel that the activities are beneficial to the Deben.

*Jane Haviland is Co-chair of the RDA. She is a solicitor specialising in environmental law and has a keen interest in photography and rowing.*

*Colin Nicholson is Co-chair of the RDA. He had a varied career in the international pharmaceutical industry. More recently, Colin worked in sport, as Chief Executive of an Olympic National Governing Body, organising participation in the London Olympics and three Commonwealth Games.*



# RDA Journal

The RDA Journal is published fortnightly on our website: [riverdeben.org/rda-journal](http://riverdeben.org/rda-journal). It offers space for RDA members with particular interests and knowledge to write at length about subjects which interest them. This is building up a significant archive of expertise. Recent contributions have included:

11/03/2022

**A Ramble around  
Wickham Market  
and Campsea Ashe**

Sue Ryder-Richardson

25/03/2022

**One Man's Life:  
Another Man's  
Memory**

Julia Jones

08/04/2022

**Overview of  
Sewage Overflows**

Liz Hattan

22/04/2022

**Joe Clark (14 July  
1935 – 20 February  
2022) – A Tribute**

Gareth Thomas

06/05/2022

**Is sediment  
increasing in the  
River Deben?**

Robin Whittle

20/05/2022

**Suffolk and The  
Sea – Sailors, Artists  
And Anglo-Saxons**

Claudia Myatt

17/06/2022

**You Too Can Go To  
Sea: River Deben  
support for Suffolk  
and the Sea Day**

Julia Jones

01/07/2022

**WSC Cadet  
Development  
Squad 2022**

Frank Thorogood

15/07/2022

**Plants of the Deben  
– a plea for help**

Julia Jones

29/07/2022

**The Curlew**  
Sally Westwood

12/08/2022

**News from the  
Noughties, Part I**

Bertie Wheen

26/08/2022

**News from the  
Noughties, Part II**

Bertie Wheen

09/09/2022

**A walk through  
the landscape of  
the Upper Deben  
Valley – Brandeston,  
Monewden and  
Cretingham**

Sue Ryder Richardson



On Jubilee Weekend Julia Jones went for a walk at Bawdsey with her brother and 7-year-old niece. She took photos of the flowers they saw and asked Journal readers for help with their identification.

The full list of identifications is now available on the RDA Journal page with particular thanks to Peter Jones, Sue Ryder Richardson, Susan Stone (via Penny Thomas) and Annabel Thorogood.

Richard Verrill

## RDA Fish Survey 2022

Richard Verrill



Fish survey volunteers at Bawdsey.

Estuaries are vital habitats for fish, playing a crucial role in the life cycle of many species. It is well recognised that estuaries are particularly useful in helping to support young fish stocks. Different species favour different habitat which might include gravel / sand beaches, mudflats, salt marshes and sea grass. The River Deben can provide all of these.

There are relatively small amounts of data about which fish species may be developing in the Deben. Occasionally Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (EIFCA) or The Environment Agency have done surveys and collected some data but the last record I was able to find was in 2014. Stephen Thompson from EIFCA approached the RDA 3 years ago suggesting that the RDA and some volunteers might like to be involved with some Citizen Science and help conduct a fish survey. As reported in the Deben Magazine we were keen to be involved and

so a number of RDA volunteers attended a training day run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust last summer where we learned about small fish studies from Steve Colclough from the Institute of Fisheries Management and Stephen Thompson from EIFCA . COVID caused EIFCA to

reassess their priorities and so they decided to withdraw from running a Deben study. Having had training and seen the enthusiasm of the RDA volunteers I approached the RDA Committee to see if they would fund an independent Citizen Science study which was agreed, so using fisheries scientist Steve Colclough and his equipment we scheduled our first Fish Survey. Consents were obtained to use a fine mesh net for scientific purposes from The Environment Agency and EIFCA.

On 16th August four RDA volunteers, Steve Colclough and two representatives from EIFCA met on Bawdsey beach. We planned to use a 15



Richard Verrill

RDA volunteers and Fisheries Scientists start processing the catch.



Fish awaiting sorting (note air pump to ensure oxygenation).

metre fine mesh Seine net. The net had a series of floats on the top and a weighted rope at the bottom. It was waded out into the river to a depth of about 1.5 meters and allowed to drift in the tide until it was parallel with the beach, using ropes attached to either end, it was then hauled into a circle on the beach. I must admit I had some anxiety that we wouldn't catch anything so I was delighted when there was a mass of wriggling silver fish in the bottom of the net. The fish were immediately put into a large bucket of seawater and taken onto the sea wall for sorting. Using shallow trays, small aquarium nets and water filled measuring containers we then identified and measured the fish.

On our first trawl, one hour after low tide, we caught 12 Sea Bass, 12 Sand Smelt, 130 Goby and 6 Estuarine Prawn. A second trawl was done at approximately mid tide when we caught 27 Sand Smelt, 93 Goby, 3 Estuarine Prawn, 1 Grey Mullet and 2 Sand Eels. There were no Bass in this trawl. A third trawl was done just before high tide with fewer fish and just a few Sea Bass, Sand Smelt and Goby. In all we processed over 300 fish. I will put our full survey data on the RDA website.

The variety and changing numbers of fish sampled from the same site illustrated what a dynamic environment we were sampling. In just a few hours species appeared to come and go and densities and sizes of fish were changing. Our survey gives us a tiny snapshot of what is



A juvenile Sea Bass being measured.

happening everyday up and down the Deben. Fish stocks are constantly changing with fish maturing and moving to open seas while small fry start to mature. It was very good to see so many Sand Smelt as they are particularly sensitive to adverse environmental conditions and so their presence is an indicator of a healthy river.

We had an interesting and very productive day and we proved that the RDA volunteers are able and enthusiastic. Having a fisheries expert with us ensured that we were also practising good science. EIFCA has asked if they can use our data to add to their research database which is currently being updated and will be published. We are also making sure that the data can be used by other interested parties. We have some previous data from EIFCA samples in 2013-14 and our sampling is broadly in line with previous samples, this is somewhat surprising as they were using much larger nets. We are very keen to conduct further studies and so we are currently exploring funding streams to make this possible. We hope that in the future we can put more "plots on the graph" and build a better picture of the fish stocks in the Deben.

*Richard Verrill has sailed in Suffolk and Essex for the last 57 years, and on the Deben since 1985. He was a GP at Framfield House Surgery Woodbridge for 31 years, retiring in 2016.*

*The full report and data will be published in the RDA Journal on 23rd September.*

Sue Ryder Richardson

# A Walk through the Landscape of the Upper Deben Valley

## Brandeston, Monewden and Cretingham

**Map:** OS Explorer 212 TM 251604.

**Start:** Bridleway on Kettleburgh Road at east end of Brandeston village. Distance approx 6.5 miles.

The Upper Deben Valley in August 2022 is biscuit dry. The small rills, the source of this beautiful river above Debenham, are dried, fords and water splashes empty, yet further downstream in the heart of the farming countryside of Brandeston, Cretingham, Monewden, as if by magic, the Deben has gathered some water, and flows gently through its green, tree lined valley.

Fortunately, this is a familiar walk and so the golden stubble fields, the deep cracks in the clay uplands, and profound woodland shadows, I know to be only part of the story. For today, wildflowers are brittle seed pods, and the hedgerows bear the early precursors to autumn; swelling blackberries, reddening hips and haws, and damsons ready for the picking.

But start this walk in late Spring, along the bridleway in Brandeston, and the path will be filled with cow parsley and briar rose as it descends to the ford. Pause on the footbridge over the Deben and watch the water plants wave in the stream, dragonflies dart, and birds that dip and dive for water. Here there is a chiaroscuro of light that shifts through the willows and the poplar plantation. It is a delight in all seasons.

Over the bridge, keep on up the hill beside the wood. It is here in early summer you will find the gentle bonnets of wood sorrel and anemones. On reaching the cottage, either turn right along the hedgerow and skirt Jubilee wood to reach

a lane where you turn left. Or, continue ahead and take the first right turn up the bridleway towards Monewden Hall. This is first of many beautiful properties along this route. At the lane turn right, then left at Chestnut Tree Farm. Keep ahead here and pass by a wood on your right.

At the lane turn right and very shortly left through a well-hidden path in a hedge, and at the next lane repeat, a right and left onto another well disguised footpath. All these paths cross wide farming uplands with panoramic views over a landscape, and on down to the Deben Valley. If only the fields had not had hedges removed, the land would feel as old as the



Sue Ryder Richardson

Brandeston in Spring.

houses that nestle within it, scattered as they are over the undulating hills.

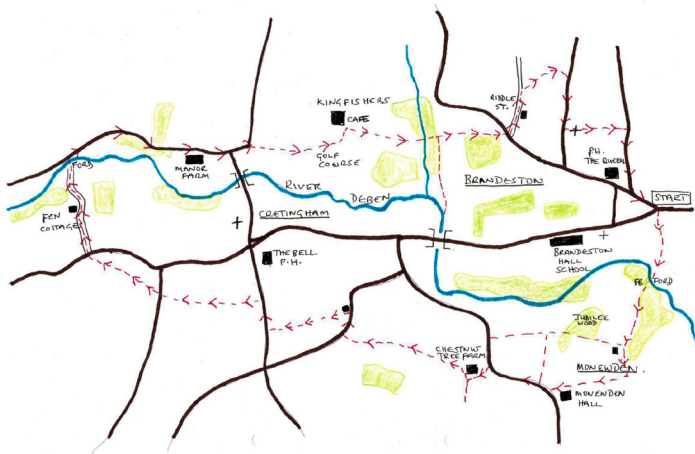
Cross over the next lane, heading down towards a wood and a road. Here, there is a choice. Keep ahead onto the bridleyway past Fen Cottages, but only if there had not been rain of late, for the footbridge at the end of the path is closed (the notice from 2014 speaks of a temporary closure.

It is now hard to see the footbridge through the brambles), and the only alternative is to walk over the ford, easy if dry, not so if wet.

Either way on reaching the lanes turn right towards Cretingham. If taking the first right, along a quiet road, turn left in the village to pass the Cretingham Bell, an excellent place for refreshment, and then on past the Church. This is well worth a visit with its 13th Century origins, dark draft excluding box pews, and interesting artefacts.

If you have crossed the ford and turned right, bear left on reaching the road from Cretingham Village, and very shortly right down a track signed Kingfishers and Cretingham Golf Course. Kingfishers has been recently bought by the Thackers, who are in the process of re-wilding this Country Park, putting in 1000 new trees, and creating Nature Trails, with the assistance of some of Suffolk's ecological specialists. There are refreshments here in a lovely indoor-outdoor café.

Follow the footpath signs through the Park, on through a glade, and water meadows, to cross a tributary of the Deben. It is possible to shorten the walk here by turning right along the



Map of the walk.

riverbank and following the path through woods to meet the Cretingham-Brandeston Road. Here a left turn will take you back into the village.

Alternatively, keep ahead on the path from the bridge, and climb a steep incline. Turn right on the lane and immediately left onto a track called Riddle Street. Pass Grove Farm and before the next cottage, take the bridleyway right. On reaching the lane, turn right and then take the footpath left at the small chapel, through the churchyard to a gap in the hedge. Cross the field towards a house, walk through a farm drive and turn right into Mutton Lane, to return to Brandeston village. The Queen Public House is on your left, another good place to stop, otherwise turn left and then right to reach the start of the walk.

*Sue Ryder Richardson was born in Suffolk, and has explored the county on foot for as long as she can remember.*

*This walk appeared in the RDA Journal on 9th September, and there you can find some extra notes and a larger, downloadable version of the map: [riverdeben.org/rda-journal/upper-deben-valley-walk](http://riverdeben.org/rda-journal/upper-deben-valley-walk).*

# Profile: Anne Plummer and Nigel Shaw

Anne Plummer



## Anne Plummer

Anne Plummer learnt to sail at the Royal Harwich Yacht club and spent a lot of her childhood sailing with her parents often going to the Deben and up to the Tide Mill where her uncle kept his boat. She studied A Level Art, then went on to study Engineering. After graduation a move to rural Essex took her back to painting. She then sailed to Cornwall for an extended cruise and ended up staying for 12 years. While there she met artist Chris Insoll at the New Gallery in Portscatho. Her art progressed with Chris's knowledge and guidance and she was often painting in and around the Falmouth area.

A nagging feeling that she really belonged on the East Coast prompted her to set sail again. Now based in Ipswich, she is often in the Deben enjoying its meandering curves and marshy banks, while sketching and painting the local traditional fishing boats as well as the barges

Anne Plummer

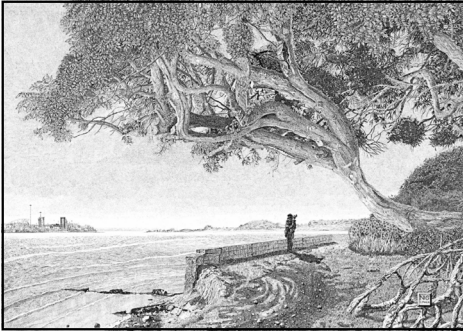


Anne Plummer

and smacks that we are so lucky to have still in commission along our coast. Anne's passion for sailing comes through in much of her work, with a variety of local watercraft and landmarks depicted on canvas, and in some cases on vintage nautical charts. She uses acrylic which is a versatile medium to capture cloudscapes and shimmering sea water. She also produces incredibly realistic paintings of marbles, fishes in patterns, and almost cartoon-like landscapes of the local area with the sun's warm rays streaming across the sky.

Anne Plummer





## Nigel Shaw

Growing up in Woodbridge during the 70s Nigel always drew, with lots of encouragement. He realised he wanted to be a Science Fiction illustrator and embarked on an Art and Design course at Suffolk College. Unfortunately he found the course pushing him away from the type of art he wanted to do so the disappointed young artist changed track and moved to another profession.

Fast forward to 2016 he decided to pick up his pencils and pens again. His natural talent and enthusiasm was still there and he has not looked back.

Working in monochromatic ink using fineliners and airbrushing he creates increasingly photorealistic images.

Experimenting with techniques such as hatching, cross hatching, pointillism, random lines and a technique he created himself called skimming, he captures the Suffolk landscapes and local landmarks, laid down on paper not unlike a fine art etching with a surprise Sci-Fi element.

*Anne Plummer and Nigel Shaw have a joint exhibition at Artspace in Woodbridge from 17th to 23rd November 2022.*



- [www.anneplummer.blogspot.com](http://www.anneplummer.blogspot.com)
- Facebook: [anneplummerartist](#)
- Instagram: [anne\\_plummer\\_art](#)
  
- Facebook: [nigelshawart](#)
- Instagram: [Nigel.Shaw.Art](#)

## Review: *The Good Stuff* (Books One & Two)

John Passmore

John Passmore is a sailor in his seventies who describes himself as 'having the time of his life'. These two books are formed from a collection of articles contributed to national newspapers and magazines. They offer the prequel to his popular *Old Man Sailing* which was published last year and described his solo escape from pandemic lockdown. Here he describes his participation in the 1988 OSTAR (Observer Singlehanded Trans-Atlantic Race) and the period spent living full-time on a 27' catamaran with his wife Tamsin and first one, then two, children. His description of life as a liveaboard beside the Woodbridge Tide Mill in the winter of 1993 will soon be published in full in the RDA Journal. Meanwhile these expertly-written short pieces will continue to delight and amuse.

**£7.99 (each), Samsara Press**

Claudia Myatt

## Review: Swords of Kingdoms

### Exhibition at Sutton Hoo

However well made replicas are, there is always something special about seeing the 'real thing', so I was looking forward to visiting 'Swords of Kingdoms' at Sutton Hoo which brings together objects from the Staffordshire Hoard and Sutton Hoo finds in a temporary exhibition. Similarities in style and craftsmanship between the two treasures have led to the conclusion that many of the Staffordshire items may well have been made by the same hands – or at least in the same workshops – as the Sutton Hoo treasures. Most of the Staffordshire finds are fragments of weaponry – decorative items for sword hilts, clasps and fittings belonging to a wealthy and powerful warrior elite.

What struck me most about seeing the items on show was their size. These pieces are tiny. Many were familiar from photographs and books, but photographs deceive, zoom in, conspire in the fantasy that 'treasure' is impressive because of size as well as sheer mastery. The imagination and skill that created these tiny treasures is hard to comprehend – fragments of garnets, gold and

glass cut and worked into such complex designs that they are hard to see with the naked eye.

This, I found, was the problem. In the dim light of the exhibition hall I longed for a magnifying glass to get a proper look. If the pieces could have been displayed in front of a magnifier, and better still, if they could have been slowly revolving, I would have felt closer to a true appreciation.

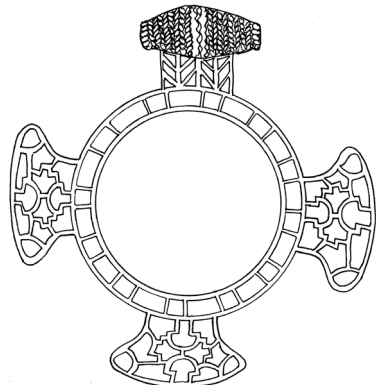
What are we to think, looking back down the centuries, struggling to imagine a world so different to ours but in which art and design were valued so highly? It can be said that one of the factors that marks the degree of civilisation of an era or culture is the abundance of skilled craftsmanship. Our own century, where the arts are being challenged as 'non-essential' might do well to remember this.

Of course the treasures we see at Sutton Hoo belonged to kings and warriors far removed from everyday folk, but any civilisation that has the time, the skill and the desire to create objects of beauty, and to decorate their clothes

Claudia Myatt



Claudia Myatt



An Anglo-Saxon brooch in the shape of a cross, made using the circle as a starting point



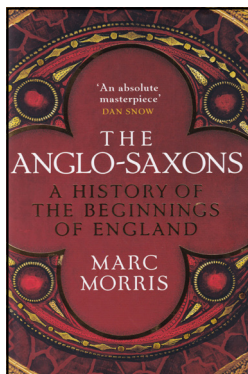
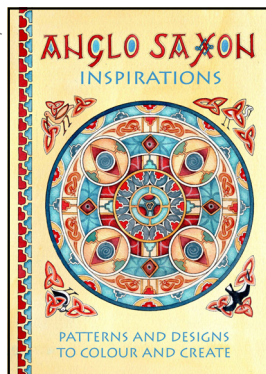
and household objects, has clearly risen above basic survival. The Anglo-Saxons were well travelled too; those garnets came from Sri Lanka and were probably traded for in the Eastern Mediterranean.

There is no time to linger over the exhibits; the numbers in the exhibition at any one time are carefully managed and you're aware of the people behind you waiting to move along the display. I was longing to sketch but had to be content with taking a few photos. I wanted to find those similar patterns for myself, let my own 21st century hands trace in pencil the curves, steps and 'mushroom' shapes in the gold and garnet cloisonne, shapes that appear in both Staffordshire and Sutton Hoo. I find that drawing – even trying to draw – is a way to notice more and begin to understand.

*'Sword of Kingdoms' exhibition featuring items from the Staffordshire Hoard and Sutton Hoo is on display at Sutton Hoo until 30th October. Pre-booking is essential as the numbers in the small exhibition room are carefully managed by a team of helpful volunteers. Take your spectacles! (or even a magnifying glass). Take a camera too as there's no exhibition catalogue available.*

*Claudia Myatt is the author and illustrator of Anglo-Saxon Inspirations, a book full of Anglo-Saxon designs to colour as well as instructions to create your own, available locally at the Woodbridge Museum and the Longshed or online at [claudiamyatt.co.uk](http://claudiamyatt.co.uk).*

Claudia Myatt



Marc Morris

## The Anglo Saxons

Marc Morris

The Staffordshire Hoard was discovered by metal detectorist Terry Herbert in a field near the village of Hammerwich, Lichfield, Staffordshire in the former kingdom of Mercia. It's the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver objects yet discovered and is likely to have been deliberately buried sometime between 650-675 CE, not so long after the most likely date of the ship burial at Sutton Hoo. Some of the artefacts have similarities with the Sutton Hoo treasure and may have originated from the workshops at the royal settlement at Rendlesham.

The selection of objects is puzzling: almost all are martial, none are for female use, there are no coins and almost no items with a Christian connotation. Many are precious metal fragments from larger items eg golden sword hilts without the swords. Marc Morris offers the challenging suggestion that this was the tribute assembled by Oswiu of Northumbria to pay off Penda, the warrior king of Mercia who had already killed Oswiu's brother and three East Anglian kings and was once again threatening Northumbria. Penda seems to have accepted the bribe and to have been returning home when Oswiu double-crossed, attacked and killed him. 'If this wasn't the war gear of Oswiu and his followers,' writes Morris, 'it's exactly what their war gear would have looked like.'

Julia Dansie

## Music on the River

Julia Dansie



Members of Wagstaff and Lack at the Ferry Quay.

I was walking over the bridge at the Woodbridge railway station the other afternoon and approaching me were two women singing the song “down by the riverside”. I joined in; we laughed, smiled at each other and continued on our way.

What it is that connects music and the river, for it certainly does seem to do so?

Water is musical in its own right. Dependent on tides and winds it creates such a variety of sounds on the hull of my steel boat. Deep echoing gongs, slapping high notes, romantic ripples, and silences interrupted by burps as mud and water fight for space.

Are we open for making relationships that are beyond purely the spoken word because of the greater freedoms we find in nature? Who knows?

What I have found over the two years I have been here is that there is music created and listened to from the mouth of the

River Deben at Felixstowe as far as its source I am sure. It weaves its way upstream in pubs, yacht clubs, boats, river banks, high streets, public square, the mill, cafes and so many places.

There are musicians and creative people quietly being non invasive with their chosen instruments, whose sounds float and weave in between people who carry on their lives; and those who fill the air with sounds that bounce and crash off walls, trees, coffee cups and beer glasses.

We have amateur and professional groups who you can't sit and listen too without your feet start tapping, your hands clapping and before you know it you're up and dancing; to others that drift you off to memories and places long past.

I have been so inspired by Celtic, European, English, Original and Improvised musical moments that have developed and stretched my own abilities. Last night my great nephew, staying on the water, asked if I could put music to some words he'd written; “you sing it and I'll put some chords to it” I offered. 15 minutes later as the tide was rising the boat off the mud, all four of us were singing and laughing. Something certainly works in the relationship between river and music, I thought.



Claudia Myatt (right) and Julia Dansie (left).

Julia Dansie is one of the many musicians living on the river. She is an amateur guitarist and singer who plays with the band Wagstaff and Lack and the duo Myatt and Dansie.

Julia is working on an overview of 2022's music on the Deben for the Journal.

Julia Jones

## Suffolk and the Sea

The River Deben Association were among the sponsors for the Suffolk and the Sea day, a fringe event of the Felixstowe Book Festival. Sometimes one can feel that these festivals come and go, ideally leaving new ideas and happy memories in the minds of those who attended, but not always with any sort of afterlife. This maybe a little different. Firstly because of the kindness of Jon Swallow, videographer, who recorded all the sessions as they took place and has now uploaded them to YouTube. Links were sent to RDA members in Bits and Bobs #14. You can also find them by searching for Felixstowe Book Festival 2022 and/or Suffolk and the Sea Day.

Simon Daws



Simon Daws, still sailing despite visual impairment.

Trust, the Cirdan Trust or EAST (East Anglian Sailing Trust).

At the other end of the age range, comments made by Camilla Herrman, magazine editor of the Cruising Association drew attention to the plight of lifelong sailors forced to 'swallow the anchor' before they would have wished due to limitations in yacht design and the difficulties of access. Personally I was inspired by the example of Simon Daws, still sailing despite blindness, with the support of EAST and modern technology. I dread the day when I can no longer get on and off *Peter Duck* and would be glad to hear any experiences and tips for improvement that readers would like to suggest. Though I love the Deben I'm not sure it's a river where disabled access is easy. Please tell me I'm wrong.

Caroline Matthews



Look out for a new series of Michael Portillo's Great Coastal Railway Journeys (BBC2). Here he is spotted by Caroline Matthews of Woodbridge Museum filming with the 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts.

*Yachting Monthly* and Imray pilot guides have also expressed interest in wider discussion of this topic. Perhaps we can make a difference for ourselves in the future...

Some of the themes in session 4 (You Too Can Go to Sea) may be picked up by Jon Swallow and the Nancy Blackett Trust in a short video to be offered to local schools and youth groups. Please get in touch if you're interested in hearing more about this. Or about the work of the Nancy Blackett



Jack Cade

## Getting Involved: Deben Yacht Club

Deben Yacht Club (DYC) can sometimes be overlooked by the casual visitor to Woodbridge. It is Woodbridge's most southerly building on the river wall and will be noticed by those walking downstream towards Kyson Point. I hesitate to suggest that it is unique (somewhere there is someone who will argue otherwise), but the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) have told us that it is the only sailing clubhouse built entirely on piles above a riverbed. Whilst this causes some maintenance issues, it does afford the most extraordinary views of the river from the water level pontoons and the higher level verandas that face the river.

DYC was founded in 1838 to hold sailing and rowing races and is thought to be the seventeenth oldest sailing club in the world. In

1988 Geoffrey Brown published a book on the club's history and an updated potted version of this may be found on the club's website. By the late 1800s the club was languishing, and it took a new generation to relaunch it in 1886 as the Deben Sailing Club, the name change reflecting the use of smaller boats by most club members. After this resurgence world events affected the club and by 1923 it was effectively a club in name only. However, this decline was short lived and the creation of sailing businesses in Woodbridge dramatically increased enthusiasm for the club. The names of entrants to club races include Robertson, Everson and Whisstock. Shortly after this the members decided to revert to the original name of Deben Yacht Club. In 1935 the club followed Waldringfield Sailing Club in building a clubhouse. In subsequent



The view from the clubhouse balcony.

decades, the DYC clubhouse has been improved with major extensions and has still managed to retain the character of the original building. It is best seen from the river, which is the 'front' of the building, the pedestrians walking the river wall see the unprepossessing 'back'.

Whilst the club's fortunes ebbed and flowed in the past, today it is vibrant. The club has over 450 members and, in the same spirit that the club adopted in previous centuries, the club welcomes motorboats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, as well as its traditional dinghy and yacht sailing. It runs approximately 80 days of racing and leisure sailing events each year, each supported by RYA qualified helms of its fast safety motorboats – safety is paramount to the club. Even though the club has a rather grand title, its ethos is very much making sailing and the lovely River

Deben accessible to all. The club has its own RYA accredited training school which provides sailing and power boat instruction and qualifications. DYC attempts to keep costs to members as low as is viable, especially for youths. A club fleet of dinghies is available to members at events making sailing accessible to those without a boat themselves. Work

that members cannot do is contracted to local businesses along the Deben.

A feature of the club, often remarked on by new members, is the enthusiasm of fellow members and the help they provide to get on the water and overcome problems. Members volunteer for a range of roles, from decorating to boat maintenance, managing rotas to providing food in the galley and managing the training school. As a result there is a happy atmosphere of community and sense of purpose to all its activities. All are welcome, experienced sailors

and novices.



Jack Cade.

Jack Cade

*Jack Cade has sailed on the Deben for thirty years, first on dinghies, then slightly wider afield on yachts. More recently he has spent the majority of his time on the water helming RIB Safety Boats for the Deben Yacht Club, and is an RYA accredited instructor. Jack was appointed Commodore of the club in 2021.*

Colin Nicholson

## News from the Hards

**Larkmans, Melton:** Although the total amount of boatyard work is at capacity, interestingly, the percentage of wooden boat repairs has gone up over the past year.

**Melton Boatyard:** Simon Skeet is very busy with commercial work, including the grit blasting of some steel barges.

**Robertsons, Woodbridge:** The Deben is honoured by a recent new arrival, *Sarah Ann Austin*, a wooden ex-RNLI Lifeboat which served on Blackpool's beaches 1937-1961, saving 32 lives enabling Robertsons to offer private, bespoke river trips for up to 12 passengers, with the expectation of electric propulsion next year! A % of the annual takings from trips will be donated to RNLI, whose merchandise is also available from reception.

Robertsons also maximises the potential of their "real estate" by renting various flexible co-working spaces with river views - from their converted Sprat Shed to individual pods including a converted shipping container and *Bluebell*, another restored and converted wooden ex-lifeboat. And in the evenings, the Sprat Shed hosts Yoga classes!

In tune with the current national focus on water quality, no barges (6 more arriving over the next few months with works to the new jetty completed) at Robertsons will be allowed to pump waste into the harbour or river - enabled by a Barge Harbour & pump out facility. Also, a mobile pump out facility is now available to service resident barges and other customers.

**Tide Mill Yacht Harbour, Woodbridge:** Whilst it has been a good summer for the Yacht Harbour, Mike Willis has sadly now retired. The New Harbour Master is Ross Copsey who handily has a marine-diesel engineering background.

**Woodbridge Boatyard:** Whilst the yard has been relatively quiet through the summer, work has continued apace on several boat projects. The clinker dinghy *La Mouette*, a replica of an 11ft Everson's dinghy was launched to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee along with a 100th birthday party for *Clytie*. In September she will be displayed on the Wooden Boatbuilders Trade Association stand at Southampton International Boat Show. Another new replica has been built; *Arrigo* is a faithful reproduction of a Venetian Sanpiero lagoon boat and can be seen out rowing and sailing, looking like nothing else on the Deben. *Beta III*, the oldest surviving



Ex-RNLI Lifeboat *Sarah Ann Austin* is now available for river trips (while still benefitting the RNLI).



Thames Fireboat *Beta III* at Woodbridge Boatyard.

Thames Fireboat (built 1926), has been laying alongside our floating workshop to have several steel deck-beams and her wooden foredeck replaced as part of her conversion to a houseboat to be kept at Ferry Quay. *Loyal Huntress*, an ex-Royal Navy Fairey Huntress, has had her decks repaired, her engine rebuilt and a full paint-job inside and out. Several dinghies have also been in for work including an Aldeburgh Lapwing for which we made a new wooden mast, amongst other things. And a big “Thank You” to all who voted for International One Design *Falcon* in the Classic Boat Magazine Awards: she came second and was awarded Highly Commended in the “Restoration of the Year (under 40ft)” category, amongst some very tough competition.

**Martlesham Creek Boatyard:** Although the boatyard has a full complement of houseboats, there continues to be a steady stream of prospective liveaboards. One important advisory note to dog-walkers is to keep dogs on the lead at low tide as in the creek there have been several injuries to swans chased by dogs, as the swans are unable to take-off/escape through the mud.

**Waldringfield:** For several years now, passers-by will have noticed the Arbroath Luggar ([nationalhistoricships.org.uk/register/2056/glad-tidings](http://nationalhistoricships.org.uk/register/2056/glad-tidings)) tied up against the wall. But now *Glad Tidings* is gone!



*Glad Tidings* alongside Waldringfield Quay.

After purchase by a new owner from Cornwall, her hull was temporarily patched-up and a jury-rig created using two locally cut and trimmed trees! Then, escorted by a large Cornish lugger that had journeyed to the River Deben to assist, (anchoring at The Rocks,) she cruised to Falmouth across four days, where she will be fully restored for the next phase of her life.

Waldringfield continues to be very busy. There are large numbers of people using the beach and the river - swimming, paddleboards, kayaks etc.



The tree trunks fitted to *Glad Tidings* for her trip to Falmouth.

Unfortunately, within the growth in numbers of users, there are a number of people who have little or no awareness of the potential dangers of a tidal estuary, and this has resulted in several rescues by the Waldringfield Harbourmaster who is actively involved with education and raising awareness of the issues. Education has also been the answer to speeding boats, highlighting both the dangers posed to other river users and potential damage to salt marshes.

The scrubbing posts have been out of use for some time, but after the summer, they are to be replaced and available for use for a small fee

**Ramsholt:** In the first significant infrastructure work since 1957 (following the disastrous great North-Sea flood of 1953,) Ramsholt Quay has been refurbished in works that spanned 2021/2022, having to overcome shortages of concrete caused by the pandemic of 2020 and beyond.

**Felixstowe Ferry:** This year there has been a big problem on the river with the high speed of some power boats and personal water craft (jet-skis) and other river users are fed up with bad and inconsiderate behaviour from this minority who have no consideration to anyone else. It has been suggested that one solution may be for the local council to insist all PWC's to carry a RYA competence certificate as is apparently done by some authorities.



The works at Ramsholt Quay.

## News from Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club

The 2022 FFSC Regatta triumphed over leaky boats from Levington and challenging weather, with superb sailing in both catamarans and monohulls and the help of a sterling Safety Crew. With the committee boat, *Moonbeam*, delayed on its way from Levington, the rescue crew rose to the challenge and took the race marks out to sea for the course to be set. Meeting *Moonbeam*, the first three races set off in a breeze that built from what Club Commodore Roger Lewis described as “fresh to frightening”, with not a few capsizes, and even some retirements.

Sunday brought more promise, more problems! *Moonbeam* had over half a metre of water in the hold, but with buckets and plenty of elbow grease, the team managed to bail until the boat yard owner helped rescue them. With alternative craft secured, the gods smiled on the second day's racing. There was a special mention for the youngest competitor, Henry Scammell, who won first monohull. (Contributed by Ben Whiting)



Nick Read

At the Felixstowe  
Ferry Sailing  
Club's Regatta.



Ruth Leach

# Getting Involved: Universal Declaration of the Rights of a River (Deben Version)

The river Deben originates West of Debenham and meanders 25 miles through Suffolk countryside before entering the North Sea at Felixstowe Ferry.

At Bromeswell; approximately halfway through its winding course, it widens to become a magnificent tidal estuary sheltering a multitude of wildlife: overwintering avocets, seals, fish and the occasional otter.



Ruth Leach

All along its journey the Deben's water feeds wetlands, water meadows and other habitats, delivering lifegiving nutrients to Suffolk's coastal estuaries and the North Sea, transporting sediment teeming with micro life while also performing other essential ecological functions.

The Deben Estuary is a Special Protection Area (SPA), an area of SSSI, a Ramsar site and falls within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In Woodbridge, the iconic Tide Mill harnesses the river's tidal energy, still using traditional methods, to produce stoneground flour.

With its richness of plant life and saltmarsh flora, our Deben is also the well-loved recreational resource for yachtsmen, rowers, kayakers, paddleboarders, swimmers, walkers, birdwatchers, cruises and children simply playing.

We hereby acknowledge that the River Deben is essential to all life by supporting such diversity.

Acting in solidarity with communities across the world we declare the following rights for the River Deben:

- The right to flow freely
- The right to be free from pollution
- The right to perform essential functions within its ecosystem
- The right to native biodiversity
- The right to regeneration and restoration
- The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers

and finally...

- The right to maintain its connections with other streams and rivers.

We will act as the Guardians of the River Deben reducing the threats to its wellbeing and today we call on all people present to engage with the river in a relationship of respect and stewardship. Thank you.

*This is the text of a declaration produced by the Save the Deben Campaign group, founded by Ruth Leach and Caroline Page. It will be read at the Environmental Awareness Event hosted by Transition Woodbridge at Whisstocks Place on 24th September and is reproduced here to promote informed discussion.*

# The River Deben Association

## Autumn Meeting: 24th November 2022

The RDA is delighted to welcome Lord Deben (formerly John Selwyn Gummer, MP for Suffolk Coastal) to report on the progress made by the UK combatting Climate Change. He is the current chairman of the Independent Committee on Climate Change. The committee advises the UK Government on setting and meeting carbon budgets and on preparing for the impacts of climate change. Lord Deben has been a concerned environmentalist for many years and was described by the RSPB as 'the best environment secretary we have ever had'. He is also a trustee of climate change charity Cool Earth, and the ocean conservation charity, Blue Marine Foundation.

The meeting will be held in the Community Hall, Woodbridge. It's possible that Lord Deben may appear via Zoom. RDA Members will receive further details nearer the time.

## Committee

Robert Simper	President
Jane Haviland	Co-chair
Colin Nicholson	Co-chair
Liz Hattan	Vice-chair Conservation
Caroline Peeke	Secretary
Moray MacPhail	Treasurer Membership Secretary
Matt Lis	Social Media
Sue Orme	Planning
Caroline Matthews	Riverside History

## Contributors

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Alan Comber	Website Manager
Martin Waller	Publicity

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Magazine	<a href="mailto:magazine@riverdeben.org">magazine@riverdeben.org</a>
All other matters	<a href="mailto:chair@riverdeben.org">chair@riverdeben.org</a>



River Deben Association



Andy Went from Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust speaking at the RDA AGM in April.

# River Deben Events

Sarah Kenyon



The Woodbridge Historic Riverside Group hosted an array of events over the August bank holiday weekend to celebrate the area. These included a scavenger hunt, art activities, food stalls and traditional vessels.

Jane Haviland



A second rowing gig, *St Etheldreda*, was launched as part of the HM Queen's Jubilee Celebrations on Thursday 2nd June 2022. She joins *St Felix* as part of this rapidly growing club at Felixstowe Ferry.

1st Kesgrave Scout Group



Participants in the 2022 County 'Wet Weekend' for Scouts and Guides at Ramsholt. This annual event has been running since 1949 and is attended by between 130-175 young people, along with leaders.

Alyson Videlo



Waldringfield Sailing Club Squib Class doing a group boat scrub on the slipway. They all get together and bring the boats ashore one by one onto a trolley and then scrub them all down together. 'Many hands make light work.'

Alyson Videlo



The Waldringfield PhotoPost is part of a network of fixed-point photography sites around the Deben estuary and coast supporting the monitoring and understanding of coastal change.



Mark Bamford



Sally Westwood



Ruth Leach

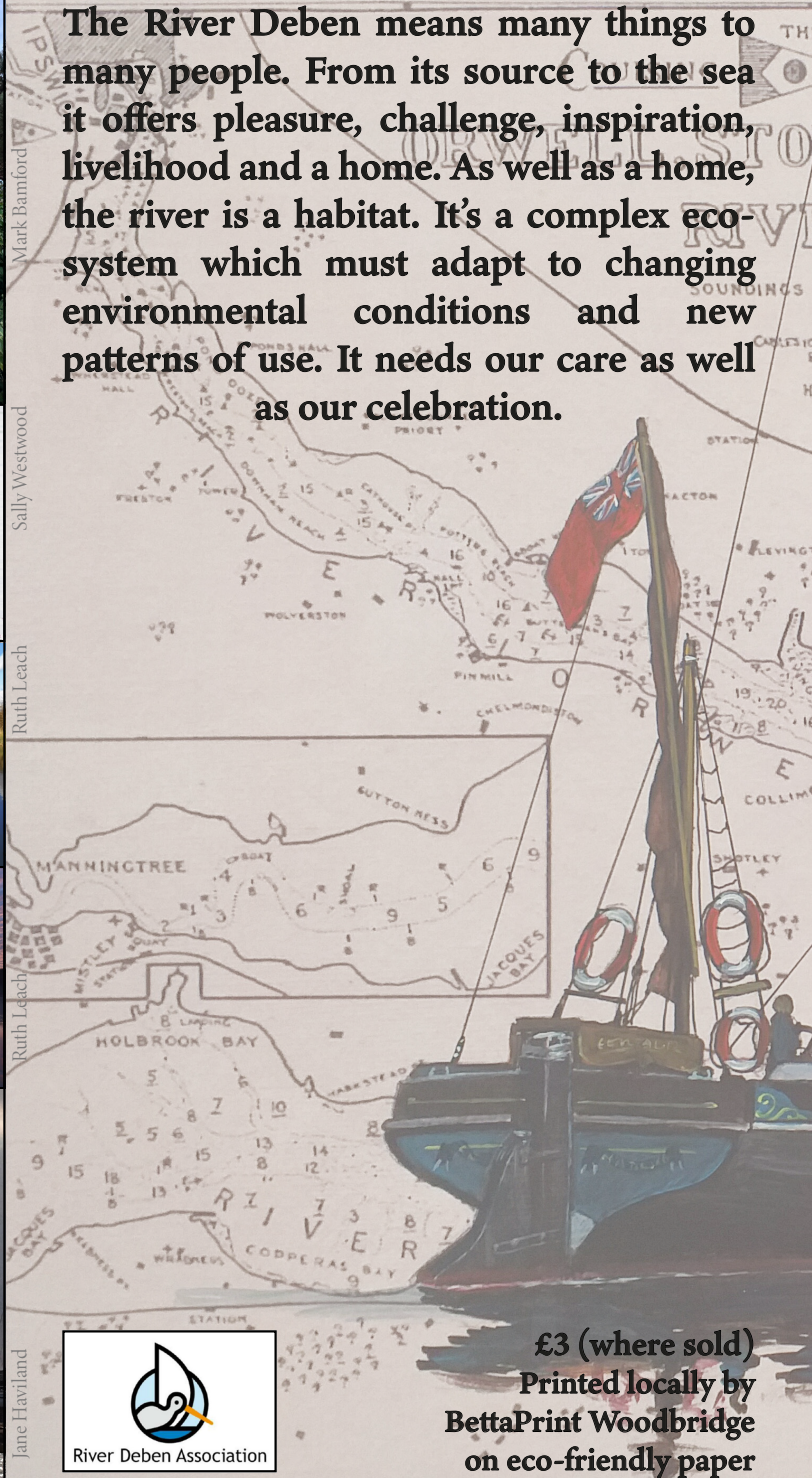


Ruth Leach



Jane Haviland

The River Deben means many things to many people. From its source to the sea it offers pleasure, challenge, inspiration, livelihood and a home. As well as a home, the river is a habitat. It's a complex ecosystem which must adapt to changing environmental conditions and new patterns of use. It needs our care as well as our celebration.



River Deben Association

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