

Newsletter of the Friends of Norfolk Heritage Fleet

HUNTER'S YARD

Autumn 1996

Trust is Launched **£200,000 lottery grant**

Safeguarding our Heritage

Bryan Read, Chairman of the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust , writes:

From the day that the Norfolk County Council Education Committee announced that they were considering disposing of the County Sailing Base at Ludham, the support from all those who knew the Yard and the Hunter boats has been overwhelming. Many were those who had sailed on the boats, others had seen and admired the distinctive mahogany hulls from the bank and had recognised their quality and breeding.



Paul Heiney and Bryan Read at the launch

This support was manifested in letters to the local paper - the Eastern Daily Press - which ran a magnificent campaign, and in letters and phone calls to the Yard. The strength of this backing was one of the factors which encouraged a small group to get together to rescue the Yard so that this small part of the history of the Broads could be preserved; another factor was the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff at the Yard and their determination that the boats should continue to be available to young people as well as the general public.

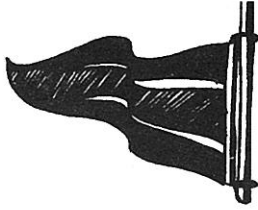
As a result of this collective action the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust was formed to negotiate for the purchase of the Yard, confident that they would have financial backing, a confidence that was justified by generous individual contributions and then by the substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which ensured that we had the funds to complete the purchase.

Sailing for Young People

However, our efforts do not end there. Aside from ensuring that the fleet will continue to be available to the public, it is a primary objective of the Trust to promote increased use by schools and youth groups. To enable this to happen it will be important that costs can be kept down, so, to this end, we are establishing an Endowment Fund, the income from which will go towards subsidising the cost for young people.

Friends for the Future

One thing became clear to the Trust from the beginning, there were so many well-wishers supporting the work of the Trust in so many ways, it was vital that we kept them in touch with the Yard and what was going on. It was agreed that this could be most effectively done by setting up a body of Friends. The Trustees are delighted that this has now become a reality and they wish the Friends every success; we look forward to working closely with them to ensure the Hunter Fleet sails on into the future of Broadland.



The Presentation

Melanie Betts and Gemma Pearce, both Year 9 pupils at Hellesdon High School in Norwich, were invited to present Paul Heiney with a Hunter's Yard burgee at the launch ceremony. This is their account of the day.

When we reached the Sailing Base we were surprised at how many people were there. The sun was shining and the boats looked really good with their new burgees fluttering in the breeze. Gradually more and more press arrived with cameras and microphones, which made the event even more exciting. When Paul arrived we were introduced to him and told what to do during the presentation.



Things really began to heat up as we gathered inside for the presentation with all the press and media people crowding around. After a few speeches the awesome moment arrived for Gemma and me to present Paul Heiney with the Hunter's burgee, a nerve-wracking moment made even more memorable by the flashing of so many cameras.

After the presentation we went for a sail with Paul; it was great to be afloat again and we were looking forward to June and our school activities week when we would be sailing again.