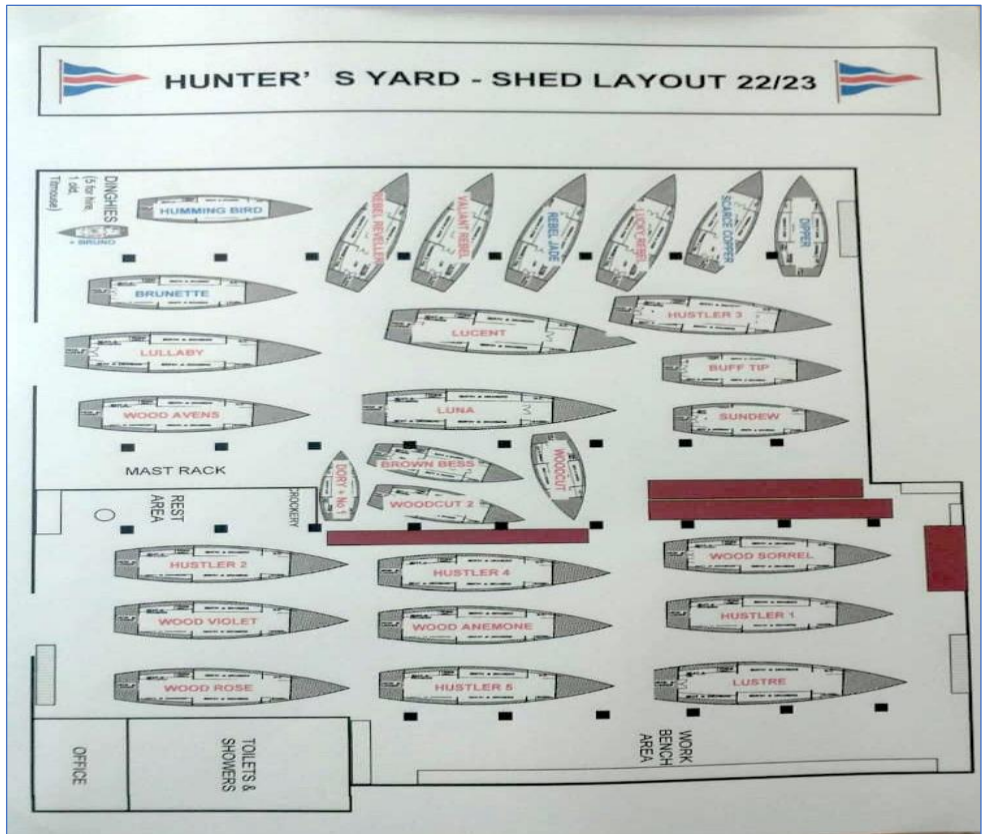


# HUNTER'S YARD

Greetings from all of us at Hunter's Yard as we move into our annual maintenance phase, in which all the boats are moved into the sheds. That's quite a task as you can imagine.



The boats were all inside by the third week of October, which has been the deadline for about ninety years. The sheds are now sheltering our fourteen cabin yachts and eight half-deckers, a couple of guest yachts and four guest half-deckers. It ends up very crowded as you can see from last year's plan (overleaf). Despite this, there is still just enough room to work on, round and under the boats. Our team is very agile!



## Scarfig, planking, scraping, varnishing and servicing

A lot of work, (including the following), has to be completed before the new season starts from March.

- Hustler 1 (built 1936) is having a new transom and deck covering
- Hustler 2 and Wood Sorrel need replacement planks and deck covering
- Wood Avens, Lustre and Lullaby cabin-top canvas will be replaced.
- There are new sails and covers to come in the New Year.
- One of the guest Rebels is having extensive replacement of frames and planks aft.

- The electric quant motors are supposed to be serviced after 1500 hours but, as we don't have a way of monitoring their use while under hire, they are all sent off for service each winter. That has been a bit delayed by the flooding but should happen soon.
- Rubbing down of every boat is being completed, too, prior to re-varnishing.
- Masts and spars all sanded and varnished.
- Rigging checked and replaced where necessary
- plus a hundred and one other small jobs

Fry-up Friday, when we have a bit of a treat during lunch break, is extra welcome at the moment!

## **Global warming?**

For some weeks the sheds have been under three to four inches of water at high tide and Ian, who has been here for forty-two years, says it has never been like this for so long. Tom, Ian's dad, who was here for over sixty years was in this morning and he, too, said he had never seen the like.

The combination of high tides, a full moon, low pressure and extraordinary volumes of rain may be something to do with it, but rain will not stop play and work goes on.

Wellies are the order of the day!

## **Apprentices**

We had to put off a work-experience student starting in November due to the flooding in the sheds, but hopefully she will join us in January to try turning her hand from cabinet-making to boat-building; there is a hatch to be done which has a few challenges built into it.

We are hoping to take on a full-time apprentice at some point as part of a programme to support heritage crafts. There is a lot of attention in the press around endangered craft skills and boatbuilding is on the list.



*A Ransom Cruise in Company  
on  
The Norfolk Broads,  
3-10th August 2024*

*Sail the waters of Coot Club  
and The Big Six*

Visit Horning, Ranworth, Potter Heigham and Kendal Dyke where Dick fell in! (Sorry, but there is not time to go through Yarmouth to Beccles and back)

Come for the whole week or part of the week: Saturday – Monday or Tuesday – Friday



Hunter's Yard has 2, 3 and 4-berth yachts for you to hire. Lullaby (teasel from the BBC film) is reserved for us, but Amazon and Titmouse will also be available to the hired for the week.



We shall be accompanied by an experienced Broads sailor to help us out at the bridges, arrange moorings and even book evening meals when required. You do need to be at least a competent dinghy sailor or have a member of the party who is happy to skipper the yacht as the Cruise is NOT a sail-to-learn holiday, although we could provide an instructor if you wish (at extra cost).

Book online or contact Hunter's Yard for further information  
[www.huntersyard.co.uk](http://www.huntersyard.co.uk) – Email [info@huntersyard.com](mailto:info@huntersyard.com) – Tel: 01692678263

Sample one-week boat hire: Lullaby 4-berth £1294 Wood class 3-berth £1045  
Hustler 2-berth £994 (Please check the website for half-week rates)

**Book before 31st December and pay this year's prices for next year's holiday!**

## **Swallows and Amazons' Sophie Neville comes to Norwich in 2024**

Sophie Neville is well-known as Titty in the original Swallows and Amazons 1974 film. She is pencilled-in to come to Norwich, (invited by the Friends of Norwich Cathedral), to give a talk during the first week of August 2024. We hope she will come to the yard and meet up with our Swallows and Amazons Cruise in Company. Keep an eye on the Cathedral's events pages <https://cathedral.org.uk/events/> and the Hunter's Yard website for more information.

Sophie has written a book 'The Making of Swallows and Amazons' which is available on-line. <https://sophienville.net>

## **Swallows & Amazons**

The yard is now home to Swallow, Amazon, Titmouse and Dreadnought (Tom Dudgeon's punt, used when casting off Margoletta in Coot Club), all of which, except Titmouse, are on loan from The Arthur Ransome Society or TARS. The Trust owns Titmouse and Lullaby, which was Teasel in the film. Amazon is available for hire, as is Lullaby/Teasel. Swallow is being renovated by us in a major piece of work.

Most of the boats will be going up to Windermere next year for the 50th Anniversary of the film, to be held at the Windermere Jetty. Keep an eye on the TARS website for updates - you can sign up to their newsletter.

<https://arthur-ransome.org>

## **Over 400 young people sailed with Hunter's during 2023**

This year we started our schools sailing programme. Many of you will remember starting your sailing life at Hunter's. We were supported by a number of local charities: the Alan Bosworth Group Charitable Trust, the Anguish Educational Foundation, Norwich Freeman's Charity and the Ranworth Trust. Most children went out on the half-deckers for a few hours and then spent time on activities in the shed. There were some very big smiles when they came back from their sailing! Some pupils from Acle Academy also had three days on cabin yachts. We hope to extend the programme next



year to involve more children and young people to give them a chance to experience sailing and find out about the Broads.

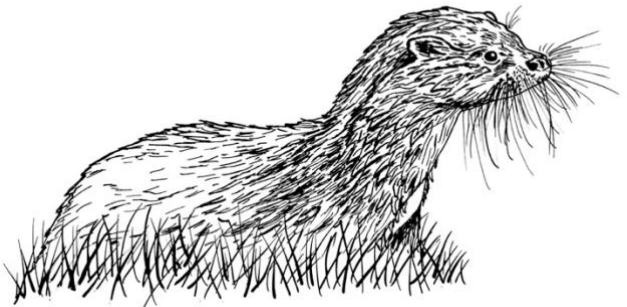
## **The Friends of Hunter's Fleet**

We now have over 900 Friends and are hugely appreciative of all that they do for the yard, which includes financing some of the electric engines, buying machinery and keeping the environs of the yard attractive and tidy.

The Friends meet twice a year at the yard for a day of festivities and skippered sailing and this is much looked forward to by us all. If you would like to join the Friends, check out the relevant page on the Hunter's Yard website or email the Membership Secretary, [louise.hopkinson@huntersyard.com](mailto:louise.hopkinson@huntersyard.com), who will organise it for you. The subscription is just £25 p.a. The Friends have their own newsletter.

## **Wildlife**

When the staithe goes quiet, the wildlife comes out. Otters have been up by the shed - they like to play under the staging. We have put out branches for the kingfisher, which has put in



a welcome visit. Yesterday a crested grebe was fishing outside the shed (hope we identified that one correctly) and the cormorant is a welcome visitor. We have been trying to get a photo of the kingfisher but it is even faster than a Hustler.

## **Book a 2024 holiday at 2023 prices**

If you are ready to book your 2024 holiday the Hunter's Fleet calendar is now live, and you can book at 2023 prices until the end of December this year. The new prices will go live about the third of January so get your booking in now!

<https://huntersyard.co.uk/our-boats/>

## **Hunter's merchandise - the perfect Christmas gift**

If you are looking for a new fleece, sweatshirt, rugby or polo shirt - in lots of attractive colours - let us know and we'll send you an order form. There are a few caps left too, after a busy season. Each item has the Hunter's logo featured prominently so you'll remember where it came from!

## **Help us to get more bookings!**

We have plenty of space for more bookings each year and we need to fill them. We need your help!

If you are a member of a sailing club or a classic car club, perhaps you could get them to display a poster or distribute an email flyer for us? We have both ready to go but personal recommendations get the best response. We can supply laminated posters ready for the notice board and copy for newsletters and email. Just get in touch with Martin or Dan - your help is hugely appreciated.

We had a great day with the local Morgan car club having a day out here a year ago. Hunter's is also a great place for a corporate day out, too, and we can supply skippers. If you have any ideas about how we can build our bookings, do please let us know.

So, here's wishing you a great festive period and New Year and hopefully we'll see you at the yard next year.

Best wishes from the Hunter's Yard team: Andrew, Dan, Ezra, Guy, Ian, Martin, Neil, Sian.

## **Opt out?**

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