

BROAD SHEET



CANAPE project begins at Hickling

The Broads Authority embarks on the restoration of a lost reedbed with plans to reconstruct crucial habitat. It's hoped that the work will improve sailing conditions and even have a small but positive impact on climate change.

October 2018 marked the start of the latest phase of work on the Broads Authority's 'Hickling Project'. The project aims to restore previously lost reedswamp at Hickling Broad with funding from the European partnership CANAPE (Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems).

Over the next 3 winters the Broads Authority will restore 1ha of reedswamp on the edge of the broad based on aerial photographs from 1946. The area has been named "Chara Bay" after the plant species which are likely to flourish in the new area. The work is taking place with the help of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust which own the nature reserve

where the reedswamp will be restored.

It is expected that this element of the CANAPE Project will improve water quality, create refuge for birds and fish, reduce the impact of the area on global warming and improve the experience of the broad for boat users.

To re-create this habitat, the Broads Authority is using 50 meter long geotextile tubes filled with dredged mud from the marked channel. These are held in place with alder poles driven into the bed of the broad. The geotextile tubes act as a solid barrier to prevent new reedbed being swept away, allowing the new banks to form a permanent part of the environment. The tubes are permeable, allowing water to pass through them creating a naturally wet area of swamp. Reed will be planted on top of the tubes, forming a bank similar to the natural banks of the broad.

CANAPE Project Manager, Harry Mach said of the work,

"The Hickling project is designed to have a positive impact on the environment in several ways. It should have substantial benefits for reed-dwelling wildlife such as the bittern and swallowtail butterfly. It will help to improve the water-quality of the area and to reduce the greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere thanks to the fen being a natural carbon store. We're really excited to get the reedbed restoration underway and to see the benefits."

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Water, Mills and Marshes

The Broads Authority's Heritage Lottery funded programme known as Water, Mills and Marshes has launched its Heritage Construction Skills training scheme. The initiative, which focuses on embedding heritage restoration skills into local colleges of further education, offers courses such as carpentry, joinery, brickwork, painting and decorating. Following fears that the skills required to restore the historic drainage mills

of the Broads were in decline, the new work modules will pass on the knowledge required to maintain these historic structures and thus ensure their future in the Broads National Park landscape. Students enrolled on City College Norwich courses in construction have begun working with the Broads Authority and are currently undertaking repair work on the Victorian pumphouse at RSPB Strumpshaw Fen.



RSPB Strumpshaw Fen



Wild Watch

The Broads Authority has been offering members of the public the opportunity to discover the wildlife in their gardens and wild community spaces by renting one of their Wild Watch cameras. The camera scheme is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the Broads Authority's Water, Mills and Marshes project and was launched in April 2018. Since that time members of the public, schools and community groups have been borrowing cameras and discovering the wildlife on their doorsteps. The cameras are on loan from five centres in the Water, Mills and Marshes area including Whitlingham Country Park, Great Yarmouth Yacht Station, Wheatfen Nature Reserve, SWT Carlton Marshes, and Earsham Wetland Centre. They are available via online booking. www.watermillsandmarshes.org.uk/wildwatch/

The best images and videos are featured on the official Wild Watch Flickr feed. The cameras have proved incredibly popular, you can view their fascinating footage at: www.flickr.com/photos/160162054@N05/



Tolls for 2019/20

The Broads Authority and Navigation committee members are mindful that any increase on the toll for your boat is never welcome and with that in mind were determined to keep it modest. Consequently this year's increase was set at 2.6%. This will allow the Authority to continue current levels of maintenance and deal with essential repairs. The pressures on this year's budget include the ongoing tasks of dredging, replacement of marker posts at Breydon Water, additional costs associated with removing wrecks and the nationally agreed 2% pay increase for public sector staff. Tolls income will also fund the installation of electric charging points for the moorings at Acle Bridge.

Tolls income contributed to the purchase of five electronic speed signs last year. The Ranger teams deployed these in various locations where speeding is a problem and they have proved effective, with fewer reports of speeding in areas where they are used. Mechanical equipment, consisting of an excavator, floats and tree shears were also bought to improve the effectiveness of the Authority's management of bankside trees and scrub.

The Authority is entirely dependent upon income from tolls to fund the maintenance and improvement of navigation and it is the only major navigation authority in the UK that does not regularly receive central funding for this role.



Display of registration marks

It is important that all vessels using the Broads display their registration marks in accordance with the Authority's guidelines which are sent to every boat owner with their toll receipt.

Registration marks are important because the Rangers use them to identify the vessel and check for correct toll and Boat Safety Scheme certificates. A mobile phone app, developed by students from the University of East Anglia, enables them to verify the information for every vessel as long as the registrations mark is present and clearly displayed.

At the end of April the Rangers will be carrying out one of their two annual sweeps of the Broads waterways checking all vessels. They will issue notices of contravention for vessels that do not comply with the guidelines for the display of registration marks or have failed to pay the correct toll. We would like to keep the number of notices to a minimum so please check the details for your boat with the guidelines when they arrive.

For guidance go to www.broads-authority.gov.uk/display-of-registration-marks or contact the tolls team on 01603 756080.

New faces

Two new Rangers have joined the Broads Authority team. Tobi (left) and Rich (right) have both begun their full time positions which will see them patrolling the rivers Bure and Ant. Both new members of staff will be based at Irstead. The Authority wishes them all of the best in their new roles.



Bankside management

Tree shears have been purchased by the Broads Authority to improve the safety of staff and the efficiency of riverside tree and scrub management. Removing trees growing on the fringes of the rivers is demanding and sometimes dangerous work for Broads Authority staff and volunteers. As a result, the Authority's members decided to buy the new equipment to improve productivity and reduce the physical demands on those tasked with their removal. The shears are capable of cutting through timber up to 250 millimetres in diameter, and are powered by a 14 tonne Doosan excavator mounted on a floating pontoon. The rotating, cutting head means the driver of the excavator can work with precision to retain a proportion of the trees and vegetation which are important for bats, fish and other wildlife.





Winners of competition announced

The winners of the Broads Authority's 30th anniversary photo competition have been announced. The two winning images impressed judges with the way their work celebrated the beauty of the Broads with an emphasis on the miniature and the mighty, the natural and the man-made. Their work will be exhibited at the 'Still Waters' exhibition at The Forum from 29 March to 2 April.

'Parsley Pump'
by Joanna Davidson
(adult winner)

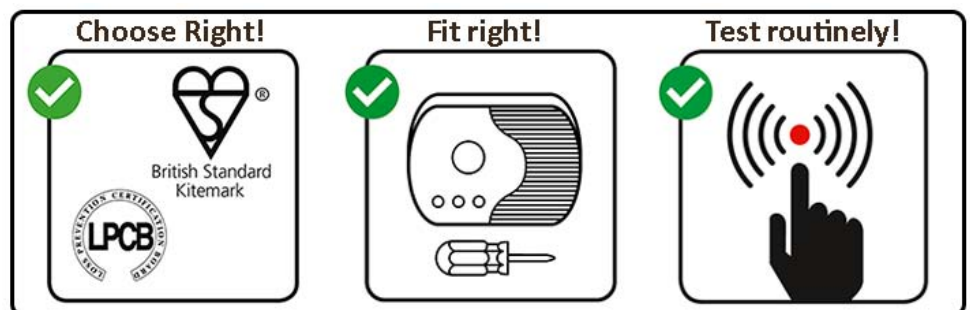
'Oulton Broad at Sunset'
by Jack Stopher
(young person winner)

Watch this exhibition space...

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Broads Authority. To celebrate 30 years of conserving, protecting and promoting the area, the Broads Authority will be hosting a celebratory exhibition of Broads photography in The Forum, Norwich. 'Still Waters' will run from 29 March to 2 April. The exhibition aims to give an overview of the special qualities of the Broads, from vintage views to state-of-the-art snaps. The celebration coincides with the 70th anniversary of the legislation which led to the creation of our National Parks.



Eastwood Whelpton's 30ft gaff rigged yacht *High Seas* competing in the annual Barton Charter Yacht Regatta. Photo by Richard Johnstone-Bryden



Are you CO safe?

New rules require any boat with accommodation on board, which is in scope of the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS), to be fitted with an appropriate carbon monoxide (CO) alarm from 1 April 2019. This includes all classes of boats with accommodation, private boats, hire boats and non-private (workboats, floating restaurants etc.)

The new requirement follows a consultation by the BSS last year which demonstrated a good level of support from the boating community. On the strength of this, the BSS Management Committee and the Broads Authority decided that new requirements for CO alarms on boats will be introduced from April 2019. This was also supported by the Broads Authority's Navigation Committee.

The mandatory requirement to fit CO alarms and keep them maintained is expected to make a significant contribution to the

reduction of serious incidents and tragedies through CO poisoning. The Broads Authority extends thanks to all those that took part in the survey to help make this possible.

CO alarms should be certified to British safety standards (BS EN 50291-2). Further information including more detail about the consultation can be found on the BSS website www.boatsafetyscheme.org

Suitable CO alarms can be purchased from Broads Authority Yacht Stations and offices at Yare House, Thorpe Road, Norwich as well as DIY stores and chandlers.

All boat owners are advised to test their CO alarms regularly and familiarise themselves with the causes and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.