

# The origins of Geldeston Lock

## Act (1) Sometime in the first half of the 1600s

### *Stuck in the mud!*

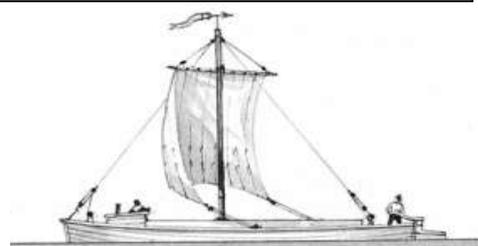
**Read the story all the way through.**

**If there are words you don't know look them up in a dictionary.**

**Then think about the questions and make up your play.**

A boat loaded with timber  and barrels of  sugar is trying to get up the river Waveney.

The captain remembers that in his dad's time the journey was easy.



In Bungay the timber and sugar merchants are waiting impatiently for the goods to arrive, to start selling them.

But the river is shallow and the boat gets stuck on a mud bank.

#### **What on earth will the skipper decide to do?**

Meanwhile in Bungay the people are waiting for their timber and their sugar. The baker talks about all the cakes and treats s/he will make with the sugar which is coming. The sugar merchant dreams of buying a new horse with the money s/he will make and the timber merchant looks forward to spending her/his money on a holiday.

They all talk about what they will spend the money on.



#### **A fancy wig? Some new clothes? A bigger house? A trip to the theatre?**



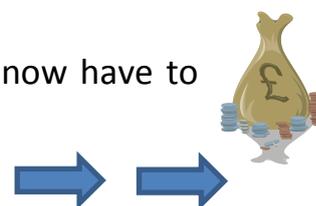
Back at the river the boat is stuck. They send for horses, carts and planks. They unload the boats. It's heavy work and takes a long time. They wonder..

- **Should the skipper put everything onto the carts to take it all by road?**
- **What are the roads like – have they got a hard enough surface?**
- **How much weight can the carts take? Have their wheels got tyres?**
- **Or should the skipper unload just half the wood and sugar on to the carts, and try to take the rest on to Bungay in the boat?**



The money that comes in for the timber and sugar will now have to pay for the horses and carts, as well as for the boats.

**What will they do about these extra costs? Let's see**



In Bungay market the merchants are selling sugar to the baker, and timber to the builders.

***The merchants have put the price up, to cover the costs of the carts. But does that mean they sell less, and can't buy that new horse or that holiday they were looking forward to?***



***What will the baker do? The baker paid the merchants more for the sugar – can't make as many nice cakes? Or put less sugar in each one? Will the baker get those nice things s/he wanted to buy?***

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Characters in the play**

- Skipper and mate for each boat
- Baker
- Sugar merchant
- Timber merchant
- People who rent out horses & carts
- People to unload the boats
- People in the market

### **Action**

1. Sailing happily up the river
2. Getting stuck and discussing what to do
3. Getting horses and carts to rent
4. Unloading the cargo from the boat on to carts
5. Getting to Bungay and telling the news
6. What did the baker say? What did the merchants say?