

Geldeston Locks' X Factor

Who deserves a memorial?

Introduction for the children:

Method

Choose the characters you want to use.

Print out the sheets double-sided, so that the audience has a picture to look at while they're listening (or use a projector).

Ask children to work in pairs or threes.

Each group/pair takes one character and gets to grips with their story.

Each group/pair chooses one of their number to make the best argument they can for why their character deserves a memorial.

They can either read the 'script' or make the argument in their own words.

Each historic person will explain the special contribution they made to Geldeston Lock.

Your job is to listen to them and decide which three will get your vote.

You could make a statue (or a commemorative plaque - or a stained glass window) for the person who gets the most votes.

You will hear from some of these (your teacher will choose):

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1670 | Francis Mathew - had an ambitious plan |
| 1754 | Mr Francis - helped an important lady get up the river |
| 1798 | Mr Bentley - helped take decisions about money and water levels |
| 1825 | James Stark - an artist |
| 1900s | Jack Powley - the skipper (captain) of a wherry (cargo boat) |
| 1917 | German soldiers - prisoners of war who worked on the river |
| 1925 | Anna & Henry Money - lock keeper and his wife |
| 1930s & 50s | Mr Doug Sayer - saved a beautiful old car from ruin |
| 1960 | Susan Ellis - owned and ran the pub in a unique way |
| 1973 | Chris Groves - persuaded his bosses to buy the pub |

Francis Mathew (talking in 1670)

- I have travelled a lot and studied the question of making our English rivers better for boats so that people will be able to move things about the country more easily and run their businesses more successfully.
- I have a plan to make the River Waveney deeper and join it up with the River Little Ouse. Boats could then travel from Great Yarmouth to Kings Lynn through Norfolk and Suffolk, buying and selling things all along the journey.
- I led a troop of soldiers on horses in King Charles the First's army and paid for them myself. When Charles the First was beheaded I was put in prison and lost my land.
- I lost my house and possessions in a fire and my wife and I have had to depend on our friends for support.
- I can't afford to have a portrait painted - so here is a picture instead of a French man who did build a canal (150 miles long!) for his king, Louis 14th.
(His name is Pierre Paul Riquet).





Mr Francis (talking in 1754)

- I don't have a lot to say - and I don't have any fancy pictures of myself. But I brought a very important lady up the river on my boat, through Geldeston Lock.
- She came all the way from London by sea and by river. Getting her on and off the boat was a bit of nightmare.
- You can still see her whenever you like. Just go to the Butter Cross in Bungay and look up.
- I was paid one pound and 12 shillings by the town.





Mr Bentley (talking in 1798)

- I'm one of the Waveney River Commissioners.
- Our job is to try to stop arguments between different people using the river.
- We had a big meeting in the King's Head in Bungay in April this year. It was hard to decide what was right. But we laid down some rules. I hope our decisions will stop the fights and court cases and keep everyone happy.

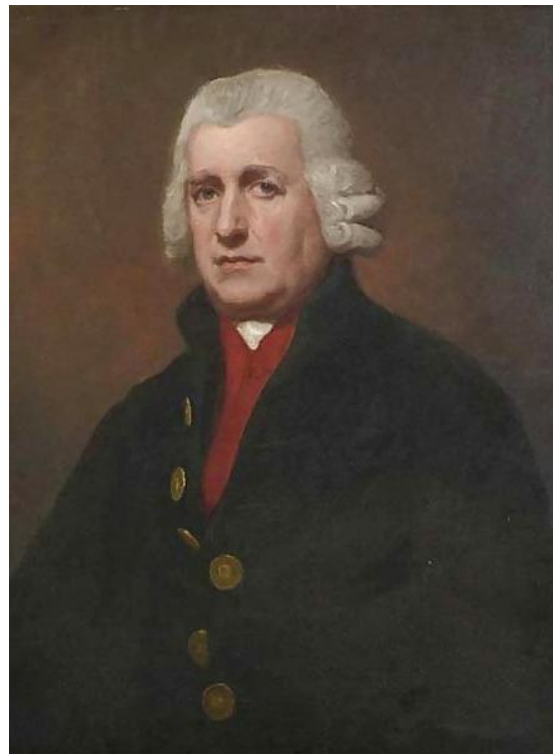
If you want to know the details...

1. The boat owners think that the price for using the locks is too high. **BUT** the lock owners say they have to spend a lot on keeping the river and the locks in a good state.
2. The water mill owners want lots of water flowing down the river to drive their mills and grind the corn that they want to sell as flour. **BUT** the boat owners want to keep lots of water back so that it's deep enough for their boats to get along and move the things that they want to buy and sell.

We decided:

- everyone has to pay 1 shilling for each ton of goods going through the locks,
- the mill owners must keep the water levels up to the ancient water mark
(and if they don't - then they will have to pay for damage to any boats)

I don't like having my portrait painted so this is a picture of my friend Nicholas Pearse





James Stark (talking in 1825)

- I'm a professional, successful artist. I live in Norwich.
- I don't do self-portraits so I'm afraid you haven't got a picture of me.
- I recently made this dramatic picture of Geldeston Lock.
- I think it will bring lots more visitors to see the place.
- It was hard to get the girl in the front to stay still - and the cow kept moving too but I think it looks OK.





Geldeston Lock Project 2011



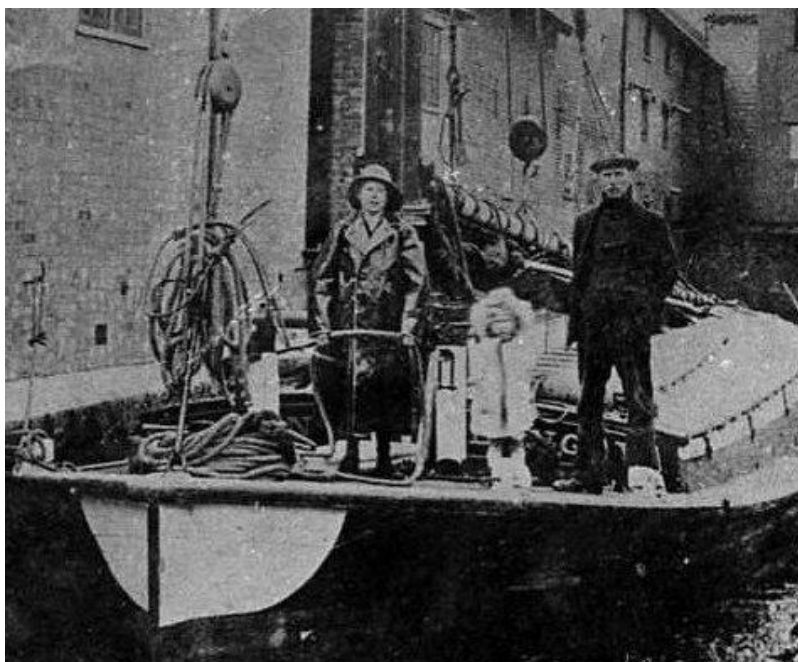
Broads Authority
The Broads - a member of the
National Park family

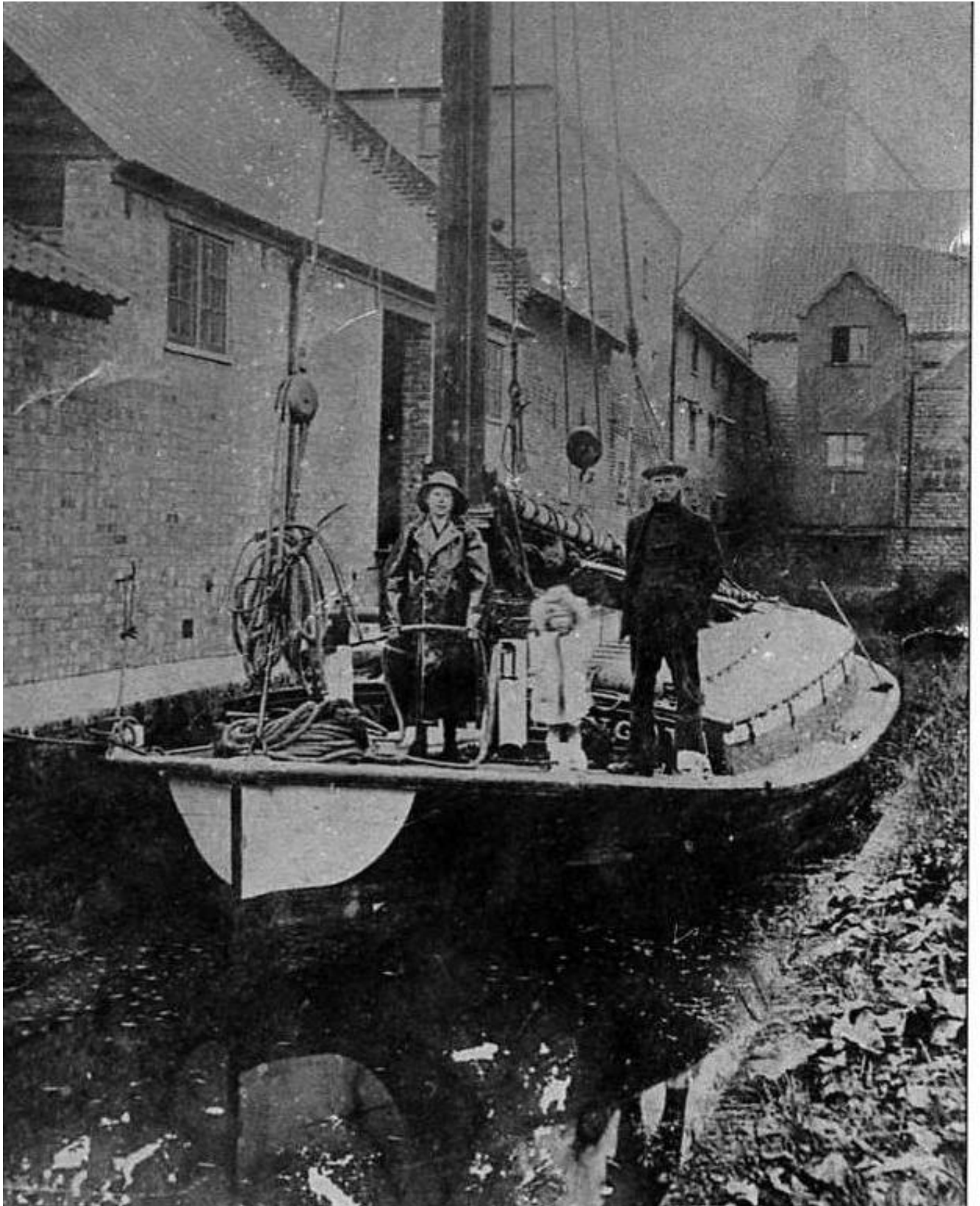


GW
the gateway walking charity

Jack Powley (talking about the early 1900s)

- I started work as a boy on the Albion. The **skipper** was my uncle Jimmy. He was very strict and the work was hard. If I couldn't stop the stove smoking he used to beat me with a rope.
- The Albion was specially built to go up and down the Waveney. She had smooth sides so that she wouldn't get stuck on the side of the locks as she went up or down.
- Our first trip was to get coal from Lowestoft and bring it to Bungay.
- Later on I became the skipper and worked on Albion for 20 years carrying anything and everything. At the end of that time my uncle Jimmy came back and worked for me as mate. I didn't beat him with a rope!
- This is a picture of me and my wife and daughter in Bungay, they sometimes travelled with me.





German soldiers (talking in 1917, during the First World War)

- You will be surprised to see us here.
- We are German soldiers. We were fighting against you. But we were captured and brought to England as prisoners.
- We have been working on the River Waveney clearing weed and digging out ditches to make the river easier for boats and the land better for growing crops and for cows.
- We use hand tools - rakes and spades and we work very hard. 70 of us have cleared **five miles** of the main channel in the last **eight weeks**.





Anna and Henry Money

(talking in 1925)

- I'm Henry Money. I look after Geldeston lock and the pub. I try to do a good job.
 - Nowadays lots of people come to the Broads on their holidays; they eat their picnics here and enjoy my beer.
 - The wherryman often stop for a drink here too.
 - We serve the beer from a table in the sitting room.
 - I'm 6 foot five and weigh 18 stone.
-
- I'm Anna Money, I look after my husband and my family. I've had 18 children.



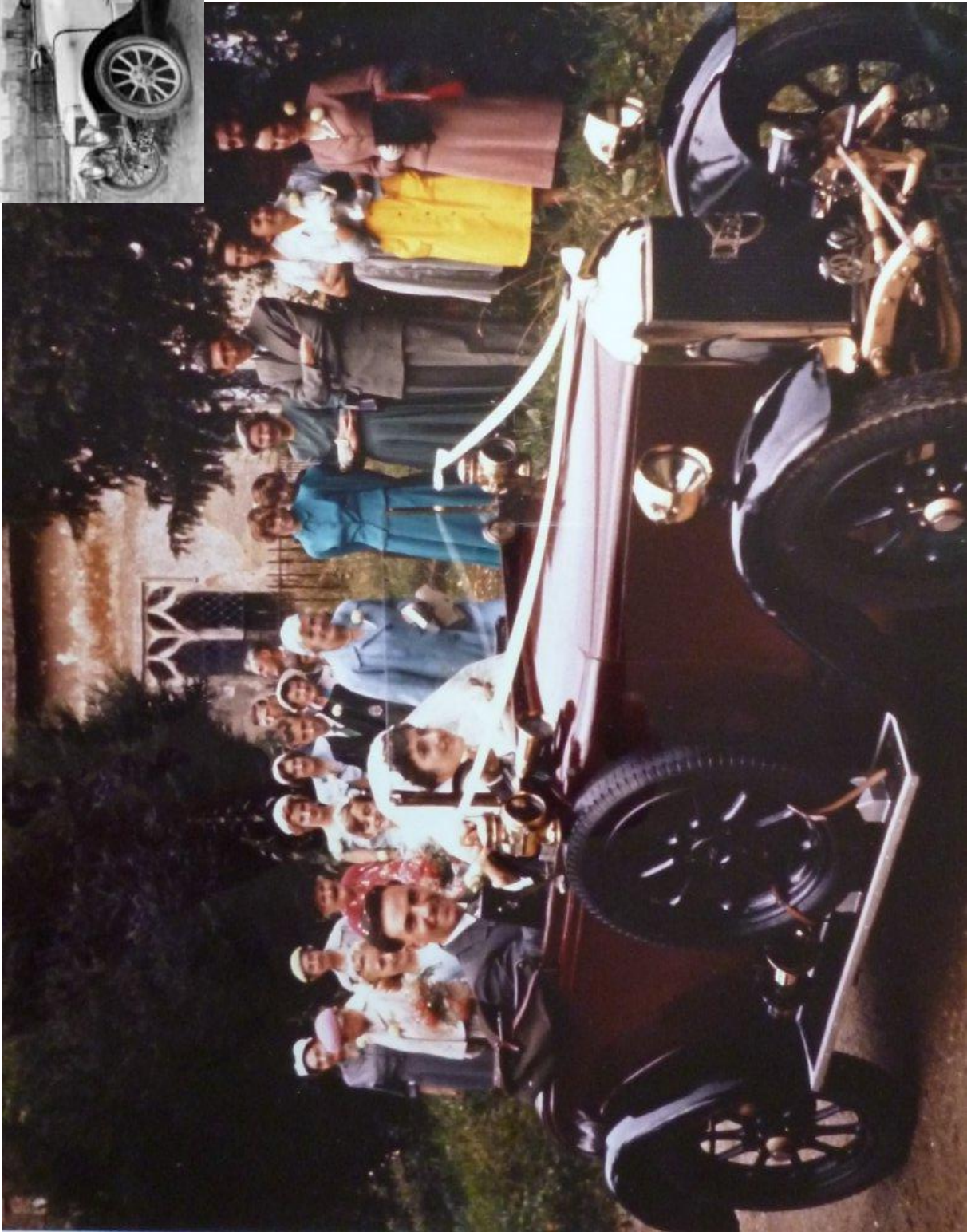


Mr Sayer (Doug)

(talking about the 1930s & 1950s)

- I live in Geldeston and I've got a good story about the landlord at the Locks pub. He was Fred Morris.
- One time in the 1920s a young couple came and stayed at the pub for the weekend but couldn't pay. So Mr Morris kept their car instead of getting the money.
- They never came to get it back so Mr Morris used it to go to the station to fetch the beer.
- He kept it in a rickety old outhouse - which slid half into the dyke. Twenty years later when I was a young man the car itself was half under water at every high tide. I bought it for £7 and rebuilt it.
- In fact we used it as the posh car for our wedding when Shirley and I got married in 1958.





Susan Ellis (talking in 1960)

- I first came to the Geldeston Locks pub as housekeeper for the landlord Fred Morris. I used to serve teas to people on their holidays.
- Later on I ran the pub myself and I lived here through harsh weather and floods. If ever I wanted to be rescued I put a red blanket out of the window.
- When it got dark we lit candles - there was no electricity.
- No-one ever got very drunk in my pub. I didn't allow any trouble. But people always came back for more.
- When I wanted to get the week's money to the bank I would choose someone on a boat who seemed trustworthy and ask them to take it to Beccles for me. No one ever stole it!





Chris Groves - and his wife (talking in 1973)

- I work for the organisation* which looks after the River Waveney. A little while ago my wife showed me an advert in the local paper saying that the Geldeston Locks pub was for sale.
- We realised that it was likely to be sold off as a private house. That would mean no-one would be allowed to moor boats there or visit the old lock or have picnics.
- I went to my bosses and asked them to buy the pub.
- They were very surprised but they agreed to do it.
- Now it's going to go on being a pub and everyone can go on enjoying a visit to the Locks.



*The Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners



Geldeston Lock's X Factor - Leader board

When	Who	Votes
1670	Francis Mathew - with his ambitious plan	
1754	Mr Francis - helped an important lady get up the river	
1798	Mr Bentley - decisions about money and water levels	
1825	James Stark - an artist	
1900s	Jack Powley - the skipper (captain) of a wherry	
1917	German soldiers - prisoners of war	
1925	Anna & Henry Money - lock keeper and his wife	
1950	Doug Sayer - saved a beautiful old car from rotting in the river	
1960	Susan Ellis - owned and ran the pub in a unique way	
1973	Chris Groves - persuaded his bosses to buy the pub	

(You could give the children coloured spots to stick on - or just ask them to put a tick in their 3 choices....)