

M A R C H 2 0 2 6

COLDHAM CHRONICLE

Goldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951

'The Heart of Sailing in the Yare Valley'

President: Gary Corbett



Club Officers

Commodore: David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

Vice - Commodore: Vacant

Rear Commodore: Vacant

Secretary: Emma Crowfoot
ejcrowfoot@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Woolston
woolston546@btinternet.com

Race Officer: Ben Adams
tobenadams6@gmail.com

Social Secretary: Amanda Blezard

Bosun: David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

The Coldham Chronicle

Welcome to your March edition of our club Chronicle. First things first, last month I ranted about my SAD, the long January and February, now where has March gone, it flew by, the weather improving, days are getting longer allowing us to get out longer and on most days it's been warmer.

First day of astronomical spring was on Friday 20th March, (equal daylight and night), the knees are beginning to get a tan, now is the opportunity to get out for lots of 'wellbeing' be it meeting up or have some long walks, with an extra hour of light in the evenings, things are warming up although you wouldn't think it, birds are pairing up and Butterflies are getting about, let's not miss these great times.

At the weekend we start the sailing race season, and we encourage you to get back on the water, sailing/paddling or both, if you're going on your own please at least tell someone and have a means of communication with you.

Down to business, the weather mid-way through the month brought back some Arctic chill and strong winds, they have dropped away giving opportunity for most of us to complete winter maintenance on our craft, many of the keel boats back on the moorings, ready for the club first Sunday outing, Local 1 'round the cans' on Sunday 5th April. A reminder the Clubs Rigging Out Supper is on Saturday 4th April. Soon we will advertise our Tuesday group social paddles; I know some are already back on the water.

We all are looking forward to meeting new faces and friends at the club and on the water be it sailing or paddling or both.

This month we bring news on the end of the tree cutting achievements, we thank all involved and Bill for arranging, and why I've invested in a second phone, you may want to consider the same.



www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk



Coldham Hall Sailing Club



Yare Navigation Race



CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race



Notes from the Committee held on Tuesday 10th March by Teams.

February 2026 minutes were agreed and signed, matters arising covered.

Hon. Secretary- Detailed email received from Broads Authority in regards to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency 2025 Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code compliance.

Surlingham Parish Council AGM on Tuesday 14th April specifically for village groups and organisations to report on their progress over the previous year. Gary attending on behalf of committee.

Treasurer – Club finances detailed. Quarterly rent paid. Club Boats Broads Toll paid. New membership 1 x Family Paddle, 1 X Try Sailing. 1 member upgrading from Paddle to Try Sailing. Mooring in Dyke filled with Half Decker.

Bosun – Survey of club house roof carried out. Other works, quote for Dyke quay heading and main jetty reinforcement, obtain 2 telegraph poles for jetty. Start Box window replacement, removal of Willow at rear of Start Box. Work parties to be arranged.

Race Officer –Racing Programme starts Sunday 5th April. Race Sheets populated space if needed for change of helms. (Included on website). Wayfarer PYS H/C changed from 1109 to 1107, await confirmation.

Social Secretary – Rigging Out Supper, 04.04.26 Proposed Buffet at CHT waiting response from Tavern for details/costs.

Partnerships- David Linder & Tavern advised on Club Events for season, a meeting will be held 2 weeks prior to main events e.g. Open Regatta, Triple B, YNR, Waveney Weekend.

AOB.

A, Request received for day launching of fishing boat, no full membership and storage. Discussed in depth. Declined

Upcoming Events 2026

April

Saturday 4th Rigging Out Buffet
 Sunday 5th Racing Season Commences
 Saturday 26th Club Open Day

May

Sat/Sun 2nd /3rd CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta
 Thurs 21st/28th Try Sailing Land Based

June

Thursdays Try Sail Water sessions
 Saturday 20th Hardley Mill Cruise & BBQ
 Sunday 28th Yare Challenge Cup

July

Thursdays Try Sail Water sessions
 Sunday 5th Club Regatta
 Saturday 11th Triple B
 Thursday 16th Social BBQ

August

Saturday 8th Reedham Race

September

Saturday 5th Yare Navigation Race
 Sat/Sun 19th /20th CHSC/Waveney OD

October

Sunday 18th Commodores Day
 Sunday 25th Winter Downriver Series starts

December

Wednesday 2nd Annual General Meeting
 Sunday 13th Christmas Pudding Race

The above list is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change throughout the year. A full list of all racing and social events are on the club website.

B. Bylaw in regards to Club Mooring waiting list. Berths/Wet Moorings

Item 5. For boats which are jointly owned, a mooring will be allocated to a single member. In the event that this member disposes of their share of the boat, the mooring allocation will be offered back to members on the moorings waiting list in preference order, as detailed above in point 2, who may not necessarily be joint owners. It is advised that joint owners register their name on the moorings waiting list.

C. Try Sailing 2027, proposals, format and fees to be further discussed.

A Change to Club Bylaws in respect of Wet Moorings

Following some recent discussions and queries relating to allocation of wet moorings to boats in joint ownership the committee have amended the relevant by law to clarify the position as explained below.



Allocation of a wet mooring is made by the committee to a single named member and not to a specific boat. If a boat is in joint ownership, then only one owner will be the nominated wet mooring owner, not the boat.

Should the named mooring owner either resign from the club or sells their part share of the jointly owned boat then the mooring will be deemed to be vacant and offered to the next person in the waiting list, not automatically to the joint owner of the boat. The boat will be required to vacate the mooring.

The committee will then allocate the now vacant mooring to the next person on the waiting list taking into consideration all relevant factors.

It is therefore recommended that the joint owner/s all register their names on the wet moorings waiting list. If you need further advice, please speak with any committee member.

The Full Bylaws are available on the clubs website.

http://www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk/membership/chsc_bylaws_2026.pdf

Try Sailing 2026



**COLDHAM HALL SAILING CLUB
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR OPEN DAY
26TH APRIL 2026 FROM 2PM
CHAT TO MEMBERS TASTER RIDES IN DINGHIES AND KEEL BOATS**

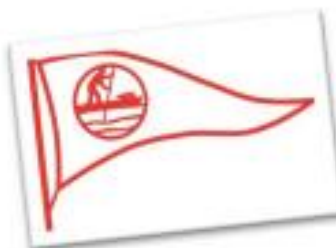


MAY 2nd & 3rd 2026

CHSC OPEN REGATTA

Open to All Dinghies, Half Deckers & Cruisers

Coldham Hall Sailing Club invites you to take part in their Annual Open Regatta held on the River Yare at Surlingham. Open to all clubs and most types of boat (sorry no production cruisers).



First race Sat 2nd from 1400
 continuing on Sunday 3rd from
 10.00am
 (weather permitting)

CHSC Sailing Instructions and RYA
 racing rules 2025 to 2028 apply.

www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

**Entry just £1.00 per
 race on the day, all
 prizes by
 sweepstake**

**Allcomers, Norfolk's,
 Wayfarer, Yeoman
 Class races for
 trophies**

**Downriver course for
 Traditional Broads
 Cruisers – Merlin
 Challenge Cup**

**Harry Last Memorial
 trophy for boat with
 fastest correct ed
 time from last four
 races - Sunday**

**COLDHAM HALL
 SAILING CLUB**

Surlingham
 Norfolk
 NR14 7AN

www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

Sailing Section

OOD Duties - April

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
5 th	Local (1)		D Woolston	M Woolston	D Durrant
12 th	Local (2)		D Jaffey	J Robertson	P Jewby
19 th	Downriver (1)		D Greenacre	M Roll	S Roll
26 th	Local (3)		B Clark	C Brown	C Logue

Please check Officer of the Day duties on the club website, if you need to swap please inform our Race Officer Ben.

The first Sign of Spring

The Yeomans are emerging from their hibernation and arriving back on their moorings.

Sailing recommences

Sunday 5th April 2026

Local 1

10.30 am

High Tide 13:23 hrs BST approx



Handicaps

Portsmouth Yardstick

An easy way for different classes of dinghy to be competitively race against each other

Yearly the RYA publish revised handicaps for all sailing craft, except the Broads Sailing Cruiser's, the list can be found at

<https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/portsmouth-yardstick>

We are informed Wayfarers H/C has changed this year from 1109 to 1107. At CHSC we review and adopt handicaps using those as published in The NSBA Green Book. Handicaps are also adapted to suit our clubs sailing area, number of crew and use of spinnakers as required.



Canoe and Paddle Board Section



Paddle News – March 2026

We hope to be back on the water as a group soon. Our Paddle Ambassadors Clare and Vickie invite you to join our WhatsApp group, if you're interested drop them an email with your contact details. Vicki vhunterlines@gmail.com or Clare cole-4@hotmail.co.uk

We'll keep an eye on the lighter evenings informing you of our Tuesday evening social paddles, generally it's a 6.30pm paddle from the club house, we follow wind and tide for what direction we take, once tidied up it's off to The Ferry for a debrief.

Request from Gary (what again?)

Our Paddling fleet of canoes and Kayaks is increasing and more racking is needed. If you know of a redundant tower scaffold; or sufficient scaffolding poles, please contact Gary. corbett01@btconnect.com

Also, if you have a paddle craft be it a sit in/on Kayak, double canoe for sale please let us know, we may be able to move it on the interested members.

And finally, if you decide not to renew your membership or storage, please remove from the club racks, we have members who require racking space.

Thankyou.



Winter Work 2025-26

By Bill Clark



The work on Train Reach focused on three sites. The furthest from Coldham Hall consisted of an area of substantial crack willow trees as well as some small trees and scrub. It's two thirds of the way to Rockland Fleet dyke. Several work parties removed all but the largest trees and opened the view to over the reed bed beyond. Work at this location has extended an open area of reed. Hopefully we will all benefit from the breeze blowing through the gaps.

Some volunteers are easier to manage than others. One of the responsibilities of Volunteer leaders is Safety. Fortunately someone reminded the 'President' to saw the branch on his right hand side, not on the left. Someone else was asking if you can still get £250 for a clip on you've been framed!



Heading towards Coldham Hall the next area we tackled was similar to the first but much more extensive with scrub further from the river and some very significant timber in the river.

Mooring on the reed side we worked to clear all but the largest trees. Volunteers built substantial fires to consume quite literally tons of scrub and willow. Again we cleared all but the largest trees. This site has been the target for at least eight volunteer sessions and it looks very different now. We respect the boundaries with our neighbour's who have carried out some tidying up by the river.

We burnt as we cleared to ensure we don't get re-growth from the cuttings, 'willow' given the opportunity shoots up between 3ft & 8ft in a year, especially by the water.

I know that when the trees are in leaf they look more substantial however I am hopeful that our efforts will be easy to see when the sailing season is underway.



We also worked at a site close to the Sailing Club. This site had a lot of scrub on the edge of the river. It included bramble and thorn which made it very difficult to deal with. Nevertheless we made a useful improvement to the bank side in a location which will be beneficial to our local racing program.

We have come to that time of the year when we must call a halt. In this winter period we have made a significant difference to three sites on Train Reach and I am looking forward to seeing what difference we have made from a sailing boat.

We also cleared and burned piles of brash at the Cantley site where the RSPB and the Broads Authority played their part dealing with the larger pieces and carrying them away by barge. This winter was the third in a five year plan which has already made a real difference to the navigation at Langley.

This winter I have arranged 17 work parties plus two more which were canceled because of rain and cold.

I must extend my thanks to all the people who have turned out to eat Bacon Butties sorry I meant to say worked to clear the riverside. I believe that the long term future of sailing at Coldham is protected by the effort of all the volunteers.

Thank you all for your efforts.

Bill Clark

From the 'Ed' (Gary)

Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) causes significant ecological and infrastructure problems, particularly as an invasive species, by blocking waterways, causing severe bank erosion and forming dense, choking thickets

Its brittle branches easily break and root in soil, making it hard to control, while its massive root systems consume high amounts of water.

Key Problems and Impacts

- **Waterway Obstruction:** The species grows rapidly along rivers, canals, and drains, obstructing water flow and increasing flood risks.
- **Invasive Growth:** Due to its ability to regenerate from small, broken twigs and branches, it spreads rapidly, outcompeting native vegetation. Between 3ft & 8ft a year.
- **Ecological Damage:** Fallen leaves and branches decompose in water, reducing oxygen levels and creating anaerobic conditions harmful to aquatic life.
- **Infrastructure Hazard:** The trees are brittle and prone to dropping branches or falling completely, posing risks to paths and structures.
- **Resource Depletion:** Their extensive, thirsty root systems can drain water resources

One section of cut willow showing the rotten core, these trees were over 20ft high and ready to fall into the river. Not now.



Having a second mobile phone.

Recently I needed to change my mobile phone, the old one worked fine, so instead of sticking it in a drawer, I obtained a 'Pay as You Go' Sim Card for £10, stuck it in and now I have '**Gary River Phone**'.

Why a second phone you may ask?

Over the years I have seen phones drop/fall from hands (see December Chronicle), pockets off the bank or boat into the river. Normally the chance of recovery is at best minimal and even if you do get it back, they really don't like a good soaking.



Now a days most people's lives, important data, dates and those cherished photos are kept on our phones and once in the river will be lost, possibly forever unless they are backed up. Just think of the disruption and distress to your life whilst you are now phone less, access to banking, emails messages, calendar etc. all gone. Worse still if it's your work phone.

On top of that most high-end mobiles can be well over £1,000 to replace. (are you insured?).

So, today's tip (you can thank me later) is dig out that old mobile you chucked in the back of the junk drawer (everybody has one), pop in a 'Pay as you go Sim' make a call once a month to keep it alive and take that one on your river trips. It doesn't need to be top of the range or have loads of apps on it, just as long as it can be used to communicate if needs be.

Don't forget it's essential you take a means of contact with you when on the river, see below.

5 Key messages are for all Craft users

Being on and near the water will only increase your wellbeing, exercise and the fun you have on and near the water, the RNLI and Paddle UK have teamed up to deliver 5 key messages to all craft users.

1. **Always wear a correctly fitting buoyancy Aid.**
2. **Tell someone where you are going.**
3. **Carry a Mobile phone.**
4. **Check the weather.**
5. **Know your limits.**

Club Notices

Try Sailing Course will commence with Land Drills on 21st & 28th May from 6:30pm then water based every Thursday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for a further 6 weeks. At the end of which we hope to have a club BBQ for all members' paddlers and sailors – more details to follow.

Try Sailing is on a first come basis, we have spaces for 15 adult candidates for the 8 week duration.

Full details are on our club website, if you or a friend wish to take up sailing – for the cost of membership there is the opportunity to sail in the evenings in a variety of boats wayfarers, yeoman and broad's cruisers chatting with and learning from the members who own them.

If you are able to help with the sessions or for further information please mail Mike at mikeroll@btinternet.com

All members are invited to submit articles, photographs, comments, items for sale or anything they feel suitable to be considered for publication. Email to Gary Corbett corbett01@btconnect.com or Dave Durrant davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk The editors reserve the right to delay publication or amend/reformat/correct submissions as deemed appropriate.