AUGUST 2026

COLDHAM CHRONICLE

Coldham 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
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Race Officer: Ben Adams
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Social Secretary: Amanda Blezard

Bosun: David Taitt
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www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

Coldham Hall Sailing Club

Yare Navigation Race

CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

The Coldham Chronicle

Welcome to your 'August' edition of our club Chronicle, a turn around with the weather, the first half continued as last month very arid with baking sunshine temperatures in the 30deg's, the second half a drop in temperature, many rain showers some heavy and very localised, one side of the river a shower, the other dry, still very muggy throughout the month.

Noticeable the wind strength has been very low especially and unfortunately on weekly Sunday sailing, the records will show a light breeze every week, the paddlers averaging 20 paddlers having better fortune getting out together every Tuesday evenings, either up river to Brundall Gardens or down to Rockland Broad.

We cover the notes August committee meeting, details on the forthcoming Yare Navigation Race, tips from Race Officer Ben on safe loading of the safety boat on the trailer, a lovely adventure by Debbi sailing around the Greek Isles and more.

Browsing back to August 2025 Chronicle, what we reported last year, sounds familiar!
(This year, the wind seems to have had a day off on Sundays causing sailing to either be cancelled/ postponed or the brave to have a slow session with a long chat. However, we hope that the autumn will bring better sailing conditions).

Notes from the Committee held on Wednesday 12th August by Teams.

Club Commodore David Taitt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. July 2026 minutes were agreed and signed, matters arising covering

Hon. Secretary-. No report

Treasurer – Club finances detailed. One new application for family sailing membership with dinghy space for their Leeder, discussed all in favour. For club bank account one additional signatory required Nigel Kippin volunteered, all in favour.

Bosun – Window Frame received for Start Box front window, toughened glass ordered, (received). Arrange to fit in start box. An area of wire netting on the Board walk by dyke to be inspected/repaired.

Race Officer – Triple B Race successful. Thank you to all involved, Jenni/ Nigel and all marshals. 21 Sailed. Reedham Race, successful day with good wind strength, 4 boats entered. Thanks to OOD's Steve Martin & Mike Perkins, safety boat cover, Paul Parker and Tony Duddle.
Issues with safety boat: When boat is retrieved it needs to balance on trailer correctly and this has not been happening.

Social Secretary – Location for Annual Prize giving Dinner discussed. Mandy will request a number of quotes. Provisionally book Old Feathers.

Partnerships- No report

AOB. Gary YNR. Planning two options in event of Reedham Bridge being closed to river traffic.

1. Bridge open, full course to Breydon and return
2. Bridge closed to river traffic, shortened course to Reedham village with a loop. No time out zone.

YNR Committee meetings final decision for course on 1st September, following contact with Network Rail.

Upcoming Events
2026/27

September

Saturday 5th	Yare Navigation Race
Sunday 13th	Cecil Howard GWYC
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

January

Saturday 16th	Annual Dinner & Prize Giving

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.

Photo Gary Harris

A Greek Odyssey – no not Homer's Version!

Debbi Jaffey

Stock Photos D Durrant

The older son phoned and said "We've both got our day skipper certification and plan to hire a boat in the Greek islands. Would you like to think about it -and maybe come too?

No thinking required, and off we went to find *Seren*, a beautifully maintained 38-foot Jenneau 379 in the harbour at Lefkada with more than enough room for granny, son, his partner and the nearly 9 year old granddaughter.

The deal was assisted bareboat, rather than flotilla sailing. This meant an initial individual briefing each morning to suggest a possible route to take best advantage of the day's weather conditions, warn of reefs and hazards, point out the most beautiful bays and caves, and identify possible destinations.
So off we went, usually under motor as the wind didn't get up until early afternoon. We mastered the art of long lining- swimming with long ropes to bowline round rocks or trees and dropping anchor before long swims and paddleboarding in warm azure and turquoise water teeming with fish -from shoals of bream to lone barracudas- and explored islands only inhabited by goats. Water play was usually followed by a leisurely lunch or taking the tender to explore caves and generally chill.

Once the wind got up at about 1 or 2pm (usually from either the northwest or southwest) we pulled out the main which was furled in the mast, let out the genoa and found ourselves island hopping in the amphitheatre of the gods, following in the footsteps of Odysseus. I had assumed that sailing the Ionian Sea off Greece's northwest coast might be a bit boring with nothing on the horizon, and a steady wind direction, but in fact we were constantly surrounded by islands which created wind eddies in a landscape not unlike a hot version of northwest Scotland, but with olive and fig trees on the lower slopes and towering mountains above. And the sailing was very similar to river sailing -but on steroids and without the tides. The distances were greater but as we wove between and around islands such as Skorpios, Ithaca, Meganisi, Kastos, Cephalonia and Kalamos, the conditions would change frequently, much as they do on the Yare with it's trees and bends. It was most rewarding when my son, who knows a lot about power boat manoevering but a little less about sailing, saw me watching the sails and asked what I thought...a few suggestions were made ...slacken the outhaul, tighten the leech and let the main fly, speeded us up considerably and he commented- "Oh -so you do actually know something about sailing." I reminded him of all the excellent teachers I'd had at Coldham over the years.

My only problem was using the wheel under sail- unless really concentrating I tended to automatically turn it the wrong way as though it were a tiller...my brain could let me steer the boat when under motor, but under sail it automatically steered as though using a tiller- but I could learn given more practice!

If we were spending the night in a village marina we'd radio ahead as we entered the harbour and await instruction as to the mooring prebooked for us and where our morning briefer would be waiting with long lines to secure us, and if needed, advice about the approach. Evenings were spent planning the next day's sail, (so I learned to read a chart) cooking and eating aboard or in local tavernas (who knew that burning fresh coffee grounds kept the wasps away?), replenishing our

supplies of delicious wine, olives and honey in local shops or just enjoying exploring the brightly coloured villages and headland windmills dotted everywhere.

The staff at this small Brit owned company -Nisos (Greek for island) -were exceptionally well trained in customer care as well as very knowledgeable about all things sailing and boating. When one of their boats drove straight onto a reef they'd been warned was in the middle of a harbour, not a cross word was said and within an hour TWO ex RNLI lifeboats (bought at a UK auction because they would have been well maintained) appeared -bristling with rescuers and towlines and even a diver to check underneath. I heard that when someone else inadvertently filled their diesel tank with water, again no fuss was made, and another boat provided. As the company owner said to me later – folk pay a lot of money to sail with us and we aim to make sure that they get good value and have a positively memorable experience -and our reputation is our livelihood.

So, if you fancy sailing in the footsteps of Odysseus, I'd highly recommend Nisos yacht charters as an outfit- they may look a bit more expensive than some other companies, but there are never any additional charges and the service was non intrusive and exemplary. We met several families who have been sailing with them annually for more than 10 years who all agreed they are the best company around.

And the Ionian islands are much warmer than Scotland, and fewer clothes are required! I'm already looking forward to my next invitation.

Yare Navigation Race 5th September 2026

This coming Saturday 5th September sees the club run the Yare Navigation Race for river cruisers and will be celebrating 50 years since the first race in 1976.

Many of you may be helping to run the event for which the YNR committee is very grateful.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary there will be live music, a beer festival and race documentary screenings over the weekend in the Tavern. In addition there will be various merchandise available to pirchase including copies of the commemorative poster.

All are invited to the riverside to view this special event.

Coldham Hall Sailing Club Safety Boat

There have been occasions when the club safety boat has not been put away correctly. Please ensure care is taken when lifting out the safety boat, that it is aligned with the trailer correctly and that the roller wheels on the trailer are set correctly under the hull such that the boat moves up onto the trailer freely.

When winching the boat up on to the trailer it should not be winched too far. The eye under the bow of the boat should not be pulled any further than the front roller on the trailer. Line up the rear rollers leading the bow of the safety boat onto the trailer and keep straight.

If positioned correctly the boat will be evenly balanced on the trailer and will assist when manoeuvring the boat into the boat house.

Ensure you have enough help, many hands make light work!

If anyone would like some training on the use of the safety boat both launching and on the water would they please let me know and we can arrange a convenient time. Contact Ben mobile 07799 148989 email tobenadams6@gmail.com

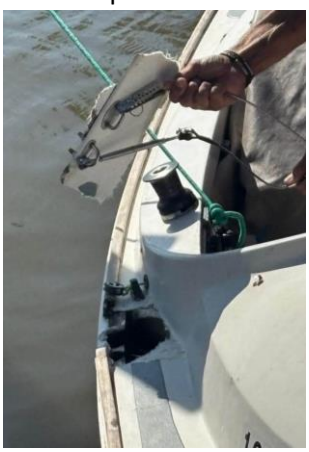
STOKE HOLY COW'S ON TOUR

On Sunday 16th August our club BBQ band, Paddler Phil with his Stoke Holy Cow's went on tour for their first 'Gig' performing at Surlingham Ferry House where they were well received during the afternoon with a couple of encores requested, we understand a further live performance is planned.

Good luck and see you performing soon.

A Cautionary Tale for All Yeoman Owners.

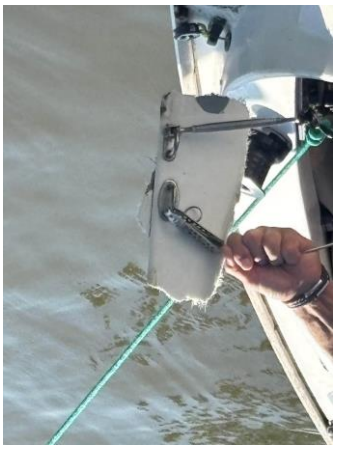
Whilst taking part in the racing at Oulton Week in a brisk wind Nigel Kippen's boat suffered a major failure of the hull structure at the point where the mast shrouds are fixed to the deck. This caused the mast to collapse with further damage caused to the mast footing. Luckily the footing fixing bolts sheared off preventing serious damage to the tabernacle and top of the cuddy.



With such a catastrophic failure Nigel and his crew although somewhat surprised luckily didn't sustain any injuries.

The shroud fixings pass through the deck and the top edge of the hull moulding and usually have a small stainless steel plate between the bolts and the fiberglass. Tension of the rig along with the effect of wind on the mast can cause flexing of the hull plate leading to cracking and eventual failure. Whilst this is the first time any of the clubs Yeoman fleet have been affected it is a known issue amongst Yeoman fleets in the rest of the county and further afield.

So before your next sail in your Yeoman/Kinsman it may be worth just checking the shroud fixings for any signs of cracking and take remedial action before anything serious happens.



Sailing Section

OOD Duties - September

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
5th		YNR	YNR Committee		
13th	Downriver (10)	GWYC Cecil Howard	M Roll	S Roll	S Lee
19th	CGSC Waveney OD		B Adams	C Lambert	J Yeates
20th	Local (12)	WOD	B Adams	P Board	J Board
27th	Local (13)		D Durrant	M Mace	S Martin

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

Weekly Sailing & Racing - August

Sunday 2nd August, Downriver 7.
Low water 0943 hrs OOD'S. Ian Barker, Stuart Lee, Chris Logue.

A hot day with little cloud cover, being near the river felt a little cooler, the best way to describe the wind minimal, certainly was leading up to the 1030 start gun, nine Yeoman's along with the club wayfarer kept close to the start line for the countdown, all boats choosing to stay close on the South bank made it away. Results on the club web page

Sunday 9th August, Local 10,
High tide 1017hrs. OOD's Diana & Bob Branscombe, Emma Crowfoot
Wind 5mph reducing to 4 Westerly 30deg C.

Following good reports from the previous days Reedham Race, conditions were the exact opposite, to cap that the reducing westerly wind with the ebbing tide made sailing difficult (drifting) throughout.

The OOD's set a two buoy course with a downriver start, Starboard buoy one outside Heron's Reach, Port buoy two set by Bargate entrance.

Six Yeomen's and the club Wayfarer came to the line with a couple of boats called back after crossing the start line too quick. Results on the club web page.

Sunday 16th August, Downriver 8, RCC 8
Low tide 0958- High 1614hrs OOD's Trevor Lewis, Gary & Judi Harris, helpers Mike Roll & Dave Greenacre
No wind

A further Sunday with no noticeable breeze, just the rising tide, seven Yeoman's along with one Wayfarer made ready to sail, the OOD elected to tow the boats to the pumping station/chimney opposite Rockland Long Dyke for the start and to drift back to the club, with the little breeze all got back home. Full results on the clubs webpage

Sunday 23rd August, Local 11. High water 0956hrs
OOD's Mark & Harriet Wells, Tony Duddle
3mph Breeze from the North

With no rain in the forecast and no breeze forecast the wind direction moving from the west to the east throughout the day.

Lovely to see 3 Wayfarers joining 8 Yeoman's for today's local series, unfortunately someone forgot to book any breeze; with 11 boats a split start required.

With the two starts and little room to maneuver all boats not venturing far from the upriver start line, the line was congested with main calls for water throughout the morning, for both the first two races a single lap was sufficient, the light breeze coming and disappearing on the first two races. The second starters taking advantage, if you were fortunate to get a 'puff' it was an advantage, if you caught the ebb tide, you went into reverse.
Race three, the wind direction moving to the East brought a slight sea breeze to improve the fun. Oh for a breezy day.
Full results on club website.

Sunday 30th August, Downriver 9 River Cruiser Club 7, High water 1456hrs
OOD's Tim & Janet Moorse & Gary Corbett.

How the weather changes, on Thursday the OOD's were considering a comfortable long Downriver course, come 9am Sunday not a ripple on the water with a very lazy flag. Fortunately, a breeze developed, middle course selected for 4 River Cruisers getting away at 1020, followed by an impressive 15 local boat at the line for 1030, including 3 Wayfarers.

For the locals the countdown started helms finding there was no wind upriver from the start line, all boats jostled safely together. The claxon sounded, some found it a struggle to round the start corner into the SW breeze, after a short distance Emma and Vicki in Mill Chic found the wind and made a clean set of heels from the fleet, a lead they increased and maintained to the finish some 8 minutes ahead of second.

During the course the fleet stretched out finding pockets of breeze in clear spaces, bunching up along Train Reach mainly with outstretched sails, once turned at Mark 2 a close haul to reach most of the way home.
All results on club web site.

Canoe and Paddle Board Section

Paddle News – August 2026

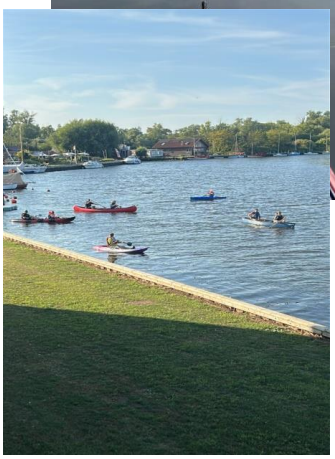
Social Paddle Tuesday's

Paddle Tuesday continue, it is noticeable the evening are starting to draw in, the temperatures reduce in the evenings making for a relaxing paddle from the club. Every week between 15-20 paddlers in Kayak's, canoe's and on paddleboards.

Tuesday 4th August conditions were light with high tide at 5.15pm, making for a paddle across Bargate then upriver to Brundall Gardens, then following the tide home, as the second half of the fleet were about 400yrs upriver from Bargate a squall came through changing the relaxed conditions in a second, the fleet stayed together and were happy to be back on terra firma, proves to be prepared – always wear safety equipment.

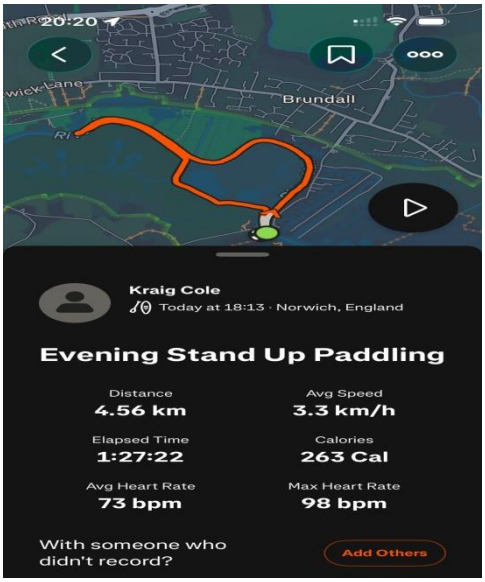
Tuesday 11th August, Low tide @ 6.50pm was ideal for a downriver paddle, the evening's south easterly breeze making strong work on the main river, paddle boarders having to kneel for most of the downriver paddle, once in the long dyke more sheltered allowing to stand up. Carolyn counted at least 150 swans happily feasting on Rockland Broad, many areas not accessible with the abundance of weed growth, with the low tide and the clear water the sunken Wherry ribs visible beneath. The breeze eased for a fast paddle back to base.

Tuesday 18th August, high tide at 1716hrs with a fair WNW breeze made for a paddle upriver and across Bargate, we ventured up the dyke getting struck in our tracks with the weed, there was no way through, no way of reaching the Staithe or end of the dyke, heading back turning left to the main river some reaching Brundall Gardens before heading home.



Tuesday 25th August, Low water 1834, a lovely sunny and warm dry day, paddles taking opportunity as the evenings draw in getting on the water for 6pm, with the tide rising a downriver paddle would be suggested, this evening a strong 15mph easterly, an upriver paddle to Brundall Gardens, with a paddle back across Bargate to avoid the wind, 22 paddlers enjoyed a slack water paddle.

Craft tucked away, off to Surlingham Ferry for our paddle 'debrief' and some 'tucker'



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.