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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
woolston546@btinternet.com

Race Officer: Ben Adams
tobenadams6@gmail.com

Social Secretary: Amanda Blezard

Bosun: David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

Coldham Hall Sailing Club

Yare Navigation Race

CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

The Coldham Chronicle

Welcome to your 'June edition of our club Chronicle, this month we pay tribute to Life Member Alan Sant, who brought so much energy and development especially to the buildings, moorings and fabric of the club.

As in previous months the weather has certainly dominated, the first 10 days being wet and cold, the later part of the month and the mercury started boiling with temperatures up in the 30 degrees plus along with the Met Office having a tizzy fit with Red and Amber heat warnings. Comparisons with 1976 being drawn, for those old enough to remember it. Being near or on the water seemed the best idea, with a nice cooling breeze. Mostly we survived it till the next time.

Our new Try Sailing members have enjoyed getting on the water and are progressing well with their Thursday evenings. We thank all the helms involved in making these such enjoyable sails.

We have a busy month ahead for July with the Club Regatta on Sunday 5th July, followed by the Triple B on Saturday 11th July, then an invitation to all members to our clubs social and BBQ evening on Thursday 16th July, to which again this year we welcome back our musical treat with the **'Stoke Holy Cows'**, all welcome.

Many of you will be aware of the problems with Reedham Railway Bridge. Aa major bearing needs replacing beneath the bridge preventing the bridge from currently being opened. The Triple B committee are in regular contact with the bridge operators for updates including if and when the Bridge will be able to open to river traffic. We will let you know the outcome. Hopefully they will be able to effect repairs before the Triple B starts.

Enjoy your read and however you access the water please do so safely.

Notes from the Committee held on Wednesday 10th June by Teams.

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

Hon. Secretary-. Thanks to Jane Yeates for bringing to club attention that the club website was triggering a security alert in her browser. DW has switched the website to https. No Data has been transferred, may have been flagged by anyone browsing. Resolved.
Treasurer – Club finances detailed. Two separate Family Paddle and one sailing membership received. All in favour. A member has made a donation of £50 to club funds.
Bosun – Clubhouse roof is making good progress. Scaffold to be erected on 19th June for 2 weeks at cost of £600 plus VAT. Flashing from Flash Point, Hethersett quote £600 plus VAT. Work to start from 22.06.26 with same team. No request for additional help to complete. Will arrange at least one skip for disposal of roof panels.
Start box window remains outstanding.
Race Officer – Club fun day 20.06.26 discussed, no formal arrangements, proposal postponed for this year. All in favour
Social Secretary – No report
Partnerships- No Report

AOB.

a. Mike Roll to purchase two wheels for Comet Trailer.
b. Gary proposes Club Annual BBQ on Thursday 16th July, club will source a new meat supplier. Keep cost at £5 per person. All in favour.
c. Broadland Paddle Sports are planning a paddle across Scotland, club request to use slipway and dinghy park on Saturday 20th June 2026 for lunch stop between 1130 & 1pm. Approved.

Upcoming Events 2026

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.

ALAN FRANK SANT

27th October 1939 – 31st May 2026

As we went to press last month, we received the sad news that former CHSC Honorary Secretary and Life member Alan Sant had passed away. On Wednesday 17th June 2026 seventeen members attended a Celebration of Life for Alan at Beccles Crematorium along with Alans family and many of his colleagues and friends. Below is a Tribute to Alan who contributed so much to Coldham Hall Sailing Club. Thankyou Alan may you now Rest In Peace.

A Tribute to Alan

Many of us will have wonderful memories at Coldham Hall of our dear friend, sailing colleague, all round craftsman Alan Sant. Alan contributed his expertise and knowledge to many of the major projects carried out at the club over the years. Our moorings, clubhouse extensions and resurfaced road are just a few of Alan's direct projects for which we are all grateful to him. This along with work he carried out on boats, not just on his own, but also lending his time, skills and knowledge to friends and other members will ensure he is not forgotten. Along with his great love of either sailing or just being near the water. To start our tribute, we delve a little further back with a bit more of Alans background information to which you may say 'I didn't know that'.

Born on 27th October 1939 in Norwich to mum and dad Ellen & Frank. Along with sister Jacqueline the family moved to Gorleston when Alan was 10yrs. Alan commenced his working life as an apprentice at H.A. Holmes Boat Builders, starting his lifelong passion and close connection to boats and water. Over the years Alan moved into house building working for a number of companies before setting up his own company. He eventually progressed into site management and finally Adoptions Manager at Taylor Wimpey.

Alan married his first wife Brenda in 1962. Daughter's Tracey, Stephanie and son Matthew soon followed. Being a house builder they lived in a number of local properties with Alan developing them before moving on to the next. He was always a 'grafter'. Alan indulged his passion for the water, first through boating holidays then moving on to owning his own boats, yes more than one, all of which he carefully maintained and repaired himself. A couple he even built from scratch, Alan was a master craftsman, especially with all things wood.

Sadly, Brenda died in 1995. Now in his late fifties Alan's suffered health problems, undergoing a quadruple bypass. All of which Alan faced head on, didn't slow down, before going back to work full-time and eventually retiring at age 74.

Alan and Carrie met in 2005 and moved to Thorpe, where he got to work on extending and improving their bungalow, Alan joined CHSC in 2006; he was quickly put to work, soon after joining the committee Alan was Hon. Secretary, his chief scribe Carrie, he had a directory of contacts who all respected Alan and his communications skills, he was the ideal person for dealing with contractors because with Alan you know where you stood, the quality of the work, what price he expected to receive. Often when an invoice arrived he would take one look and remark 'Blimey, at least Dick Turpin wore a mask'.

Whilst Hon Secretary Alan worked diligently with other members to secure the current lease for the club. We were in a predicament, the arrangements we had with the previous landlords would not work with a national company. Together a legal contract was established, Alan arranging contacts, visits and negotiations. Over the years Alan talked with Solicitors on the lease, with Broads Authority on Planning, with RSPB about the area to name just a few all whilst keeping the committee and club fully updated. The clubhouse we have was originally just the centre section of the building we have today being the main and only room. Alan firstly oversaw the addition of the rear workshop/storage area extension. Back then the club safety boat was stored outside but unfortunately one night the engine was stolen and it was decided we needed a boatshed. Alan set to and designed, obtained planning consent from the Broads Authority then arranged the whole build. Along with help from willing members the boatshed was soon built and in use, securely storing the clubs new safety boat and more. The moorings were in a poor state of repair and needed to be extended, Alan arranged quotes from contractors and 'negotiating' agreed a price, he dealt directly with the contractor, attended the club daily to ensure the work was carried out correctly and if the contractor didn't turn up he was soon on the phone, we have all experienced Alan on the phone.

Alans next project was the access road. The Carnser, was more like a track leading to the club. fFrom Leaches turn it was full of 'potholes' which deepened every time the road was flooded, which was often. Ownership of the Carnser was not clear, a combination of the local householders, the pub, users like the club and the RSPB owned the land. Negotiations took place, Alan choose a contractor and a new roadway was laid, I with others thought with the flooding the road would not last, I was wrong, it is as good today as when laid.

The next project was the requirement for toilets and changing area in the clubhouse; Alan, whose health was by now not so good along with others developed plans for the extension to the club including installing the Klargester. Unfortunately poor health meant he could not ramrod the build as much as he would have liked but he still oversaw majority of the work.

In 2013, CHSC recognised Alan's work and commitments for the club, by awarding him a Life Membership for which he was extremely pleased.

Alans love of sailing was clear to all, in the early 2000's, Norfolk One Design's 'Norfolk's' were popular at CHSC. Being a wooden boat it was an ideal choice for Alan. He purchased B17 Chuph, which he sailed with Carrie and other club members, and as usual lavished great love and tireless work on to make the boat look brand new. Yeoman's Y146 Falspar and Y87 Tara soon followed and again he lovingly nurtured painted and repaired giving him many hours of enjoying sailing on the Yare.

A great pal was Duncan Ellis, owner of Broads Cruiser Golden Moon, another skilled engineer and importantly a craftsman like Alan; they jelled from day one, enjoying trips over the Broads together on Golden Moon and 'putting the world to rights'.

We all have many personal memories, for me and Dave its a new hand crafted 'Tiller' made for Kingfisher by Alan, it's like every time that we sail 'we shake hands with him. Like many over the years we received sometimes daily calls from Alan, you knew when to expect them, always an update and a chat 'catch-up' a joke and a quote, Alan was always well informed and up to date and liked a natter, when EE offered Alan 'free calls', he made sure he used them and more.
Alan was not a man of grand speeches, though we all have heard many of Alan's anecdotes, comforting words, proverbs and quotes, some not for print, here's a couple to recall. 'Can't judge a sausage by its skin, (he did love and make good sausage rolls), 'Don't piss up my back and tell me it's raining. Alan was assisting Kim Mayfield with a job involving the use of a saw, Kim was sawing away and getting nowhere fast when Alan shakes his head and chimes up with 'How many teeth on that saw Kim?' About 48 say Kim, 'Well why are using no more than TEN!' Alan retorts. And finally: Son Matthew shares a quote that when Alan was undergoing his quadruple bypass operation, he came round briefly to find the surgeon leaning over him, to which he said to the surgeon, 'I thought the grim reaper wore black'.

Finally, close your eyes, imagine Alan arriving with Saint Peter, for Alan to say, 'these gates arn't square or level mate- don't worry though I can sort it for you, pass me the level'.

Clubhouse roof replacement

You will have noticed work being undertaken to replace the corrugated Onduline roof on the clubhouse with steel corrugated panels, the old panels had served us well the centre area being on since the clubhouse was built, the new sheets were obtained by member Chris Hovey which were being removed from an industrial unit, the sheets are in good condition and thicker than new ones if purchased new today.

Members would like to thank Bosun Dave along with his team, Dave G. Colin, Mike Roll and others for their hard work. Job well done, thanks.

COLDHAM HALL SAILING CLUB
CLUB REGATTA

On Sunday 5th July 2026

A Day of Exciting Racing Finishing With The Presentation of

Trophies

The Clubhouse will be open for Tea's, Coffee's, Cakes and other Light Refreshments

Sailing programme starts at 10.20am,and includes races for Novice, Ladies, Cruiser and Allcomers

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Triple B (Coldham, Breydon and Back).

A reminder, the 2026 Triple B is being held on Saturday 11th July. The race starts will be staggered from 9.00am to 12.00noon with a cut off time of 8pm hopefully back at Coldham, shortened if required owing to conditions.

If you are interested in taking part please follow the link on the club website, if you are able to assist in marshalling please contact either.

Ben Adams, email tobenadams6@gmail.com Jeni Barnacle, email jenibarnacle@icloud.com

Club Social and BBQ Evening,

Thursday 16th July, eat at 7pm.
.(Please bring a chair and provide your own drinks)
Coldham Hall Sailing Club invites you and your partners to our social evening by the river including a BBQ and music at our sailing and paddling club.
This is a great opportunity for all to get together for a mardle, merriment, music & dance.

Back by popular request
'Stoke Holy Cows'

We will fire up the coals and provide you with a tantalizing Norfolk Sausage & Burger in a bun and more; all for £5 per person.

Yare Navigation Race, Saturday 5th September 2026.

2026 is the 50th 'Golden' Anniversary of our clubs prestigious Yare Navigation Race (YNR).

This race specifically for Traditional River Sailing Cruisers from across the Northern and Southern Broads is raced from Coldham Hall Sailing Club to a Mark (Buoy) set on Breydon Water and return.

If you able to help us Marshal the course, this includes Race Starters, finish recorders at the club, and time keepers at Reedham Quay, please contact Gary, email corbett01@btconnect.com

Sailing Section

OOD Duties - July

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
5th	Club Regatta		J Wells	S Watt	
11th	Triple B		BBB Committee		
12th	Local (8) Downriver Yeoman		G Harris	J Harris	
19th	Downriver (6) Picnic (2)		E Crowfoot	A Minns	I Shepherd
26th	Local (9) Downriver Yeoman	RCC (5)	G Corbett	T Duddle	P Bulcock

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

Sunday sailing

31st May, Local 5, OOD's Mandy, Mike & Ian Shepherd, 12 boats, a split start
High Tide 1347hrs Wind 11mph WNW, gusting 19.

Local coarse set over 3 buoys, upriver start into the breeze with boats favouring the Brundall half of the river, the Port buoy was set well up river with most boats making the turn to close haul, for the first race the WNW breeze was strongest on the Brundall side, a beam reach with some managing a single tack, passing the start box it was a run to Starboard Buoy 1 set well out of sight, turning the buoy a close haul most boats having at least one tack, Buoy 2 was set to Starboard outside the clubhouse, then back to the line for a second round first race after lap 2 the OOD's sounded the shortened coarse claxon (two blasts), the next time over the line would be the finish.
In for coffee, the upriver mark was pulled in, racing continued with a split start, this time over two laps, over the course helms kept an eye on the wind which moved direction, the long haul from mark one could be achieved in one close haul. 3 Races complete, after calculations, results on the clubs web page.

Local 6 Sunday 7th June, OOD's Will & David Taitt.
Low 1143hrs weather 12mph South Easterly with 22gusts, maybe damp.

At 10am members gathered at the club for a period of reflection to Club Life member Alan Sant, the club flagpole was flown at half-mast.

Will and Dave Taitt set a two-buoy course for the 3-set's morning race.
With the easterly wind the start was a downriver to Starboard Buoy set by Strumpshaw Fen close to the north bank, with Buoy 3 set midway upriver to Port.
Race 1, 8 Yeoman's, Club Wayfarer and Siren meant a split start with 5 boats in each leg.
For all races the optimum start location towards the north bank to clear the jetty, once round the corner a close reach on Starboard, with a couple of drifting areas before reaching buoy 1, a close gap for all, having turned the buoy picking a sharp turn to broad reach back towards the clubhouse, the middle to north of the river having the best breeze, rounding the start line it was a run to Port buoy 3 with some goosing.
Over the 3 races it proved beneficial with the changing wind direction to tack across the river, then a close haul and tacking back to the line.

On race 1, Jezebel going aground on the north bank between the two inlets, subsequently retiring with one start for the nine boats for races 2 & 3.

A good morning's sailing, all results on club web page.

Sunday 14th June, Downriver 4. OOD's Kim, Jackie & Jonathan Mayfield.
High 1303hrs, weather 10mph NW with 19gusts, Fine and dry. Coarse 2.

12 local boats came to the line including Brown Boat 32 Merganser, with the very light westerly breeze at the club the OOD's correctly decided on a straight downriver start, deploying an upriver mark with the flooding tide would have seen boats drifting backwards. The breeze was more evident once over the line and opposite the club, a great sight 12 boats stretched across the river, Club 1 Wayfarer was the first to make a move, with the centre board raised it made good progress all the way to the turning mark.

Generally it was a run all the way, positions changing frequently, helms finding the right area of the river.
Beating back, Diamond Lil made good ground followed by Trio who both were able to pass Wayfarer 1, all boats back safely, results on the club webpage.

Sunday 21st June, Local 7, OOD's Carol Catchpole, Tim Silcox & Tom Frost.
Low water 1206hrs 11mph NE gusting 14.

With a heat wave warning the ideal place to be was close to the river, the breeze to keep cool and ideal for local racing, 8 boats coming to the line for a one start. The OOD's set a 3 buoy course, starting downriver into the breeze, rounding the jetty a close haul up to Port buoy 1, on race one a tack required by most boats, turning the buoy it was a broad reach to run to the box, turning up river to a close haul with the wind coming down the river, turning buoy 3 to Starboard with a beam reach to Port buoy 2 outside the boatyard and over the line.

The wind changed direction slightly over the next two races, some boats being able to make the downriver mark in one close haul, avoiding tacking. All results on club webpage.

Sunday 28 June Downriver 5 , Cruiser 4 and Yare Challenge. OOD's Paul Parker, Gill Westwood
Wind 14 SW 24 gusts. High 1247hrs

Lovely sunny day, the temperature a comfortable 26degs, with a South Westerly breeze. The OOD'S setting the long course to the Stile just upriver of Langley Woods.
Two sets of racing today, 7 River Cruisers competing in the CHSC Cruiser 4 and the Yare Challenge a mixture from Coldham Hall and Yare Sailing Clubs.

The Cruiser helmsstarted by putting a reef in their sails with the forecasted wind and gusts on the open river at Buckenham. Club representation decided the Cruisers came to the line for their 1020am start. All boats getting away with generally a reach along Train Reach.

7 Yeomans and Wayfarer Club 2 then came to the line for their 10.30am start, all boats away cleanly, generally on a Beam Reach through to Close Reaching, once passed Rockland Long Dyke with the curves of the river changing from a run to a close haul. Turning at the Style a lot of tacking back to Train Reach then a close haul bank to the box, the north side of the River the chosen line. Full results for both races on the club website.

Canoe and Paddle Board Section

Paddle News – June 2026

Social Paddle Tuesday's

Let's start this month's paddling with a photo of our newest and youngest paddler 'Merry' enjoying her first short paddle with Dad, waiting for Mum to take her home for tea, I'm sure she will be joining the group soon; we invite Merry to be our 'Junior Ambassador'.

The early part of the month we had very changeable weather conditions, wet during the day on Tuesdays and sometimes a chill in the evenings, this has put some off a paddle, the conditions seemed very localised, those attending were able to paddle on all Tuesday evenings. On Tuesday 23rd June, the heat soured up to the mid 20deg's, some stayed home to watch the England game, Norfolk Show was the next day, and those who paddled and headed to the Ferry had the better deal. Let's hope the football improves.

Over the month we have enjoyed good paddling evenings, lots of wildlife, frequently hearing a Bitten and a Cuckoo is still calling at Rockland, setting off both upriver, either up the channel on Bargate which is now getting overgrown with lilies and weed, upriver to Brundall gardens, or downriver to Rockland Broad, some venturing across and out of the short channel.

Wherry Albion passing the Clubhouse
Photo – Mark Suckling

Broadland Futures Initiative Newsletter link.

https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/233046/BFI-Progress-Newsletter-Issue-17.pdf

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.