



The Alde & Ore Association

Newsletter 44 – Autumn/Winter 2015

The Chairman's Message

Looking over the Summer's Activities, enjoying the River, working for its Future, and an important Birthday to come for the Association in 2016...



The traditional Butley Ferryman's lunch marks the end of the 2015 rowing season; photo: Birgitta Bostrom

Looking back over the summer months of 2015 the weather presented our estuary in many ways. There was strong summer heat to enjoy the refreshing pleasure of the river in July, high winds and storms deterring the lighter weather sailors in August, but the day of the barbecue saw heavy rain clearing in time for so many doughty members, suitably coated, to enjoy the splendid river view from Round Hill. Not forgetting the higher tides while we are in the cycle of the moon being very close to the earth.

This summer, thanks to John Grayburn, we have had a bumper year for lovely walks – all on brightly sunny, and in one case very blustery, days. The last at Stanny Farm was an idyllic late summer day added to which the scenery and wildlife plus the interest of a wildlife environment being grown in parallel with a working farm was fascinating. It shows that there are so many unique spots in this wonderful area, which we are all so fortunate to enjoy.

Throughout the summer and so far this autumn, work has continued on several fronts to secure the river walls for the coming decades. It is the walls that form an important part of the landscape and by protecting these where possible, we can protect the landscape as a whole. Its rich variety of features make the estuary such a special area – the varied habitats recognised by national and international designations, much employment, resources valuable to the local economy which give rise to cultural and many outdoor leisure activities. Not forgetting however that the walls provide, with the access paths to them, over 100 km of lovely walking.

In this Issue: Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership News – Sea Wall Protection at Slaughden – David Barnwell – Saltings – Alde and Ore Walks in 2015 – Alde & Ore Association's Annual Barbecue – Musings of a Wildfowler – A Point of View – The Alde & Ore Association needs You!

www.AldeandOre.org

The Alde & Ore Association, a charitable incorporated organisation, registered charity no 1154583, exists to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and/or historic or public interest in that area.

The Chairman's Message continued...

The Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP) is continuing to press forward through the maze of regulations to arrive at an Estuary Plan doing what the estuary community want, agreed at all official levels, county, district and regional, and meeting all regulatory requirements. This is taking time, but with the full public consultation having started on 5th November, hopefully the end is in sight and by next spring the basic essentials will be in place to build on and allow progress forward. You can be assured the Association continues to play a strong role in taking all this forward. There are more details on page 3 in this newsletter.

The Environment Agency is very much aware of the importance to the estuary of the sea wall at Slaughden and is working at plans for sturdy repairs, but sourcing rocks, navigating the permissions required and finding budgets takes time. Hopefully action can take place including using the shingle stockpiled last year near Martello in anticipation of the work.

Keith Martin's article on pages 4-5 provides a detailed account of all this.

Things had been largely quiet on the planning front but further building plans at Brick Dock, this time in the lower formerly quarried area, further inland from the first development with its unhappily very visible red sea of roofs, came out for planning consideration recently and the Association commented on them. A strong local group has been keeping an eye on the changing plans over the last year or more. At the least, the estuary should not have any more unfortunately dominating blocks of non-Suffolk red coloured roofs urbanising that corner, formerly mostly green with just low small parts of the brickworks. If anybody gets wind of unsuitable or positive developments anywhere in the estuary, or changes which either adversely affect or enhance this part of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, please let us know. To do its work the Association needs more members to help. We need someone who would enjoy monitoring planning and has the skills to analyse and write advice.

The Trustees have also been looking to the future. We have a particular reason for looking forward to 2016 because it will then be 25 years since the Alde & Ore Association was founded. Much has changed, but the basic aim of the Alde & Ore Association to preserve this unique estuary has not.

However, any organisation needs to look afresh at all the contemporary factors so that it remains a relevant and positive force for good. At our summer barbecue I said that Trustees were considering how best to ensure that not only does our membership continue to grow but that it becomes attractive to younger people, whether changes are needed so that we can ensure that the Association meets members' aspirations and encourages a broader range of age groups and even more of the communities living in and enjoying the estuary area. To achieve that we must ensure that our activities are ones that provide interest, information and challenge to all ages and that our local presence in all parts of the estuary is enhanced; furthermore that the expression of our aim and our identity must fully reflect what makes this area such a lively, innovative yet peaceful place to live. Consider all that thrives here: the festivals, the cultural activities, the sporting, business, agricultural and nautical interests. This way of life remains underpinned by all that the Association has been doing for the past quarter century. The energy, ideas and hard work which characterises the Alde & Ore Association remain just as, if not even more, vital to us than when we were founded. We know the role is to protect what we have and love. The question is how best to do it. All suggestions and volunteers to ensure a strong and active association will be welcome. Please contribute to the responses to the consultation on the AOEP Estuary Plan. I wish you all a good winter.

Alison Andrews, Chairman

PS: It is with great sadness that we record that one of our valuable Trustees, David Barnwell, died in October. An article on his service to the Association follows on page 5.

Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP) News

Public Consultation on the Plan

The partnership's annual meeting was held on 17th September, when Sir Edward Greenwell discussed the lengthy process the partnership has been through to complete the Estuary Plan.

The Scoping Report responses from the statutory bodies have been incorporated into the draft plan and the public consultation has started at the beginning of November for eight weeks.

Find all the documents on www.AOEP.co.uk.

Also, three public *drop-ins* are arranged in Aldeburgh, Snape and Orford.

This is your opportunity to talk to partnership members and comment on the Estuary Plan proposals. Your input is very valuable and will help to shape the estuary's future so please let us know your views.

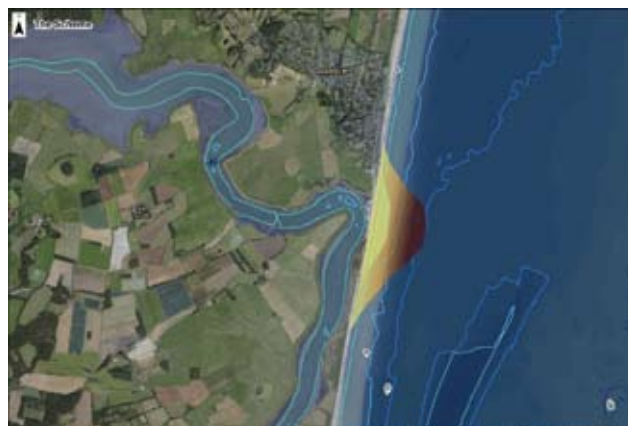
Other items discussed by Sir Edward were:

- **A Funding Group** has been set up, chaired by Richard Marson, who will be making the case for funding which can be used for the public and private sector to attract donations and legacies to be held by the Estuary Trust.
- **The RSPB** has bought about 100 acres at Boyton adjacent to their Banters Barn site, which they intend in the short term to put down to grass and make wetter. They may in the future, dependant on relevant permissions and funding, consider creating an intertidal area.
- **Repairs on the north Snape river wall** have been completed and a major scheme for both the village and the maltings is being worked up by the Environment Agency.
- **Enabling development:** The Landscape Partnership plans are on hold until the Estuary Plan is agreed, when discussions will resume and planning permission on the first agreed sites will be sought.
- **The coast at Slaughden** is due shortly to have a 200m length x 7.5m width of rock armour installed, as a temporary measure until a long term solution to the defences is found. The timber groynes are due to be renovated.

Option for the Aldeburgh Defences

Professor Mike Cowling, Chief Scientist from The Crown Estate, gave a fascinating presentation on the *Sand/Shingle Engine*, a Dutch inspired project for natural coastal reinforcement.

It is a possible option being considered for the Slaughden defences. The sand engine – or *Sand Motor* as the Dutch call it – moves large volumes of sand. In Aldeburgh's case it would be about two million m³ of shingle. It would change the whole dynamic of the coastal processes, which is particularly complex on our coast. At the moment, The Crown Estate are looking at the *will-it-work* scenario before it can even become a potential option or a proposal.



The illustration above, by Royal HaskoningDHV, shows, where a whole new area of beach could be created at Slaughden – say some ten hectares – off the present shoreline. Natural forces of wind and tide would move the shingle both up and down the coast. Although it would diminish over time, it may last for 20 years or so. This would replace the need for the continual cycle of shingle recharge from Sudbourne beach on Orford Ness that happens at the moment. At the same time, this creates a whole new space for recreation, tourism and natural habitats. There is a good short video on YouTube: **The Sand Motor – Passionate Research**, but don't become prematurely relieved that we have an answer to the coastal defences.

There is a long way to go in assessing whether this will work here, not to mention funding it all.

Amanda Bettinson

Sea Wall Protection at Slaughden

We have been concerned about the state of the beach and sea wall at Slaughden ever since the winter storms in 2013/14 scoured away the beach and exposed the sea wall to direct wave action.



Exposed sheet piled toe at Slaughden, south of Aldeburgh town, 26 February 2014; source: Environment Agency



Wave spray as waves impact with seawall during storm, 5 Feb 2014; source: Aldeburgh Yacht Club

Overtopping of the sea wall leads to degradation of the shingle bank to the rear and potential undermining of the wall itself.

The exposed steel piles of the wall have been subjected to unusual stress and higher rates of damage leading to an increased threat of sea wall failure.

Natural processes were expected or hoped to restore the beach to its normal state but the 2014/15 winter made the problem worse.



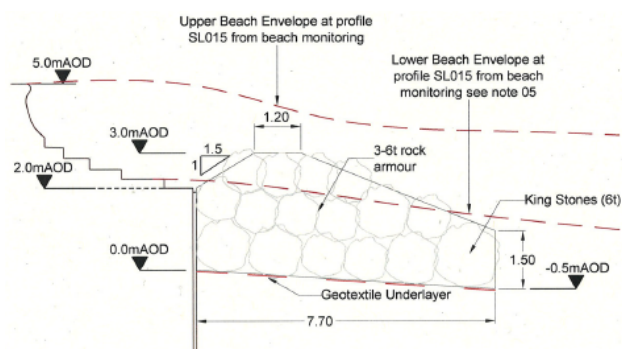
Large scour holes at the back of the shingle bank, 5 Feb 2014; source: Aldeburgh Yacht Club

The Environment Agency and the Alde & Ore Association have monitored the position closely and, following meetings on site, the good news is that the Environment Agency plan to extend the rock armour protection in front of the Martello Tower for a further 180 metres to the north. The Environment Agency has applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a licence to place about 4,300 tons of rock on the beach costing circa £400,000.

The rock will be placed on the beach, right up against the toe of the sea wall, with a geotextile layer beneath to give additional stability. The final design will still allow access for Aldeburgh Yacht Club to the beach for dinghies for sea racing. This can be achieved without prejudice to the integrity of the sea wall and rock armour protection.



The proposed area is marked in red; source: Environment Agency



The rock will be brought in by barge and stored just to the north of the scheme area, to be graded and sorted for placing in position. Once the new rock is in place the shingle stock pile south of the Martello Tower will be used to recharge the area and start the process of re-establishing the beach. Work is planned to start in January 2016.

Keith Martin

David Barnwell



It is sad news that David Barnwell died on 25th October 2015, only a few weeks after he had stepped down from being a Trustee of the Alde & Ore Association having been diagnosed with cancer.

David will be sorely missed by the Trustees and is a great loss to the Association.

He was co-opted onto the committee in 2011/12, becoming a full Trustee in April 2012 – and served for four years.

During that time he has played an invaluable role managing anything involving IT and database. He has kept our website in good trim, readily jumping to sort out the glitches in the elderly content management system.

He was leading a small group to develop a new, more all-purpose website to suit modern communications, when sadly he had to leave. That work must now continue without his great help. He has dealt with all matters also to do with emailing members, both sending and receiving. David could be relied upon

to dispatch emails, post notices and website changes quickly and efficiently, even when on his summer sailing adventures north of Scotland.

Not least he has used his database expertise and infinite patience to carry out the painstaking and intricate annual task of marrying up the Association and Aldeburgh Yacht Club membership lists, since the Club joined the Association as a group.

He has sought to minimise multiple mailings resulting from duplications across both lists. It is amazing how many different versions of an address can creep into such lists and how difficult it is to keep them up to date. Yet David valiantly worked his way through them all. He had ideas for a new database approach in mind which he wanted to discuss with his successor when we found one.

He will also be sorely missed by the Orford Sailing Club where, apart from his sailing, he has completely sorted out their membership database.

He was a most assiduous Trustee attending all meetings and making his contribution, not forgetting his gentle humour. He, with Frances his wife, were also part of the 1953 flood exhibition team, particularly manning the part in Orford.

In all his work he has combined his considerable data handling knowledge with his infinite patience and acute observation. The Association has been very fortunate to have had David as one of its Trustees, for all too short a time, and he will be much missed.

Saltings

Some of you sailing in the Alde this autumn must have wondered what the new constructions nearly opposite Stanny Mark at the river's edge with oak stakes, mesh and faggots were for. They are part of a range of projects concerned with the protection and development of saltmarshes.



Photo: Alison Andrews

Saltmarsh, or *saltings* as they are known around here, are not just a pretty sight when the sea lavender, thrift or aster are in bloom. Saltings are a valuable part of the armoury in river defences: they are an important tool in flood defence, breaking up the wave action which would otherwise pound the walls directly. The saltings vegetation provides an important wildlife habitat, most noticeably for many bird species and their base areas provide an important habitat supporting fish populations, particularly with feed and nursery areas. They store carbon too.

Indeed, saltmarshes are increasingly being valued for many reasons and a recent conference of national importance, organised by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB brought experts together at Snape Maltings. The Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership has already been developing trial areas to see by what

methods and how best saltings can be protected or renewed. Such trials are also happening down in the Deben and further south in the Stour and Orwell, and in Essex.

The first trial on saltings protection and restoration was built in 2012 with a landowner's private initiative before the AOEP was formed. Sailors and walkers may have seen it on the bank edge just up river from Ferry Point, opposite Slaughden Quay, where there has been a dramatic loss of saltings, which provide the front line protection to reducing the effect of wave action on any soft flood defence.

This was a small project of a length of 100m where a UV resistant plastic mesh was placed in front of the existing salting to act as a breaker to reduce long term salting damage and hopefully to encourage salting re-creation due to the reduction in water flow.

This project was fully funded by a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB. It was completed within budget in August 2012. It takes time, but mud is now accreting behind the mesh. This project is small but nevertheless shows that smaller bite sized pieces can be carried out by landowners before major damage has occurred.

Since then – during 2013 – three further saltmarsh projects of varying scale and situation were put in place by the AOEP.

These are designed to demonstrate the best designs using plastic Tensar mesh and hazel faggots in a number of locations to test reaction to a variety of wave and wind actions and situations.

- There is an 80 metre stretch across the lost saltmarsh area containing the remains of the hull of the Iona near the Slaughden bend, at a point which bears the full force of southerly winds.



Photo: Alison Andrews

The defence uses a double section of hazel wood faggots supported by chestnut stakes with gaps to allow movement of the various creatures during the ebb and flow of the tide.

- At Brick Dock, a 340 metre stretch flanking the river wall and in front of the remains of former oyster beds. The stretch gets the full force of westerly winds. The trial is various forms of defence, from double faggot construction to faggot plus Tensar fencing to parts where using only Tensar supported by oak stakes.

- The third trial area is just north of Orford Quay where a 75m line of similar construction to the Iona site has been used.

The most recent installations were made starting at the end of August this year. They are along the north bank of the Alde near West Row Point (Stanny Mark). They consist of trial defences in five bays of approximately five metres long and two twelve metre stretches along steep saltmarsh edge. These small areas were chosen to give more information on where wave action and tidal inflows may be damaging and whether can they be easily repaired. The defences consist of oak posts with the Tensar mesh applied and behind that a layer of hazel faggots held by chestnut stakes with about a 30 cm gap to allow the build-up of sediment. See the diagram of a bay and the photograph of a beach to the right.

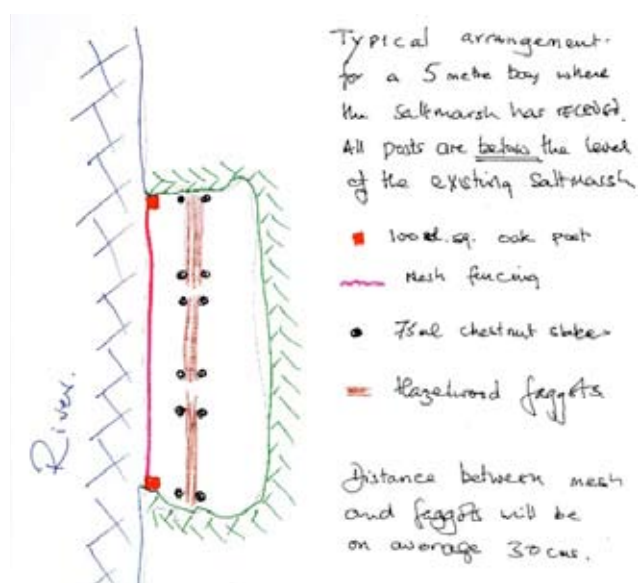
All these new saltings projects, together with the one at Ferry Point, are being monitored every year by trained volunteers. Annual reports will be made to the AOEP.



Photo: Alison Andrews

In a few years time, it is hoped the build-up of mud will be significant and eventually allow colonisation by early saltmarsh forming plants. Watch this space.

Alison Andrews



Alde and Ore Walks in 2015

The Association's programme of walks for 2015 was designed to explore three different aspects of our estuary: walking the footpaths of the valley to enjoy the views, particularly views from unusual angles, the history of the estuary on Orford Ness and the wildlife of the estuary at the new centre at Stanny House Farm, Iken.



Glemham Estate water meadows; photo: John Grayburn

The first walk, on Friday 15th May started at Glemham Hall, Little Glemham, by kind permission of Philip and Raewyn Hope-Cobbold and ended with the by now traditional ham and salad lunch at Marsh Cottage, Snape.

On a perfect walking day, only a brief spot of rain and not too hot, some thirty members and friends set off down the Alde valley from Glemham Hall, passing through the parkland and crossing the Alde just below Stratford St Andrew before joining the footpath on the other side of the valley.

The route led through varied landscapes with wildflowers including bluebells, hound's tongue, red campion, white fumitory and field forget-me-not before crossing the Fromus upriver from the RSPB Abbey Farm reserve, which we visited last year, and ending for lunch in Snape.

Thanks to all those who provided salads to go with the ham.



Outside experiment construction; photo: Alison Andrews

The walk on 17th July was to Orford Ness, with the particular objective of a guided tour of the Pagodas to learn about their construction and their importance in the development of nuclear weapons.



G. Lohoar explaining the inside of a Pagoda; photo: John Grayburn

The day was so popular, with over 45 coming, that the visit had to be split into two with one group doing the guided tour before lunch and the remainder after. With a flurry of emails sufficient numbers helpfully agreed to the last minute re-arrangement; all met in the middle of the day for a bring-your-own picnic at the Black Beacon. Thanks go to Grant Lohoar and David Mason, who enthusiastically guided, and to all the National Trust volunteers.

Thanks particularly to Grant who ignored the pride of the afternoon visitors who had declined a bus back from the Pagodas to the ferry, saying that they preferred to walk. Grant's experience told him otherwise and when the bus arrived, everyone boarded without demur.

On 11th September, the final walk was round Stanny House Farm. It was based on the new field centre and was guided by Rodney West and Mervyn Miller.

The site is a complete gem, hidden from the river by the banks, with new lagoons topped up by wind-driven pumps. Birds spotted on the lagoons included greenshank and green sandpiper, redshank and lapwing, common and jack snipe and a black-tailed godwit with its distinctive brown breast. There was an unidentified small bird on the river which some of us didn't even spot amongst the gulls.

We visited the large brick barn which is such a landmark from the river. What none of us had known was that it was built during the Napoleonic Wars at a time of particularly high grain prices.

Lunch at the centre was kindly organised by Vicki Bingham and the inestimable salad team.



R. West demonstrating the water pump; photo: Alison Andrews

Only half of the planned route was achieved and we hope to go back next year to walk the remainder.

Thank you to Paul and Louise Cooke for their welcome and hospitality.

John Grayburn

Alde & Ore Association's Annual Barbecue

As one of the departing guests said, this was one of the best.

The weather was hardly on our side. All the previous week winds and rain had challenged those involved in the Aldeburgh Regatta and the day of the barbecue dawned little better.

By mid-morning, grey it might have been but dry with just a light wind it was, so that those arriving by boats glided onto the landing beach.

We are very grateful to Sir John and Lady Wheeler, who very generously allowed us to take over the grassy lawns of Round Hill, edging the river and looking across to the sweep of the southern bank from Stanny Farm and Yarn Hill to Iken Church. It is a superb setting to enjoy the river.

Well equipped with coats or fleeces, and chairs and picnic blankets, some 150 members and friends settled down to great conversations, and for those feeling more adventurous a look at the Hazlewood Marshes. The barbecue was a very splendid and tasty feast, with something for everyone, in ages spanning some eight decades. Stannards again provided an excellent barbecue, this time of chicken and lamb.

Elizabeth Boyd and a brilliant team of salad makers provided a plentiful array of hugely varied and innovative salads. Paul Walkden, for yet another year, quietly and expertly masterminded all the planning and organisation – and the bar with great helpers – not to forget very popular puddings of various fruit tarts and flans. A barbecue to remember.

Alison Andrews



Photo: Birgitta Bostrom

Musings of a Wildfowler

The other morning I was crouched on the saltings, with the dog companiably snuggled up, watching the sun rise over the Alde estuary.

Morning flight had produced no duck but I had a feed of lovely mushrooms from the sea wall in my hat, and had gathered a bundle of samphire from the edge of the mud flats. Had the tide been further out, I might have picked a few mussels as well; though it's still a bit early in the year for my liking, despite there being an "r" in the month.

While sitting there, I watched a continuous flight of little egrets spreading out along the estuary after leaving their roost in the small woodlands of Ferry Farm, and it struck me that here was a bird that is increasing rapidly in numbers. It seems to have found a niche in the food chain that it can fill and doesn't have too many predators. I imagine that apart from the resident peregrine falcon there is little threat to their numbers.

Last winter I watched an otter diving for crabs off the remains of the sluice into Lantern Marsh, and a little egret feeding in the shallows a few feet away seemed entirely unconcerned, as were the small bunch of snoozing teal tucked up under the salting's edge. One would occasionally lift its head from under its wing and watch the otter for a while but soon tucked its bill back in and carried on dreaming of the coming migration back to the breeding grounds in early spring.

Tens of thousands of these little duck arrive on the east coast every year in the autumn months, along with wigeon, pintail, mallard, and a multitude of other species.

Some of the most charming of these visitors are the white-fronted geese that usually turn up when there is a cold wind blowing from the east in December. Some years lots come, other years only a few. They can be seen most mornings as they fly over Aldeburgh town and follow the Alde down to the Sudbourne marshes where they feed during the day. They fly back to their roost right

on dark, and are often so high as to be invisible in the clear night sky.

When the moon gets up after dark and the cloud isn't too thick they often fly back to feed again when the moon is high enough to light their way. These ducks and geese constitute the quarry species of the wildfowler, and on wild and windy mornings you may spot two lone figures, a man and dog way out down the estuary, crouching in the saltings at the edge of the tide, hoping for a shot or two.

Most – if not all – wildfowlers have a keen working knowledge of the birds of the winter estuary; they need to have, as chances are fleeting and the fowler has to know which birds are legal quarry.

Their calls often alert the fowler to their imminent arrival: the growl and whistle of a pack of wigeon gets the pulses racing long before they hurtle over in the pre-dawn darkness, and the sound of approaching white-fronted geese will have the fowler searching for his biggest most expensive magnum cartridges. Their call is best described as sounding like a squeaky gate.

A good fowler will teach himself to call in these birds, two fingers pushing the tip of his tongue against the roof of his mouth will, with (a lot) of practice, produce the whee-oo of wigeon and the high pitched luk-luk of the white-front. Mallard will come to a gentle quark-quark-quark, but only early in the season.

Other birds can be called as well, just for fun! Whimbrel will come to a copy of their call (their country name is the Seven Whistler); curlew can on occasions be called and golden plover will dive down out of the sky to an imitation of their little whistle. I have on one occasion called a bittern by imitating its croaking call in flight. It flew around me three times until I waved at it, which came as quite a surprise to the poor confused thing. That common marsh bird the redshank can be attracted by waving a hanky or

your hat, you can call barn owls with a squeak produced by sucking the back of your hand and the same noise will often bring a hunting otter closer to you.

As you can see the wildfowler is always able to enjoy his time on the marshes, as the true fowler is a naturalist and conservationist by necessity, definition, and natural inclination.

Whether a shot has been fired or not, the thought of a fine fat mallard, roasted with spuds and carrots from the garden keeps us coming back for more early morning vigils on the beautiful marshes of the Alde estuary.

Simon Trinder

A Point of View

You're as old as you feel in Aldeburgh!

Do you remember the news item in 2014 that Aldeburgh's post code represented the oldest in the UK – with an average age of 57?

It prompted Craig Brown to comment:
“Old and stropky – that’s my kinda town!”
Craig said it made him feel young since he was (just) under that average age!

I fear few of us Alde & Ore Association members can say that. I suspect, that our membership is likely to be older than the average of those who live in the area. That is why we hope to increase the numbers of younger members.

After all, this is not as aged and sleepy a place as many may think.

Anyone who observes the Aldeburgh Yacht Club and the Orford Sailing Club with their Optimists and Fevas will see a different age group.

And just think of the various festivals – all of them have masses of those under 57.

- John and Mary James’s Literary Festival;
- The Documentary Film Festival each November;
- The Poetry Festival also then;
- The High Tide Festival in September, where we went to see the contemporary play ‘Lampedusa’ (edgy and provoking);

- Also in September the Aldeburgh Food & Drink Festival, with apparently over 5000 visitors.
- Then there is Julia Hobsbawn’s ‘Names not Numbers’ – here with 300 people for the 5th year in March 2016, which makes business and communications leaders think about the big issues we as citizens face.

- Then of course, consider Aldeburgh Music and all that goes on at Snape Maltings, where innovation looks like it is a watchword.

This is a lively place with an interesting community. The statistics may indicate age, but not the behaviours.

Think too, of so many personal actions.

- Nick Gold’s imaginative purchase of the Orford Lighthouse;
- Jane Marson’s Heritage Stud;
- Tim Rowan-Robinson’s innovations in the hotel business.

The work of our Association is to maintain and enhance an environment where imagination, creativity and our sailing, sporting, musical, agricultural, personal and business lives can thrive.

Simon Barrow

The Alde & Ore Association needs You!

The Alde & Ore Association was started in 1990 by a handful of people who had a common interest in the river. Two decades later, we have over 2000 members with a more urgent common focus: to make those responsible for coastal protection accept the urgency of their task. A breach in the sea and river walls would catastrophically change the dynamics of the estuary for ever and we are determined that this will not be allowed to happen.

The Association is active in other areas too: in opposing inappropriate development in the land surrounding the estuary, ensuring public footpaths are maintained and running the Butley Ferry during the summer months with volunteer oarsmen.

The Association is seeking new committee members regularly; please contact our Chairman Alison Andrews if you are interested in getting involved.

The Association can only play its full role in the protection and enhancement of the Alde & Ore estuary area if members contribute to the range of tasks which the association faces. Currently we are looking for two key volunteers to join the Committee of Trustees, or to become advisers.

IT & Website Leader wanted

The Association needs someone who can manage the website, emails and data base systems for the membership. The Website is currently in the process of being modernised to improve communications through more media forms.

Hands-On Volunteers wanted

Volunteers needed for bundling hazel faggots for further works on saltings restoration.

Butley Woods:

Saturday 16th January, 10am to 2pm

Bring a picnic and hot drinks.

Please contact David McGinity on 01394 450077 for more information.

Planning Adviser wanted

A very important part of the Association's work is keeping an eye on planning applications, particularly those in view of the Estuary and to identify those that might impact badly or harm the idyllic landscape in which we all live. The Planning Adviser would ideally be familiar with planning law and policies and would provide advice and draft comments to the Committee of Trustees on the approach the Association might take. Two or more people could share this role so please apply anyway and we will seek to find someone to dovetail the work.

Anyone with the enthusiasm, time and expertise to support the future of the estuary in one of the roles mentioned above, please contact our Chairman, Alison Andrews, on aldeblackburn@aol.com

Imprint

The Alde & Ore Association newsletter is published twice a year. Our thanks go to the authors and photographers of this newsletter's content. Please note that signed contributions may not reflect the view of the Association as a whole. We hope you enjoyed the new layout of the newsletter and we look forward to receiving your comments!

Contributions to the next newsletter are very welcome. Please send text suggestions to our Chairman, Alison Andrews and images to the Newsletter Editor, Monika Koch on SnapeBridge@gmail.com. Images should be submitted as individual jpg files, with your name added to the file title, in a size over 1MB, and not cropped or edited in any way please.