



# the gaff line

special edition

For the Friends of the Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust

**We are delighted to have been contacted by Diana Wilson about a diary, written by her Great Aunt Di, detailing and picturing her holiday aboard the wherry yacht 'Spree' in 1911.**

In the main newsletter we have published extracts from this diary but here, online, we have the space to let you enjoy them in full. We continue our serialisation in this third instalment, rejoining the group at Oulton...

## Sunday July 9th

(Oulton) Mildred and I went to church at Carlton - full of school children and very stuffy. After lunch had a fine sail round the Broad with Alec in the dinghy. The Spree picked us up in the river, and we beat up against the wind as far as St. Olaves, where there being a head wind and no tide we had to tie up for the night just above the bridge.

We walked to Fritton church and fortunately found the man with the key coming to ring the bell for evening service. Fine old round flint and stone tower. We sat in the chancel with Norman windows. Went on to Fritton Decoy, a charming Broad and lovely gardens close to. A most enjoyable expedition.

## Monday July 10th

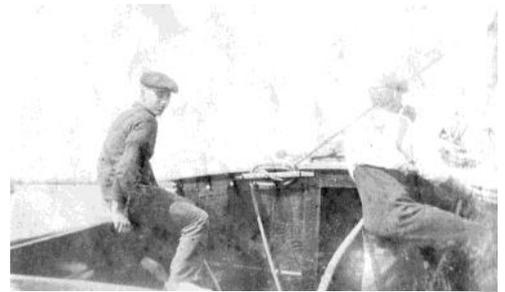
Down the Waveney and reached Breydon Water about 2.30 and had to wait in Yarmouth for the tide. Went ashore for letters and sat on sea front to read them. Yarmouth packed with excursionists. Back to The Spree about 5. Found we had to wait for repairs to the winch, but got away about 6 o'clock and as far as Stokesby - a very pretty village which we moored above by a delightful hay field.

## Tuesday July 11th

Simply glorious morning. Sat on the hay cocks and Alec found a lark's nest with 4 eggs. At 10.30 up the Bure past Muck Fleet which our boat is too large to get up, and up the Thurne to Potter Heigham; a pretty station with bungalows down one side and a nice 3 arched bridge.

Being only 4.30 or so we decided to walk and post letters. Alec went off in search of paper etc. Seeing a postcard of Potter Heigham church decided to go there. On pushing the door open out walked Alec. Delightful old porch with ancient figure of St. Nicholas. A round flint tower with octagonal belfry added.

After dinner we sailed in the dinghy and watched the most lovely sunset before turning in at 10.30.



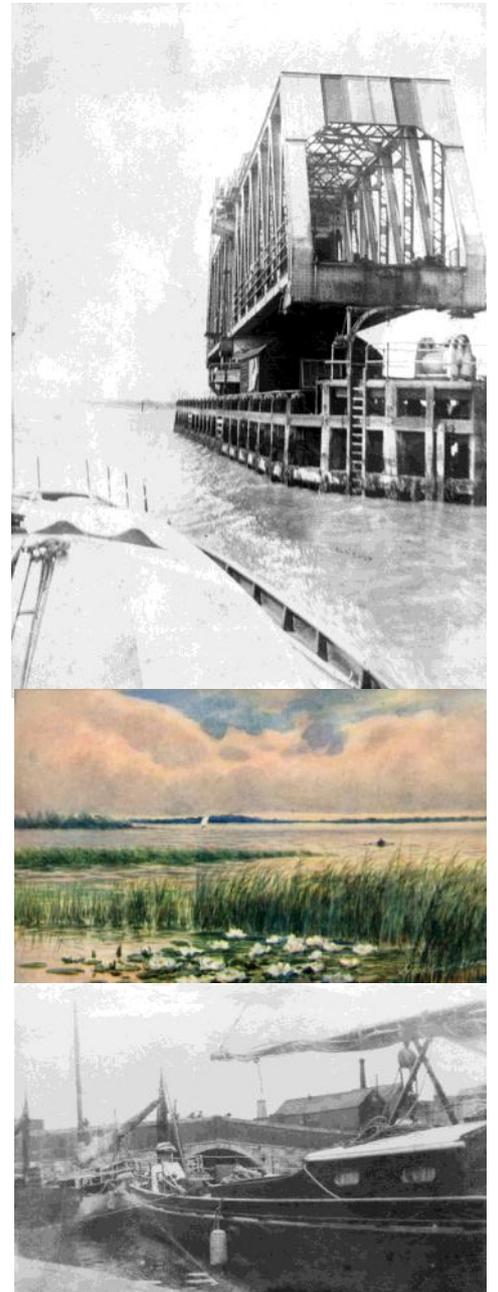
**Pictured, from top right:** photograph of George and the boy, photograph of the George and the yacht (Whitesea Lodge in the background), photograph of Di and Mildred in the yacht

## Wednesday July 12th

Another beautiful morning, and, Alec having chartered a small yacht to take us to Heigham Sound we got on board her above the railway bridge at 10am, accompanied by George. With a reef in the sail we sped onwards in a very fresh breeze. It got breezier on the open water so we ran into a clump of rushes to take in another reef. While going up Whitesley and Old Meadows the yellow and white water lilies form a wide fringe onto the water on either bank and make a very charming picture. Into Hickling Broad, another wide expanse with a few shooting boxes on the bank. We went right across to the inn for lunch. While waiting its preparation we strolled down the road and came on fields of black currants and raspberries with many pickers at work. Turning up another road we had to scale a few hedges in order to return to the inn.

Set off homewards about 3.30 and soon found ourselves aground - being such a dry season and very little water - but with the sculls and punt pole she was got off. After that we stuck to the channels and waltzed away. After leaving Hickling Broad we sailed to Horsey Mere by Old Meadows, a charming narrow passage fringed with water lilies, and came to anchor in a little cutting at the far end. Alec and Mildred went in search of Horsey Gap and the sea while I had 40 winks in the boat and then walked down the road to meet them - a pretty one nicely treed. A large tea at a cottage revived them after their rather long walk. We soon got on board after the usual photo and proceeded homewards. The view of the sand dunes from the cutting is very jolly. The wind lessening Alec had both reefs out and we sailed up and down till 6.30 when we reluctantly had to go in to dinner.

As soon as dinner was over The Spree cast off and made for South Walsham Broad. A most perfect evening and sunset finishing up one of the best days.



**Pictured, from top right:** photograph of a railway bridge, postcard of water lilies, photograph of Di on board the wherry