

# BLAKENEY HARBOUR ASSOCIATION

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Spring 2024 Newsletter. We hope the weather improves so you can all get some time on the water during the Easter holidays.

### **\*\* Breaking News \*\* The New Point has gone!**

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, the Point is changing very rapidly and we expect to continue to see significant changes in the months to come.

The island on the end of New Point has now completely disappeared below the surface on spring tides. This is a safety concern as the main channel known as "The Run" now turns sharply to the South before rounding the tip. The buoyage has been adjusted, but a strong ebb tide could see vessels drawn over or onto the shingle bank. Skippers beware and you can find our latest navigation warning on the website [here](#).



Shingle bank – the remnants of New point



Drone photography by Neil Thompson

### **Buoyage**

Moving forward this season, we will be relocating "The Run" buoyage to the South closer to Stiffkey freshes. This appears to be where the main channel is moving to and is already deeper in parts than the old "Run".

The Buoyage team has been busy despite some challenging weather and continues to complete the necessary maintenance work on all the buoyage. The Fairway Buoy has now been replaced with a new light sequence - L Fl.10s.



Lifting "Maysie"



On the evening tide of March 12, we managed to recover two boats from a creek north of the Watch House, one of which had been there for a few years. One has been returned to its owner and the other will be disposed of by the National Trust.



### Wrecks and abandoned boats

With the help of BHA volunteer Richard Allen, we have removed the wreck from the marshes at Bourns Corner, Blakeney. The National Trust will dispose of the wreck in their spring tidy up at Morston Quay.



### Other News ..

#### Vacancy – BHA Secretary

After six years our Secretary, Linda Millett, has decided to move on and we are therefore looking to recruit a replacement – ideally from within our membership. For further information about the role and what it entails, please [email](#) us.

## Beach Clean

On Saturday 16 March, a team from the BHA, the National Trust and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust carried out a beach clean on Blakeney Point. This was a great success and our thanks go to all our volunteers and to Jim Temple and Jason Bean for transporting us to the Point. We hope to do another clean in late September.



Photo courtesy of the National Trust

## Dates for your diary:

**BHA AGM – Saturday 30 March, 6.00 for 6.30**

**Blakeney Harbour Rooms**

We need your support so please come along and hear directly from the Trustees who will be happy to take questions after the business of the meeting is finished.

## Events

**Friday 17 May – Quiz and Supper at the Harbour Rooms**

More information to follow.

**Flare Amnesty Saturday 6 July  
Neil Thompson's yard**

Further information will be provided nearer the time.

A “laying up” supper is also planned at the end of the season.

## Harbour History

Our dedicated research volunteer, Sue Gresham, has made some recent changes/updates to the Harbour History page on the website [here](#). These make interesting reading – thank you Sue.

## PARTNER ACTIVITIES

### Cley Harbour

This February, Cley Harbour Committee completed a second phase of work to remove collapsed material and re-profile the banks of the Glaven between Cley Tidal Gate and the Salthouse sluice. Adding to the earlier phase completed in 2022, this latest work now completes the improvement of a 750 metre stretch of the river.

Cley Harbour Committee Chair, Simon Read, said, “The channel is now running much clearer and can carry much more water. Not only has this work helped to protect navigability in and out of Cley for years to come but it has also reduced flood risk. We are hugely grateful to the local community without whose support of our events and fundraising, all of this would have been impossible.”

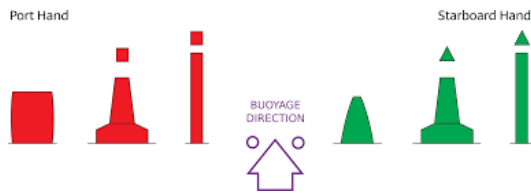


### BHA supports Cley Harbour ‘When and Where’

BHA Trustees, Will Darby and Mike Mirams joined Cley Harbour Chair, Simon Read in addressing a ‘When and Where’ session organised by Cley Harbour Committee for around 25 residents and boat users in Cley.



The session gave basic information about tides and navigation markers as well as a virtual tour of the harbour.



Cley Harbour Day is on Sunday 18 August – all welcome.

### BHA shares buoyage plans

Each season, the BHA Buoyage and Infrastructure Committee reviews the placement of navigation markers in the light of the continual movement of the channels in both the inner and outer harbour. This year, Buoyage and Infrastructure Chair, Henry Archer, Neil Thompson and Mike Mirams met with representatives of Blakeney Sailing Club, Stiffkey Cockle Club and Cley Harbour Committee to discuss proposed changes for 2024. Following on from this meeting, a representative of Blakeney Sailing Club will join the buoyage team in a review of the placement of key markers in the part of the Pit used by the club for racing.

And finally .....

Neil Thompson has shared this article found in an old copy of the EDP from 1953. We feel it is topical given the changes to the Point we are experiencing now.

An extract from the Eastern Daily Press Spring 1953

#### **BLAKENEY POINT CHANGES**

*One Part Marred by January Gale (From a correspondent.) All through the long winter I have longed for the spring; for the swallows to return; to hear the cheerful "chiff chaff" resound again through the woods and the ever-dropping notes of the willow warblers. Most of all, however, to lie flat on my back once more on the sand hill on the main ternery on Blakeney Point amid the waving grey-greens of the marrams with the wheeling terns pure white against a deep blue sky, screaming and calling. Spring has returned and with it the swallows, the chiff-chaffs and the willow warblers, but alas, my dreams of Blakeney Point will never again come true not in my life-time.*

*The other day I stood upon the spot where the pleasant sand hill was situated, and I knew it not. I stood as a stranger upon a strange shore. Gone was the land of*

*peaceful serenity of my memories. In its place was a wild land, stripped of all its adornments and lying naked, uncompromising and unfriendly.*

### **New " Island"**

*Upon the night of January 31st last, amid a howling gale of unprecedented ferocity: the sea had come in fierce onslaught. It swept on, carrying my sandhill with it and driving a wide deep channel which today leaves the Far Point an island at each incoming tide. Not a sand patch is left on the whole of the ternery; only heavy shingle. In the breach at low tide the mud flats have been torn asunder and left a cliff four feet deep falling in tumbling squares of solid mud into a swift narrow stream opening into broad pool in places some ten feet in depth. Everywhere are stones and shingle and curious ridges around or over which the sea pours at every tide until there is a channel driving clean into Blakeney Channel some 200 feet wide, through which a sailing boat may pass in safety, leaving the Far Point as a small island. That is a first impression; I am pleased to say that the second is a far happier one.*

### **Old ternery safe**

*Turning, I looked back, and at the old lifeboat house was still the tearoom amid the sandy marram-clad hills of the main point. All of these in spite of their battering, are much the same as ever. The old ternery on the seaward side of the main hills is still there, and though a bit the worse for wear very much the same as ever.*

*Here doubtless the terns will settle and nest. Boats will ply to the Point from both Morton and Blakeney, and from both I am assured by their inhabitants that by Whitsun and throughout the season it will be "business as Usual." The terns are late in arriving this season, but return they will. R. G.*



Thank you for your continued support.