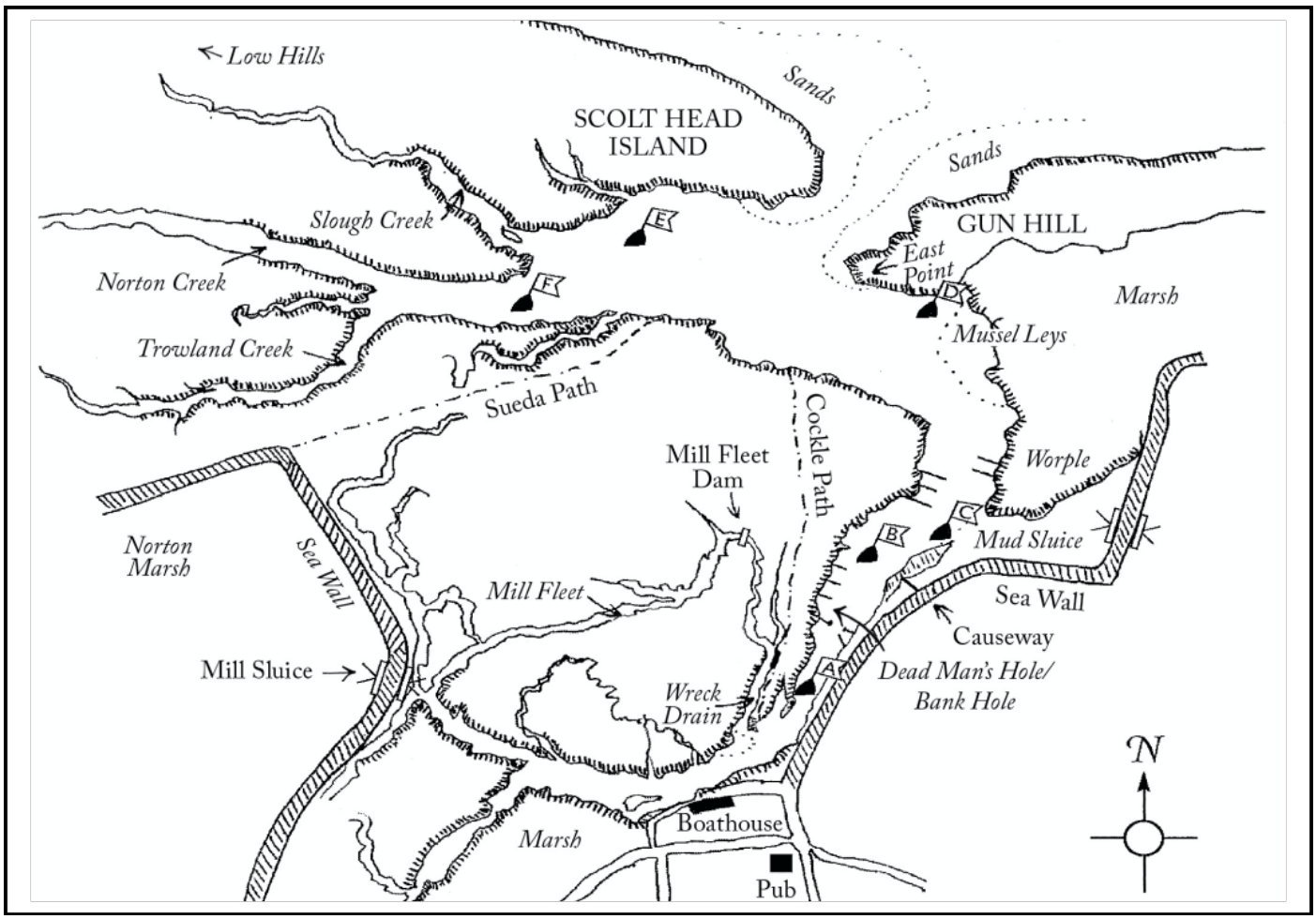
upthecreek

The newsletter of the Burnham Overy Harbour Trust - Spring 2025



It's been a very busy time for the Trust. Having been selected by Superhero 2024 as one of their Charities of the Year, we have been able to press ahead with the once-in-multi-decades Groyne and Saltmarsh Project as well as commission the publication of "Lifeblood", the Creek's very own book!

Groyne and Saltmarsh Restoration Project

We have been making progress and I am now in a position to share our final plans and the timetable.

As many of you know, simply put, our plan is to follow the pattern of centuries to harness nature to preserve the channel and the saltmarsh by restoring groynes and the causeway. Although the project will have a few stages and contractors, this phase of work will be carried out by Drake Towage, who some of you will remember were responsible for completing the excellent renovation of the quay last year and the dam before that (in 2005); they have specialist equipment including a substantial barge that can handle the large quantities of rock that will need to be placed.

They will start work in the last week of February (as early as daylight hours allow) and will have to **finish at the end of April** – ahead of the onset of possible breeding by waders on the saltmarsh. The confluence of tide times and daylight hours means that they will only be able to work on less than half the days during this period while they place circa 900 tons of rock onto the groynes.

As was the case last year, during this period, the Boathouse's quay will be off limits, although the slipway will remain available for use. We will also have to keep certain parts of the creek free of moorings and we will contact those affected in due course.

For the sake of clarity, we looked at building a temporary quay on The Hard but the costs would have been prohibitive even

assuming we received consent - which might have been unlikely. As with any building project, there will be additional traffic and activity in the creek area during these weeks, and we thank you in advance for your patience and support.
The complexity of this project in terms of seeking permission and consent, estimating rock to be used and securing its supply, and logistics means that we expect there will be succeeding phases although we do not anticipate that these will need to use the quay and impose on users of the creek.
I would like to thank David de Stacpoole for the significant time and effort he has put into this project, and of course to all those involved in the Superhero 2024 that chose the BOHT as the Charity of the Year and made such a munificent contribution to our charity. This is also an opportunity to congratulate Jess Lapping and Riddy Ellis on being awarded British Empire Medals for all their work on the Superhero events over the last 15 years and for their part in raising £1 million funds for small Norfolk charities. It is wonderful that the Village and the Creek has been able to be the home for this event.

Licences
As you know the Trust generates its income principally from donations and boat licences. We were extremely gratified that another record number of licences were sold last year. Thank you for supporting the BOHT in this way. The licencing process remains the same as last year. Bank transfers are the preferred method of payment as we get the full amount with no transaction fees. As a reminder, all craft using the harbour must have a licence (BOHT Licence) and insurance before they launch. We will send out a message directly to our members and licence holders in due course. Membership of the trust (and donations) are eligible for gift aid, so please sign up so we can collect the extra allowance.

Lifeblood – The Creek, the Burnhams and Overy Staithe
Thank you to all those who have bought copies of Jim Ring's revelatory account of the Creek. It was written to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Burnham Overy Harbour Trust and the support of the Superhero 2024, but above all to underline the importance of the Creek to the community over time. It remains on sale at the Boathouse and huge thanks to Max Owles for selling it on behalf of the Trust. Jim Ring continues to give talks, each with a very different theme, about what he learnt as he wrote the book – more are planned for 2025 and we will publicise the dates in due course.

Verges
Thank you to all for your cooperation in removing your craft (and detritus!) from the verges and The Hard – it really worked well this year! Please refrain from putting back your craft till the start of British Summer Time (March 30 2025) so we can re-seed where required and cut the grass once the weather is warmer….and at the end of the season, please remember to remove rather than abandon as the cost of disposal of craft, like everything else, is only getting higher.

Annual General Meeting
This year we will hold the BOHT's AGM on **Good Friday 18 April at 5.00 p.m. at the Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall.** We encourage our members to attend (and to vote) but all are welcome.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation in maintaining the good management of the Creek and helping to preserve this very special place. Thank you, too, to my fellow members of the Harbour Support Group – Max Owles, Toby Campbell-Gray, Ben Goakes, David de Stacpoole, David Hart and Peter Mitchell for all their work over the last year.
If you would like to provide any feedback or have a query please do not hesitate to speak to one of the above or to contact the BOHT at admin@burnhamoveryharbour.com

Will Garnett, Chair of the Management Committee