

Historic Broads wherry fleet welcomes sister vessel: White Moth lends her support to the charity caring for Norada, Olive and Hathor
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A Broads-based charity has announced an expansion in its fleet ahead of this year's sailing season. Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust will operate the 1915 wherry yacht White Moth for the next three years under an agreement with her new owners, allowing the Trust to generate charter income to support its restoration aims. The other two remaining wherry yachts, Norada and Olive, are already owned by the charity, with Norada's restoration due for completion this spring. Olive's restoration has recently been brought closer by the allocation of £60,000 of funding from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), and it is hoped to launch her in late summer. With White Moth's presence, this will see all three remaining Ernest Collins wherry yachts reunited on the water.

Speaking about the development, WYCCT's chairman, John Ash, said, "Towards the end of 2011, WYCCT became aware that White Moth might be available for purchase and felt the opportunity was too good to miss. Accordingly, with the support and encouragement of the Board, one of our Trustees, Andrew Scull, offered to purchase White Moth and to make her available for WYCCT use."

Chairman of the charity's Friends committee, Katy Walters, also expressed their enthusiasm. "We're looking forward to White Moth arriving at the wherry base in time for the 2012 chartering season, and allowing us to carry out volunteer crew training. We're thrilled to have this opportunity and look forward to welcoming passengers on board this year as we return to sailing."

White Moth's arrival and the RDPE grant follow other recent funding successes from the Town Close Charity and Paul Bassham Charitable Trust. But while celebrating the good news, John Ash also sounded a note of caution. "This represents real progress for us, but it's important to remember that we still have a significant amount of funds to raise, to fully complete Olive's restoration and then turn our attention to our remaining pleasure wherry, Hathor. I'd like to urge the people of Norfolk to support us in our aim to have all four of these iconic vessels sailing together on the Broads again."