

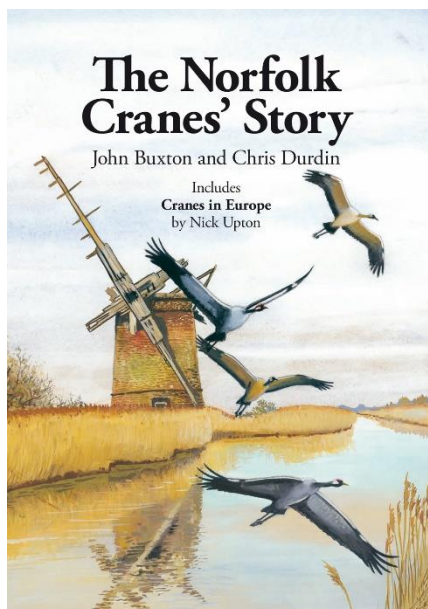
LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear Editorial Team,

Cranes – a natural return

October's Harnser included a lovely visitors' perspective, which was a reminder to those of us lucky enough to live near the Broads of the wealth of wildlife close to our homes. Peter and Jane Vaughan describe seeing a crane, which they rightly said were formerly extinct in the UK, though they then note a perhaps common misperception that cranes were "re-introduced into the Norfolk Broads".


I think it's more than a pedantic distinction that the cranes' return to the Broads was an entirely natural recolonisation. That's in contrast to the well-publicised cranes in Somerset and nearby; this is a reintroduction, under the banner of the Great Crane Project. The return of cranes to Norfolk tied in with an increase in numbers and westward spread from strongholds in Scandinavia and eastern Europe.



The key figure in the cranes' successful return was the late John Buxton, who protected them on the Horsey Estate. The first birds arrived there in 1979 and many years of protection at Horsey and elsewhere has led to today's population in the Broads of about ten pairs.

John Buxton and I co-wrote the book *The Norfolk Cranes' Story*, highlights of which appeared in Harnser after the hardback came out in 2011. The book is now in paperback and is available from NWT visitor centres, Jarrolds or directly from me via www.norfolkcranes.co.uk

Chris Durdin chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Bittern Books

Norfolk based wholesale and retail bookseller
Specialising in: Norfolk and Suffolk History
Local Fiction - Maps and Guidebooks - Tide Tables

bitternbooks.co.uk
01603 739635