

DOUBLE NINE

THE

POCKLINGTON CANAL

AMENITY SOCIETY



MAGAZINE

April 1989

No.57

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY



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Note: Opinions expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Society unless so stated.

RESTORATION

Top Lock

Good progress has been made with the restoration since the last issue of the magazine. Monthly working parties have continued right through the winter with no disruption by the weather. The reconstruction of the lower wing wall on the towpath side is now complete and the scaffolding has been transferred to the other side for some minor repairs to the offside wing wall. The small area where bricks need replacing and the rest of the pointing will be complete by May when work will transfer to the main chamber. New engineering bricks have been ordered for facing the main chamber walls. The remaining old bricks that we have will be used to fill the gaps behind.

Publicity

Our working parties have had considerable publicity in recent months with articles and pictures in various local papers. Whilst the response to this publicity has not been tremendous a few people have contacted us and have started coming to working parties. This welcome influx has built up numbers sufficiently to make additional working parties viable. There is always one on the second Sunday of each month and others are arranged from time to time. Details from WPO.

Dredging

One new development that is particularly pleasing is the decision by British Waterways to dredge the upper part of the canal. Work started in early March and the top pound has already been completed as has the almost dry pound below. Progress has been so good that it would seem likely that the work will reach Melbourne in the time allotted. Well done BW!

Concrete 'Dams'

We also understand that some pre-cast concrete dams are going to be placed in some of the lock chambers. These are to act like stop planks and will be a temporary replacement for some of the old gates, which are in danger of collapsing. This is a much more satisfactory solution than the previous idea of mass concrete which could have been difficult to remove. Again well done BW!

Thornton Lock

Finally, it did seem earlier in the year that the work being carried out at Thornton Lock by the Community Programme had ground to a halt. Happily it has burst into action again and a big effort is being made to complete the job. This is also good news. However, it does appear there is some doubt whether any further projects will be undertaken under the Employment Training Scheme. The problem is the lack of unemployed people in this area who would benefit from this type of experience. Most of the present team are bussed in from Bridlington each day.



RE-ORGANISATION AT BRITISH WATERWAYS

As many readers will know there has been a considerable re-organisation within British Waterways. Pocklington Canal is in the North-East Region and the Regional Manager is Mr Ian White who is based at Dock Street, Leeds. Within the Region there are a number of Canal Managers. At Pocklington we are glad to welcome Mr Keith Boswell who is also responsible for the Selby and the Ripon Canals and the River Ure. We are also very glad to know that our old friend David Rayne is to assist Keith Boswell on the Pocklington. Mr Barnes remains with us as Regional Engineering Manager and Mr Gerry Turner as Regional Leisure and Tourism Officer. So we look like having an excellent team.

Gerry Turner is now based at Dock Street and it is possible that Peter Barnes may move there too. Keith Boswell can be contacted at present via Castleford but he and David Rayne expect shortly to move into an office at Melbourne Arm. The new Fisheries Officer responsible for Pocklington is Mr Steve Griffiths. And last, but far from least, our team is completed by our 'man on the spot' Henry Richardson and his assistant.



RICHARD WALTON PCAS CHAIRMAN MARCH 1978 - JANUARY 1989

Richard decided in January to resign from the position of PCAS Chairman. He joined the Society in 1969 and was Membership Secretary from 1970 until he handed over to Mrs Audrey Nowell in March 1973. He was on the committee in 1974 and again in 1977 and in the following Spring took over as Chairman from Eric Lount. He has been our Chairman for almost eleven years.

Richard's greatest interest during this time has probably been in the rebuilding of the one-time swing bridges which barred the way to Melbourne for so long. His professional expertise as a surveyor has been of considerable benefit to the Society not only over the bridges but also in estimating requirements for rebuilding the locks at Thornton and Canal Head. As Chairman Richard has expressed his belief in full restoration as also his commitment to achieving closer cooperation between all those working for the canal, including British Waterways and the Local Authority. With Fiona and the family he has represented the Society on a number of important occasions for the Society.

ERIC LOUNT

Eric stood down as Chairman in 1978 after moving away from the canal area. He was persuaded to come back as Vice-Chairman in 1983, following the death in 1982 of Francis Loft. Eric and Doreen have now lived for some years in Flamborough and find it increasingly difficult to get over to meetings around Pocklington. At the last November Lunch Eric made it known that he was resigning as Vice-Chairman, exactly twenty years on from the day when the Society was founded at Village Farm, Thornton, where Eric then farmed. He promised that he and Doreen would still be promoting the fortunes of the canal and coming to PCAS functions whenever possible.

VAL AND GORDON BARRON

Val and Gordon have indicated that they do not wish to be put forward for the committee this time. Val first came onto the committee in 1976 and was joined by Gordon in 1980 when he took Sue Crook's place as Joint Work Party Organiser with Raymond O'Kelly. Val and Gordon worked long and hard on Baldwin's Bridge, then on restoring the workboat 'Ebenezer' and putting up the Society workshed at Canal Head. Gordon's engineering experience was particularly useful during the long-drawn out replacement of the two Melbourne swing bridges. It was a bitter blow for him to be taken ill and rushed to hospital on the eve of the official re-opening in July 1987. We are glad to see him so well recovered.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have to say that this is my last Report as Membership Secretary as "the time has come" (as the Walrus said!) for me to retire now that I am fast approaching the age of seventy, and to hand over to a younger person. This also applies to the committee; I am retiring in April at the AGM and making room for someone else.

I wish to thank all members who have supported the Society so well with regular payments of Membership and with their generous donations, in response to appeals from time to time, over the years.

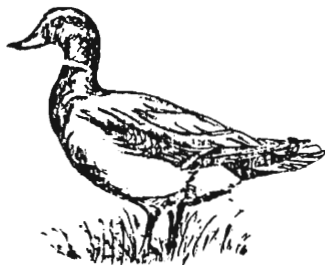
On a personal note, I have met and made many new friends, which is one of the 'perks' of the job of Membership Sec. I hope you will support your new Membership Sec. as well as you have done me.

With all good wishes,
RAYMOND O'KELLY

SO - WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SUCCESSOR TO RAYMOND!

Raymond first joined the committee in 1972 and has been a member ever since. In 1977 he took over as Joint Work Party Organiser with Sue Crooks (now Preston) and, at the same time took over the Membership from Audrey Nowell. He gave up being a Work Party leader in 1986 but has kept on the Membership till now. Quite a stint!

Of course you don't need to be a committee member to look after the Membership. It is a job you can do largely in your own time. You don't need to live near the canal either, though it is useful if you can contact at least some of the members personally. PLEASE do consider if this is something YOU could do to help the Society and the canal.



THE SOCIETY'S PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCH LAST NOVEMBER

There was a bumper attendance of seventy-five people. The Raffle made £42.50, the Stall took £150 and the Auction topped this up to £190. This must be a record! Unfortunately the large numbers made some minor difficulties with serving and layout. We hope to have sorted these out for April 23rd. And we were truly sorry that, although we did look out for them, two new members failed to make contact and feeling rather lost in the crowd, went away without their lunch. We do hope that they and any other newcomers will not let this put them off coming again.

A G M

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 23rd

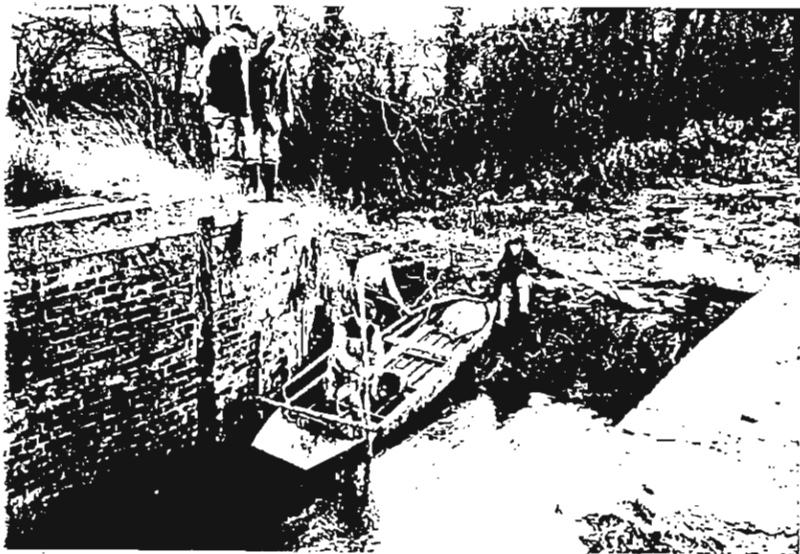
The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday April 23rd at the Wellington Oak at Canal Head following the Society Lunch. We are grateful to the landlords for allowing us to stay on for the meeting. Do come and join other members for lunch if you can. But you are equally welcome to come around 2.15pm just for the AGM if you prefer. Lunch details are on the back cover.

AGM Agenda: Apologies, Minutes of last AGM, Reports on the past year, Presentation of Accounts, Election of Auditors, Resolution to raise Life Membership from £25 to £30, Election of Officers and Committee.

Elections: The four officers are elected annually. We may have up to nine ordinary committee members. On the committee J. Gatenby, P. Waddington and J. Wootton have a further year to serve so we have up to six vacancies to be filled, the four with the most votes serving for two years and the rest for one year.

Please make your nominations in writing, giving names of the Proposer, Secunder and member nominated (with their consent). They should be sent to the Secretary in advance of the meeting please (address on front cover). Only fully paid-up members of the Society are entitled to stand or to vote at the AGM.

Appeal! Richard Walton and Eric Lount are not standing for re-election, nor are Val and Gordon Barron and Ray O'Kelly. So we do need some new recruits! Newcomers really are welcome and fresh ideas and enthusiasm are surely good for the Society. Please consider whether you would be willing to have your name put forward. If you would then please let one of us know and we will see that you are duly nominated. Don't hang back. Your Society needs you!



Removing scaffolding at Top Lock
using Society punt February 1989

HEAD OF NAVIGATION PLAQUES

Boaters are reminded that when they have navigated the Canal up to Melbourne they are entitled to purchase a Head of Navigation plaque. The solid brass plaque is modelled on the Society emblem and incorporates the Yorkshire rose, the unique Pocklington paddle gear and 'double nine' (nine locks and nine miles — well nine and three-quarter to be exact!). Plaques can be obtained from Charles Huitson, Rose Cottage, Main St., Melbourne. They cost £5. Rose Cottage is almost opposite the Cross Keys PH. Plaques may also be had from the Society Secretary on proof of voyage.

MARQUEES AVAILABLE!

The Society have two useful marquees available for functions in return for suitable donations. They are both khaki colour but considerably cheaper than the white ones on hire commercially! The newer one measures 36' x 14' and is very suitable for a bar or a row of stalls etc. The older one, 20' x 40', is now a trifle leaky in places but still serviceable! We also have a blue frame tent and a VERY large white frame tent sometimes available. Contact the Society secretary.

STALL

THE SOCIETY SALES STALL THIS COMING SEASON

Our Main Fund-Raiser!

The Society Sales Stall is one of our main fund-raisers and we do need money all the time if we are to go restoring the canal! Many of you are very generous and keep us supplied with a variety of items to sell. Please keep them coming!

What we can sell -

We can sell almost anything, either at events or at other times to shops, dealers etc., wherever we can get the best price. Bric-a-brac, beads, jewellery, ornaments, china, books both paperback and hardback, clothes, toys etc. etc. Jams, produce and plants are also welcome provided you can bring them on the day or just before.

Aluminium foil and drink cans (provided they are also aluminium) and ring-pulls are a permanent standby, and the price of aluminium seems to be going up at present, so all these are always welcome.

Helpers needed -

It would be nice to have some more volunteers to help with the Stall too. Those who come usually have a good day with time to enjoy the event in between times. Any offers very welcome! Dates of events booked so far can be found in the 'Diary' at the back of this magazine.

SMN

THANK YOU ALL!

It is impossible to thank everyone here by name. So many of you have helped or provided things to sell, or acted as a collecting point, or delivered things for the Society. It is all very much appreciated!



"WATERWAYS WORLD" SETS also IWA "BULLETINS"

"Waterways World" sets, mostly complete, 1978 to 1986; also some IWA "Bulletins" (predecessor to "IWA Waterways") 1971 to 1975, available from Secretary in return for a donation to Society funds.



MARKET CHARITY STALLS - JULY 18th and JULY 26th

As noted elsewhere we have booked the Charity Stalls at Pocklington Market on TUESDAY JULY 18th and at Bridlington Market on WEDNESDAY JULY 26th. These were a huge success last year due to the wonderful response to our appeal for goods to sell there. Please remember us again this year!

CANAL BOAT FOR POCKLINGTON FESTIVAL PARADE

Your Society plan to take part in the Festival Parade and it was decided to construct a canal boat to go on top of a car. Our thanks go to new member Mr John Watson from Huntington who has made an expert job of building the scaled down 'narrowboat' working from plans drawn up by Paul Waddington. The basic paintwork is finished and only the final decoration remains to be done. If anyone knows of any other opportunities for displaying the model boat we would be glad to know of them.

NEW CANAL GUIDE

A new, updated and thoroughly revised edition of the Guide to the Pocklington Canal is in preparation, with new maps and illustrations. We hope to have it ready during the Spring or early summer. The 'Mini-Guide' to the Canal has also been updated.

FESTIVAL

POCKLINGTON AND DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL

The Festival committee have arranged a full and exciting programme! From May 19th to June 10th you can take part in music, acting, dancing. There are flower festivals, book fairs, pottery, jewellery, a Teddybears' Picnic, a Gang Show, an Edwardian Evening, Yorkshire Dialect, Jazz, and much more. PCAS are making their contribution over the first weekend chiefly. We are having our usual but bigger and better Grand Barbecue on Saturday, May 20th, followed by a Canal Open Day on the Sunday, May 21st.

PCAS Barbecue — A varied and exciting menu! Cook your own over red-hot charcoal! Liquid refreshments will also be available. The Barbecue will take place in the garden of Mr and Mrs Price at Canal Head and we are most grateful to them once again for making this possible.

It will greatly ease catering if you will book in advance (details on back cover). We shall also need some helpers before and on the night! Car parking, marquee erecting, serving drinks, selling raffle tickets! All offers of help gratefully received!!

Canal Head Open Day — Our idea is to make the canal known to more people. If this event is to be a success we shall need your help in this event too! So do please offer if you can. There will be all sorts of things to be done but many hands will make light work! Please contact any of our officers or committee.

Do you have contact with other local organistaions?

PCAS would welcome stalls set up by local charities or voluntary groups at Canal Head in aid of their own funds or publicity, provided they can be fairly self-sufficient in the way of actual stalls etc. Please let us know. There is some limit to the space available so first come, first served!

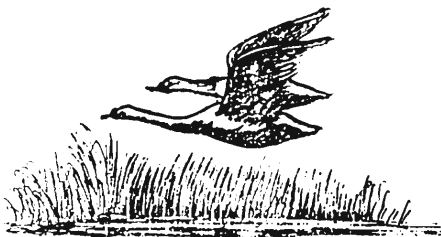
SMALL BOAT OWNERS!

Or should we have said 'Owners of Small Boats'?! If you do own a small boat suitable for taking one or two or more people for short rides on the canal, would you be willing to come along and do this during the Open Day? We have one or two already but we would like to have several more if at all possible.

INFORMATION CENTRE -- HELP NEEDED FOR SUMMER

The Society's Information Centre at Canal Head was open virtually every Sunday last summer and proved very popular with visitors. It also brought in a useful regular income from the sale of books, guides, gifts, toys etc. If we are to continue to keep open regularly we really do need more helpers. However much they enjoy it it isn't fair to expect the same people to give up all their Sundays! And, with more help, we could possibly open on some Saturdays as well. No special skills are required and you meet many interesting people.

If YOU would like to help please contact Sylvia Fawcett on Pocklington 304157 or Sheila Nix on York 623338. Thank you in anticipation!



ANGLING ON POCKLINGTON CANAL

British Waterways are responsible for all the fishing on the canal. Permits cost £1 per day, £3 per month and £7 per season. They are available from Harry's Diner on the main road near Canal Head, from the General Stores at Melbourne and, in summer at weekends, from the Society Information Centre at Canal Head.

TREES AND WILD FLOWERS

A number of young native trees given to us by Mr Horne from Dunnington last year were planted at Canal Head and other parts of the canal and are growing well. They included oaks, mountain ash and birch. Walking the towpath one day last summer Mr Horne found some Giant Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*) growing and he has given us some seed he saved. We shall be sowing this in suitable places too.

YOU DO READ AND YOU DO RESPOND!

Several members sent us copies of 'Double Nine' number 54 to complete our records. Thank you all VERY much. And we are delighted to have at least one member's views in a letter, the first for quite some time. Please let us have more letters from readers.

LETTER TO THE EDITORWealth of Wildlife on the Canal

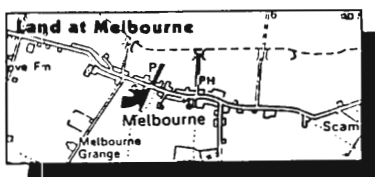
Dear 'Double Nine'

How about a mention in your pages for the wildlife of Pocklington Canal?

While walking my dog along the towpath I have taken to observing the birdlife along the canal. In October and November I have noted fifty-three species of birds, ranging from the diminutive goldcrest to the majestic swan, the last of the summer swallows and the first fieldfares from Scandinavia. Three pairs of mute swans are rearing their young along the canal but the most magical sight was that of a kingfisher hovering over the water at East Cottingwith.

Please ask your readers to write about the wildlife of the canal. Wildlife is one of the greatest assets of the canal and those members who are unable to visit could learn how successful the canal is in attracting wildlife.

Paul Harris
Sandstock Road, Pocklington.



Land at Melbourne,
Humberside.
3 acres.
OS Sheet 106, SE752444.



Legacy

GIFT OF CANALSIDE LAND TO THE WOODLAND TRUST

Miss Katherine Wilson of Home Farm, Melbourne, who died in 1986 and who battled so hard for the canal in the days when it was under threat by Sheffield Corporation who wished to dump sewage sludge in it, has left land alongside the canal to the WOODLAND TRUST. Some of the grassland is of botanical interest and the Trust intend to have this cut for hay. On part of the land they plan to plant native trees and shrubs. Access to the site is via a strip of land leading directly off the main street in Melbourne.

Anyone wishing to know more or to support the work of the Woodland Trust can contact them at:
Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 6LL.

DATES

REGULAR PCAS WORK PARTIES

SUNDAYS: May 14, June 11, July 9,
August 13, September 10.

(there may be others in between; please enquire)

Fri April 21 *Dr. Deadman on Work of the Nature Conservancy and
Local Waterways - IWA Cottingham 8 p.m.
Sun April 23 PCAS Lunch and AGM Wellington Oak
Sat May 20 PCAS Barbecue Canal Head 7.30 p.m.
Sun May 21 PCAS Open Day at Canal Head 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat June 3 PCAS 'Float' in Pocklington Festival Parade
Sun June 4 *IWA Trip to Barnsley Canal
Sat July 16 PCAS Stall at DNAA Gala Drifffield River Head
Tues July 18 PCAS at Pocklington Market Charity Stall
Sat July 22 PCAS Stall at Bishop Wilton Show
Sun July 23 *IWA Trip to Huddersfield Canal (West side)
Wed July 26 PCAS at Bridlington Market Charity Stall
Sat/Sun Aug 12/13 PCAS Stall at Hull Regatta

(These are the dates known so far. For all details please
contact SMN on York 623338 or *George Parkes on Hull 652237)

NEW BOOK

BUILDING BRITAIN'S CANALS by DAVID GLADWIN published by
K.A.F.Brewin Books, Studley, Warks. pbk. £6.95

Photography had scarcely begun when most of Britain's canals were being built, as David Gladwin points out in the preface to his latest book. Nonetheless the author has gathered together a fascinating collection of pictures, many of them newly researched. "Some photographs included", he notes "may not have great artistic merit, being probably taken by a canal labourer with frozen fingers using a box camera, but - and it is a big but - they are unique and irreplaceable."

There are more modern pictures too (including one of Canal Head at Pocklington) illustrating the systematic decline of the network which led in turn to the current movement for REbuilding. David Gladwin writes with knowledge born of long personal experience and a seeing eye. This is a book you can dip into but will then find hard to put down.

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SUNDAY APRIL 23rd 1989

PCAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and LUNCH

at the WELLINGTON OAK

Lunch 12.30 for 1 pm . AGM 2.15 pm approx

The Wellington Oak is on the main road A1079 just opposite the entrance to Canal Head. Good parking.

Traditional three-course lunch with coffee and a choice of starters and sweets. Around £6 per head, children half-price. Pay on the day but WE MUST HAVE BOOKINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE! Please ring:

York 623338 or Pock 304157. Gifts for the Stall and Raffle prizes would be very welcome.

SATURDAY MAY 20th at CANAL HEAD

GRAND PCAS BARBECUE 7.30 pm

Get yourself into Festival mood! An exciting and varied menu for you to cook yourself over red-hot charcoal. Liquid refreshments will be available. Please BOOK IN ADVANCE if you can so as to ease the catering. £2.50 if booked in advance, otherwise £3! £1.50 for children. Phone numbers as for AGM Lunch.

SUNDAY MAY 21st at CANAL HEAD

CANAL OPEN DAY 11 am to 5 pm

Displays, Entertainments, Stalls, Activities, Sketching and Painting, Short Boat Rides, Refreshments. Admission Free.

DO COME and BRING YOUR FRIENDS!