

DOUBLE NINE



Quarterly Magazine
of

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL
AMENITY SOCIETY



NOV. 1976

No. 31

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society



Registered Charity 500637

PATRONS—

THE EARL OF HALIFAX, J.P.,
H.M. LIEUT. YORKS. E.R.
SIR PAUL BRYAN, D.S.O., M.C., M.P.
ALEX LYON, M.P.
PATRICK WALL, M.C., V.R.D., M.P.
CLLR. T. E. SCAIFE, J.P., F.S.V.A.
J. CHICHESTER CONSTABLE, ESQ.
B. ALLISON, ESQ.

COMMITTEE

Chairman	E.A. LOUNT, Westfield Farm, Bampton Lane Flamborough. 'Phone: Bridlington (0262) 850019
Vice-Chairman	F.H. LOFT, 10 Regent Street, Pocklington, York. 'Phone: Pocklington 3100
Secretary	MRS. S.M. NIX, 74 Westminster Road, York YO3 6LY. 'Phone (York 0904) 23338
Assistant Sec. & Reporter	MRS. M. O'KELLY 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington 'Phone Pocklington (922) 2687 (non-committee)
Treasurer	D.G. TOMLINSON. MoD Police, RAF Saxa Vord. Haroldswick, Unst. Shetland (or via Secretary or Chairman)
Membership	MRS. A.M. NOWELL, 5 Lyndale Avenue. Osbaldwick, York. 'Phone (York 0904) 26275
Working Party Leader	MR. BOB PEARSON, Main Street, Londesborough. Market Weighton.
'99' Editor	MRS. S.M. NIX (see above) or contact Chairman or Assistant Secretary - and - Mrs. V. Barron, J.R. Henderson, Mrs. M. Ingleby Mrs. D.E. Lount, Mrs. A.M. Nowell, R. O'Kelly R. Pearson, L. Smith, F.E. Steels.
Hon. Auditors	PICKLES & CO., Chart. Accts. Selby
Hon. Consulting Engineer	C.T.G. Boucher, Ph.D., M.Sc., M.I. Struct. E., A.R.I.B.A.
Pock. Canal Boat Club Secretary	MRS. Y. HUITSON. 2 Runner End, Holme-on-Spalding Moor. 'phone Holme (069 63) 300 - or F.H. Loft. as above.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

SO NEAR YET STILL SO FAR!

Swing Bridge No. 4 has brought us in sight of Melbourne with its arm, its basin and its excellent canal village. And a number of boats are now mooring safely above flood level. Nevertheless three fixed spans still bar them from that final half mile or so to the end of 'stage one'. Roll on three more swing bridges!

THE 'SUBJECT PLAN' - HOPE SPRINGS...

PCAS funds will hardly stretch to three new modern swing bridges! In any case the Councils are at present working on their Pocklington Canal Subject Plan, with details prepared by BWB and discussed with the Society and various other bodies. Cash is currently in short supply of course but goodwill is much in evidence, figures have been heard mentioned, and - well we live in hopes!

GATES FOR THORNTON LOCK? PCAS OFFERS £1,000 TO BWB

Meanwhile time is ticking by! Setting aside the swing bridges we come to Thornton Lock, already (in 1970/71) fully cleaned out by Society volunteers, with wing walls repaired and its chamber in fair condition. A pair of gates here IS within our reach! £500 was raised towards Cottingwith Lock in 1971, and £250 given from Gardham Lock in 1975. One of the Society's stated aims is to raise money for restoration (as distinct from voluntary labour).

So, thanks always to our supporters who keep our funds so healthy, the Society committee resolved unanimously, on October 18th to write to BWB offering them £500 towards a pair of top gates for Thornton Lock, with a promise of a further £500 to come as soon as work can be put in hand on the bottom gates.

MAGAZINE DELIVERERS!

Could anyone undertake to deliver '99' to nearby members and help cut postage costs? Melbourne, Thornton, Allerthorpe and Pocklington areas especially.

FOR SOME IT WILL COME TOO LATE!

We're a patient lot on the whole but its time we got on a bit! Is it unreasonable, with sometimes hundreds of hours of freely given work under your belt, to dream of pottering round your 'own' canal in your own small boat just enjoying its peaceful charm? We think not! Yet the years advance and pensions shrink. Already for some most stalwart founder members that chance will come too late!

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE - THERE SHOULD BE!

Of course we all take our leisure and pleasure differently. Some, who work at desks and factory benches, long to roll their sleeves up and get dirty! Its very relaxing to the mind, and the nerves! Doing the job is nearly as good as seeing the end result! Big money and big machines can be exceedingly useful (we've been glad of them on the Pock) but they're not the ONLY way! There must always be some place for the ordinary volunteer. We are certainly glad to have you all on Pocklington Canal. You are certainly helping us. We hope we are doing something for you too!

CAMPAIGN FOR RIGHTS OF NAVIGATION - PCAS CONTRIBUTES
£25. TO IWA FIGHTING FUND

The recent Anglian Water Authority Bill sought amongst other things to give that Authority power to close any waterway in its region - for a short period or perhaps for ever! And that without any public right of appeal. This was only the first of at least five similar Parliamentary Bills to be presented in the near future by other Regional Water Authorities. What use restoring any of our waterways if it is even marginally possible for somebody such as the RWA to close the navigation without any right to lodge objections?



The Inland Waterways Association have won a notable victory in persuading Parliament to delete this objectionable clause from the AWA's Bill. The widespread support they enlisted also means that forthcoming bills by at least five other Water

Authorities are much less likely to include such high-handed powers. It means LESS LIKELIHOOD OF POCKLINGTON CANAL COMING UNDER RISK WITH NO RIGHT OF APPEAL! Unlikely it would ever happen? Maybe so - but vital it should be safeguarded AS BY RIGHT!

Fighting Parliamentary bills costs a lot of money! So IWA have set up a Fighting Fund - the CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHTS OF NAVIGATION. PCAS Committee decided we should send a contribution of £25. to this fund, which we did in October. John Taunton, General Secretary of IWA, has asked that their thanks be passed on to members.

S.O.S. FOR THE 'LINCOLN CASTLE'!

The coal-burning paddler 'LINCOLN CASTLE' is the last of the Humber ferries. She still operates a regular service between Hull and New Holland - but only until the new Humber Bridge starts to carry traffic.

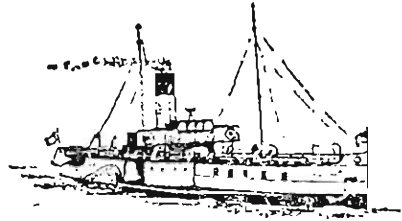
The HUMBER PADDLE STEAMER GROUP

was formed in 1973 in order to save her and, if possible, to keep her in use in some capacity on the Humber still.

The Group's achievements in the short time since it started leave one gasping! They have spread the message nationwide. They have worked up a vast clientele for their Sunday cruises when they have chartered 'LINCOLN CASTLE' specially for the day. The prodigious energy and enthusiasm of Esther and Barry Beadle have been responsible for much of this success.

It seems little short of scandalous that the Nationalised Board - i.e. British Rail - who own the steamer should now decide to cash in on the goodwill and publicity built up so painstakingly by the purely voluntary HPSG, and start to run their own special cruises. It appears they are not even willing to allow HPSG to sell small items on board to raise a bit of money! How mean can you get?

We feel sure many of our readers will wish to help HPSG to keep on campaigning and we draw their attention to the article by Barry Beadle, HPSG's Secretary on page 13.



HUMBER PADDLE STEAMER GROUP

WORKING PARTIES

Sunday 12th September - total monsoon!

We planned to restart work in earnest. Some hopes! Bob paddled his Land Rover down to Gardham Lock and they did their best to spot any would-be volunteers. It was a complete washout. We don't mind rain but this was total monsoon! (And Bob says please don't ever feel you HAVE to come in that sort of weather!)

Sunday 10th October - totally enjoyable

- Young helpers from Leeds

At Canal Head this time, with 32 volunteers and perfect sunny autumn weather. Enthusiasm was the keynote as about fifteen youngsters under the leadership of Adrian Simpson, a young member of the Calder Navigation Society, and Mr. David Higgins of Leeds (this is David Higgins the Second! Our 'own' David Higgins, also of Leeds - D.H. the First! - was also there, as he usually is) tackled the work with zest. In the morning they waded waist high the water removing reeds; then after lunch and warming up in woollies they joined PCAS volunteers.

- Coping Stones and Mooring Rings

The PCAS folks had been removing the massive coping stones to get at the brickwork underneath which needs repairing. Some of the stones, especially those on the warehouse side of the Basin could not even be seen and much spadework had to be done before they became visible again, complete with huge iron mooring rings which would be in use when it was a wharf and the boats tied up for loading and unloading. We hope to have some bricks for next time and to start repairs proper.

Sunday 14th November - fun but foggy!

- Help from York Conservation Corps

Early sunshine quickly turned to fog but there was a good turnout again, with DH (the Second!) and Adrian and party, and Adrian's

family, and also eleven stalwart members of York Conservation Corps under their leader B.H. Kibble, all of whom we were very glad to have working with us this month. (the YCC go round helping a variety of local conservation projects in turn and we are delighted that Pocklington Canal figures on their regular list).

- A start on re-bricking the Basin

With two loads of bricks on site now there was plenty to do. PCAS and YCC members sorted bricks, mixed cement and re-bricked two of the curving corners of the basin wall ready for replacing coping stones later on. Others continued extracting rubbish and under-growth from the wall on the warehouse side and made a mammoth bonfire.

- 'Tug o' Lighter' at Silburn Lock!

Meanwhile a new game to play, if you've got enough mud! Recipe: take one old lighter, submerged for many years in the water above Silburn Lock and dragged part way out several winters ago; take two Turfor winches, some heavy shackles, a tractor, and two Land Rovers; put DH's young enthusiasts behind the former to push and pile PCAS and IWA regulars and Henry R from BWB (not to mention Henry's dog!) onto the latter to add more weight - to pull!



A really good time was had by all and, despite the mud and slither, we did shift that lighter at least ten yards! Though, as somebody said before we ought to have put the water back in the canal, and the lighter too, and FLOATED her up to Canal Head! Perhaps we shall, one of these days!

Well, thankyou again to all our helpers! And here's to the next time.

FUTURE WORKING PARTY DATES - (SECOND SUNDAYS)

Sunday 12th December, Sunday 9th January,
Sunday 13th February, Sunday 13th March

Most likely at Canal Head, clearing and bricklaying etc., and shifting that lighter a bit further! Check with Bob Pearson or the Secretary for details, or with R.O'K.in Pock. There may be some woodworking too.

6
STILL ON WORKING PARTIES

THOSE JUNIORS AND DAVID HIGGINS (THE SECOND!) AND ADRIAN

David Higgins told N. O'K: 'It all began when I joined the Calder Navigation Society, which is one of the very few canal societies which has a Junior Section, and the Junior Section needed a new Leader! Then I met young Adrian here who was left trying to run it without much help so I took it on. We knew this Pock. Working Party was happening so I said I would provide transport if Adrian would get the youngsters together. At weekends I often take the youngsters for walks and we passed the word along, and then one of the lads said his parents would like to come along so that made 5 in their car and I brought nine in my Land Rover. A friend said his two daughters were interested and they brought four more friends (we often go on Land Rover rallies) We arrived at 9.30, before anyone else had arrived (i.e. on 12th October) but we had a good idea of what was wanted so got busy straight away on the coping stones. I am a great believer in keeping youngsters busy the whole time. We had the necessary tackle. We spent an hour loading up last night with shackles, ropes, chains etc., and winches, and another hour this morning before we left. We have helped on the Canal at Coventry and the youngsters are keen to go again this winter. They have paid their own expenses to come today!

(They cooked hot meals at lunch and teatime too. Smelt super!
ED)



S.O.S!! We have several most welcome offers of BRICKS already in addition to the two loads we bought and we are sorting out transport for same. BUT we could use a lot MORE!

We also look like needing more BRICKIE'S TROWELS. Any offers??

SOFT TOY MATERIALS! Have you any spare bits of wool, felt etc., if so send them to Mrs. Beadle, 40 Reynoldson St. Newland Ave, Hull. To help make toys for HPSG.

MEETINGS AND THE LIKE

We are sometimes asked when PCAS holds meetings. The Committee meets regularly once a month except in August. Working Parties are held on the Second Sundays in each month now again, after a spell when we were not able to arrange any.

We normally have a Rally or similar event in the summer. The Stall attends many functions through the summer season, and members and friends are exceedingly welcome at these. Speakers are often requested by outside bodies to talk about the Society and the Canal. Officers and committee meet council and waterway officials from time to time for consultations. The Society is regularly represented on the local IWA committee. It also liaises with other conservationist bodies, such as the Naturalists, the Village Trust etc.,

When it comes to general MEMBERS' MEETINGS We fall behind! AGM's have usually attracted a fair attendance (though not the last one!) but it seems difficult to find a place and style of meeting agreeable to enough members to make it worth while arranging these. There are not really enough of us in any one central place.

The SOCIAL EVENING at the Barron's at Pocklington, is a fresh idea. DO COME if possible. Meanwhile let us have your views!

IWA MEETINGS - The local Humberside Branch of the Inland Waterways Association hold regular meetings, mostly in Hull at the ASM Building in the University in Cottingham Road. PCAS members and friends are cordially invited to attend these and enjoy the opportunity to hear first-class speakers, slides etc., in friendly comfortable surroundings.

Is this better anyway than duplicating meetings?
Non-members of IWA can always put something extra in the coffee saucer!

JANUARY 21st! 'Our' Mr. Gerry Turner, BWB's Area Amenity Assistant, who backs our canal so enthusiastically, is the speaker at Hull on January 21st. Why not take this opportunity to come along and hear him?

OUR CHAIRMAN'S NEW ADDRESS: Our Chairman, Eric Lount, and Doreen have sold their farm at Thornton. As from 1st November they will be at : WESTFIELD FARM, BEMPTON LANE, FLAMBOROUGH, E.YORKS.
'phone: Bridlington (0262) 850019.

£9.70 RAISED BY MARKET WEIGHTON MEMBER IN GARDEN SALE

Congratulations and very grateful thanks to our members Mr. and Mrs. Sissons of Westfield Road, Market Weighton! They organised a Jumble Sale and cake and other stalls, in their garden one July Saturday and raised the welcome sum of £9.70p for Society Funds.

This was splendid. How about some other members following their lead? Perhaps you could have a coffee evening for a few friends, show some slides, baby-sit, collect newspaper (anyone with an empty garage or shed??) You probably have better ideas of your own. If even half of our members could do just SOMETHING to make a bit of money it could add substantially to the funds. How about it? Perhaps you could sell a few items from the Society Stall for us?

THANKYOU's

Thank you most sincerely to individuals and groups for donations received, often when you are struggling to boost your own funds too! Bridlington TWG, Pocklington M.U., WI's at Bishopthorpe, Moor Monkton and Alne, Brayton Wive's Group, Hull Tuesday Group, Beverley Police Wives. Thanks too to behind-the-scenes typist Mrs. Olive Leonard who always has our magazine envelopes ready to time. And to donors of bricks, raffle prizes, houses for committee meetings, and helping hands generally! There's an awful lot that's cheering around the place in spite of all the doom and gloom!

B.T.H. TRAILERS

BOAT TRAILERS FOR LIGHT DINGHIES, CRUISERS,
DEEP "V" POWER CRAFT,
DEEP "Q" SAILING BOATS,
ALL OTHER TYPES OF TRAILERS.

Local Agent: E. EXLEY, Cherrytree Cottage,
Melbourne, York. 'Phone: Mel. 472.

'SUGGESTION OF THE SEASON' - BRING OUT YOUR BRICKS!!

You have to hand it to Esther Beadle when it comes to bright ideas! Well, actually, Esther wants you all to hand it to US - the BRICK, that is, that you so wisely put into your cistern this summer to save a bit more water! So don't waste any more time now - get it wrapped in that nice Christmas paper and get it posted forthwith! As Esther says, you'll be helping our poor old G.P.O. as well as the poor old Pocklington Canal!

Seriously, though, thank you Esther! And seriously too, as she points out to her HUMBER PACKET readers, we DO want as many bricks as we can get to help on our current canal restoration work. So, as we have asked before, we ask again .. DO let us have any bricks you can muster, any number from ones to wagon loads!



FOR SALE! (from J.N., 74, Westminster Road, York.)

PCAS MEMBERS BADGE (ENAMEL) £0.50p.

PCAS CAR STICKERS £0.22p

BOAT CLUB PENNANTS £1.25p

'FLYING SAIL' by M. Ulyatt (1st hand accounts of old Humber keeling days, with old photos) £2.25p

'HULL AND COTTINGHAM CANAL PROJECT' by R.A. Bain £0.55p

DRIFFIELD NAVIGATION GUIDE by Biggin and Squire £0.28p

- all prices include p. and p. - all benefit PCAS.

BOATERS ON POCKLINGTON CANAL PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Our new Swing Bridges - you are to:

'SWING HIGH BUT SWING SLOW!' please!

Bridges 1 - 4 inclusive share with three bridges on the Ashton and five on the Leeds/Liverpool, the distinction of a new BWB design. We are informed that the 10 - 15 ton deck is precisely balanced on a single bearing at the pin and, while it requires some effort to start the bridge swinging once moving it will continue to the end of its travel WITHOUT ANY FURTHER PUSHING! If you DO push further it will gather too much speed and bang into the other end and cause damage!

It would be useful if notices to this effect were displayed on the bridges themselves. Still this item got Pocklington Canal onto the front page of 'Waterway News' (October) again, framed in blue and next to the IWA National Rally!

BOAT CLUB 'RALLY AND SOCIAL EVENING 18/19 SEPTEMBER

Not long before the event members of York Motor Yacht Club had said they would like to bring their boats round but they were afraid there wasn't enough water!! In the end NO boats could come - the whole area round Cottingham was UNDER FLOOD WATER! Too much at last, instead of too little, and no doubt a life saver A pity it had to be just that particular weekend, though! Still, a very good time was had by all on Saturday evening, not on the canal bank but in the shelter of Thornton Village Hall. Of course, not all of us share the same tastes music-wise. Some of us prefer it sweet and low. One Club member suddenly thought of the perfect solution - a hearing aid CAN have other uses. He just took his out!

THAT MORNING AFTER FEELING! SEASONAL HINT!

Morning after the night before? Perhaps you should try paw-paw! C.A. says its their favourite fruit. Tastes like a cross between melon and tinned peaches. Very good sprinkled with a bit of sugar and lime juice. Takes away that dry feeling in the throat!

Thanks Carol!

GIFTS . . . for CHRISTMAS

NO CHRISTMAS FAIR THIS YEAR

The committee decided not to hold a Christmas Fair this year. With most members living at some distance from any centre, dark evenings, dear petrol, and doubtful weather all add up to a doubtful attendance. Too big a risk of profits barely covering expenses, not to mention all the work involved. Instead we have arranged a SOCIAL EVENING in January at Val and Gordon Barron's house at Pocklington. Please see details on page 24. Also a bumper raffle (see page 9)

.. .. BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM PCAS STALL!



Attractive gift ideas include Wold Pottery mugs and jugs, etc., Norfolk pottery badged mugs, tea towels in variety, beautiful ribbon and pressed flower book markers, jewellery, painted stones, hand turned wooden plaques or ashtrays, copies of 'Flying Sail', 'Matchbox' cars, pocket knives etc.,

and (a few only) lace-edged plates specially made for PCAS. Also biros and other stocking fillers.

You can 'phone York (0904) 23338 (evenings) or we can bring a selection to some central point if several people are interested. Items can probably be got to you by hand if we know in good time. We can get them to places including Pocklington, Beverley, and Hull fairly easily.

BWB WATERWAYS CALENDAR 1977

Price £1.50 plus 30p postage. It has twelve large and excellent colour photographs of widely differing canals - all genuine canals, not reservoirs, lakes etc., and this is something I personally welcome. Also featured are brightly coloured paintings of traditional canal decoration, water cans, teapots, boats etc., Altogether a very attractive production. Available from: BWB, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JX. or from IWA Hull or from us (ORDER EARLY) S.M.N.

MORE ENTHUSIASTS RECRUITED

When the Pocklington Branch of the Mothers' Union were arranging their Annual Dinner this summer, they decided to go to The Blue Bell at East Cottingwith and in response to a request from them, this was combined with a short guided tour of points of interest on the Canal. On July 21st the party met outside the Ritz Cinema in Pocklington in members' cars and set off to discover Pocklington Canal. Some of them hardly knew it existed; others had wondered where it was but never managed to find it! In charge of their 'education' was committee member Raymond O'Kelly who took them first to Coates Lock to see the cascaded lock recently done by British Waterways Board. Then they went on to Church Bridge to admire the recently restored brickwork and hear something of its archaeological value. The next point of call was Melbourne Arm where the party was shown the fixed wooden bridge such as has been in use and then on to Storwood where in contrast they saw one of the new steel swing bridges and one of the ladies was invited to operate this, to demonstrate how easy it was to open. They eventually arrived at East Cottingwith, already running rather late for their dinner engagement, such was their enthusiasm, but just made time to see the restored lock there. They are still talking about what an enjoyable evening it was and some even wished they had not been going to dinner, so that they could have spent longer sampling the delights of the Canal and learning more of its history and about the work being done on its restoration. As a thank-you for their interesting tour, they gave a generous donation to Canal Society funds. An interesting sequel of this evening was that a few days later, several of the ladies took their husbands on the same conducted tour, themselves acting as guides with their newly acquired knowledge and a real enthusiasm.

M.O'K.

NEW AREA ENGINEER

BWB have recently appointed Mr. R.H. Arnold as Area Engineer at Castleford, in succession to Mr. Pyrah who is now Principal Engineer (North) at Leeds. We look forward to meeting Mr. Arnold soon. We hope he will not find this part of the world too flat after working in Wales.

TO SAVE A FERRY!

If work on the Humber Bridge had not fallen behind schedule the road linking North and South Humberside would already be open. The prolonged delays, mainly caused through difficulties on the south bank towers, have meant that the HUMBER PADDLE STEAMER GROUP, (formed in 1973) has had more time to gather support for the preservation of the steamer LINCOLN CASTLE. The LINCOLN CASTLE's two sisters, TATTERSHALL CASTLE and WINGFIELD CASTLE have been sold by 'British Rail' and towed to the south coast for static roles. But there has been a promise to keep the LINCOLN CASTLE until the suspension bridge opens, possibly in 1979.

To prove the demand for keeping the 36 year old steamboat operating the HPSG have chartered her on many occasions for public cruises as far inland as Goole and also to her port of registration, Grimsby. These have been Sunday sailings and have attracted thousands of visitors to Hull. In fact they have been so successful that the owners of the ship have decided to run their own excursions in 1977.

It looks as if HPSG have achieved their aim to 'SAVE A FERRY' but this is NOT so! British Rail have stated that their sole interest is to raise money to make the Hull - New Holland crossing viable. They are NOT intending to preserve the LINCOLN CASTLE - so the work of the Society MUST continue!

Like other voluntary societies, the HUMBER PADDLE STEAMER GROUP is in need of funds to carry on its campaign. The opportunity to raise money on board has been withdrawn so new sales outlets are being sought. Members are also turning their hands to soft toy making and would welcome any wool or any other raw materials which can be turned into funds.

- Please contact MRS. ESTHER BEADLE, 40 Reynoldson Street, Newland Avenue, Hull. 'phone 441270 Hull, if you can help. An S.A.E. would bring you a list of books, colour slides, calendars etc., as well as a specimen copy of the Group's newsletter 'HUMBER PACKET'

- Barry Beadle - Secretary H.P.S.G.

CRUISING ON A HUMBER KEEL .. ON THE THAMES!

by Raymond and Margaret O'Kelly

This year we enjoyed 'a holiday with a difference' when we spent three days on the good ship 'Guidance' and cruised the delightful stretch of the Thames from Windsor to Reading.

The 'Guidance', a humber keel, was built at Hull for Mr. Wm. Henry Schofield, the uncle of Mr. Fred Schofield who many of us know and who gave an illustrated slide talk on Humber Keels at our last AGM (which as already pointed out, was extremely poorly attended by members) The present owner of the boat is Mr. Maurice Dowdall who showed us photographs of its launching in 1906 and a large family picture of the Schofields, which included Fred as a small boy (so Maurice said - but Fred doesn't seem that old!?) We also saw a photostat copy of the Bill of Sale for the mast, rigging and sails which amounted to £33.50 only. Fred tells us that the sister ship which has just been fitted out cost £840 for hers and said that was at cheap rate; it should in fact have been over £1000. Another sister-ship, of course, is now moored on the River Foss at York as part of the Castle Museum.

About 1971 Mr. Dowdall bought the 'Guidance' still with a load of coal on it. In 1932 Mr. Fred Schofield had previously bought it, after captaining it for 4 years from 1928. In 1940 it was diesel fitted. It took Maurice Dowdall and his family a whole year to fit it out as a 1st class floating hotel, working hard every day of the year. The first job was to pour 26 tons of concrete into the hold (after the coal had been removed of course!) After its complete re-fit, it was then ready for service as a holiday barge, giving pleasure to all who cruise in her, especially American tourists.

We can enthusiastically and confidently recommend this holiday to anyone interested and we have some brochures we will be glad to give out, (on a non-commission basis I hasten to add!) in our desire to invite others to share the pleasure we had on this trip.

An added attraction was the Minibus tours we made en route, after mooring at overnight stops. The first night we were at Windsor after boarding in the afternoon and were able to sample some of the delights of this part of England's history, seeing over the Castle and in the evening wandering along to Eton. Next morning, we

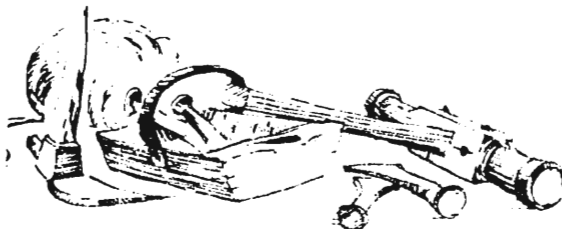
cruised through several locks, namely Clewer, Boveney and Bray, and also many things of interest were pointed out to us such as the Sounding Bridge, all brick, built by Brunel in 1846 which has never had to be repaired and Maidenhead Bridge, built in 1777 for horse traffic but still adequate today to take the present heavy traffic. After lunch on board, we were taken on a minibus tour to see an Antique Museum, the Vicar of Bray's house and Church, the old Almshouses at Bray and the National Trust Gardens at Cliveden. On rejoining the boat, we cruised through Maidenhead, Boulter's Lock, and Cliveden Reach, passing through Cookham Lock and Bourne End, before mooring for an overnight stay at Marlow, a delightful spot. The third day we were fortunate in that it was Henley Regatta and our minibus tour included a look around Henley and a glimpse of the fashions of the Regatta crowd and more Rolls-Royces than we had ever seen put together, all in the space of half an hour! We also visited Hurley Abbey, Bisham Abbey, now a centre for the training of P.E. teachers, and Fawley Court, a Polish Centre and School and Church. After returning to our mooring, we travelled again to Henley, this time by river! As we traversed the Regatta Course, it was fortunately tea-break but even so we had an escort boat belonging to the Thames Conservancy which escorted us and made us feel very important as the crowds lining the river banks were all watching our majestic progress! And as one of our American passengers remarked 'Isn't this exciting?!' - it certainly was!

All the locks looked very pretty and they had been taking part in the annual competition for the best kept lock and gardens. That night we moored at the Bridge, Sonning, near Reading and sat on the deck (after strolling round the village) all reluctant to end the day, the weather still being warm at 11.15 a.m. when we eventually retired for the night. Our cabins were very comfortable and Raymond seemed to get great delight from being able, whilst in bed, to touch, with his toes, the original wooden ribs of the keel's hull.

There was a crew of 4, plus a student doing a project, and there were only 10 passengers, 8 of whom were Americans, so we were well looked after! At first we wondered how we would get on, being the only English passengers but we all got on famously together and indeed were made to feel quite celebrities when it was

discovered we came from the same area as the Keel and that we actually knew the chap who had captained and owned her! And in the Visitors Book, in the remarks column, at the end of the holiday, one of our American passengers had written 'A nice sprinkling of natives' so we must have been accepted! - along with the English members of the crew, but even one of them was an American!

The morning of the 4th day we cruised the short distance to Reading and our bags were packed and taken, with us, in the Minibus to Reading Station where we said our farewells and went our separate ways, but not before we had promised Maurice we would be back, to do the rest of the journey which 'Guidance' does, from Reading to Oxford - so, as well as happy memories, we also have happy hopes of another such enjoyable holiday.



M. O'K

CAVALCADE OF BOATS AND 'COMRADE' UNDER SAIL

On Saturday September 3rd COMRADE, so magnificently restored to sail by the Humber Keel and Sloop Preservation Society, with some twenty smaller boats behind her, set off from Beverley Beck for Hull. Aim of the Cavalcade was to draw attention to the lack of mooring and other facilities for small boats in and around Hull. All the boats carried stickers 'SAVE HUMBER DOCK FOR BOATS!'

The Cavalcade, organised by Humberside Branch of IWA and marshalled by Mr. Denis Daniels of Hull Bridge Boat Club, travelled down the river Hull and streamed out into the Humber, horns blowing as they circled round COMRADE with all sails set and our good friend Captain Fred Schofield at the helm.

Several PCAS members took part in the procession and the magnificent entry into the Humber. Two of them subsequently made passage back to Pocklington Canal, one finally reaching Cottingham by moonlight!



THE BOAT MUSEUM - THE N.W. MUSEUM OF INLAND NAVIGATION

The canal basins and buildings at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire date back to the late eighteenth century when the village of Netherpool became the port of the Ellesmere Canal. No longer required for commercial use the top basin and its surrounding area have been leased at a 'peppercorn' rent to a recently formed society of enthusiasts and experts led by well-known canal author and enthusiast, Dr. David Owen, of the Manchester Museum.

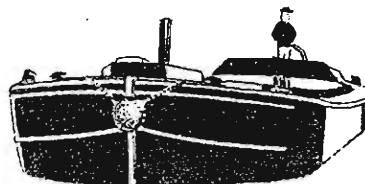
They have already restored much of the island warehouse and the 1795 tollhouse (both listed) and the pumphouse with its engines. A traditional working boatyard is being recreated and the aim is to furnish it with working blacksmith's, carpenters', tinsmiths' shop etc., with traditional craft moored alongside, just like a canal port in its heyday. The boats will travel the waterways from time to time and the whole project will, it is hoped, be integrated with other museums such as Stoke Bruerne too.

Weekly working parties have already rescued and helped to restore the icebreaker 'Marbury', the cast iron tug 'Worcester', the 'long boat' 'Scorpio' and the 'short boat' 'George' from the Leeds/Liverpc Canal, the Yorkshire 'West Country' Keel 'Ethel' (at York for the National Rally), and others. There will be boat furniture, costume educational facilities etc., The Museum will be linked with Chester and its Zoo by horsedrawn trip boats, and, since it lies at the end of the Shropshire Union Canal and close to the contrasting modern Manchester Ship Canal, visitors can come by water from all parts of the country.

The Museum was formally opened last June but money, help and exhibits are all **URGENTLY REQUIRED!** So many irreplaceable items need saving **BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!** CAN YOU HELP?? Subs are £1.50, £1.00, and 50p for students and juniors. Write to: A. and L. Millward, 242 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester, M16 OBJ for details.

(Reprinted, with the Editor's permission, from the CRAVEN HERALD of 29th August. The HERALD being produced at Skipton, 'the canal' means their own Leeds/Liverpool)

As the bike wheel hit the crown of the bridge I looked over the parapet automatically to see if anything was 'on the Cut'. Usually it was a glimpse of empty water or - on summer days - a plastic pleasure boat or cruising narrow boat but today was different, for there 'popping' majestically towards Skipton was a large and portly commercial barge.



True, she was empty, but her paintwork shone and the newly worked name said 'EVERTON' with LIVERPOOL as her port of registration. Picked out in neat blue lettering I read PEARSON AND BARNETT, CANAL HAULAGE, WORCESTER. Tel. 51867. Standing astern the engine house and lightly holding the tiller was a 'slip of a girl' (if she will pardon the expression) delicately but so confidently persuading that large 62' long chunk of steel and wood to float gently into the lock ahead - rather like a thumb sliding into a well-worn glove.

June - as was her name - was First Mate the skipper being one half of the Pearson and Barnett partnership. 'Yes', he said, 'we're on passage from Liverpool to the Soar navigation near Leicester, on charter to David Lowe of Shipley (Apollo Canal Carriers). The 'Everton' was originally built in 1953 for a Bootle firm and her 63 tons carrying capacity was used for 'slinging' mud into the Mersey'. Now, in the hands of her new owner she has been refurbished and she will be employed ferrying gravel and aggregate from a site in Leicestershire to a nearby cement mixing plant.

With 'EVERTON' drawing about a foot more draught than the modern pleasure craft, she had had some problems particularly between Wigan and Higherford where rubbish dumped in the canal was a chore, the worst being a mattress that wrapped itself round the propeller.

The crew were enthusiastic about the Leeds/Liverpool Canal, especially the Greenberfield-Gargrave section. From Skipton they were sailing to Bingley and Leeds - then down the Aire and Calder Navigation, and on to the Trent, via the New Junction Cut if open, otherwise via Goole and the Trent Falls.

The young skipper, an accountant by profession, preferred to take his entrepreneurial chance on the 'Cut' ferrying gravel and 'Doing his own thing' after all he'd achieved his ambition in owning 'EVERTON' - for, after seeing a model of her in the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne, he's had a mind to own her one day.

FROM NIGERIA!

by Carol Alden

'99' certainly gets around the world! Carol Alden writes from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, to say their last copy arrived safely and speedily in Nigeria but passed through several other interested readers before Gerald finally got it home for the family.

During all our drought and sunshine Port Harcourt was 'enjoying' non-stop rain! Nothing daunted, however, Carol and Gerald paid a visit to the local yacht club and Carol has sent us this account:

SMALL BOATS AT PORT HARCOURT :: :: :: We live in Port Harcourt which is built in the delta of the River Niger. From our flat windows we can watch the tide coming in and out of the creek so, although we have left the canal system we love behind, we are still surrounded by water.

We had been here a little while when we were asked to go to the Port Harcourt Yacht Club Dance. 'A yacht club?' we asked, 'Boats?' With all the water about we began to feel on home ground again. Suitably dressed we set off, following our friend who was showing us the way. Traffic here has to be seen to be believed so I still don't know where the Yacht Club is. I travelled most of the way gripping my seat with my eyes tightly shut! Gerald assures me we took the road past the docks entrance. At which point I HAD to open my eyes! The road was now a track.

I had to look to brace myself against the potholes! It made the Cottingwith towpath look like the motorway.

The track turned, crossed a swamp, turned again and there in all its glory was the Port Harcourt Yacht Club. 'Yacht' is a bit of a misnomer as, except for the few minutes before it rains, the lack of wind has made most of the members turn to power. A few brave souls are willing to brave the rain in order to sail.

The other boats include a couple of 15 foot Shetlands with big 45 Mercury's on the back and an amazing selection of completed, part completed and newly started home-made boats. We did try to concentrate on the dancing but, finally, curiosity got the better of us. We had to go and look at all those boats! They warned us not to fall off the jetty as the mud there is waist deep. But we still felt we would like to have a look. Excitement, or maybe the bar, had dulled our senses because we had not noticed the breeze that had sprung up. And the rains decided it was time to set in. Those people who know how it can rain here will understand why we changed our minds!

We turned our attention to the clubhouse. A very well designed building, not too big, but big enough for a small dance. Facilities for storage, toilets and showers, very clean too, and with a bar and kitchen properly equipped. All in all the type of clubhouse that would grace any type of mmorings anywhere.

We had a very enjoyable night out and met several people with the same interests as ourselves. No water shortages! We are in the latter part of the Nigerian winter (end of August) and that can mean more rain in two days than you have seen all the year! But one thing here I shall be glad to have no more contact with, the sandflies. A small fly that makes its presence felt in no uncertain terms: a penalty, I am told, of going to the Yacht Club. Having been bitten 38 times on the ankles in 5 hours I think I will just sit at my window and watch the tide come in and out of the creek and dream of our slightly weedy, sandfly-free, beautiful Pocklington Canal.

Carol Alden.

ENGLISH

Established 1884

AUCTIONEERS; VALUERS, ESTATE AGENTS
and SURVEYORS

AGENTS FOR: *The Leeds Permanent Building Society*

AUCTION MART: *York Livestock Centre*

*For a wide range of TOWN & COUNTRY properties
in both the POCKLINGTON & BEVERLEY areas*

VALUATIONS, SALES, PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT

R.M. ENGLISH & SON

1 Market Place, Pocklington, York.

Telephone: Pocklington 2555/
2185

42 Toll Gavel, Beverley,

Beverley

882406

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF PCAS

(or RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP)

Please complete the form below and send with your remittance to: Mrs. A.M. Nowell, 5, Lyndale Avenue, Osbaldwick, York. (or hand it to any Committee member). Thank you!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES I wish to join PCAS.....

Individual Adult £1.00 I wish to renew my subscription.....
 Individual Junior £0.40

Please tick as necessary

Family or Joint Membership Total subscription
 (husband, wife and all children enclosed
 under 18 years of age) £1.50

Corporate £3.00 Age of Junior Members

Name - Enamel Member's
 Badge 40p

Address + 10p. p.p.
 - Please enquire for
 details of Covenants
 and Life Membership

Phone No:

BANKERS ORDER

To: BANK

.....

Please pay to Midland Bank Ltd., POCKLINGTON, York (40-37-01)
 for the credit of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society Account
 No. 20674451 the sum ofnow and on January 1st
 annually.

Name

Address

.....

DIARY OF EVENTS

Frid. Nov. 26	IWA Hull but at York, 8 p.m. St. Olave's Hall, Marygate, Slide Show on Local Waterways. Coffee and Bookstall.
Sun. Dec. 12th	PCAS Working Party - probably Canal Head. (Phone Sec. nearer time)
Fri. Dec. 17th	IWA Hull. Cheese and Wine Party and Slide Talk. Tickets 75p All welcome
Sun. Jan. 9th	PCAS Working Party
Fri. Jan. 14th	PCAS Social Evening at Mr. and Mrs. Barron's home, 13 St. Helen's Drive, Chapel Hill Pocklington (see page 24)
Fri. Jan. 21st	IWA Hull, Mr. G.A. Turner BWB Castleford (Area Amenity Assistant)
Sun. Feb 13th	PCAS Working Party
Fri. Mar 4th	IWA Region Dinner, at the Cornmill Stamford Bridge. Tickets £3.85 per head from G. Boswell, The Briars, Clifford Rd. Bramham W. Yorks. S.A.E. please!
Sun. Mar 13th	PCAS Working Party



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FALL DUE SHORTLY!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS! ARE YOU ON THE PROPER RATE?

PCAS Membership rates have deliberately been kept low so as not to prevent anyone who is interested from joining. Nevertheless there are still annumber of members paying at the OLD rates! This includes quite a few who pay by BANKER'S ORDER - if this applies to you PLEASE could you put your contribution right when you renew your sub in the New Year when renewals fall due!

Current rates are all set out in the Membership Form on the opposite page. Please send a note to your bank if you pay by Banker's Order! We do not send out separate acknowledgements simply to keep down the awful postage costs. We ARE very grateful for your continuing support nonetheless!

DON'T FORGET

PCAS SOCIAL EVENING - FRIDAY , 14th JANUARY

7.30 p.m. onwards at 13, ST. HELEN'S DRIVE, CHAPEL HILL,
POCKLINGTON, (opposite Woldgate School)

Gordon and Val Barron have offered their house, the committee are preparing sandwiches, savouries etc., Please bring something sweet (to eat!) with you, to add to the spread.

Come and meet fellow members and have a festive, sociable informal, enjoyable evening!

We hope to lay on a few slides or films of recent doings, perhaps the odd competition. But if you just want to talk that's fine!

BOOK THE DATE NOW!! FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th!!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE ON JANUARY 1st !

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL REMINDER! These cost money which could be put to better use! Membership renewals fall due on January 1st. Please let us have yours! Deliver it to any committee member or bring it to a meeting and save yourself postage too!

THANKYOU ALL!

Merry Christmas
— Happy New Year

TO ALL OUR READERS
AND SUPPORTERS



George Cooper & Sons
(COAL) LTD.

Deans Lane,
POCKLINGTON, York
Telephones 3185 & 3075



Wholesale Distributors throughout
the East Riding
of all Grades of

HOUSE COAL,
COKE,
COALITE,
PHURNACITE

GRAND THORNTON LOCK RAFFLE

THORNTON LOCK RAFFLE

Having just offered £1,000 to BWB to help speed restoration, and as there will be no Christmas Sale this year (see note on page 11.), we decided to run a THORNTON LOCK RAFFLE! This is one way ALL members, however distant from the canal, can support the work of the Society and help replenish the coffers again!

There are some exciting and unusual prizes to be won, prizes which should appeal to all sorts of people, not only to canal lovers! All have been most generously donated. Tickets are enclosed with this magazine. Please try to sell all you possibly can between now and early February. The raffle is to be drawn on THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17th, - more tickets available.

The FIRST PRIZE is CASH and all the money for this has been donated, by our Patron Lord Halifax and by other very generous supporters.

Other super prizes donated include:

1. Glider flight voucher (time to be fixed as convenient to winner) - courtesy Wolds Gliding Club
 1. Hot Air Balloon flight - courtesy J.R. Henderson Esq., Trip for 2 on the Keel 'COMRADE' UNDER SAIL - courtesy Sailing Master Fred Schofield and HKSPS
 1. Bag of Potatoes - courtesy H.S. Thirsk and Son
 1. Bag of Potatoes - anonymous
- Bottles of Sherry etc., and various other prizes

This represents some exciting and unusual prizes and the Society are most grateful to all the generous donors.

NOW please - SELL ALL THE TICKETS YOU CAN and make these gifts doubly valuable to the restoration scheme!

Cash and counterfoils to: R. O'Kelly,
15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, York.
(or to a committee member)

Not later than SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th 1977