

DOUBLE NINE

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY
MAGAZINE



October 2022

Issue 126



The pair of swans that frequent the Melbourne Arm, set off down the canal with their 2022 family of eight cygnets.

Editorial

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Welcome to your October 2022 issue of Double Nine!

It is a packed magazine this month. The Annual Dinner takes place on the 27th November at 12.30pm and the venue is the Black Horse, Seaton Ross. Places are limited so early booking is strongly advised to avoid disappointment.

The recent very warm weather has resulted in a lowering of the water level in the canal. This in turn meant that use of the locks had been temporarily stopped and our tripboat had to remain in the Arm at Melbourne for a few weeks. However, the recent rain has improved matters and things are getting back to normal.

When you read your Double Nine magazine it is incredible to see the vast amount of work that PCAS volunteers undertake so willingly and diligently, without reward or recognition, to make the canal a beautiful place for all to visit. Enjoy your canal!

Malcolm Slater
Editor

Front Cover:

Robbie Cumming, star of the BBC 4 programme "Canal Diaries", is seen here on his boat *Naughty Lass* leaving Walbut lock after a trip to the Bielby Arm on the 1st July.

Rear Cover:

One of the first visiting boats *Girl 1A* arrived over the Easter period. It later left the canal and then headed for Blisworth on the 15th February.

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Copy Date February 2023 Issue

Closing date for articles and reports for the February 2023 issue is the **7th January 2023**. Submissions received after this date will be held over until the next available issue.

Opinions expressed in this magazine is not necessarily those of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, its Chairman or Committee.

Chairmans Column

It has been a long and hot summer with very little rain. As a consequence, the Pocklington Canal, like many other canals, has been short of water, and restrictions placed on boat movements. Unfortunately our tripboat, New Horizons, has been unable to operate during much of the peak season. Not only have our regular Sunday trips not been taking place, but a number of charters have been cancelled.

It is unfortunate that many people who have turned up for short trips on Sundays have been disappointed. It is equally unfortunate that the Society has lost much of the revenue that our tripboat would have generated. This, of course, follows two years when boat trips were severely curtailed by Covid.

Sandhill Lock

I regret to have to report that, so far as the restoration of Sandhill Lock is concerned, very little has changed since I last wrote in Double Nine. Correspondence with CRT's Chief Executive Officer, Richard Parry, has continued, but his stance remains much the same. That is that the Society must pay for a consultant of CRT's choice to oversee the works. The consultant has been nominated and the basis of his charges supplied. After scrutinising these charges, we have come to the conclusion that the cost is likely to be very high, and out of proportion with any benefit. Consequently, we do not feel able to pursue this course. For the present, we are continuing the correspondence in the hope that CRT will soften its position.

One point has emerged from the correspondence that sheds some light on the stance that CRT are adopting. Whilst their earlier arguments were based on safety issues and compliance with regulations, it now seems that there may be financial considerations involved. It has been pointed out to us that there is a serious backlog of maintenance in the Yorkshire region. CRT have also pointed out that the government funding that it has received since it became a charity is no longer assured. Putting these two points together, it may well be that the real reason for CRT being hesitant to allow the Society to restore Sandhill Lock is that it fears that restoration may bring some financial liabilities in the years to come.

Dredging

The committee has been discussing whether, in the absence of progress at Sandhill Lock, the Society should turn its attention to dredging. The proposal is that a length of the canal around Coates Lock should be dredged. This would allow Coates Lock to be brought back into use and an additional half mile of the canal to become navigable. The works would

include the clearance of an original winding hole just above Coates Lock allowing boats to turn.

Currently, we are investigating this proposal. Regulations require that the material to be dredged would have to be analysed in case there is any toxic content. Suitable land would have to be found for the disposal of the dredged material. Once a dredging plan is drawn up, the necessary consents would have to be sought.

So long as the Sandhill project is stalled, there is considerable sense in shifting our attention to dredging, so we shall be developing this proposal further in the coming weeks.

Hope in the future

The Society has been passing through some difficult times due to both Covid and our inability to progress the works at Sandhill Lock. However this is nothing new. We have had similar periods in the past, and, no doubt, will have in the future. Nevertheless, we persist. We can look back with pride on many achievements since the foundation of the Society in 1969, despite the current troubles, I have no doubt that times will improve, and that we will see our project through to completion in the years to come. The important thing is that we do not give up hope.

Paul Waddington



Above left: The section of canal between the Bielby Arm and Coates Lock was extensively dredged in 2017 as part of the Lottery Bicentenary funding. This is the section of canal which PCAS are seeking to reopen to boats.

Above right: CRT contractors cut back reed growth around the winding hole immediately above Coates Lock in 2020.

The Chairman & the PCAS Committee wish to thank all the people who have given donations to the society.

Working Party Report

As will be seen from the Chairman's report, restoration of Sandhill lock has still not begun, so work has been concentrated on the rest of the canal in way of bridge painting, general tidying and bank repairs.

The work boat certification & licensing is now all in place and the boat has been put to good use transporting materials for isolated bank repairs and as a work platform for bridge painting and the rebuilding of No7 bridge buffer housing. Unfortunately the boat has a deeper draft than the others in the fleet so care is needed in balance & loading so it does not "bottom out". The lack of rain and consequential low water levels have compounded this situation lately with boat activity being severely restricted.

In view of the above and as it was unfortunately built without one, it has become necessary to contemplate lifting the work boat out of the water to manufacture and fit a weed hatch. This is looking like a job which could be done soon while use is restricted. In the meantime, despite having had CRT contractors cutting weed from Walbut down to East Cottingwith in early July, due to the low water and constant sunshine over the last few weeks, the weed in the canal is growing rapidly up from the bottom of the canal. Instead of just collecting loose weed 'islands' we now need to refit the cutters to the weed boat do some serious weed cutting.

Finally, by virtue of purchasing a submersible pump and combining this with our portable generator and recently gifted a pressure washer, we now have a portable system for cleaning off bridges etc, before painting. It works well!

Many thanks, as ever, to the work party members who keep turning out in rain and sunshine, to help maintain the canal in good shape.

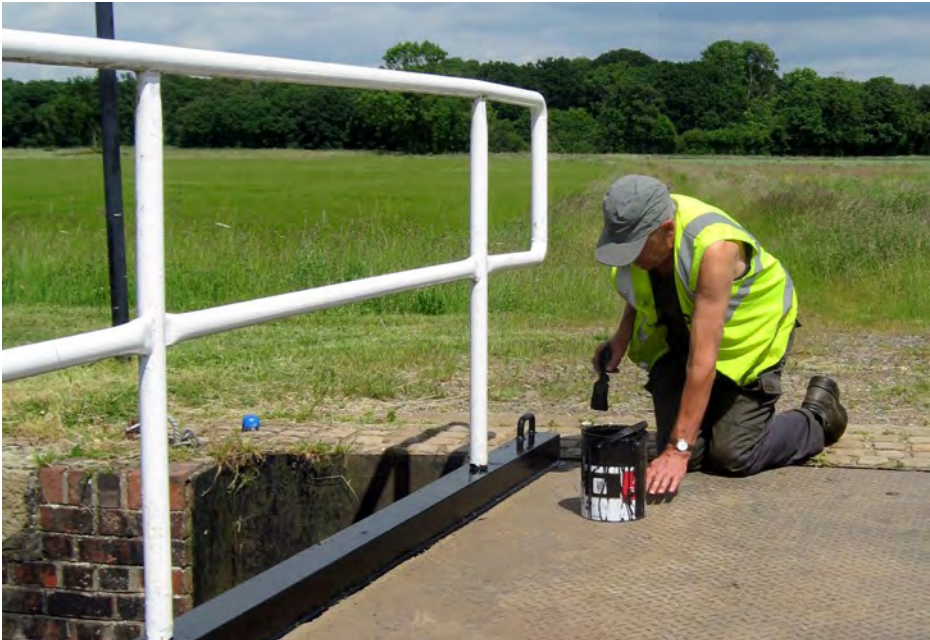
Cheers, Richard Harker, Working Party Supervisor

Left:
Gardham Lock receives a fresh coat of paint on the 12th July.





Above:
Pressure washing bridge No6 prior to repainting.



Above:
Repainting underway at bridge No8.



Above:
Towpath repairs keep the PCAS volunteers busy throughout the year.



Above:
PCAS volunteers enjoy a well earned break on the 5th July.

Canal & River Trust News



Left:

Taken near bridge No6. Canal and River Trust contractors started weed cutting from Walbut Lock down through to East Cottingwith in early July.

Right:

CRT contractors collecting the cut weed around bridge No7 on the 8th July.



Left: Weed cutting near bridge No5 on the 13th July.

Below left: The offside paddle at Cottingwith lock was causing problems and jamming.

Also at Cottingwith the foot boards on the lower gates were replaced, as was the depth gauge. All these were fixed by CRT within days.



Annual General Meeting of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society held at the Black Horse, Seaton Ross on Wednesday 15th June 2022

Welcome and introduction

The Chairman welcomed members of the Society to the first face-to-face meeting since 2019.

Present

Sixteen members were present while a number had apologised for absence and so the meeting was considered quorate.

Apologies

There were apologies from Roger Bromley, Sue and John Dickins, D. Hempstock and partner, John Lewis, David Morris, Malcolm Slater, Maggie West, Ed and Judy Westerby.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were adopted, proposed by Bob Ellis and seconded by Graham Ball.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Chairman's Report

The chair had prepared a written report (attached). He commented on various aspects, with particular emphasis on thanks to David Thomlinson, a founder member of PCAS, who had recently died. Bob Ellis asked if the society intended to honour his memory and a discussion ensued on how to do this without resorting to more plaques or benches, both of which had raised problems in the past. The Committee would discuss this further.

Presentation of the 2020 -2021 Accounts

Copies of the accounts for 2020 and 2021 were circulated. The treasurer was absent and so discussion was limited. The chair noted that these had been atypical years because of the Covid restrictions in activity. The accounts showed a net surplus of £8719 compared to £1063 in the previous year. It was noted that some that there remained some funds in the Bicentenary Appeal fund which had been intended for landing stages at Swingbridge No 8. This task remained unfinished because although Canal and River Trust (CRT) had undertaken to do the job it remained to be done.

Subject to the correction of a typo the accounts were approved unanimously, proposed by Debbie Smith and seconded by Howard Anguish.

Restoration

The Chairman explained that nothing had changed since the last AGM. PCAS had yet to agree a way forward with CRT for the restoration of Sandhill Lock and were now in communication direct with the CEO Richard Parry. Three approaches had been proposed by CRT:

1. Abandon the project, leaving the lock derelict.
2. Use a CRT recommended consultant to oversee the project.
3. Use a CRT approved contractor to carry out the project, using PCAS volunteers where appropriate.

Nobody wished to choose the first approach, while the second would involve an open-ended commitment which might use all the funds raised through the appeal and from East Yorkshire Council without completing the project. So the PCAS project team was now actively considering the third approach and a contractor had been asked to submit estimates for some of the major aspects of the project such as piling and scaffolding.

Other issues still requiring resolution were the submission of the listed building consent application for the works and the timing of drawing down funds from East Yorkshire.

Interim solutions to extend the navigation were discussed including the possibility of reopening Coates Lock and making/dredging a winding hole closer to Sandhill. Issues would arise over spoil disposal but Natural England May have funds for such work under the heading of “channel management”.

One member queried whether PCAS had the capability to carry out major works and wondered about the use of the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) to do some of the work. The chair pointed out the expertise available but was concerned about using WRG as we had to cancel them in the past following the intervention of government agencies concerned with protection of the wildlife in the canal.

Election of the Committee

As all members of the Committee had been elected at the 2021 meeting, they were all midway through their two-year terms and so no elections were needed.

There was discussion about the need to shadow some of the key posts, in case of illness or other issue. Debbie Smith will be shadowing the Treasurer but there was a need for new people to get involved as it was known that some members of the committee will not continue after the 2023 AGM.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

Tony Farmer had indicated his willingness to continue and was duly reappointed.

Any Other Business

One member praised the new website, but asked about the availability of the 99 magazine as only old issues to be available. Discussion ensued with concern that non-members shouldn't have free access to a benefit which members paid for. The Committee would discuss this; one member suggested we could have a member-only area of the website to overcome this issue.

Grass cutting was a concern for some, especially at Canal Head. It was explained that contractors had been recently replaced and the new team was still getting up to speed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:11, after which Alistair Anderson showed some videos documenting the early efforts in restoration of the canal.

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Chairmans Report to the AGM

OVERVIEW

I joined the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society more than 40 years ago. As is often the way with voluntary organisations, I soon found myself with a job to do - that of working party organiser. A year or two later, a dispute developed between certain committee members that threatened the future of the society. As about the only committee member who has not identified with one or other side of the argument, people looked to me to take on the chairmanship; and so I got the job. That was 35 years ago.

During my years as chairman, I have seen fortunes (and consequently effectiveness) of the society ebb and flow several times. It is not so much that the society's enthusiasm for our objective of full canal restoration has ever diminished, but rather that there have been obstacles preventing our making progress. For many years the obstacle was a contention in certain quarters that the Pocklington Canal should serve as a nature reserve, and that restoration was not compatible with that objective. Fortunately, after much debate, this objection has been overcome, and we now enjoy

good relations with English Nature and the wildlife interests.

The difficulties that beset PCAS at the present time relate much more to our relationship with the Canal and River Trust (CRT). In the past, CRT and its predecessors seemed happy for the society to organise various restoration tasks provided that we did not upset too many people. Now it seems that CRT wish to be in full control of every aspect of our work, and we are finding it very difficult to satisfy their requirements.

SANDHILL LOCK

When I look back at the report that I made to last years AGM, I cannot help feeling that there has been virtually no progress with the restoration of Sandhill Lock. I said then that the society was in discussions with CRT about the manner in which works would be carried out, and that we were still waiting for CRT to make application to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for Listed Building consent. This still remains the situation today.

RECOVERING FROM COVID

Like practically every other organisation, the normal run of PCAS activities was severely disrupted by the Covid epidemic. Happily we now seem to have that behind us. Since Easter, our tripboat, New Horizons, has resumed its usual pattern of public trips on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and chartered trips at other times. Our usual programme of outdoor and indoor events is also beginning to return to normal. Working parties are taking place much as in pre-Covid days. Our information centre at Canal Head is open whenever we are able to staff it, and our magazine, Double Nine continues to be published three times a year.

WEBSITE

Members may have noticed that the society has a new website. Although this was largely forced upon us by previous hosting arrangements no longer being satisfactory, we have taken the opportunity to adopt a more modern format and introduce some new features. It is now possible for donations to be made through the website, and for merchandise to be purchased online. We are looking into whether membership renewals can also be handled online.

COMMITTEE

I would like to thank all committee members for the work that they have done over the last year. As it happens, all have a further year to serve, so we do not need to hold elections this year. However, our treasurer, Sue Dickins, has given us notice that she will be retiring at the 2023 AGM, and it is likely that

other committee members will be doing the same. In order that we do not have too abrupt a change next year, it has been suggested that we should be looking for new officers who can operate in a shadow capacity. I would welcome contact from anyone interested in helping with the management of the society, especially as treasurer.

DAVID TOMLINSON

Long standing members may know that David Tomlinson was a founder member of the society and served on its committee, both as treasurer and vice-chairman, until he became too old to travel from his home in Stafford. David Tomlinson died recently. Along with the society's founder and first chairman, Eric Lount, and the society's long time secretary, Sheila Nix, David will be remembered for the huge contribution that he made to the work of the society.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for supporting this society and its objective of ensuring the restoration of the full length of the Pocklington Canal.

Paul Waddington



The rebuilding of Bridge 5 was one of the first major projects that PCAS undertook on the canal, the work was completed on the 23rd April 1981. Pictured on the bridge, (Left to Right) are: Raymond O'Kelly, Gordon Barron, David Tomlinson, Val Barron & British Waterways lengthsman & lock-keeper, Henry Richardson.

New Horizons boat trips in the unpredictable summer of 2022

After the two Covid-affected years of 2020 and 2021, we were looking forward to a good run of boat trips, entertaining families on Sundays on the open trips, and groups of people who had booked longer trips on other days. The season went well until early July, with regular Sunday and Bank Holiday trips, albeit with fewer people than in previous good years (and reduced receipts from donations). We managed to run seven booked trips up until the first week of July, when the problems started. The starter motor for “New Horizons” engine had been showing a bit of recalcitrance but had only once prevented trips taking place. At the same time, heavy weed growth (which PCAS is only allowed to tackle once a month in agreement with Natural England) was causing problems, while the lack of rainfall through the early part of the year was having an impact on water levels. A couple of booked trips in the first week of July took much longer than planned and at the same time it became apparent the starter motor was at the end of its coaxing capacity, and needed replacement. As it figuratively never rains but pours (if only it would do it literally!), the PCAS committee member able to carry out the replacement was incapacitated due to Covid. So the help of an engineer based in Goole was obtained and after a short period the starter motor was replaced. We then managed one booked trip and one Sunday before the decision was taken to suspend all trips because it was becoming difficult to navigate the canal due to the low water. Canal and River Trust closed the canal in respect of lock usage, along with various other canals in our region and beyond.

The rain at the beginning of August meant that water levels improved a little and so we resumed Sunday trips as an experiment. By the time this is published I hope that we have had a long period of rainfall and can make up for the inevitable disappointment of people who had planned short and long trips on our beautiful canal by offering alternative dates in September and October. The impact is of course wider because the trips are one of our principal money-earners.

Steve Ashby, Crew and Trip manager for New Horizons.

PCAS ANNUAL DINNER 2022

Date: 27th November.

Venue: The Black Horse. Seaton Ross.

Time:12.30

Limited availability. Early booking advised.

See pages 18 & 19 for full details.

Tackling the Himalayan balsam at Melbourne Basin

Steve Ashby reporting on this invasive species

Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is recognised as an invasive alien species. It was introduced, like many other problem plants, by Victorian plant hunters for gardeners who wanted something more exotic to grow.

It has become one of the UK's most invasive weed species, colonising damper areas including river and canal banks. It successfully competes with native plant species for space, light, nutrients and pollinators, thereby reducing native biodiversity. As an annual plant, Himalayan balsam dies back in the Winter and, where the plant grows in river systems, can leave river banks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion. Dead plant material can also enter the river, increasing the risk of flooding. (taken from:<https://www.invasive-species.org/species/himalayan-balsam/>)

Research has been going ongoing for some years to find a biological control for Himalayan Balsam. A rust fungus *Puccinia komarovii* var. *glanduliferae* from India was approved for release into the wild in the UK in July 2014. However, due to the presence of some rust-resistant populations, an additional rust strain from Pakistan was approved for release in 2017. To date, the rust has been released at more than 50 sites in England and Wales and in 2020 it was released into Scotland for the first time. Although early days, the results are encouraging; the rust has established at numerous sites, successfully overwintered with the development of good levels of leaf infection during the following growing season and spread naturally more than 100 metres. (Taken from: CABI. [Progress with Weed Biocontrol Projects](#), November 2021).

Until the fungus establishes over a much wider area, physical control is going to be necessary to try to prevent the plant becoming dominant and annihilating native species. The plant is a problem at various locations along the canal, especially near Coates Lock and around Melbourne basin. On 22nd and 23rd July a working party was arranged by Canal and River Trust to tackle the Himalayan balsam at Melbourne. The land on the West side of the basin is owned by the Carstairs Countryside Trust cctorg.uk and their cooperation was obtained so that the working party could tackle the whole area. Carstairs had created a gravel path through the woodland earlier in the year but the balsam had completely hidden this path. Beekeepers are known to be fond of the plant, because it is a good source of pollen late in the flowering season. For some people, however, it can cause a severe allergic reaction.

Good progress was made by the groups of five (including one PCAS member) which met on Friday 22nd and six on Saturday but the scale of the task proved daunting, with balsam growing to well over two metres and

forming dense stands which excluded any other plants. As a few of the plants were starting to “pop” and release their seeds, the timing of the working party could ideally have been earlier in the month but communication issues and Covid had prevented CRT from doing this. Even so, the work done should help to restrict some of next year’s growth.

Next year hopefully we’ll be able to meet up earlier and more often to tackle the plants, and more PCAS members will take an interest in the work.



Above:
The results of the ‘Balsam Bash’ held on the 22nd - 23rd July at the Melbourne arm.

Left:
Himalayan Balsam thriving along the canal bank below Hagg Bridge.

Membership Murmurings

Roger Bromley, Membership Secretary

As we draw towards the end of another year we may not have been able to make the progress with restoration as we may have hoped, however our membership is enjoying steady growth, not least down to the success of our new website where most of the new members are coming from.

Our membership rates are modest but we receive many donations and purchases of merchandise, all of which boosts our funds ready for further restoration.

I hope all those who join via the website will enjoy the excellent magazine, together with opportunities to become involved as a volunteer or to take part in our annual events and annual lunch.

If you wish to set up a standing order our details are as follows:-

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Sort Code 40-37-01

Account No. 20674451

If you have a relative or friend who may be interested in our society, a membership would make an ideal Christmas Gift.

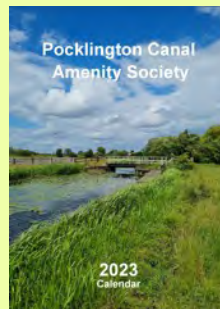
Roger Bromley
Membership Secretary

You can also join PCAS via the website pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

New sales items



6 x 4 postcard 20p each + p&p




2023 Calendars £8 + £2 p&p

The Shy Owl and the Showy Otter

When I first moved to Melbourne twenty years ago, one of the most delightful and common sights was that of the Barn Owl. I was familiar with these owls but had not encountered them at such close quarters and so frequently. Most visits to the ings at the brightening or dimming of the day would guarantee at least one, and sometimes two, floating over the fields looking for voles. They could even be seen over the village and along the road on early morning work commutes. However, while they still remain, they have become more secretive as time has passed, and this year surprised me by being faithful once more to a traditional nest site. Over the years they have clung to a nest box that has seen them rear successful broods for about eight or nine years. During the winter the inspection door at the back of the box finally gave up and dropped off, leaving the box susceptible to a through draft. This, and the fact the ledge at the entrance was covered in a thick layer of trampled owl pellets, gave the place an unwelcoming feel. However after convincing myself they would not nest in such less hospitable circumstances, I watched an owl take a vole early last week (mid June) into an area where the box was. This was witnessed a few more times, until just days later, as food was delivered, a young owlet popped a head out of the entrance to welcome its parent back. I was chuffed. I had until then seen no obvious sign they were back at the box this year.

Another sight that makes Melbourne and its surroundings so special, is the sight of an Otter. Its not everywhere that can showcase such wonders of nature. Even BBC Springwatch has to go to the Isle of Mull and then wait on a rocky shore, hidden amongst the boulders in order to witness an Otter feeding in the surf. Here last year, a number of people were able to observe a family of four romping in the canal. I missed that fun and it had been a few years since my last sighting, but that changed, again last week. On Monday, a cursory glance by the weir on the beck, produced two otters moving west amongst the waterside vegetation. A fairly brief encounter, but it gave me hope for a further discovery. Days later, two heads appeared from the vegetation near giving views of sleek brown bodies in and out of the water as they moved towards the lock. They were certainly not shy. When they were not in view amongst the reeds they made their presence known with vigorous reed shaking. This allowed me to point them out to some passing walkers, who could not believe their luck as they watched, captivated by the antics. The Otters disappeared from view and calm returned to the canal, but a few minutes later I alerted by another walker, of their reappearance just past the lock. Now there were three heads in the canal, clearly mother and two cubs. While it seemed the cubs wanted to play, she was more concerned with attempting some degree of vigilance over her charges. While she occasionally looked directly at me she was not overly concerned that I posed a threat. She had obviously found something edible in the middle of the canal that required at least ten repeat visits to and from the bank, where she noisily munched her breakfast, after which she slunk away further east and the excitement ended for the day. Early the following morning the male Swan defending his cygnets sailed across the canal at some unseen threat. A few metres away Otters again appeared from the canal side vegetation and moved off. The Swan went back to feeding. The family kept moving towards Church Bridge with the usual rustling of reed stems and views as they sailed in and out. A final view from the top of the bridge saw the whole group cross the canal in full view and finally melt away into the weeds.

Neil Cooper, Bird Recorder for Melbourne & Thornton Ings NR



ANNUAL LUNCH
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
12.30PM
THE BLACK HORSE INN
SEATON ROSS, YO42 4LZ

DUE TO NEW VENUE
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
DEBBIE SMITH
dejaysmith@btinternet.com
07761963565 or 01759 306070

MENU CHOICE

STARTER

**Roast Pepper & Tomato Soup
Creamy Garlic Mushrooms
Breaded Brie Wedges**

MAIN

**Beef, Pork or Turkey served with Yorkshire Pudding,
Roast Potatoes, Parsnips, Mashed potatoes, Carrots,
Broccoli, Creamed leeks, Spiced Red Cabbage,
stuffing & gravy**

VEGETARIAN OPTION

Butternut squash and beetroot Wellington

SWEET

**Apple Crumble & Custard
Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake
Raspberry Meringue sundae**

TEA & COFFEE

£25.00 PER HEAD

A Day at the Races

Along with David Hobson, I had an enjoyable day at York Races on 20th August. It was at the invitation of Sky Bet, who had invited local charities to bid for a horse in the Ebor Community Sweepstake. Charities were selected according to the quality of their applications, and PCAS was fortunate to be one of the 22 charities allocated a horse in the sweepstake. The draw took place at York Racecourse on Thursday 18th August, when the Society was represented by Debbie and Mark Smith, who were also able to enjoy a day at the races.

Our horse was named Licence, and given the number 13. It was trained in Ireland by G. M. Lyons, and ridden by Archie McCabe. The starting odds suggested that it had a good chance of at least being placed, but in the event Licence only managed to finish somewhere in the middle of the pack.

The winning horse was named Trawlerman and was ridden by Frankie Dettori. It was a close race, with the winner only determined in a photo finish. Had Licence won, the Society would have benefited to the tune of £20,000. As it was, we had to be content with a consolation prize of £1,000, which was granted to all the charities that were selected for the draw.

The Society is indebted to Lord Halifax, who alerted us to the Ebor Community Sweepstake. Not only has the society added a further £1,000 to its restoration funds but some of us got to have a day at the races!
Paul Waddington

Right:

Our horse Licence in the parade ring getting ready to race in the Ebor Community Sweepstake at York Racecourse on the 20th August.



BBC 4's Robbie Cumming on the Pocklington canal



Star of BBC 4's programme "Canal Diaries" Robbie Cumming visited the canal, aboard his boat *Naughtly Lass* on the 15 June.





Stocking up with provisions from the Melbourne shop

It is very sad to have to report that the shop has now permanently closed down. *Ed*



People recognise Robbie and stop for a talk.



Below Walbutt Lock on the 11th July.



In Thornton lock on the 11th July.



The Bielby Arm from Robbie's drone.

A look back through the Archives.
New Horizons

The creation and commissioning of this popular canal icon.

Compiled by Malcolm Slater with many thanks to Alistair Anderson for his help.

It was Easter 1991 that the Hall family of Wilberfoss offered the society a 40ft long, partly-built narrowboat. This was an offer which PCAS was very grateful for. The boat had to be moved from Wilberfoss as soon as possible, and as a result was taken to Immingham where it could be stored. Welding of the hull was completed and had been tested and passed by a professional inspector. A cabin had been added, as the decision had been made to use the boat as a tripboat. Another vessel had been found on Pocklington Airfield and after contacting the owner we were able to remove working parts from it. In 1994 the boat was moved nearer to Goole which made working on it much easier for all involved in the project. The steel was shotblasted and a first coat of primer applied. The NH Group consisted of ten members lead by Raymond O'Kelly. A gift of paint was donated via Humberside Council by Dulux Paints as part of their Community Projects Scheme. In total three colours were received. The first engine was a "BMC Captain". By 1996 the front and rear decks had been completed. The boat was named after the "New Horizons Trust", a charity which helps older people in the community and had donated funds towards the creation of New Horizons. The official commissioning took place on the 22nd May 2004. The naming ceremony was performed by Mrs Jean Hall, wife of Sydney Hall who originally gave us the part shell.

Below: The boat at Goole. The 11ft cabin is in place and the hull has been shot blasted and primed.





Above:

Work on the boat increased after it was moved from Immingham to the Goole Boathouse Marina. Working parties took place on the first and third Sundays of every month. A temporary tent was put over the boat in order to enable work to continue during inclement weather.

Below:

Raymond O'Kelly, chairman of the build committee, and a volunteer working on the boat in Goole.





Above: A volunteer painting some of the fixtures and fittings but there was still lots of work to do before the boat was ready for the water.

Below:

In 1997 the interior of the 11ft cabin was beginning to taking shape.





Above: Work on the boat increased after it was moved from Immingham to Goole. Originally fitted with a canvas roof, this was later replaced with a steel one.
Below: Guests at the official naming ceremony on the 22nd May 2004 were Cllr. Mrs Wilkinson, Mayor of Pocklington and her consort. Also Mr Kemp, Chairman of Melbourne Parish Council and his wife along with PCAS members who had been involved in the build.



A look back through the Archives

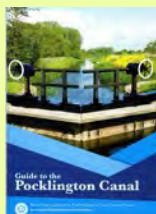


Above: After the naming ceremony the civic party and guests were taken on a short trip along the canal.

Below: Proof if ever proof was needed just how popular New Horizons is with the public. Queues form in this early view of the boat loading at Melbourne.



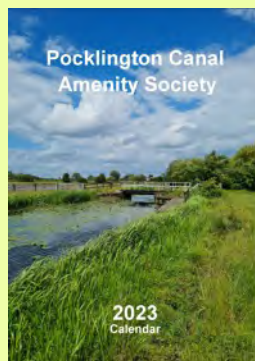
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The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

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The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

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