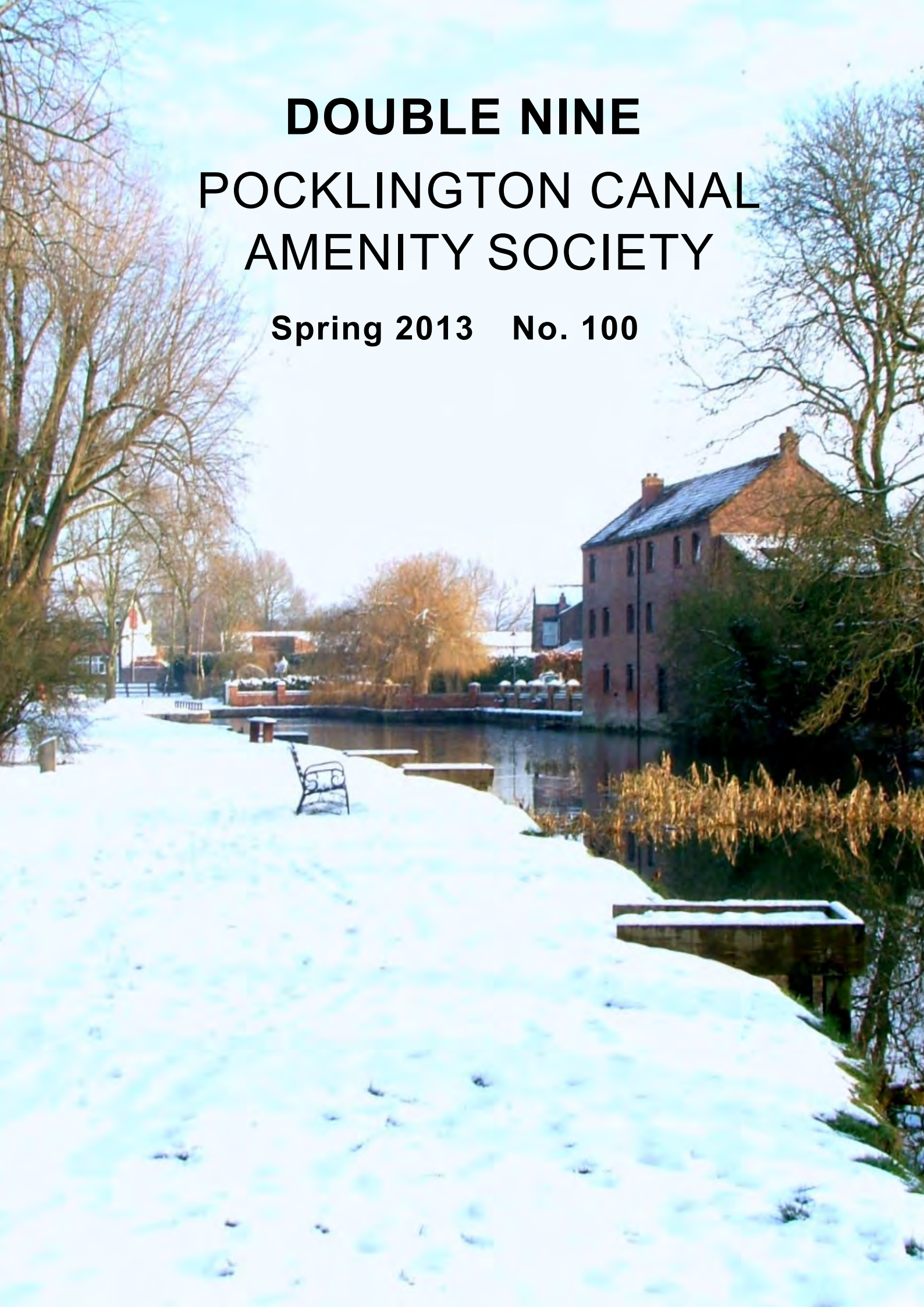


DOUBLE NINE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

Spring 2013 No. 100





Recent flooding at Melbourne

Photos Bob Ellis

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 500637 www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

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David Davis Esq MP Pocklington and District Civic Society

ERYC Representative Councillor C G W Mole
Hon Vice-President Mrs Sheila M Nix MBE

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☎ 07514 978645

Canal & River Trust Martin Walton (Supervisor for North Yorkshire Navigations
including Pocklington Canal): Contact via Canal & River Trust,
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All telephone enquiries to ☎ 0303 0404040

Note: Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Society, unless so stated.

Editor's Notes

It would have been great to have some good news to shout about in our 100th issue but sadly the much hoped for successful HLF bid was not to be. See the Chairman's report.

You will find in these pages, details of this year's AGM. Please do try to come. We have vacancies on our committee for more members due to resignations in 2012. Would you like to join? We are always looking for people with new ideas and perhaps a different approach to matters. Please let us know if you are interested.

We welcome as our new Patron, Neil Edwards who is Chief Executive of the Inland Waterways Association. I am pleased he has agreed to be the subject for this issue's *Spotlight On* where he gives us an insight into his background and work in the waterways sector.

We are again grateful to Henleys Nurseries for donating another batch of hawthorn whips, making it possible for our working party volunteers to complete the repairs to the hedge in the Canal Head compound.



- Trees and shrubs of all sizes to comply with planning requirements
- Including large specimens, hedgerow, woodland or shelter-belt trees
- Orchard and soft fruits
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Riverhead Farm, Market Weighton, York YO43 4LX

Tel: 01430 872464 Fax: 01430871401

E-mail: henleysnurseries@yahoo.co.uk

www.henleysnurseries.co.uk

Front & back cover photographs by Andrew Dobson

Chairman's Column

HLF Bid

As reported in the last edition of Double Nine, The Canal & River Trust submitted its Stage I application to The Heritage Lottery Fund in September of last year, with news of the outcome expected in December. News of the outcome did indeed come through in December, and regrettably it was negative. Jane Thomson and Judy Jones of CRT attended a meeting with a representative of the HLF at which the reasons for the scheme being declined were explained.

It seems that the major reason for the rejection of the scheme was its size. At an estimated total cost of £1,988,000 the scheme was very close to the upper limit of £2million. It is likely that the HLF decided to give preference to a number of smaller schemes, rather than to put so many eggs in this particular basket. Indeed, I understand that the suggestion was made that any future submission would be more likely to succeed if its value was more in the region of £600,000.

With regard to the content of the submission, I understand that many of the proposals were well received, although it was thought that some of the ideas had not been developed sufficiently. At the time of writing, the society has not yet had a full report back from Jane Thomson, although a meeting has been arranged in February. I do not know at this stage whether CRT will be submitting a revised bid.

At a meeting in mid January, the committee considered how it should react to the news of the failure of the bid. It was decided that we should wait to see whether CRT will be submitting a revised bid. In the meantime we should remind them that the society is only able to put its funds forward as matching money if the scheme includes a substantial element of restoration work. The content of the earlier scheme that could strictly be described as restoration was limited to 10% or maybe 15% of the total cost, which was at the lower end of what we would have liked to see. However, in the interests of making progress, and seeing the advantage of bringing so many parties together, the society decided to support it with £30,000.

In the event that CRT does not submit a revised bid, or submits a bid for a scheme with an inadequate amount of restoration content, the society will then consider whether it should put its money and efforts into an independent scheme which is restoration centred. We would not wish such a proposal to be regarded as a rival scheme, but rather a complementary one.

The Weed Cutting Boat

The weed cutting boat that has been lying on the Pocklington Canal for several years with very little use is now the property of the society. After what seem like years of negotiations, we have purchased this craft for the sum of £5. It has been lifted out of the water and is now in the compound alongside the Melbourne Arm. Along with John Lewis, I examined the hull and machinery and we found it to be in generally good condition. Some of the working parts that had been submerged for an extended period are in need of replacement, and other working parts, including the drive chains

have seized, but will free up with a little attention. The hull was found to be in surprisingly good condition. However, it has not been easy to start the works necessary to put the craft back into working order. Since it is located on CRT property, they are insisting that scaffolding is used to gain access to some parts of the boat.

Gordon Harrower

We have lost the services of Gordon Harrower who has been our treasurer in recent years. Gordon, who had been contemplating moving to a different part of the country for some time, found a buyer for his house with unexpected speed, and tendered his resignation towards the end of last year. We wish him every success in his new home. However it has left us without a treasurer. We are now looking for a new treasurer, and would urge anyone willing to fill this gap to come forward.

Annual General Meeting

Notice of the Annual general Meeting is given elsewhere in this edition. However, I would like to mention that Jon Horsfall, the Waterway Manager responsible for the Pocklington Canal will be attending and addressing the meeting. This will provide an opportunity for members to find out the latest developments at the Canal & River Trust.

A New Patron

I am pleased to be able to report that Neil Edwards, the Chief Executive of the Inland Waterways Association, has agreed to become a patron of the society. Apart from any matters arising out of his position at the IWA, Neil has been a long standing supporter of the Pocklington Canal. Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s he regularly attended at working parties on the Pocklington Canal as part of Waterway Recovery Group. If I remember correctly, he led a fortnight work camp at Top Lock, and was part of several working parties at Giles Lock and Walbut Lock. We are delighted to have his support.

Paul Waddington

PCAS Clothing

Following the closure of our previous supplier of PCAS branded clothing, we have secured supplies from Linela Embroidery Ltd, Unit 1 Tomorosa, Awkley Lane, Olveston, Bristol BS35 4EW or email elaine@linelaembroidery.com

Delivered prices are as follows.

T shirts	£7.50
Polos	£10.00
Sweatshirts	£15.00
Fleeces	£18.00
Caps	£6.00

Please state your colour requirement with your order.

New Horizons

Nine crew members and two working party volunteers attended a first aid course in December, at the Waterways Museum at Goole. Maggie West learned that the museum was offering free first aid training when she was taking community boat training at Goole.

The full-day course was held aboard the Waterway Museum's barge *Service*. It was run by Neil Scutt of The Professional First Aid Service, a local organisation providing training mainly for companies. In addition to the various presentations about the role of a first aider and how to deal with a variety of situations, there was opportunity to practise their skills on both mannequins and PCAS members. The contents of a first aid kit and the procedure for recording accidents were also covered, and we all came away with a useful booklet on first aid. As someone who has fainted at the sight of blood I am pleased to report that I survived the gory details without becoming an impromptu casualty for my colleagues to revive.

We are very grateful to the Waterways Museum for providing this training. Further first aid training will be organized for those who wanted to attend but were unable to – including Maggie who kindly organized the event but was ill on the day. We want to be sure that someone with first aid training is present on every boat trip and working party, even if their help is never needed.

Further crew training will be taking place before *New Horizons* boat trips restart, on Good Friday. Having more crew with the Certificate in Community Boat Management and eligible to take charge of trips will be a great help to Bob Ellis, who is already taking bookings for the new season. In 2012 we carried a total of 1749 passengers, which is quite an achievement in view of the weather last year.

At the end of the season we ran a couple of trips for Woldgate College in Pocklington, which supports disadvantaged adults. Hopefully this will become a regular feature and help make more use of the trip boat during weekdays.

The Canal & River Trust had to abandon creation of a new mooring to replace the old landing stage at Melbourne Arm, thanks to flooding in December. Hopefully the work will be completed before Easter, but the contingency plan is to run *New Horizons* from the landing stage beside No. 7 swing-bridge, at the entrance to the arm.

The boat has remained at Melbourne over winter since no major work has been needed. Several people have offered to help get the boat ready for the new season. That will have to wait until the snow has gone and the weather is a little warmer.

On behalf of PCAS I would like to invite all PCAS members to come along for a short trip on a Sunday or Bank Holiday afternoon, or book a longer trip. Publicity material is available from the boat, from the PCAS Information Centre and from the PCAS website. It would be a great help if you can promote our boat trips.

Alistair Anderson

Working Party Report

Improvement work has started on Coates Bridge towpath. 2 large thorn bushes and an elderberry bush have been removed. This exposed the original towpath gatepost and 4 coping stones. A series of steps in the towpath were also revealed which have now been refurbished. A new route for the lock side of the bridge has been planned and awaits provision of timber shuttering.

Winter maintenance on the picnic tables is on-going and Frank Jackson has offered to refurbish the information centre notice boards. Working parties have started on scrub clearance between Sandhill and Giles locks which is the only section with large areas of scrub between the towpath and the waters edge.

In 2012 volunteers provided 924 man hours of work which included vegetation control, cleaning, painting, litter picking, hedge laying, planting, improvements to the towpath and the approach road in Melbourne as well as installing a new seat at Canal Head and preliminary work on the weed boat.

Our thanks must go to Dick Watson and his helpers for this magnificent effort. More helpers are sought. Please do try to give a few hours to help this hard working group who help to keep our Canal looking so attractive.

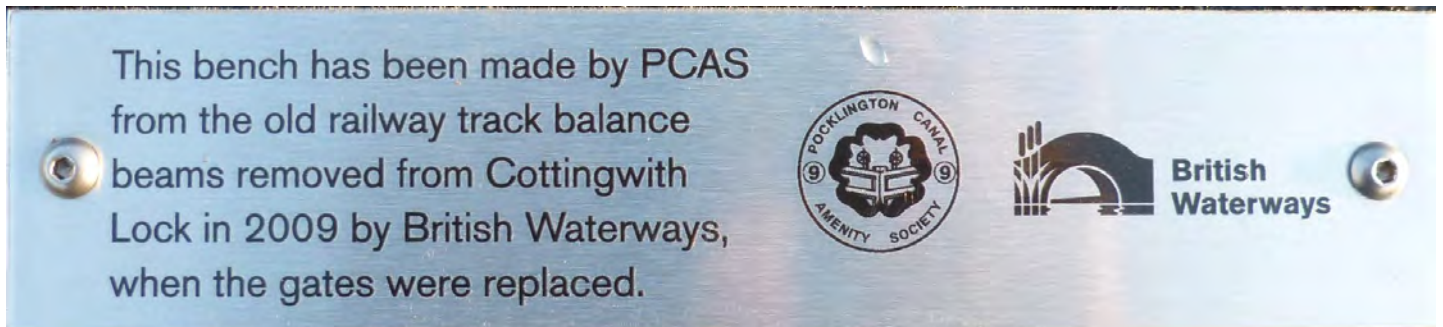


Working on the towpath at Church Bridge photo Andrew Dobson



The newly installed seat at Canal Head

The seat was made by Goole Boathouse courtesy of our Chairman Paul Waddington and made from the railway track salvaged from East Cottingwith lock gates. Below is a descriptive plaque which has now been fitted to the bench.



No 8 swing bridge pintle has been made and inspected by C&RT engineers at Slaters Engineers workshop. The necessary paperwork will now be completed and then with suitable weather we should see installation take place thus making another major step towards navigation to Beilby.

The Conservation Volunteers, York, in conjunction with C&RT are to work on the nature area at Melbourne. They intend to carry out improvements to the pond and wildlife area and clear overgrown vegetation. They, as well as PCAS, will be looking for volunteers.



SPOTLIGHT ON: NEIL EDWARDS

I am honoured to have been asked to become a patron of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, especially as I live so far away and seldom manage to visit the waterway. But I am rather fond of it, and this all started from a fortnight's holiday spent working at Top Lock as leader of two weeks of WRG Canal Camps at the end of July 1987, staying at East Cottingwith village hall.

Although I had been on some hire-boat holidays, my real introduction to the inland waterways had been through the London Waterway Recovery Group's weekend work parties, in the south east, at the end of the 1970s, and this had eventually led to me volunteering to take on the running of what was then known as WRG's 'Work Camps'. I had some experience in this area, as I had been leading residential working holidays, undertaking a range of conservation work for the National Trust, on a voluntary basis, since 1980. Like the National Trust's working holidays, WRG's Camps provide people with the opportunity to spend a week's holiday on useful outdoor work activity, meeting new friends and achieving something to advance a worthwhile project. WRG had been running its work camps for about ten years, which like the National Trust's Camps, had all started with work on the southern Stratford-upon-Avon Canal, which the National Trust then owned and ran on a shoestring budget, and highly dependent on volunteer support.

When taking on WRG's Work Camps – promptly renamed 'Canal Camps' - as part of a drive to improve their marketing appeal, I was keen to expand the programme, and the 1987 season was running a then record number of weeks. A consequence of this was that most of the volunteers on the week were relatively inexperienced in waterways work, and the job – to clear the then derelict Top Lock of its years of accumulated silt and rubbish and start demolition of the chamber walls ready for rebuilding – proved to be a considerable challenge. Almost all the equipment laid on to do the task wasn't really up to the job – but eventually the enthusiasm of the Camps' volunteers and local support from PCAS members led to a successful outcome, and an enjoyable, if at times slightly stressful, fortnight. Subsequently I had the opportunity to return to the Pocklington Canal, working around Top Lock and other sites on various occasions, and to travel the canal by boat from East Cottingwith to Melbourne.

My interest in waterway restoration and WRG's work, led to joining IWA and I eventually became involved in its committees, including just over five years as a trustee, and a short spell as chairman of its Restoration Committee. All this had been on a voluntary basis, but in 1995, with the Association's Head Office going through a difficult phase, I decided to 'retire' from my then banking career in the City to apply for paid work of the vacant post of IWA office manager, and I then took on the executive director (later re-titled chief executive) role a year later.

My role since then has been to lead IWA's small band of paid staff, initially at our tiny office in Regent's Park Road, then to Rickmansworth, and now at our expanded premises in Chesham. When I joined IWA's staff, I took with me most of the admin for organising WRG's Canal Camps, initially as a retained hobby, but now much of WRG's administration is undertaken from IWA Head Office. Our role expanded further in 2005 when IWA took on management of the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation, with which I have been much involved throughout.

Apart from running IWA's head office and waterway restoration work, I have travelled on most of the country's inland waterways, and for several years owned a share in the historic working narrow boat 'Fulbourne'. But working full time with the waterways, I do need to escape from them every now and then – and I have kept up leading working holidays – mostly now for the National Trust for Scotland on upland footpath work in the Highlands.



Neil Edwards

From the Archives

Forty years ago in issue 17 from March 1973 we seemed to be experiencing similar weather to the present day *“It was hoped to complete the brickwork at Cemetery Lane. Unfortunately everything had to be cancelled at the very last minute as the site was under water”*.

Another interesting article which could have been written for this issue goes...

“WHAT EXACTLY DOES PCAS COMMITTEE DO AT ALL THOSE MEETINGS?”

Do you sometimes wonder what precisely goes on at all those monthly Committee Meetings you see listed in the Diary? Well, there’s usually a pretty good turn-out, despite the threat of long agendas and the late sittings! Your representatives duly arrive (in a nice assortment of transport), from Thornton, Allerthorpe, Pockington, York, Hull, Driffield and Doncaster. And, of course, there’s a ‘hot line’ from Shetland with all the latest news and advice on PCAS financial matters—not to mention all the latest news on the waterways (and other items) generally! Shetland clearly enjoys a fast and efficient news service, even forty miles way up north of Lerwick!

Agendas regularly include reports on our correspondence, membership, finance, working parties and BEB work, PCAS Stall,; there is planning for new work, for meetings, shows, rallies, “99”, etc. Indeed, if progress on the Canal was in proportion to the number of hours spent discussing it, we’d all have been happily cruising up to Pock. long ago!

And that’s without all the letters! Here are just some of the people we have corresponded with fairly recently; the ‘regulars’, BWB (Castleford, London, Leeds etc.), East Riding C.C. (Planning Dept., Clerk’s Dept., etc.), Department of the Environment (Leeds and London chiefly), Inland Waterways Association. Then, of course, there’s Pocklington R.D.C., The Yorkshire River Authority, The Yorkshire Council for the Environment (our old and helpful friends ‘Yorkshire Clean-Up’), The Yorkshire Naturalists’ Trust, other Canal Societies, publishers of canal journals, and books, various local groups, and increasing numbers of students seeking information for projects etc.

Most of this is to further the interests of our own Canal in one way or another—and often to help other waterways too, of course. So its not for want of trying! No wonder the Committee regularly does justice to large quantities of coffee and good East Riding fare! We have a jolly good laugh many a time, too—we’d probably all have a nervous breakdown otherwise!

So—who’s for joining the next Committee? But don’t say you haven’t been warned! Seriously, though, the Society needs a strong committee. Big things will be happening this year and there are all sorts of exciting ideas in the pipeline. It’ll be hard work, without a doubt, but we can promise it won’t be dull!!! and the results look like being very worth-while”.

From thirty years ago, in issue 47, we report the death of Vice Chairman Francis Loft who had been a member of the society from day one.

It was also reported that Canal Head Lock House was soon to be let following renovation. Another canal building undergoing change was the old warehouse, also at Canal Head. This had been '*attractively restored as a dwelling house*'

It also seems that this is not the first time we gained a weed boat. This article from 1983 may jog some of our members' memories?

"HAVE CANAL ... WILL PADDLE ... BUT WHEN?"

So ran the caption in the 'Yorkshire Evening Press' last month above a picture of some of our work party stalwarts leaning against our recently acquired weedboat.

It was whilst searching for an engine part for our other (work)boat that our beady-eyed Work Party Organiser spotted a section of paddle sticking out of a barn. A deal was done with the farmer and now we have her safely tucked away until there is time to restore her.

She was built in 1947 and we think she is the only one of her kind not now in a museum. She probably last worked around Sykehouses, near Goole. Perhaps one of our readers even remembers seeing her at work? We would be delighted to hear more about her past history.



In the paddle boat are Mr George Parkes and (from left), Mrs Val Barron, Mr Gordon Barron, Mr Ray O'Kelly and Mr Bill Cundill.

Geocaching

Two years ago whilst visiting Western Australia we met a couple of Grey Nomads in Kalgoorlie who proudly announced that they had found a geocache there that day. Somewhat confused we asked what they were talking about and on our return we decided to investigate this new activity. The official definition of geocaching is: - *“Geocaching is a real world outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.”* Jenny describes it as a nerdy game of hunt the thimble.

In May 2000 24 satellites around the globe were switched on to improve the accuracy of GPS. (Global Positioning System). With this development it was possible to create geocaching combining the opportunities presented by the World Wide Web and the availability of reasonably priced hand held GPS devices. People were able to go out hide a container, fix its GPS location, publish it on the Net, allowing others to go and find it.

For those who are interested the official site is www.geocaching.com you can register on the site for free but you will have to think up an original unique name to call yourself. Not easy we only made it at the third attempt, there are over 5 million geocachers worldwide and just short of 2 million caches.

Now by this time you must be wondering what ever is someone writing about Geocaching in Double Nine for? Well the truth is that there are several geocaches in close proximity to the Pocklington Canal including Canal Head. The most popular one has had 90 logged visits.

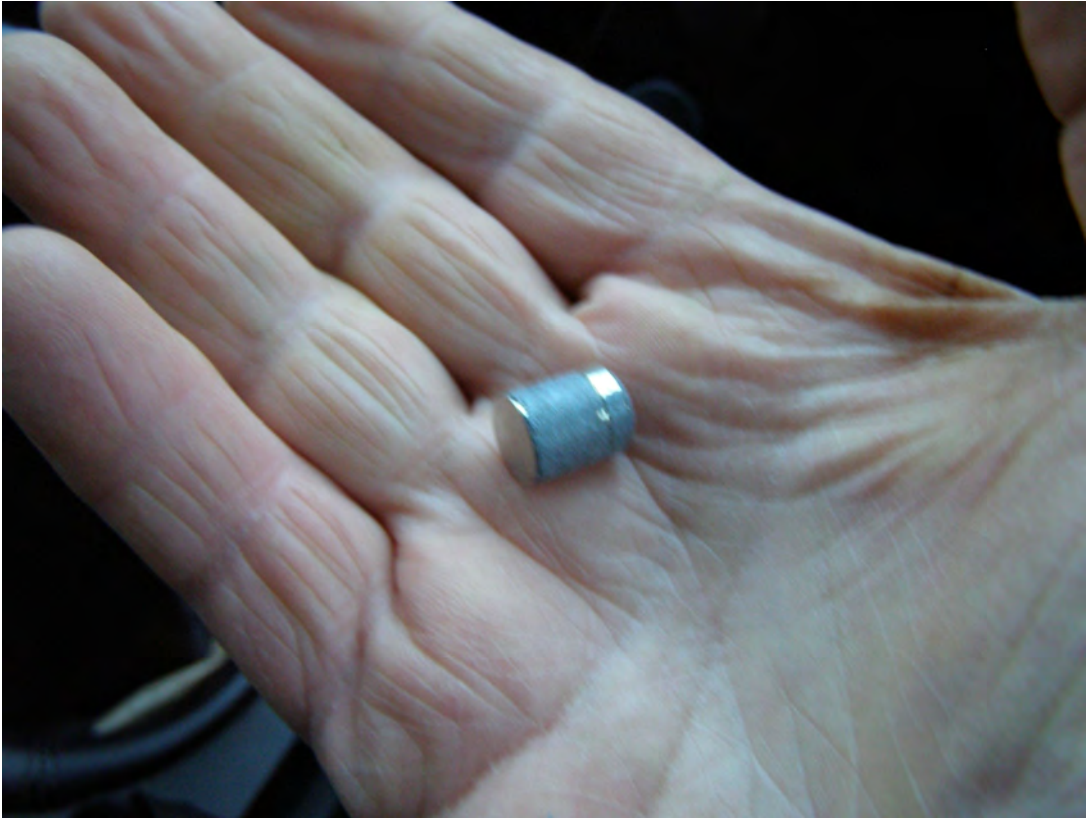
Geocaches come in a variety of sizes from ammunition boxes down to a nano cache container 11mm in diameter and 13mm tall. The basic rules for caches are that they need to be waterproof and should contain a log where a visit can be recorded. In the nano cache the log will be a very tightly rolled piece of paper. In the larger containers there can be a variety of low value items, the rule is if you take something from the cache you should replace it with another item.

Muggle is the name used to describe a non-geocacher and comes from the Harry Potter stories where it describes someone outside magic circles. It was also thought to have been used because of the expression on a non-geocacher's face when you try to describe the activity to them. If you do find a geocache please replace it where it was and respect the interests of others don't become a Muggle.

To find if there are geocaches at the bottom of your garden, or road, log on to www.geocaching.com and then enter your postcode when you will be presented with a list of caches closest to your home, you may be surprised!

A final thought should we develop a series of caches along the Canal which will bring in more Geocachers? The ones that are there at present were not placed to attract

people to the Canal but do include invitations to enjoy the Canal in their descriptions on the Web Site.



The photo above is of the nano cache registered under the title “E pur si muove!” situated on the Pocklington Canal. It does unscrew and there is a paper log inside!

Canal Head Information Centre

This is another area where we are desperate for more help. Thanks to a dedicated few only one Bank Holiday was missed because of no one available to open the centre. Being open helps greatly by giving visitors information about the canal and *New Horizons* and by raising funds for PCAS by selling items from the shop. It also helps by attracting donations. C&RT are looking into the possibility of producing some better signs which hopefully will encourage visitors to support the canal with more donations. From April to December 2012 donations were in excess of £400 and sales from the shop generated another £200 which all goes to PCAS funds.

Please do try to help us this year by giving a few hours now and then, either on a Sunday or a bank holiday. Please contact Dick Watson if you can spare some time.

Membership renewals

A number of memberships were due for renewal on January 1st 2013. If yours is due why not set up a standing order to make it easier to renew? It also helps us keep down costs and workload.



No. 1 swing bridge in the recent floods. It always was a difficult bridge to swing!

Photo Andrew Brett

My Training Experience

Last summer I was asked if I would like to attend the Community Crew Course at Goole, taking up four Sundays in September, including an assessment at Melbourne. Gosh! A course! Will it involve a test or computers? Will I pass? And where is Goole? I'd never been, only bypassed it whilst driving south, with my daughters giggling in the back shouting 'Goolie, ha-ha'.

Well, I did go and turned up at The Yorkshire Waterways Museum with my packed lunch and met the others in the group, six in all.

It was an informative course, though some parts not relevant to crewing *New Horizons*. The training boat, *Waterstart*, is a lot bigger all round and the canal at Goole is more like the Thames. Mooring and turning the boat, man overboard rescues and throwing ropes over big bollards were all covered along with many other points and safety measures. The weather was grand on all sessions with lots of sun. I can recommend this course, I gained knowledge, experience and confidence, ohand I got certified. Not before time some may say!

Maggie West

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society Annual General Meeting

Black Horse, Seaton Ross. 24 April 2013 – 7.30 pm

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Apologies

Minutes of 2012 AGM

Chairman's Report

Presentation of Accounts

Election of Committee

Appointment of Auditor

Any Other Business

Following the official proceedings, Jon Horsfall, CRT North East Waterways Manager, will address the meeting.

Nominations are invited for Committee Members and must be sent to the Secretary or presented before the start of the meeting. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded on the appropriate form (enclosed with this issue) and indicate the candidate's willingness to stand. Nominations for Committee members can be sent to:

Debbie Smith, PCAS Secretary, 2 Northfield Road, Pocklington, York YO42 2EE
☐ Tel. 01759 306070 dejaysmith@btinternet.com

Note on procedure *In accordance with the PCAS Constitution, the Society has four officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) and up to nine ordinary Committee Members, all of which serve for a term of two years and are eligible for re-election. The Chairman and members to serve on the Committee are elected at the AGM. The Committee elects the other Officers at the first Committee meeting after the AGM.*

Chairman Paul Waddington and Vice-Chairman Graham Ball have one more year in their present roles. Debbie Smith wishes to stand down as Secretary but to remain on the Committee. The role of Treasurer is currently vacant. Committee Members Alistair Anderson, Roger Bromley, Greg Dixon, Bob Ellis, John Lewis, Dick Watson and Maggie West have all expressed a willingness to continue on the Committee. Thus nominations are invited for three Committee Members.

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society AGM 24 April 2013

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee

Signature of Nominee

Proposer

Secunder

Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Black Horse, Seaton Ross YO42 4LZ on Wednesday 24th April 2013 at 7.00pm

Minutes from the meeting held on 18th April 2012

Present

There were Thirty Seven members attending including committee members.

Apologies

Paul Waddington, Gordon Harrower, Adrian Lovett, Sheila Nix, Maureen Bromley, Fiona Dransfield, Barry Robins, Dave Stones, Chris Stones, Adrian Lobster, David Simpson, Tony Tiffin, Jan Tiffin, Jennie Brigham, Trevor Brigham, David West, Kay West, Erica Hughes, Christine Phillipson

Minutes of 2011 AGM

The minutes had been circulated in the spring issue of Double Nine. They were approved (proposed by Alistair Anderson and seconded by Jane Lumley) and signed by Graham Ball.

Chairman's Report (attached)

Paul Waddington was unable to attend the AGM and Graham Ball took the chair. After welcoming everyone he read out the Chairman's report for 2011. The reason why British Waterways wished to include extension of navigation only to Bielby in a bid for Heritage Lottery funding was questioned. It was explained that British Waterways are concerned about the costs of restoring and maintaining the full length of the canal, which is a Remainder Waterway. Even though full restoration remains our objective, members of the PCAS Committee wished to maintain a good working relationship with British Waterways.

The report was approved (proposed by Bob Ellis, seconded by Greg Dixon).

Presentation of Accounts

Gordon Harrower was unable to attend the AGM and the reports were handed out for everyone to read and approve (proposed by Bob Ellis and seconded by Greg Dixon). There were no questions.

Proposed Constitution

The document had been approved by the Charities Commission. There were various queries on the proposed constitution and therefore amendments are required.

Proposed Amendments

17(i) Clarification of membership renewals

Existing members accustomed to paying their subscriptions on the 1st January will continue to do so.

Any new members, their renewal will be on the Anniversary of joining the Society.

Proposed – Greg Dixon

Seconded – John Lewis

7(h) – The Quorum for the AGM is 5% for the full membership

A member suggested that 10% quorum should be reinstated as 5% was too low. The advantages and disadvantages of both options were discussed.

Proposed Quorum at 5% too low

Proposed - Mark Smith

Seconded - Dick Watson

Proposed Quorum to be reinstated at 10%

Proposed - Mark Smith

Seconded - Andy Phillipson

Members voted for this proposal

Results:- For – 28 Against – 9 Abstained – 2

Mr Pickard raised a possibility of the AGM being part of a social evening, therefore hopefully encouraging a higher turnout of members. There was considerable support for this suggestion.

11(a) – Election of Officers and Committee Members

Proposals:-

Committee Members to be voted in and they vote the Chairman

Members Voted against this proposal

Results:- For - 9 Against - 13 Abstained – 8

Members to vote the Chairman and the Committee to be decided by the Chairman

Proposed – Terry Chamberlain

Seconded – Tim Barwood

Members voted for this proposal

Results:- For – 23 Against – 8 Abstained - 6

11c – Officers and Committee members serve a 2 year term and are eligible for re-election.

This was queried as to whether it should be two years or one year

Proposal was put to the members and it was unanimously to stay at 2 years.

John Brown recommended having the constitution reviewed by ERVAS (East Riding Volunteers Association) to avoid possible problems with grant applications. This would be considered by the PCAS Committee.

Proposal of the Constitution with amendments of tonight

Proposed - Greg Dixon

Seconded - Bob Ellis

Members voted for this amendment

Results:- For – 32 Abstained – 5

It was agreed that the complete revised constitution will be published in the July issue of Double 9.

Election of Chairman

A member raised a question before voting took place.

He felt that the correct procedure may not have been followed and questioned rule 7(f) – the 14 day rule. Roger Bromley confirmed all proposed and seconded motions were all received within this time.

Vote for Chairman –

Paul Waddington

Dick Watson

Members voted by show of hands – Paul Waddington was successful.

(There was concern over the method of voting and it was requested that the numbers of votes cast was not minuted.)

All committee members were duly elected for 2 years.

Appointment of Auditor

Tony Farmer was re-elected for the Auditor

Proposed – Andrew Brett

Seconded – Bob Ellis and David Tomlinson

Any Other Business

It was suggested that the Chairman should arrange the date of the AGM to suit his diary.

Dick Watson talked about his role as Working Party Co-ordinator and explained that reason why PCAS working parties are carried out under British Waterways' supervision rather than self-governing. He asked for further volunteers.

Spring Fete was discussed and volunteers were requested.

Alistair Anderson talked about the Marion Blockley report and plans for British Waterways to prepare a bid for Heritage Lottery funding, supported by PCAS and other organisations involved with the Pocklington Canal Liaison Group. A brief report was circulated.

John Brown offered to promote the Society on his stall for Walkers are Welcome in Pocklington on Saturday 21st April 2012.

Graham Ball brought the meeting to a close – 21.45pm

New Horizons (NH) Season 2012

Despite a very wet and miserable start to the season (1 Sunday was cancelled completely and 3 others cut short because of bad weather and justifiable lack of customers), coupled with the wettest summer on record, the season turned out very well. NH did 77 trips carrying 1749 passengers and generating donations of £6363.88, Passenger numbers, trips and donations were down on last year (2011) but if we look back just 4 years to 2008 the figures were 56 trips, 868 passengers and just £2516 in donations.

We had 3 new crew volunteers over the season and we had 3 volunteers successfully complete their Competent Crew Course (CCC) with the National Community Boats Association (NCBA).

This year I hope that a further 2 or 3 of our CCC crew will go on to do the Certificate in Community Boat Management (CCBM) which is what we call the Skippers qualification. It is a requirement of both the regulatory organisations as well as the society that all trips have a qualified Skipper on board. The society also decided that it would be a good idea to always have a qualified First Aider on board and to this end the first 11 volunteers have successfully completed a one day First Aid course.

The New Season starts on Good Friday 29th March with the standard 30 minute trips commencing 12 noon until 4.15pm. These trips will also run on Easter Sunday and Monday (31st March & 1st April). No booking is required for these trips.

Longer trips from 2 hrs to all day for parties of up to 12 passengers are available. For more details and/or to book a trip please contact me (details below)

We will also be running 5 'open' trips (longer trips for singles, couples, small groups who can't get enough people together to justify an exclusive booking of NH). Tea or coffee is provided and you are welcome to bring own refreshments. Provisionally these dates will be as follows:

Sat. 4th May 10.30am 2.5/3hr trip to Gardham Lock

Sat. 1st June 10am. 7hr trip to E. Cottingwith (possible lunch at Ferryboat Inn)

Sat. 6th July 10.30am 4hr trip to Hagg Bridge

Sat. 3rd August 10am 7hr trip E . Cottingwith. (possible lunch at Ferryboat Inn)

Sat. 21st Sept 1pm 3hr trip to Gardham Lock

These trips are very popular so please book your place(s) early

Bob Ellis

Bookings Manager 07946 209644 or book.newhorizons@gmail.com



Some PCAS members are members of the IWA and many of the local IWA branch members are members of PCAS. The IWA was founded in 1946 when waterways were mainly unused and becoming derelict if not already closed to navigation.

Below is the Mission Statement of the IWA

- To advocate the **restoration, conservation, good maintenance and sensitive development** of the inland waterways of England and Wales, including the structures and buildings of the waterways that are an integral part of the waterway environment.
- To encourage the fullest use of the inland waterways for recreation and commerce in so far as that is commensurate with their preservation, the maintenance and improvement of their historic and natural environment and the enjoyment of others.
- To educate everyone about the use and benefits of the inland waterways by means of publications (both printed and electronic), practical examples to demonstrate benefits and participative activities.

The East Yorkshire Branch holds monthly social meetings at the Methodist Church Hall in Cottingham on the third Friday in the months January to May and September to November. Meetings start at 8.00pm. All are welcome whether IWA members or not. If you would like to join the IWA please contact Roger Bromley for details or look in any of the waterways press.

Forthcoming IWA East Yorkshire Social Meetings

Held at Cottingham Methodist Church Hall, Cottingham HU16 4BD

8.00pm—10.00pm £2 to cover refreshments & hall hire. Non members welcome.

Friday February 15th Film evening. Showing old footage of canals and docks both locally and further afield

Friday March 15th Branch AGM and a presentation about the Driffield Navigation by David Hamilton

Friday April 19th The Last of the Selby Bargemen. Presented by Laurie Dews and David Lewis

Friday May 17th Our Historic Narrowboat Fleet. Presented by Alison Smedley

The York 800 Flotilla

On 9th July 1212 King John granted a Charter to York, which allowed the City to elect a Mayor and Council. A number of activities were put in place in order to commemorate the 800th Anniversary including The York 800 Flotilla. When we first heard about it we thought it would be a good reason to make the journey up the tidal Ouse to York in order to take part, having for sometime thought that a trip to York would be a bit of an adventure.

Having registered our interest, information was sparse but in the week before we received a large envelope with enough instructions and rules to make even a Canal & River Trust Manager happy including our number 166 or it could be 991! (In triplicate to be displayed Port, Starboard and Bow.) There were Rules, Emergency Procedures, Bridge Information, Turning Points, and 7 pages of Risk Assessments!

There had been an IWA Boat Gathering at Thwaite Mills on the weekend 30th June / 1st July so it was a fairly quick turn round at Goole to be ready to leave Ocean Lock at 7am on Friday 6th July. The weather on Thursday night when we turned up was appalling with traffic gridlock in Goole from flooded roads. There was a good group heading up from Goole to York including *Syntan* from Beverley Beck with two more of their boats, *Sobriety* from the Waterways Museum and *Vulcan* from Stainforth. As it was the *Syntan* trio went to York as they were to be based there for a period of time *Sobriety* got to Naburn and turned round rather than be stuck in York with commitments elsewhere. *Vulcan* and ourselves stayed in Goole.

It is possible to view the River Ouse at York across Kings Staithe from the Lowther pub on the Internet. www.farsondigitalwatercams.com/live-webcams/north/ouse/york. Although we had been assured that the flotilla would go ahead the view of the webcam on 7th July confirmed we had made the correct decision.

The flotilla was rearranged for Sunday 26th August (Summer Bank Holiday weekend) and unfortunately *Syntan* and *Sobriety* had prior commitments and so it was only ourselves and *Vulcan* that went to York from Goole.

At York we were directed to the Foss Basin and were first to arrive and found that we were touching the bottom in some areas. On Saturday Debbie and Mark on *Just Chillin* from Melbourne Basin arrived together with three boats from Ripon.

Overnight we had heavy rain and the level in the basin started to rise. Across the entrance to the basin is a blue footbridge, which it should be possible to raise but the powers that be cannot agree amongst themselves who can do it, so the bridge can trap boats in the basin if their air draft is too high. During the next day boaters could be seen holding punt poles over the side of the bridge to check if there was enough clearance for their boats to get out.

We were told that a rib would come and tell us when to join the flotilla but we decided to move out through the Blue Bridge early to avoid being trapped. There were several spectators on the bridge and the bank and it was possible to engage them in conversation and slip in a few plugs for *New Horizons*.

After what felt like ages we were called to join the flotilla and preceded up river. It was somewhat disappointing that the boats that had travelled furthest were placed at the rear of the flotilla; we thought that the spectators had dwindled in numbers before we took part. However at several points along the route we had an interchange with

spectators on the bank.

Arriving back at the basin we were concerned that the water level was still rising so we decided to leave immediately for Naburn. Having waited a day at Naburn we locked out at 6am on the Tuesday morning and were back in Goole in 4 hours.

There was a suggestion that there could be a repeat of the Flotilla in 2013 if so it might be a good idea for PCAS to use the occasion to create some publicity for the Pocklington Canal.

Andrew Brett



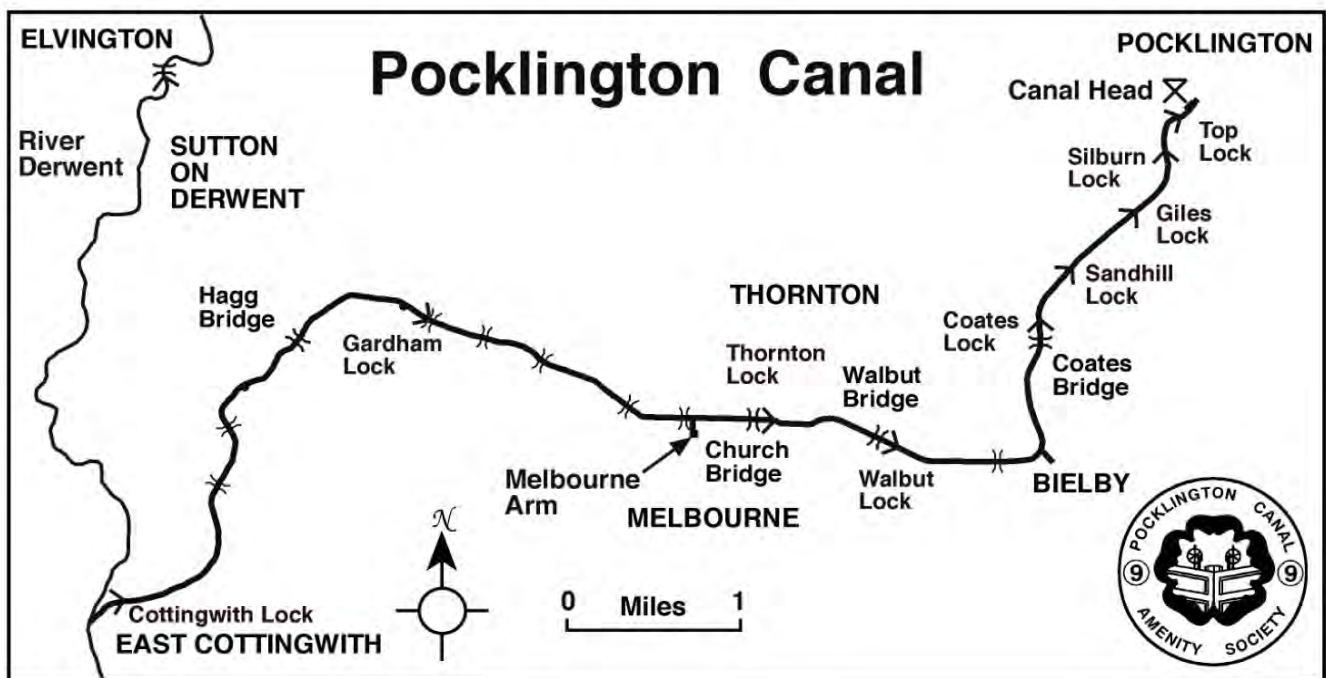
*Just Chillin
outside
Vulcan
waiting to
leave Foss
Basin*

Photo
Debbie Smith

*Vulcan,
Reiger and
a narrow
boat in
Naburn
Lock for
6am start
down tidal
Ouse*



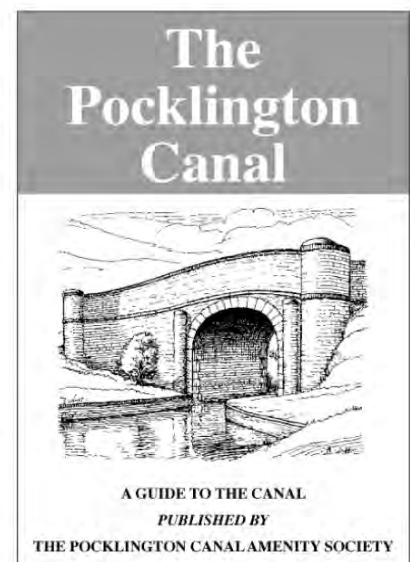
Photo
Debbie
Smith



GUIDE TO THE POCKLINGTON CANAL – £3.50

This PCAS guide was revised in 2008 and includes a wealth of information about the canal and surrounding area, its history, geography, restoration and wildlife, with general maps of the area and strip maps of the canal from the Derwent to Canal Head. The guide also contains attractive line drawings and an up-to-date list of useful telephone numbers and addresses.

The Guide is available from W & C Forth, Printers and Stationers, 13 Waterloo Lane, Pocklington. Please contact the PCAS Secretary to order a copy by post (cost £4 including postage). The Guide is also available from the PCAS Information Centre and from our tripboat.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions now run for 12 months from the date of joining PCAS. Please pay your subscription if it is due. If you pay by Standing Order, please update your payment as shown below.

Membership subscriptions – from 2012

	Annual	Life
Junior (up to 18)	£5	-
Individual	£10	£100
Individual – over 60	£10	£60
Family	£15	£150
Family Concession	-	£90



Hedge laying at Canal Head.. Before and after. Photos Andrew Dobson

