

# DOUBLE NINE

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY  
MAGAZINE



Summer 2018

Issue 113



Above:  
Members of the Group meeting at Sandhill Lock on the 26th April.  
*Photograph The Canal River Trust*



Above:  
Members of the PCAS working party team, who have restored Walbut Lock to operational condition once again. *Photograph by Tim Charlson.*

## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer issue of "Double Nine" magazine. You will see that the magazine has a new editor. My name is Malcolm Slater a name you may or may not be familiar with. Many of my photographs taken around the canal are often featured on the PCAS website and on the Society's "Facebook" page. I believe this is your magazine and I want to keep it that way, keeping you up to date with all the progress being made involving the Pocklington Canal restoration both past and present. Along with this we must not forget that for most of the canal's nine miles is a designated "SSI".

I would like to receive items relating to this as I am no nature photographer. I am interested in receiving reports and/or your stories and photographs. So if you have a story to tell, or any interesting photographs please contact me. Details can be found at the back of the magazine.

I have the facility 's to repair damaged or colour cast photograph. Any photographs will be returned after they have been scanned or repaired. If you are sending digital images, please try to send them in as high a resolution JPEG file as possible.

I can also work from memory sticks and C.D's, your C.D or memory stick will be returned to you afterwards.

For my part I will endeavor to keep you all in touch via your magazine on all the Society's activity's.

### Malcolm Slater

*Front Cover:* The boat **Nutwood** pass's under Hagg Bridge as it journeys down the canal en-route to Goole on the 5th May 2018.

*Rear Cover:* PCAS trip boat **New Horizons**, having passed under Boothferry Bridge, seems swallowed by the width of the river Ouse. The boat was on its journey back to its home berth at Melbourne on the 9th March 2018.

*Both Pictures by Malcolm Slater.*



Search for Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Society.

### Copy Date October Issue

Closing date for articles etc for the October issue is the **15th September 2018** Submissions received after this date will be held over, until the February 2019 issue.

# The Chairman's Column

## A Little History

The Pocklington Canal, which took three years to build was completed and opened to Canal Head in July 1818. Traffic levels were modest and the Pocklington Canal Company had difficulty paying its shareholders dividends in the early years. When Pocklington gained its railway connection in 1847, it was clear that the canal would not be able to compete with the newer form of transport, and the proprietors sold out to the railway company at a considerable loss. However, a few commercial craft continued to use the canal until 1932, by which time the upper half had become unnavigable.

In the year 1969, the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society was formed, with the objective of restoring the canal. Fortunately, the route was intact, although all the locks were derelict and the swingbridges had all been converted to fixed structures. Restoration works started in 1970, and have continued to this day. In 1987, a significant landmark was reached when boats were once again able to reach Melbourne, the half way point of the canal, where moorings were established. Since then large amounts of work have been carried out at Thornton, Walbut, Coates and Top Locks.

Despite all these works, the canal remained unnavigable above Melbourne due to pressure applied by wildlife interests. However, these difficulties were eventually overcome, and the various interests have worked in harmony for many years now. The conversion in 2012 of the former British Waterways into the Canal & River Trust generated a climate that is more enthusiastic about canal restoration, and CRT sought Heritage Lottery Funding for a broadly based scheme that would improve the amenity value of the canal. It included works designed to benefit the wildlife, and opportunities for greater public access and appreciation. A certain amount of restoration work was also included in the original scheme, although this was curtailed when the scheme was found to be overambitious.

## Our Bicentenary Project

It was at this point that PCAS decided to develop its own scheme to extend the navigable length of the canal by two miles from Melbourne to near Bielby. This included work at Thornton & Walbut Locks, both of which had been restored about 25 years earlier, but were never brought into use due to political difficulties at the time. Some dredging and reed clearance was also required. The plan was for it to be completed by July 2018, the bicentenary of the opening of the canal.

## The Chairman's Column

An appeal for £250,000 was launched, and the target was achieved in time for the completion of the project to be celebrated at the time of the bicentenary. As I write works are very nearly complete, save for the installation of lock landings below and above Thornton Lock. If all goes well, the works will be completed, ready for the formal reopening on 25th July. Richard Parry, the CEO of the Canal & River Trust will be cutting the tape at Thornton Lock at noon on that date. Neil Edwards, the chief Executive of the Inland Waterways Association will also be there as will a number of people prominent in the local community.

### **Bicentenary Boat Rally**

The occasion will be celebrated in a more public way the following weekend (28th and 29th July) with a rally of boats and a weekend of activities around the Melbourne Arm. There will be refreshments, a range of stalls, and entertainments, including Morris dancing, a brass band and a drama group. The trip boat will be operating on both days. I hope that our members will be well represented amongst the general public. About 20 boats have already booked in for the rally, and more are expected. Booking forms are available on the society's website. Please do not leave it to the last minute to book in as this makes difficulties for the organisers.

### **A Gem in the Landscape**

This scheme, led by the Canal & River Trust, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and supported by the society is moving into its final stages. A range of new information boards and interpretative materials are currently being installed. Also, a number of events walks and workshops to engage the public are being organised during the course of this summer. Details of these can be found on the website.

### **Exhibition at Pocklington Arts Centre**

One of these events is an exhibition of historical artefacts associated with the canal which will take place from 19th June to 1st August at the Pocklington Arts Centre. Recently discovered information from the records of the original Pocklington Canal Company held by the National Archive at Kew will be on show.

## The Chairman's Column

### The Future

The society has been busy during the last three years progressing its Bicentenary Project, and can be well pleased with progress made. The extension of the navigable length of the canal by two miles is one of the major achievements in the 49 year history of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society. One has to look back 30 years to the opening of the Melbourne Arm for the last time that a section of the canal was reopened for navigation. There is a renewed atmosphere of optimism around, which has encouraged your committee to press on with a further phase of restoration.

### Sandhill Lock

Planning for the restoration of Sandhill Lock is already underway. We have proposed that preliminary work will start in the autumn, with major rebuilding of the lock chamber taking place in 2019 and 2020. CRT have accepted this programme in principle, although at present, they are not able to give a commitment to contributing towards the costs. The society's Sandhill Lock Appeal already stands at around £20,000, and we have reasonable confidence that funds will come in at a sufficient rate to cover the expenditure as it arises over the next two years.

### Getting to Canal Head

Meanwhile CRT is working on a larger scheme to complete the restoration to Canal Head. So far no funding sources have been identified for the scheme, but there seems a will for the project to proceed, so no doubt the money will be found one way or another. Works will be required at three locks, and it is entirely feasible that, given funding the project could be completed by the year 2025.

### Our Fiftieth Birthday

Once the bicentenary celebrations are over, the society will have to turn its attentions to another major event. In the year 2019 we will be marking our 50th birthday. There will be more about this in the next edition of Double Nine.

Paul Waddington

### Donations

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

# **POCKLINGTON CANAL BICENTENARY FESTIVAL AND BOAT RALLY**

**JULY 28TH AND 29TH JULY 2018**

**Help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of the canal's opening, as well as the opening of a further two miles of canal following restoration efforts by CRT and the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society.**

**Boat trips, kayaking, archaeology, theatrical walks and more.**

**An entry form for any boats wishing to join us can be downloaded from the Society's website. [Pocklingtoncanalsociety.org](http://Pocklingtoncanalsociety.org)  
The entry fee is £20. or contact Debbie Smith—01759 306070**



## Work Party report May 2018

Unfortunately just after the end of the last report the crane driver decided to move his machine without consulting anyone and sunk one set of wheels into the soft ground on top of the by-wash pipe; it took the best part of a day to extract it. What we didn't realise was that the pipe had been crushed & restricted, which became obvious when the upper canal level rose and overtopped the dam. This took a while to resolve and work had to be suspended for safety reasons.

Hargreaves contractors returned in mid February to fit new sills and trim the gate edges to form a seal.

Not a lot of brickwork or mortar repairs were required but cutting out of the recess for the new ladder was ongoing and proved to be a very difficult task; the bricks were of "engineering" hardness & the mortar was like concrete, drilling, cutting & chopping was a slow process (sometimes only 2/3 [out of 32] courses in a day), all hail the work party heroes who persevered with the job.

The first two weeks in March proved to be cold & wet (remember "the beast from the east"?) so work went on as & when it could. In the meantime three new boat trip banners had been procured & these were all put out ready for the Easter bank holiday first trips. By this time work in the lock was all but finished, the top side paddle gear had been refurbished, the ladder recess completed and a new ladder (made in Goole) was painted up and fitted.

Wednesday April 25th, all hire gear off site, Job Done. The dams were the next thing to come out, the stone being stockpiled to dry out then used to build up the levels alongside the lock ready for topsoil to be re-instated.

At the present time (May 21st) the site is being tidied & landscaped and we have returned to painting/staining etc, and generally getting the whole canal looking its best for the bi-centenary weekend at the end of July.

Overall the Walbut project has come in well in time and has ended up as a smart well finished job, congratulations & thanks to all volunteers who devoted so much of their time & effort to it. We can relax a bit now.

Richard Harker

Work Party Co-ordinator

## Work Party report May 2018



*Above left:* The working party team cutting the slot for the new ladder in Walbuts Lock. *Above right:* The new ladder in place, the top hand rail still has to be added. *Below.* The mobile crane became stuck at Walbuts Lock on the 30th January 2018. The old lock beams were put under the wheels and the crane was soon back on level ground. *Pictures by Malcolm Slater*



## Membership Report

Thank you to all of you who responded to the request allowing us to continue to email you with news of events. An email was sent in April including a schedule of many planned activities for this our bi-centenary year. This is the sort of interesting information we like to get to you as soon as possible.

If you did not receive the May email (and you have an email address) it will be because you have not responded to the "GDPR" request sent in the last Double Nine magazine. Unfortunately, as the new law is now in place if you are one of the members who did not opt in, I cannot send any more emails unless you do. To do this you would need to email me at [membership@pocklingtoncanalsociety.org](mailto:membership@pocklingtoncanalsociety.org) and I can add you to the list.

To go with the new General Data Protection Regulations PCAS has produced a privacy policy which can be found on our website at <http://www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org/> or by writing to the membership secretary (Details on this page) for a copy. We will never share your details with any other company and your personal information will only be used for managing your membership.

Quite a lot of time is still used in reminding members of late payments or in some cases short payments. Subscription rates changed in January 2017. Please check if your standing order is correct and perhaps set one up if you have not already done so?

Thank you to all those members who have already have one in place.

Roger Bromley  
Membership Secretary

### Membership

	Annual	Life
Individual	£15	£150
Family	£20	£200

Please send all new membership's & renewals to the membership secretary: Roger Bromley. 40 The Dales. Castle Park. Cottingham. Hull. HU16 5JS.

Please notify the membership secretary if you change your address.

**POCKLINGTON CANAL  
BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

**BARN DANCE**

**FRIDAY 27TH JULY—6.45PM**

**MELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, MELBOURNE, YORK**

**£12.50 INCLUDING SUPPER**



**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN  
DRINK, GLASSES,  
PLATE AND CUTLERY.**

**RAFFLE**

**CONTACT DEBBIE SMITH  
01759 306070 OR EMAIL  
[dejaysmith@btinternet.com](mailto:dejaysmith@btinternet.com)  
for tickets.**



## New Horizons



Our trip boat spent the winter months at Goole Boathouse where Paul Waddington's staff pressure - washed and painted the hull. Routine servicing and other work on the engine was done without problem but as usual it was not possible to do much painting of the superstructure, which need dry and reasonably warm weather.

*New Horizons* was moved from Goole to Barmby but had to remain there for nearly two weeks because the River Derwent and the lower part of the canal were flooded due to prolonged heavy rain. The photo shows Swingbridge No 2 just nine days before the start of our season. Fortunately the weather improved during this delay, so some painting was done and the boat was cleaned and made presentable while still at Barmby. Thanks very much to everyone involved in working on the boat at Goole and before the start of the season.

Eventually the water level dropped and it was possible to complete the return journey to Melbourne, passing between flooded fields, only two days before the start of our season on Good Friday. Malcolm Slater, our new Editor of Double Nine, followed the progress of the boat on both legs of the journey and took plenty of photos from a variety of locations.

Easter is always unpredictable and 2018 was a poor year. The weather on Good Friday and Easter Sunday was not good but Sunday was better, helped by an event organised by the Canal & River Trust. It's not very often we have to cancel trips because of the weather but with rain predicted all day Easter Monday, trips were cancelled and it did rain all day. The canal flooded again and one Sunday had to be cancelled because the water level had gone down and gates at both ends of Gardham Lock were still open, so *New Horizons* and other boats in Melbourne Arm were no longer floating. Pocklington Canal may be lovely but can be frustrating at times.

May has been a much better month with some good dry days, some quite hot. With a week until the end of the month we have already carried 650 passengers, mostly on short trips.

As many members will know, the Canal & River Trust has a current Lottery funded (HLF) project and project officer Lizzie Dealey has been working closely with PCAS in the past couple of years.



## New Horizons



The range of activities she has been able to offer have certainly attracted many to the canal and to take part in events. The Heritage Open Day at Melbourne Arm on 20th May attracted many visitors and the trip boat ran 11 trips and carried 108 passengers, which must be a record, helped by starting two hours earlier than normal for a Sunday.

The next job will be to make the boat look smart as possible for the reopening of two more miles of canal at the end of July.

*Alistair Anderson*



A sign of the times?

*Picture above by Alistair Anderson*

*Pictures right & below:*

*Malcolm Slater*



*Above:* Alistair makes use of New Horizons lay over at Barmby on the Marsh to catch up on some maintenance.



*Above:* The silo's of the Tim Grain terminal stand proud as **New Horizons** enters Goole's Barge Dock to return to the canal on the 9th March. While (below) the flooding on the canal can be seen in this view of Swingbridge No 6, which caused the boats delayed return.



# AGM 2018

## **Annual General Meeting of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society Held at Melbourne Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 25th April 2018**

### ***Welcome Introduction***

The Chairman welcomed members of the Society.

### ***Apologies***

Apologies have been received from Steve Johnson, Dee Hemps, Andrew & Jenny Brett, Trevor Taylor. Graham Ball, John Brown and John Lundie.

### ***Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting***

The minutes had previously been published in Double Nine. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Richard Harker, seconded by Bob Ellis and approved unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### ***Matters Arising***

There were no matters arising.

### ***Chairman's Report***

The Chairman reported on a very busy and successful year. Many improvements had been made through the HLF "Gem in the Landscape" scheme, led by Canal & River Trust. The £250,000 Bicentenary Appeal Fund target had been achieved - thanks to the Tony Harrison legacy. Working parties continued through the year, being involved with restoration work and maintenance duties such as weed-cutting and scrub clearing.

Several fund raising events had occurred during 2017 and the Information Centre at Canal Had was open on Sundays and Bank Holidays - thanks to Debbie Smith who co-ordinates this.

All full transcript of the report will be published in Double Nine for the benefit of the general membership.

### ***Presentation of the 2017 accounts***

Copies of the 2017 accounts were circulated. They showed that there was a deficit for the year of £36,830. This was due to the fact that monies had been paid out in 2017 for restoration work done and the monies for this work didn't get paid to PCAS until early 2018 (Terms of the Tony Harrison legacy). Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Debbie Smith, seconded by Roger Bromley and approved unanimously. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Treasurer.

### ***Bicentenary Event***

The canal was opened in 1818 and several events have been organised throughout the summer to celebrate this. Many have been organised by Lizzie Dealey of Canal & River Trust. All events are advertised on the website. The official reopening of the two miles of restored canal from Melbourne to Bielby by Richard Parry (CEO of Canal & River Trust) will take place on Wednesday 25th July. The PCAS Boat Rally is the 28/29 July. There is a Barn Dance, a BBQ and whole range of events at Melbourne over that weekend.

### ***Sandhill Lock Appeal***

A new appeal for Sandhill Lock has been opened as restoration of Sandhill Lock is in the next objective for PCAS. This will probably take about two years at a cost of £150,000.

### ***Election of Chairman***

Paul Waddington was the sole nominee for the Chairmanship and was duly re-elected.

### ***Election of the Committee***

Seven members of the committee - Alistair Anderson, Graham Ball, Roger Bromley, Sue Dickins, Bob Ellis, John Lewis and Debbie Smith - had completed their two year term and indicated their willingness to continue, so were all re-elected for a further two years. Malcolm Slater had been nominated to serve on the committee and was duly elected. The remaining committee members still have a further year to serve.

### ***Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner***

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

### ***Any Other Business***

Lizzie Dealey & Trevor Brigham have been working on an exhibition of historic pictures of the canal. This is going to be on display at the Pocklington Arts Centre, starts in June for Six weeks. It will also be displayed in Melbourne, York & Hull.

Walbut lock is nearly finished. Just needs landscaping and seeding ready for the official opening. Work should start shortly on the landing stages at Thornton Lock. This two miles and two lock restoration has come in on time and budget.

Richard Harker has done a great job, working with the Working Party volunteers and thanks were given to Richard for all his hard work.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.



## Canal & River Trust News & Events Pages



2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the canal's original opening and the programme of events marking the bicentenary is the highlight of the Canal & River Trust's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) supported project> Celebrations have already started in the lead up to the "Big one", the Bicentenary Festival & Boat Rally on 28th & 29th July.

The events programme is an element of one of the four project themes: 1: Improving Built Heritage, 2: Improving Natural Heritage. 3: Improving the Visitor Experience and 4. Community Engagement (including events).

The dredging and tree works to improve natural heritage have been completed and surveying is underway to track the positive changes we expect to see in terms of biodiversity. Whilst the HLF project dredging work took place, Canal & River Trust also paid for further dredging as part of the PCAS led Restoration work. The channel that has been cleared between Melbourne and Bielby will benefit from a small number of boat movements along the newly opened section, as well as the weed cutting that PCAS will be able to carry out.

The new visitor signage scheme is about to be installed (June) which comprises of a series of upright information markers and lecterns. This scheme also includes a new leaflet for the canal. The scheme has been developed by a group comprising of Canal & River Trust, PCAS, Natural England and the East & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership. It includes historic photographs, wildlife illustrations and gives visitors information specific to the place they are standing at. In addition, by way of improving the visitor experience, a new bin has been installed at Coates Bridge, and we will start a poster campaign with local youth groups to encourage people to clear up after their dogs.

Following the repairs carried out to Church Bridge in 2017, by way of improving the built heritage Canal & River Trust will be modifying Swing Bridge 7 at Melbourne Arm in November 2018 to recreate a typical period design.

The final strand, the Community Engagement, is certainly taking up most of my workload now! Together with PCAS, plans are on track for the Bicentenary Festival & Boat Rally in July, as well as the official re-opening of the newly restored section of the canal beforehand.

*[Continued next page](#)*

## Canal & River Trust News & Events Pages Cont.

There are plenty of events taking place (see the list further on in my update).

Regular Double Nine contributor Trevor Brigham has put a lot of hard work into a new historical exhibition that will open in June in the Pocklington Arts Centre. The display (19th June- 2nd August) combines existing and new research carried out as part of the HLF project.

Julian and Alan are our two Walk Volunteer Leaders who will lead two regular monthly walks on the second Sunday in the month (Canal Head, 3 miles) and the third Wednesday in the month (Melbourne Arm, 6 miles). The latter (entirely on purpose) coincides with the Tea@Two in Melbourne Methodist Chapel which makes a very pleasant way to spend a Wednesday!.

Alan, Andrew & Michael are our Canal & River Trust Explorer Volunteers for the Pocklington area. They have been giving Water Safety Assemblies and leading our fun Build a Canal sessions at local schools. Together with the New Horizons crew, we are promoting Melbourne Arm as a place for local schools to visit.

The events programme has started well this year, with a good turnout for the Archaeology Workshop, Birdwatching Workshop and Heritage Open Day, as well as our new walk programme we will have another Archaeology Dig at Canal Head on the Denison Warehouse - if you are interested please email me [lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk) or call 07789 934871.



Walkers near Coates Bridge (*Above Left*) and near Swingbridge 6 (*Right*). The towpath from Canal Head to Hagg Bridge forms part of the “Wilberforce Way” a long distance walk from Hull to York. At Hagg Bridge the walk leaves the canal and heads towards the village of Sutton upon Derwent.  
*Photographs by Malcolm Slater*



**Canal &  
River Trust**  
Making life better by water

## Canal & River Trust Events March - May 2018.



### Guided 3 Mile Walk

*Left:*

Held on the 4th March the walk started at Canal Head to Coates Bridge along the towpath, looking at the heritage and wildlife of the canal. This was a trial of a new regular guided walk series.

*Photo Canal & River Trust.*



### Archaeology Workshop

*Left :*

Held on Sunday 22nd April at Burnby Community Hall. Participants helped Community Archaeologist Jon Kenny process finds from the Denison Warehouse excavation at Canal Head and find out more about archaeology.

*Photo Canal & River Trust.*



### Birdwatching for Beginners

*Left:*

Spring was in the air on Sunday 13th May as the group went looking for the birds of the Pocklington Canal. Identifying species by both sight and sound, the group also looked at nest building and courtship.

*Photo Canal & River Trust.*

# Views from Pocklington Canal Heritage Open Day 20th May 2018.



The PCAS Stand was kept very busy.



Stuart & Beverley Garfoot's  
Traditional canal painting



Ecologist Phil Taylor bug hunts



A fun day out on the canal.



The ever popular Kayaks.



Walkers along the towpath.



Visitors queue for a trip along the canal.



New Horizons enters the Melbourne arm at the end of another trip

# Canal & River Trust Events Guide 2018

Funding raised by  
The National Lottery  
and awarded by The Heritage Lottery Fund



Sunday 10th June: Wildflower and Tree ID Workshop

Sunday 10th June: 3 Mile Canal Head Walk

Thursday 14th June: Balsam Bash Volunteer Evening

Tuesday 19th June: Balsam Bash Volunteer Morning

Tuesday 19th June: Exhibition at Pocklington Arts Centre (until 2nd August)

Wednesday 20th June: 6 mile Guided Walk

Thursday 21st June: History Society Walk around Pocklington

Friday 22nd June: Balsam Bash Volunteer Morning

Sunday 24th June: Wildlife Open Day

Sunday 8th July: 3 Mile Canal Head Walk

Sunday 15th July: Dragonflies and other insects ID Workshop

Wednesday 18th July: 6 Mile Guided Walk

Thursday 18th July: Canal Head Archaeology Dig (until 1st August)

Saturday 28th & 29th July: Bicentenary Festival & Boat Rally

Wednesday 1st August: Marvellous Minibeasts Family Event

Monday 6th August: Animal Athletics Family Event

Sunday 12th August: 3 Mile Canal Head Walk

Wednesday 15th August: Life in the Pond Family Event

Wednesday 15th August: 6 Mile Guided Walk

Monday 20th August: Dragons & Damsels Family Event

Wednesday 29th August: Wildlife Detectives Family Event

Sunday 9th September: Bat Walk and Moth Trapping Workshop

You can see and book onto these via the Pocklington Facebook Page or Everbrite(  
[www.everbrite.co.uk/pocklingtoncanal..](http://www.everbrite.co.uk/pocklingtoncanal..) If you are a Facebook or Twitter (@pockcanal)  
user, please promote these events using the hashtag #PockCanal200.

## This and That

### Easter Washout

I am sure that you will need no reminding that Easter 2018 was little more than a disaster weather wise. Cold and rain were the order of the weekend. The Canal & River Trust had organised several events based around Melbourne and Canal Head and it was to be the first boat trips of the year along the canal for our visitors. Some trips were made on Friday and Sunday but with the weather closing in the decision was made to cancel all the Easter Monday events. Easter 2019 will be much later so fingers crossed we will have better luck next year for the seasons start.



#### *Photographs:*

The top right Picture was taken on the 13th April at Hagg Bridge., and 13 days later (Lower Picture) at the same spot the canal is now back within its banks.

## This and That

### Travelling Lock Keeper Perhaps?

Those who know me, know that any chance that I get to open (and close) the bridges and operate the locks on the canal, well I do not need asking twice, and so it was to be that I found myself on the 5th May following two boats down the canal operating the bridges and the lock at East Cottingwith. The boats in question were the 40ft **Nutwood** and the smaller **Tuglet No1**. Both boats were heading down to Barmby on the Marsh on the river Derwent. As the boats could not fit in the lock at East Cottingwith together I had operate the lock twice in order to get the vessels through and into the into the Derwent arm. The boats entered the river Ouse to continue their journey onwards to Goole and destinations end the "Goole Boathouse" on the 6th

*Right:*

**Nutwood** together with **Tuglet No1** leave the canal and enter the arm that leads into the river Derwent on the 5th May.

*Photograph by Malcolm Slater*



*Left:*

The vast chamber of Goole's Ocean Lock seems to swallow **Nutwood** as the boat enters to pass through the barge dock and journeys end at the Goole Boathouse.

*Photograph by Alistair Anderson*

*Right:*

**Nutwood** photographed on the 12th May at the Goole Boathouse and almost ready to re-enter the water once more.

*Photograph by Malcolm Slater*



**POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY**

**RESTORATION APPEAL**

**SANDHILL LOCK**



**£150,000**

Required to restore

Sandhill Lock

**Work Starting 2018**



**PLEASE DONATE BY**

Using canalside donation boxes

Direct into PCAS Bank Account

quoting SANDHILL

**SORT CODE— 40-37-01**

**ACCOUNT NO—20674451**

**OR Just Text Giving**

**Text PCAS18 £2/£5/£10 to 70070 to  
donate now. Eg PCAS18 £10**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE - [www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org](http://www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org)**



## The story of Charles William

*Whilst looking through some of the PCAS Archive Photographs, I came across this picture of the motor barge Charles William berthed above Cottingwith Lock at Cemetery lane on the 9th June 1979. Knowing one of the co-directors of David Lowe "Apollo Canal Carriers, I decided some further investigation was necessary. I will now let David take up the story.*



Above: Charles William moored at Church Lane East Cottingwith on the 9th June 1979.

*Photograph above from the Late Sheila Nix MBE Collection*

## The history of Charles William

**Charles William** was built as a sailing keel in 1924 by Scarrs (I think) FOR Reckitt & Coleman, of Manvers size' i.e 57ft x 14ft 8in. In 1946 she was fitted with a Lister JP3, and de-rigged. She originally carried coal from pits on the Barnsley/Dearne & Dove canals (and other pits) to Hull for her owners. She then passed through various hands (I've forgotten who, possibly Acaster at one point) and ended up with Potters, builders merchants of Boroughbridge. They hardly used her and as I was looking for a vessel of that size (100 Tonnes) to take across to the Mersey to work for BOCM I acquired her around November 1977 through a co-director of Apollo Canal Carriers Ltd and we took her to Shipley for restoration with a wheelbox, and hatches (obtained from Waddington). As there was a fair bit of work available I ran her over this side until late 1979 when she went across the Leeds & Liverpool Canal - probably the biggest ever to pass over - in fact we were stuck in Foulridge tunnel for five and a half hours! On arrival we were "blacked" by the Mersey barge men, so could not work for BOCM. This meant looking for new work (which was allowed) and after a few small loads for British Waterways ( Manchester to Anderton) in 1980 which the TGWU allowed, we started running wheat from Seaforth to Anderton, then later Frodsham for Nelstons, from February 1981. This was very successful and we brought other craft on to supplement. In 1982 **Charles William** sank in the Mersey during a storm, and after that was sold to a new owner who took her to the Thames, and she was last seen

## The story of Charles William *continued*

Moored on the Grand Union Canal at the end of the Slough Arm (I think) as a house boat, I passed the grain contract to the other operators (Viaduct Shipping) who have recently passed it on to a new concern, and it will be running again shortly. I understand, but now to Wigg Wharf near Runcorn rather than Frodsham.

### *Charles William on the Pocklington Canal.*

My then Operations Manager, (the late) Gordon Pickard, was a long standing member of PCAS and his name will be known even now I'm sure with PCAS. He was keen to get **Charles William** on to the Canal to be the first keel to enter its waters for many years. Why we didn't go further I cannot recall - maybe the canal was only open through the entrance lock. We didn't expect any trade on either the Derwent or the Pock!

*Footnote: David Lowe is the Chairman of the Commercial Boat Owners Association and himself owns two historic barges the **Apollo & Swallow**. Ed.*



*Left:*  
The **Charles William** moored above Cottingwith Lock on the Pocklington Canal 9th June 1979. How different this view is today with mature trees and vegetation.  
*Photograph courtesy David Lowe*

*Right:*  
The return journey down the river Derwent was not without incident, when **Charles William** became stuck in a field due to the Derwent being in flood.

*Photograph courtesy David Lowe*



## Then & Now



*Above:* One of the earliest photographs of Cottingwith Lock is this one taken in September 1969, the year that PCAS was formed. It shows just what a task in restoring the canal was in store. *Below:* Cottingwith Lock today, note how the trees and vegetation has changed. Only the trees in the far distance are recognisable. *Above:* photograph from the Sheila Nix MBE collection. *Below:* photograph by Malcolm Slater



## Then & Now



*Above:* Coates Lock in the early days of PCAS. In this undated picture the lock chamber looks in what could be best described in reasonable condition.

*Photograph Sheila Nix MBE Collection*

*Below:* Coates Lock in 2018, only the electricity pole top right of the picture remains, the land surrounding the lock has very much changed.

*Photograph Malcolm Slater.*



## Then & Now



*Above:* Gardham Lock in September 1974. Restoration of the lock is underway, note the shadow of the crane on the lock side.

*Picture Sheila Nix MBE Collection.*

*Below:* Gardham Lock in 2018. The lock is only accessible by walking along the towpath or by boat. *Photograph Malcolm Slater.*



## Then & Now



*Above:* Dredging is an important part of Canal maintenance. In this July 1980 view taken at Canal Head, Mervyn Gray was the machine operator.

*Picture Sheila Nix MBE Collection*

*Below:* 21st February 2018 and Canal & River Trust contractors are dredging the canal between Thornton Bridge and the Melbourne Arm.

*Photograph Malcolm Slater*



## PCAS Merchandise



Head of Navigation  
Plaques £10 each.

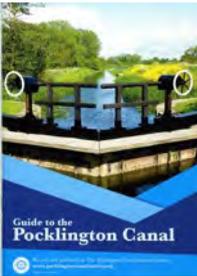


PCAS Mugs three designs to  
choose from £5 each.

*Fridge Magnet not included in this sale*



Bicentenary Plaques  
£10 each.



### Pocklington Canal Guide

Our new guidebook is now available. This comprehensive guide has been designed for use either during a stroll along the towpath or resting on the settee. Either way it holds much information of interest on the history and development of the canal and even has a map in the middle. There are navigation notes and useful information regarding the different stretches of the canal £5 each.



Fridge Magnets  
£3 each



Canal Head cards £2 each



Pin Badge  
£3.50 each

### **Please Note:**

Postage and Packing must be added to all orders for details please contact the sales officer, Tim Charlson Mobile: 07926910717

Email: [tcharlson58@gmail.com](mailto:tcharlson58@gmail.com)

Many items available from the canal head information Centre.

### **Your Pictures & recollections wanted**

The next issue of **Double Nine** will be published in September and will feature the opening of the 2 miles of canal to the Bielby arm. If you have any pictures taken at the opening weekend or recollections of the early days of PCAS then please contact me.

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Mobile: 07932535665

*Malcolm Slater Editor*

# The Pocklington Amenity Society

Registered Charity 500637  
www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

Patron The Earl of Halifax Neil Edwards

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# The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Free to Members

£2