

# **DOUBLE NINE**

## **POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY**



**AUTUMN 2016**

**No. 109**

# THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 500637 [www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org](http://www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org)

Patrons	The Earl of Halifax	Neil Edwards
Hon Vice-President	Mrs Sheila M Nix MBE	

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

## Welcome

This is a busy year for PCAS and the good news is that our restoration project has started at last. Unfortunately it was necessary to change events and organise others, which is the main reason why the publication of Double Nine was delayed.

In this issue there are reports on what has been happening with fundraising and the restoration work. Support from the Canal & River Trust and Natural England is very welcome because we need their permissions and consents to make progress.

The previous issue of Double Nine included a well illustrated article by Richard Shillaker of the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group. This was about damselflies of the Pocklington Canal, and Richard has produced a complementary article about damselflies for this magazine. A couple of us joined Richard and fellow enthusiasts on a walk during the summer.

John Dickins and Trevor Brigham have co-authored an article about an historic document relating to the canal, found on sale locally. The Pocklington & District Local History Group (or informally the History Society) has a growing amount of information about the early history of the canal. That was obvious from a fascinating talk by Phil Gilbank at a successful Pie & Pea supper, which raised over £700 towards our appeal.

Thanks very much for these contributions. I very much hope that both wildlife and history of the canal will feature regularly in future issues of Double Nine. I welcome articles on any subject that would interest our members.

Lizzie Dealey has been appointed as Project Officer for the Canal & River Trust's Lottery-funded project. She has not been in post long but has already met our committee members, those involved in working parties and those with boats moored on the canal, and will be attending our events. She intends to have a lot of contact with PCAS over the next three years and our members and the public will have the opportunity to meet Lizzie, who will spend part of her time at Melbourne. Lizzie has agreed to contribute an article for the next issue of the magazine.

I am particularly grateful to Tim Charlson and Richard Harker for providing photographs to accompany their contributions and for keeping a record of the restoration work. Tim provided the cover photos showing the effect of weed cutting on the canal.

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to raise membership subscriptions from next January, so please have a look at page 22. In the time that I have been involved with PCAS, every membership secretary has had to struggle with keeping our membership records up to date, so please keep up to date with subscriptions and let Roger Bromley know if you change your address.

Now that work at Thornton Lock has started there are plans to keep members better informed, by sending periodic emails. If you would like to receive information from PCAS, we obviously need to have your current email address. We will not pass this on to other organisations. If you do not wish to receive these email updates, please let Roger know.

That's about it, and I hope can come to the Annual Lunch, which is our next event.

***Alistair Anderson***

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

### ***The Bicentenary Appeal***

Since the last issue of Double Nine, we have been able to add £25,000 to our bicentenary appeal, bringing the total raised so far to £130,000. Whilst still a long way short of our target of £250,000, it is welcome progress, and I must thank everyone who has contributed. Many members made cash donations following receipt of the last issue, and there have been a number of successful fundraising events. Profits on the sale of merchandise have also made a contribution, and there have been donations from commercial organisations. There is much work still to be done, especially in applying to charitable trusts.

### ***Events***

The second frog racing night that took place in February at the village hall in Melbourne was as successful as the previous one, and raised about £1,000. Congratulations are due to everyone involved. We also had a very successful spring fair at Canal Head at the end of May. There were craft stalls, a coconut shy, a tombola and children's entertainment. The whole enterprise made a profit of nearly £800, which is a great credit to all who took part.

There is to be another grand draw this year, with the prizes drawn at our traditional November Sunday Lunch. Tickets are already selling well. Anyone interested in helping to sell tickets should contact Tim Charlson (07926 910717). He will be very pleased to supply books of tickets.

We are also reviving a practice which has been largely dormant for many years. That is to take a stall to various events in the neighbourhood. Older members will remember that Sheila Nix used to be very active in this field. I am delighted that Tim Charlson is taking a lead with this.

### ***HLF Bid***

The Canal & River Trust was successful in its Stage II bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for its A Gem in the Landscape project, to which we are partners. Delivery will be over the next three years and will include the provision of visitor facilities and interpretative materials. There will also be works to improve the natural environment of the canal, including weed clearance and deepening of the canal in a few places. It is proposed that No 6 Swingbridge will be re-engineered to make it resemble the original swingbridges of the canal. Repairs will also be made to the brickwork of Church Bridge, which is the finest of the road bridges over the canal. The scheme centres on works and activities that promote the canal to the general public, and thus complements much of the work of the society, and particularly our bicentenary project.

### ***Our Bicentenary Project***

Progress on our project to extend the navigable length of the canal to Bielby was initially slow to start, but it is now progressing well. The original plan was to use sheet piles to isolate Thornton Lock and this would have required the use of very heavy plant. The difficulties of gaining access to Thornton Lock for such large equipment caused us to rethink the method. Instead of using sheet piling, the decision was taken to use stone to create embankments at either end of the lock, and to incorporate plastic membranes

to make the embankments watertight. The need for the embankments to be professionally designed, and for the method and design to be approved by CRT caused some delay, but a contractor was engaged to do this work, and the embankments were installed in August.

### ***Heritage Heroes***

Our original plan was to use a brick laying team from the Waterways Recovery Group to carry out the repairs to the fabric of Thornton Lock. As it happened, WRG had no brick laying team available, but we were fortunate to get an offer from a different source. The Canal & River Trust had been in discussion with the charity, Help for Heroes, and, under their Heritage Heroes scheme, a gang was assigned to work on Thornton Lock. At the time of writing, this work is taking place. Replacement of the lock gates will follow.

Heritage Heroes have also done work at the Melbourne Arm. They have laid a path from the car park to the pond that is adjacent to the moorings, and installed a platform to be used for pond dipping by local children and other visitors.

Another phase of our bicentenary project will follow in 2017, when repairs and regating will be carried out at Walbut Lock.

### ***New Horizons***

Our tripboat, *New Horizons*, started the new season over the Easter weekend. Despite some poor weather early in the season, the takings have been good, with a very busy weekend over the late spring holiday. New Horizons continues to be one of our best revenue earners.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

Three new committee members were elected at our annual general meeting. These are Sue Dickens, Richard Harker and Rosamund Sibley. I would like to thank all committee members, for the work that they do, and in particular the retiring members, Adrian Koster and Greg Dixon.

### ***Working Parties***

Dick Watson has decided to hand over the leadership of the working parties to Richard Harker. I would like to thank Dick for all the work he has put into leading the working parties over a period of several years. I am sure that Richard will continue the good work.

### ***Information Centre***

Debbie Smith and Ros Sibley have undertaken to take over the running of the Information Centre at Canal Head. They are tackling the task with enthusiasm and has already recruited a number of helpers. The range of items for sale is being increased, and we look forward to a busy season there.

Finally, I would welcome suggestions for additional fund raising activities. Even better would be offers to run fund raising activities. There is still a long way to go to achieve our target of £250,000, but I am confident that we will raise sufficient funds by the summer of 2018 when we will be celebrating the bicentenary of the opening of the canal.

***Paul Waddington***

## Heritage Heroes

The charity Help for Heroes has received funding from the People's Postcode Lottery and is working with the Canal & River Trust on a project to rehabilitate and train injured servicemen and women. The Pocklington Canal has been chosen by CRT as one of the four venues. The servicemen have been working with our working party volunteers and have laid a path down to the the wildlife pond behind the moorings at Melbourne Arm. Some of the servicemen involved have asked our working party volunteers not to take photographs, as explained on the facing page.



**A banner advertising the project on the Pocklington Canal**



**A jetty built by Heritage Heroes at the Melbourne wildlife pond**

We respected their wishes, but towards the end of their stay learned that some of the servicemen would have liked publicity. It is difficult to please everyone!

An article giving details has just appeared in the Sunday Express: [www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/719021/war-veterans-trauma-canal-charities](http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/719021/war-veterans-trauma-canal-charities)

## Working Party Report

With the weed boat we have been battling against the prolific blanket weed which seems to have invaded our waterway as well as everyone else's, we could have done with using it all day, every day but as that was not practicable we have concentrated on the worst hit areas; the frequent mid-week runs by the trip boat have helped a lot in the navigable section.

At CRT's request we took the weed boat through Gardham Lock in order to clean the Derwent level indicator board and then on to battle our way to the river junction in order to clear the canal navigation sign which had become completely overgrown. Weed cutting has continued since as often as practicable. John and Tim expressed a wish to be trained to run the boat, this has been done and by the date of the committee meeting they should have been 'passed out' by CRT.

Baldwins Bridge and the 'lock arm' seat at Canal Head have both been given a smarten up.



**Upper end bund**

At Thornton Lock the construction of the bunds commenced on the 30th August, the upper one being done first. Various meetings have taken place with CRT, the design engineers, Natural England and Hagrapat (the contractor), to try and satisfy all aspects and requirements of the proposed works; this has been quite a struggle and some compromises have had to be agreed upon with regard to availability of materials, design, etc. At the time of writing the last hurdle will be a visit by the design engineer on 12/9/16 to finally certify the dams as safe. Watch this space! The lock will then be de-watered, de-gassed and safety scaffolding erected. Inspection of wing wall brickwork and the gate's measurement by CRT engineers will follow shortly afterwards.

Following a previous site meeting with their project manager and site supervisor, the Help for Heroes work party arrived on

Tuesday 6th September. After a morning's introduction and induction (history of CRT by Mike Marshall and the canal by Paul) they immediately got stuck in to cleaning and painting out the CRT building (this is to be used as an office and public information centre by Lizzie Dealey) and the tidying of the pond area at the rear of the Melbourne moorings; they are constructing a pathway for the public and a small jetty as a children's 'dipping' area. We obviously intend to get them to work on the lock brickwork repairs, of which there would appear to be quite a lot needed and to reconstruct the collapsed by-wash. Fortunately their supervisor Stuart is lime mortar proficient and one of the



**Measuring the top gates**



**Cleaning above the top gate cill**

lads is doing a stonemasons apprenticeship so we are not short of expertise. One small downside is that we are not allowed to take any photographs of them, might manage some 'distance' shots with their permission. In the meantime we have several projects in mind for them including painting No. 2 (Storwood) bridge and repairing (again) the road down to the Melbourne arm.

***Richard Harker***



**Working party volunteers repainting No. 4 Swingbridge**

The PCAS weed cutting boat has been used for a variety of jobs in addition to cutting weed. Here it is being used by volunteers who are repainting one of the swingbridges on the canal. Do get in touch if you would like to join our volunteers.

## **Terry Chamberlain**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Terry Chamberlain, one of our colleagues on the working party and a member of PCAS for many years. Terry was quite simply a very nice man, always willing to assist with a ready smile and keen wit. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



## Pocklington Canal Company. 1826 Committee Meeting

*John Dickins and Trevor Brigham*

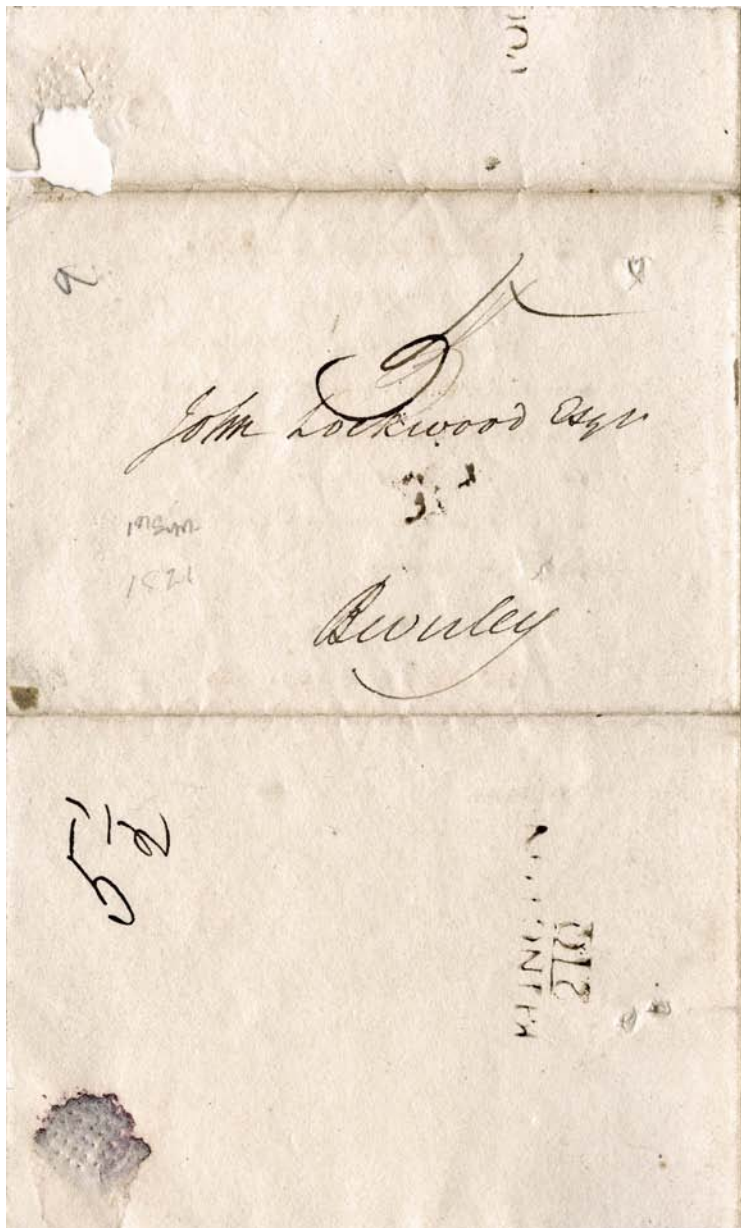
Late last year whilst Sue and I were up north, staying in Shipton-thorpe I called in to see my friends Greg and Belinda Huber at Barr Farm Antiques, next to the A1079 near Barmby Moor. This is always, for me, an interesting visit as Greg has the most amazing collection of curiosities and memorabilia for sale in his antique business. Whilst we were chatting he showed me a document that he had found on a well-known on-line auction site.

This document proved to be an official notice of the Pocklington Canal Company committee meeting on September 1st 1826, only 8 years after the opening of the canal. Holmes and Powell were the solicitors to the company. The meeting was to be in the 'Feathers Inn' in Pocklington. Although Holmes and Powell are long gone the 'Feathers' is still open in Market Place.

Needless to say, money changed hands, and I have the original document at home. The rest, as they say, is history. And that's where Trevor comes in...

**John Dickins**

**Right** The document that has survived since 1826



## Trevor Brigham explains the context of the historic document

Notices announcing annual meetings of the Management Committee of the Pocklington Canal Company were routinely placed in local papers such as The Yorkshire Gazette. The meetings themselves were almost invariably held at the 'Feathers' on the first Monday in August, usually at 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning ('forenoon'), followed at noon by the Annual General Meeting for all shareholders, although in some years,

including 1832, 1838, 1839, and 1844, the meetings had to be moved back a week because of Pocklington Fair, which was held in some years on the same August day. In the planning and construction stages of the canal, there was probably much to discuss and additional meetings were sometimes called as urgent matters arose, but once the canal was open for business, it is likely that the committee largely discussed maintenance issues, projected expenditure, income from tolls, and the adjustment of rates for different cargoes. In 1830, a special meeting was called to discuss the payment of dividends, the first time there had been sufficient profit to give anything back to the shareholders since the canal opened; in 1845 another was called to discuss proposals to build a line from the short-lived York & Hull East & West Yorkshire Junction Railway Company, which was seen off by George Hudson's more aggressive York and North Midland Railway.

### POCKLINGTON CANAL.

THE next Meeting of the Committee, for management of the above undertaking, will be held at the Feathers-Inn, Pocklington, on *Friday* the *29<sup>th</sup>* day of *Sept<sup>r</sup>*. *Instant* at *10* o'Clock in the Forenoon, at which meeting you are requested to attend.

By order

**HOLMES and POWELL,**

Clerks to the Committee.

Pocklington, *1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>* 182*6*

*As the last circular sent with the report enclosed a £10 note by the order of Mr Johnson did you receive it safe*  
*H. Powell*  
*John Lockwood Esq.*

As the shareholders' forum, the AGM would have discussed and approved the committee's recommendations. Any expenditure agreed would have been raised by subscription from the shareholders, so they certainly had a vested interest in attending and voting. The £10 note from 'Mr Johnson' referred to in John's notice may well be part of a subscription for capital works on the canal, or a contribution towards repayment of a loan owed by the company for a number of years, although it is not possible to be certain. The meetings ceased once the canal passed into ownership by the Y&NMR (later the North Eastern Railway Company).

John's document might be the only surviving meeting notice actually sent to an individual management committee member. It has proved possible to find something out about all of the people named: James Powell, his fellow company clerk Nathaniel Holmes, John Lockwood, and the mysterious 'Mr Johnson'.

### ***Powell & Holmes***

James Powell and Nathaniel Holmes were solicitors who had their own separate practices, respectively in Regent Street and Chapel Street, Pocklington, but they and their sons who succeeded them were jointly clerks to the canal from the beginning until it was sold to the Y&NMR. Powell (1773–1848) was already practicing in Pocklington by 1803, and was the son of another solicitor, James Powell senior (1730–1802). James junior was joined in the business by his own son Henry (1803–62), who was made clerk in 1820, and became a solicitor in 1827. Henry apparently died as a result of injuries received after falling from a horse, his connection with the Canal Company being mentioned in his obituary in the *County Courts Chronicle*; his son, James, followed the family profession and became a clerk to his father in 1849 and ultimately a solicitor.

Nathaniel Holmes (1773–1835) was practicing in Pocklington by 1816 and was succeeded by his own son, also named Nathaniel (1811–78), who had been his father's clerk and was admitted as a solicitor in 1833. Nathaniel junior's practice after his father's death was in Chapmangate, but he seems to have moved away from the town eventually, to Lewisham and may have died in Bradford.

### ***John Lockwood***

John Lockwood (d 1827) was a notable Beverley solicitor who acted as land steward for wealthy clients, including the earl of Londesborough and the bishops of Peterborough and Durham. He seems also to have benefitted from land deals arising during the enclosure of the old open fields of parishes in the Beverley district and had considerable properties in Walkington and Bishop Burton. Lockwood built Walkington Hall in 1802, later sold to the Ferguson-Fawsitt family, and built Walkington Lodge in Northgate, Beverley, in 1803. He also seems to have owned the 'Beverley Arms' hotel in that town. Lockwood was the solicitor for the Driffeld Navigation and this may have persuaded him to pay £500 for 5 shares in the proposed Pocklington Canal, following a public meeting at the 'Feathers' chaired by local landowner and fellow major shareholder Robert Denison, on 25th August 1814.

In 1803 Lockwood married Sarah Dickens who had inherited lands from her father in Beverley Parks, including several farms which they rented out. His wife and six children survived him on his death in 1827 and he was buried in St Mary's, Beverley.

### ***Thomas Johnson***

Thomas Johnson (1765–1843 or 1847) of Hungate (now Great George Street), Pocklington, was another of the original canal subscribers in 1814, also buying 5 shares for £500. He was a trustee in the estate of another major shareholder Hannah Tate, who died in 1817, leaving 20 shares. Most importantly, the Canal Company awarded Johnson the contract to build a granary and wharf at Canal Head in 1818 on the east side of the basin and it was offered for lease by its owner in July of that year together with the adjacent public wharf. The granary building, which still survives as a substantial house, was said to be ‘...capable of Chambering 400 Quarters of Corn’ and to be suitable for ‘...any Person desirous of entering into an extensive line of Business in the Corn, Coal, & Lime trade &c. as it is in the centre of a capital Corn Country, and only a very short distance from a part of the Wolds, where immense Quantities of Grain are grown.’ Notice that the canal was open was given the following month, August 1818, stating a little after the fact that ‘additional WAREHOUSES, GRANARIES, &c. will be immediately built at the Head therefore, for sufficiently carrying on Trade.’ The company gave Johnson favourable terms in return for providing these facilities, promising that no other warehouses would be built for 14 years if his building proved ‘sufficient for the trade’. In hindsight the company’s promise was rash, leaving the canal with a shortage of storage at Canal Head at a time when it was important to attract trade to ensure the navigation was profitable.

In February 1832, with the 14 years offered to Johnson expired, a Canal Company meeting was called to consider letting land to Robert Denison on the opposite side of the basin from Johnson’s wharf between the lock keeper’s house and Canal Head, to allow construction of a second warehouse, other buildings, a coal yard and ‘a Sluice or Basin’ to serve the new buildings. These were not, however, finished until 1834, when they went some way towards remedying the lack of facilities, with the 1830s being the best years for the canal. Denison’s buildings no longer survive except as an occasional ‘parch mark’ in the grass, although it is exciting to read that an archaeological excavation might be carried out as part of the Canal & River Trust’s proposed outreach programme!

### ***Trevor Brigham***

## **Just a thought..**

At this time of year the canal can really look a picture with birds busily feeding up for the shorter, colder days ahead and the last of the dragonflies dancing across the water. It is almost impossible to imagine the landscape without this waterway but it could so easily have disappeared in the 1960’s and without the efforts of local people and the subsequent creation of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society it may well have done so.

This may be a little sombre but given the large amounts required to restore the canal to its former glory a legacy gift to the Society would help future generations to continue to enjoy this beautiful part of our built heritage.

Just a thought..

### ***Tim Charlson***

## The PCAS Merchandise Shop

We have two new additions to our mobile shop which, incidentally, has made appearances over the past few months at several different venues including Langlands Garden Centre, Gilberdyke Garden Centre, Malton Show & Beverley Market. We now have a specially branded creamy milk chocolate bar made in Yorkshire for PCAS by Choc-affair of York. The special wrappers feature a view of our lovely canal beneath a blue sky and have been specially produced to support our Restoration Appeal and is priced at £3. Go on - spoil yourselves!



Our second new addition is a metal pin badge featuring the Society logo. A durable gift and something for your lapel, coat or hat – wear it with pride! A snip at £3.50.

We now have three different mugs available featuring our trip boat New Horizons, Gardham Lock and the PCAS logo. All are priced at £5.

The pack of PCAS note cards (with envelopes) feature 5 different views of the canal and is priced at £3.50.

Our Pocklington Canal fridge magnet is also proving very popular at £3.

All these items are available from me and I can deliver locally.

Remember - all profits are helping to push us towards our target figure!

**Tim Charlson**  
**07926 910717**





The growing selection of PCAS merchandise together with a photo display

## PCAS Grand Draw 2016

Your committee has organised a Grand Draw to boost the Restoration Fund. The main prize is an extended day trip for 4 people on our boat *New Horizons* with many more prizes on offer. The draw will take place on Sunday 27th November at the Annual Lunch. Tickets are £1 each and can be bought from Tim Charlson (07926 910717). Please do support the draw if you can. Enclosed with this issue is a book of tickets, which we hope you can sell or buy yourself.

STOP PRESS...1300 already sold....

**Tim Charlson**

## THE BICENTENARY APPEAL HAS RAISED £130,000

The appeal is over half way towards the target.

Thanks to everyone who has donated and to those who have worked hard to raise funds.



## Canal Head Information Centre

Debbie and Ros have taken over the running of the Information Centre and would like to thank all volunteers and everyone that has donated during the 2016 season.



The Information Centre will be open in 2017 from Sunday 5th March to Sunday 29th October, however updates will be posted on the notice board at Canal Head on a regular basis during the closed season.

We sell a variety of books, bric-a-brac, and refreshments.

Anyone that is interested in volunteering at the Information Centre or would like further updates on what is happening on Pocklington Canal during the closed season please email me.



**Debbie Smith**

[dejaysmith@btinternet.com](mailto:dejaysmith@btinternet.com)

## Dragonflies of the Pocklington Canal

This article follows on from my account of Damselflies of the Pocklington Canal that appeared in the previous issue of Double Nine. I have again referred to Paul Ashton's recent book 'Dragonflies of South-east Yorkshire' when writing this article. Paul has also provided the photographs to support my identification notes.

Dragonflies and Damselflies belong to the insect order Odonata. The term Dragonfly is a bit confusing because it can also be used to refer to all Odonata.

The Odonata life cycle includes a lengthy period as an aquatic larva (lasting 1-5 years in the UK) and a short period (a few weeks) as a winged adult. Only adult Dragonflies are described in this article.

Dragonflies are larger than Damselflies, and are stronger flyers. The head of a Dragonfly is spherical with two extremely large eyes. Unlike Damselflies which have two pairs of wings of similar shape, the rear wings of Dragonflies are broader than the front wings. Dragonflies occur in much smaller numbers than Damselflies and when not flying can be seen perched, with their wings open, often on canal-side vegetation.

A total of 9 Dragonfly species (not 8 as stated in my Damselfly article) are known to occur along the canal. These Dragonflies are members of two separate families: Aeshnidae (Hawkers) and Libellulidae (Chasers, Skimmers and Darters). Some other species of Dragonfly occur in the East Riding and therefore there is a chance that they might be seen on the canal.

The flight periods quoted below for each species refer to the East Riding as a whole and in most cases are indicative of the best times to see particular species on the canal.

### Hawker Dragonflies (Aeshnidae)

These are medium to large Dragonflies with the classic 'helicopter-shaped' body, ie a short globular thorax and a long thin abdomen. They typically fly continuously hunting (hawking) for smaller flying insects on which to feed. When flying, Hawker Dragonflies are immediately recognisable but the identification of individual species can be difficult. However when Hawkings settle they hang, with their abdomen pointing down and their wings open, often on the outer thin branches or leaves of a bush or tall plant; in this position they can be relatively easy to identify when viewed through binoculars.

Five species of Hawker Dragonflies have been recorded on the canal.

#### **Southern Hawker** **(*Aeshna cyanea*)**

Flight period: mid-June to late October (peak numbers mid-July to early September).

This is a large Hawker, with a clearly patterned abdomen (blue and green



**Southern Hawker, male**

in males; yellow and green in females). Each side of the thorax has two broad stripes, which are often green but may be yellow. Males are inquisitive and will fly up to and inspect an observer. If you are able to obtain a good view of a resting individual look for a pair of broad green or yellow stripes on the top of the thorax and a blue or green band across the last two abdominal segments (paired spots can be seen along the top of the rest of the abdomen). A distinct yellow or green triangle on top of the second abdominal segment may cause confusion with the Migrant Hawker.

### **Brown Hawker** **(*Aeshna grandis*)**

Flight period: early June to late September (peak numbers early July to late August).

The Brown Hawker is one of the commonest Dragonflies on the canal. It is a relatively easy Dragonfly to identify and is one of the few Dragonflies that can be readily identified in flight. If you see a large brown Dragonfly with a definite amber tint to the wings it will probably be a Brown Hawker (sometimes female Common Hawkers can look similar but they have only a slight amber tint to the wings). The body (thorax and abdomen) of the Brown Hawker is mostly brown but with two broad yellow stripes on each side of the thorax; some blue spots on the sides of the male abdomen can be difficult to see. The pattern of flight is also considered to be characteristic; it includes gliding interspersed with bursts of rapid shallow wing beats.



**Brown Hawker, female egg laying**

### **Migrant Hawker** **(*Aeshna mixta*)**

Flight period: mid-July to mid-November (peak numbers early August to late September).

This is a medium sized Dragonfly that breeds in the East Riding but with numbers increased in late summer by migration from the continent. It is not an easy Dragonfly to identify in flight. The abdomen is brown with mainly blue (male) or yellow (female) markings/spots; paired spots can be seen along the top of the abdomen. A Migrant Hawker can be identified at rest by a combination of two features (you need to see both): a distinctive yellow triangular mark resembling a golf tee on top of the second



**Migrant Hawker, male**

abdominal segment (near the base of the rear wings) plus a pair of very small yellow marks on top of the thorax (not complete stripes). Care needs to be taken to distinguish between a Migrant Hawker and a female Common Hawker which also has small yellow marks on top of the thorax and may appear to have a thin yellow triangle on top of abdominal segment two.

### **Common Hawker** **(*Aeshna juncea*)**

Flight period: early July to mid-October (peak numbers late July to late August).

This species breeds in acid pools on nearby heathland eg Allerthorpe Common but visits the canal to hunt insects, often flying along nearby hedges. It is of similar appearance to the Migrant Hawker (but slightly larger) having a brown abdomen with mainly blue (male) or yellow (female) markings/spots; paired spots can be seen along the top of the abdomen. However, when viewed at rest, the male Common Hawker has two thin yellow stripes on top of the thorax. A distinctive feature of the Common Hawker is a thin yellow line on the leading edge of each wing.



**Common Hawker, male**

### **Emperor Dragonfly** **(*Anax imperator*)**

Flight period: late May to late September (peak numbers mid-June to mid-August).

Although the Emperor is often called the largest British Dragonfly it is approximately the same size as a Brown Hawker or Southern Hawker. The male is quite distinctive with a green thorax and blue abdomen. The female tends to have a green thorax and abdomen, but the abdomen can appear blue in warm weather and in late summer. Unlike other Hawkers, there are no stripes on the sides of the thorax and no segmental spots on the abdomen; notably when at rest a thick black line can be seen running down the length of the topside of the abdomen. An Emperor will often hover and then fly forwards rapidly.



**Emperor Dragonfly, male**

### **Chaser, Skimmer and Darter Dragonflies (Libellulidae)**

These are smaller than Hawker Dragonflies, with a noticeably shorter abdomen. They

tend to perch (not hang) on canal-side vegetation; Common Darters often settle on the ground. Four species are known to occur on the canal. Another species that might be seen is the highly mobile Broad-bodied Chaser which in recent years has spread northwards into the East Riding and beyond (the male has a very distinctive blue-coloured broad abdomen).

#### **Four-spotted Chaser** **(*Libellula quadrimaculata*)**

Flight period: late April to late August (peak numbers mid-May to end July).

This is one of the first Dragonflies to appear in Spring. The body is mostly brown, but the final third of the tapered abdomen is black; there are also yellow spots on the sides of the abdomen. Both sexes look similar. The wings are the most noticeable feature of this species. There is a dark spot half-way along the leading edge of each wing; four spots in total, hence the species name. Like many other Dragonflies



**Four-spotted Chaser**

there is also a narrow dark area on the leading edge of the wing towards the tip (sometimes this dark area is quite extensive). There is also a large dark patch at the base of the hind wing. Four-spotted Chasers are territorial and can often be seen having an aerial 'dog-fight' with a neighbour before returning to a favourite perch.

#### **Common Darter** **(*Sympetrum striolatum*)**

Flight period: early June to mid-November (peak numbers mid-July to mid-September).

This is a small Dragonfly that will often settle on the ground or on wooden fencing with its wings spread out. This enables an individual to absorb heat both from the sun and from the ground; this must be one reason why Common Darters can still be found flying on sunny days in November. Mature males have an orange-red abdomen. When the male is settled you need to have a good view of the top of the abdomen: you may see a very slight hint of a waist but there will be no distinct club-shaped bulge towards the tip. Immature males and females have a yellowish abdomen which can appear reddish in older females.



**Common Darter, male**

Immature males and females have a yellowish abdomen which can appear reddish in older females.

### **Ruddy Darter** **(*Sympetrum sanguineum*)**

Flight period: early June to early October (peak numbers mid-July to mid-September).

It can take some practice to tell the difference between a Ruddy Darter and a Common Darter. It is best to concentrate on distinguishing the males. The abdomen of a mature male Ruddy Darter is a deep red colour and appears to have a distinct waist because the tip of the abdomen swells out into a slight club-shape. Immatures and females have a yellowish abdomen. One key feature for distinguishing Ruddy Darters (completely black legs) from Common Darters (black legs with a thin yellow lengthways stripe) can be very tricky to see clearly.



**Ruddy Darter, male**

### **Black Darter** **(*Sympetrum danae*)**

Flight period: mid-June to early November (peak numbers mid-July to mid-September).

This is the smallest of the three Darters and is not often encountered on the canal. Like the Common Hawker, it breeds in acid pools on nearby heathland. Single adults have been recorded on the canal towards the end of the flight season when it is thought they were dispersing from breeding sites. Mature males, when seen from above, are black with a waisted abdomen; when seen from the side they are black and yellow. Immatures and females are yellow with some black markings.



**Black Darter, male**

For more information about Damselflies and Dragonflies, including details of the critical features for identifying each species, I can recommend the 'Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland' revised edition, dated 2014, by Steve Brooks and Steve Cham (British Wildlife Publishing). In addition, the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group has an excellent website run by Paul Ashton, see [www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk).

**Richard Shillaker**  
**Yorkshire Dragonfly Group**

All photos by Paul Ashton

## Membership

We welcome the following new members since our last newsletter:

Mr Fouracre	Pocklington
Mr Hitchens	Pocklington
Mr & Mrs Hookem	Cottingham
Mr Howard	Cottingham
Mr Huber	York
Mr Humphreys	Fulford, York
Mr Nicklas	Cottingham
Ms Raffell	Knottingley
Mr Wardley	Bridlington
Mr Wormald	Shiptonthorpe
The de Morgan family	Bishop Wilton

Managing the membership details of our society is quite an onerous task. Our system is that recent new members are due to renew on the anniversary or joining whatever that date may be. This means that memberships have to be regularly checked and reminders sent wherever necessary. It would help greatly if your annual renewal could be done by a standing order. If you are not sure of the date of your renewal please email me at the address shown on page 2.

Another problem is that some of the standing orders that are in place have not been updated for some years, resulting in short payments of subs. Could you kindly check to see that you are paying the correct amount BUT please note that as from January 1st 2017 our subscription rates will rise to:

**£15 for annual individual**

**£20 for annual family**

**£150 for Individual life**

**£200 for family life**

This will mean that ALL existing standing orders will need to be amended. This can be done well in advance and I ask that you make the amendment as soon as possible to save me a lot of work in the future!

Also may I remind you we can email copies of Double Nine rather than post them.

It now costs us over £6 per year to print and mail the newsletters so this is a great saving to our costs. Please consider this if you have not already chosen this option. Again, drop me an email if you wish to choose this option.

One other matter. We have members who joined over 40 years ago. It is quite possible that this newsletter goes to someone who has moved or does not wish to receive it any more. If you have received it and it is not for you, again, please drop me an email and I will deal with it.

Thank you for your cooperation and I hope you will remain a member for many years to come.

**Roger Bromley**  
Membership Secretary

# EVENTS



## PCAS ANNUAL LUNCH AND GRAND DRAW

Details of the Annual Lunch on Sunday 27 November are enclosed. Please let Dick Watson have your menu choices as soon as possible. This year, everyone will be together in one room at the Oaks Golf Club and Spa. Please join us if you can.

Enclosed is a booklet of five tickets, which we hope that you will buy, or sell to your friends. The draw will take place at the Annual Lunch and winners notified if they cannot attend. All profits from the draw will go towards our Bicentenary Appeal, which is to fund restoration of the Pocklington Canal.

Details of future events can be found on our website (see inside back cover) and on our Facebook pages. Members who can help at events will be welcome because an extra pair of hands is a great help, as everyone involved with a small charity knows.

## ***New Horizons***

Our season ends at the end of October and I would like to thank all crew for their efforts. It's always a bit of a struggle to get crew at the height of summer, when there is more demand and some of us are on holiday, but once again, no trip has had to be cancelled. We had a couple of technical problems this year but these were fixed in time for the next trip. This year we have done about the same number of trips but people have been more generous, possibly because of the work that has been done on the canal and progress with the Bicentenary Appeal and the start of work at Thornton Lock.



I have commented before about the number of birthday trips we have on New Horizons. Sometimes they are combined birthdays and one family produced a delightful cake in the shape of a boat to celebrate the birthdays of Adam (8) and James (6). Perhaps someone would like to have a go at making a cake that looks like *New Horizons*.

We are happy for passengers to join in, under supervision of course. Children enjoy helping steer the boat and can even help push balance beams at Gardham Lock, as this photo shows.



It would be good to have a few more crew to spread the load, hence Bob's advert for new volunteers on the facing page. If you are interested, please get in touch.

***Alistair Anderson***

## Time to spare? Want a Job?

### Interested in supporting the Society in a more practical way?

Then the following could be you; The Society is looking to recruit an extra three or four volunteers to expand the volunteer crew pool for *New Horizons*.

The roles are not onerous but will require a little bit of commitment on your part. Help, encouragement, mentoring and training is readily available from existing volunteers.

#### ***New Horizons Crew Member***

After an initial period shadowing an experienced crew and deciding you would like to join the team, you will become a member of the *New Horizons* crew volunteers.

The basic requirements of a crew volunteer are;

- a) To be able to helm (steer) the boat along the canal, onto a mooring and through the bridges and locks.
- b) To be able to inform the passengers of the 'house rules' such as safety requirements and explain the role of the Society in the restoration and maintenance of the canal and encourage the passengers to help with this work by making donations for the trips. This includes explaining the value of Gift Aid.
- c) To assist in getting to boat ready before a trip and ensuring the boat is left in a safe, secure, clean and tidy condition at the end of a trip.

Opportunities to volunteer can be on any day of the week but the majority will be on Saturdays and Sundays. We would hope that volunteers are able to crew 8 times or more over the season (beginning of April to end of October).

For more information contact Bob Ellis, Bookings & Crewing Coordinator on [book.newhorizons@gmail.co.uk](mailto:book.newhorizons@gmail.co.uk) or phone 01759 302873.

***Bob Ellis***



# POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21st APRIL 2016

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The society maintained all its usual activities during 2015. Regular working parties took place with work undertaken at various points along the canal. There were also two visits from the Waterways Recovery Group, the first in February dealt with tree and scrub clearance and the second in July laid a water pipe for a new water point at the Melbourne Arm.

There were also several fund raising activities, including a May festival and boat rally at Melbourne, and a frog race night in October. Our usual pre-Christmas lunch took place in November and an exhibition was held at Pocklington Parish Church in September. Another fund raising activity which took place during the year was a grand draw with the winning tickets picked at the November lunch. During the year, the society's merchandising activities were developed, with a range of goods acquired for selling on at various events.

Much time and effort has been put into the society's Bicentenary Appeal, with appeal leaflets widely distributed and grant applications made to charitable trusts. At the end of the year, the Appeal stood at around £100,000 out of a target of £250,000, which is the estimated cost of the works that we propose to undertake before the bicentenary of the opening of the canal. Much fundraising remains to be done to reach our target.

In October, Lord Halifax visited the canal and performed a simple ceremony cutting the first sod to indicate the start of the works at Thornton Lock. This received wide-spread press coverage and did much to promote our Bicentenary project. I was very impressed by the interest that Lord Halifax took in project, and he requested that we keep him fully informed about the progress of the works.

There has been further work on the revision and production a new and expanded edition of our guide to the Pocklington Canal, which should be completed in the next month or two.

Our tripboat, *New Horizons*, had another successful year carrying a record number of passengers and generating substantial funds for the society.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members who have served during the past year, and also all the volunteers who have attended working parties, or who have helped to organise fund raising event. I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to our Bicentenary Appeal.

Paul Waddington  
April 2016

## **Pocklington Canal Amenity Society**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Held on Thursday 21st April 2016 at The Wellington Oak, Pocklington

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed members of the Society.

#### **Present**

Thirty members were present which was sufficient for the meeting to be declared quorate.

#### **Apologies**

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Adrian Koster, Richard Quinton and Eric Dove.

#### **Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

The minutes had been reproduced in Double Nine. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Bob Ellis, seconded by Roger Bromley and accepted unanimously. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the 2015 AGM.

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

The Chairman highlighted the issues covered in his report, copies of which were circulated to all those present. It will be reproduced in a future issue of Double Nine for the benefit of the general membership.

The Chairman also provided an update on the restoration programme. A contractor has been identified for the piling work at Thornton Lock and it is expected for this to be carried out within a few weeks. This will enable the lock to be drained, its condition assessed and measurements taken for the new gates being manufactured by CRT.

#### **Presentation of the 2015 Accounts**

The Treasurers presented the Accounts, copies of which were circulated to members present. It was noted that, on the recommendation of the Examiner, £13,924, representing the specific Appeal donations, had been ring fenced so that this money could not be used for any other purpose. The Treasurer stated that in future the Accounts would be presented in a different format so that the Appeal Funds and the General Funds would be more clearly identified.

A motion to formally accept the Accounts was proposed by Bob Ellis and seconded by Tim Charlson. Voting was 24 in favour, 2 against with 4 abstentions. The motion was carried.

## **Election of Chairman**

Paul Waddington was the sole nominee for the Chairmanship and was elected to serve for a further two years.

## **Election of Committee**

Ten proposed and seconded nominations had been received for the Ten vacancies. All those nominated were therefore appointed to serve on the committee for a period of two years. The new committee members will be:

Paul Waddington (Chair), Alistair Anderson, Graham Ball, Roger Bromley, Sue Dickens, Bob Ellis, Richard Harker, John Lewis, Ros Sibley, Debbie Smith and Dick Watson plus Tim Charlson and Trevor Taylor who both have one year left to serve.

## **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner**

It was reported that Tony Farmer was willing to continue in this role and he was duly reappointed.

## **Subscriptions**

The committee put forward proposals for increasing subscription as from 1st January 2017. This was to cover the increasing costs related to the printing and distribution of Double Nine, a problem exacerbated by the high proportion of Life Memberships. The increases were formally proposed by Alistair Anderson, seconded by Roger Bromley and accepted unanimously. No change to current renewal dates was proposed. The new subscription rates are:

£15 per individual, £20 per family, £150 per individual life and £200 per family life. There would be no concession or junior rates.

## **Member Volunteering**

Dick Watson spoke on the need to have more active involvement from members at the various events being organised by the Society.

## **Any Other Business**

There was a general discussion on how to attract younger members into the Society. It was hoped that the successful CRT bid with its objective of creating greater public interest in the canal would benefit PCAS particularly once the restoration projects were fully underway.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

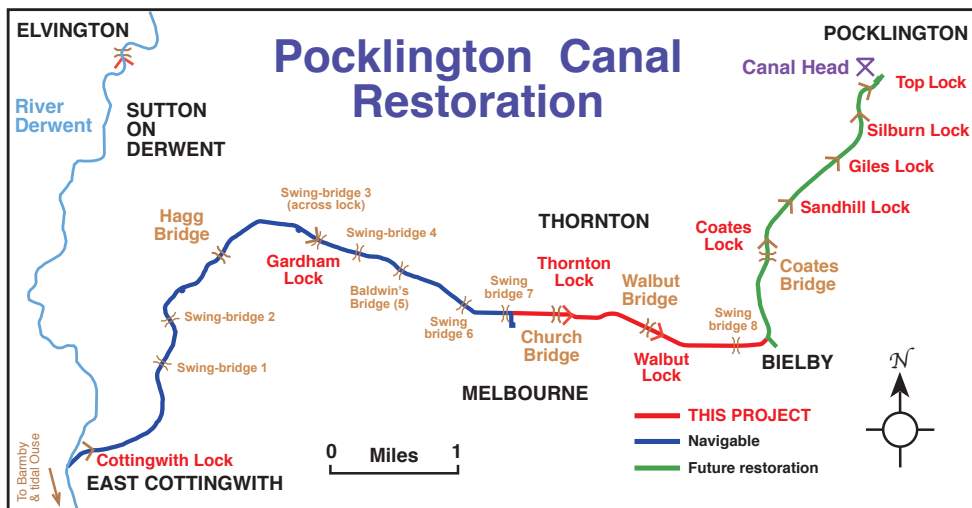
**POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Stock	-	122
HSBC Deposit account	50,107	50,079
HSBC Current account	48,013	23,290
CAF Gold account	18,010	17,372
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net current assets</b>	116,130	90,863
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		
Bicentenary appeal	(13,924)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net current assets</b>	102,206	90,863
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Opening capital	90,863	87,560
Net surplus	11,343	3,303
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	102,206	90,863
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

T Taylor  
Treasurer  
24 February 2016

**POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	2015		2014
	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Boat trips & guide books	8,495		7,365
Subscriptions	1,604		1,462
Donations	1,903		1,307
Gift Aid tax refunds	772		1,103
Annual lunch	62		128
Race night	946		-
Fete	1,181		-
Canal Head	699		770
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	15,662		12,135
<b>Other Income</b>			
Bank and savings deposit interest	66		53
Miscellaneous sales	1,459		272
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	17,187		12,460
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Maintenance and equipment	1,848	4,750	
Postage, printing and stationery	1,600	1,848	
Insurance and licences	1,605	610	
Sundry	432	709	
HLF Grant funding	-	1,000	
Fuel	359	240	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	(5,844)		(9,157)
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net Surplus for the year</b>	11,343		3,303
	<hr/>		<hr/>



The PCAS Bicentenary Appeal is for funds to support restoration of the length of canal shown in red in the map above. At the time of writing (October 2016) the appeal fund stands at **£130,000**. Please help by making a donation.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Membership subscriptions will rise from January 2017. The new rates are shown below. Please see page 22 for further information.**

Membership subscriptions 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 –

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

Please notify the Membership Secretary if you change your address



# Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Registered Charity 500637 [www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org](http://www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org)



