

DOUBLE NINE

**THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY
MAGAZINE**



October 2019

Issue 117



Picture above: Environment Agency workers came to the canal at East Cottingwith to study the aquatic plants and foliage on the 16th July.
Photograph by Malcolm Slater

Below: To mark the end of the Lottery Funded grant and the “A Gem in the Landscape” project, PCAS members teamed up with the CRT team who were involved in delivering the project, for a final photo call at the Melbourne Arm on the 20th August. *Photograph Malcolm Slater*



Editorial

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Welcome to the October issue of D9 magazine. 2019 has been a very busy and productive year for the Society. Richard and his team of volunteers have been very busy along the canal with the weed cutting boat working almost continually throughout the Summer keeping the weed growth in check. Debbie Smith's superb organisation came to the fore on Friday 19th July, when the society held an Antiques & Valuation evening in Melbourne village hall. Guest presenter Caroline Hawley (of TV fame) came to give an illustrated talk and to value artefacts brought along by the audience. If you missed this event then you certainly missed out. Many thanks go to Debbie and her team of helpers. Many of the items featured in our merchandise section have been reduced in price so now is the time to buy. Not many people will have realised that the Canal & River Trust had to close a section of the canal due to lack of water. Low rainfall on the Wolds, which eventually feeds into the canal, was to blame. It just proves how fickle our climate is!

Malcolm Slater

Front Cover: Heading out of the canal, visiting boat **SKILLOGALEE** is seen approaching Cemetery Lane, East Cottingwith on the 16th July 2019. *Photograph Malcolm Slater*

Rear Cover: Taken on the 27th May, visiting boat **Ditto** makes progress down the canal near Hagg Bridge.
Photographs by Malcolm Slater

Double Nine is published in
February - June - October
By the
Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Copy Date February 2020 Issue

Closing date for articles etc for the February 2020 issue is the **18th January 2020.**

Submissions received after this date may be held over until the next available issue.

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

The Chairman's Column

As always seems to be the case, we have had a busy year. There have been a couple of extra activities, due to 2019 being the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the society. Also, the planning of the proposed works at Sandhill Lock have taken up a large part of my time, and even more of David Hobson's time.

OUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The dinner held at the Oaks Golf Club in May was well attended. Our principal guest was Sean McGinley, the Regional Director for the Canal and River Trust, who brought us up to date with the organisational changes at CRT. Our other guests were Malcolm Harrington and his wife Lynne. Along with Eric Lount, our first Chairman, Malcolm played a major part in the setting up of the society fifty years ago. He was also the first editor of Double Nine. It was interesting to hear Malcolm's account of the early years of the society.

ANTIQUES EVENING

In July, we had a very interesting Antiques Evening with Caroline Hawley at the Melbourne Village Hall. Caroline, who presents programmes about antiques on television, told us about some of her experiences in the antique trade, and about the current state of the market. Afterwards, she valued items that people had brought to the event. It was surprising to see the number and variety of these items.

BOAT RALLY

We had a good number of boats attending our Anniversary Boat Rally in September. As with the Bicentenary Rally last year, most from the South Pennine Boat Club. Not only did our visitors appear to enjoy the weekend, but the South Pennine Boat Club provided much of the entertainment. There was singing on Friday and Saturday evenings and a performance by their team of hand spike dancers during the day on Saturday. Some of our members joined the visitors at the Saturday night barbecue.

Donations

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

The Chairman's Column

NOVEMBER LUNCH

Our customary pre-Christmas lunch will take place on Saturday 24th November at the Oaks Golf Club. Full details elsewhere in this edition of the magazine.

RESTORATION

For the best part of the year, we have been planning the rebuilding of Sandhill Lock. Of all the locks on the Pocklington Canal, Sandhill was the one that had deteriorated the most during the years when the canal was disused. Much of the brickwork in the lock chamber has fallen away and one of the wingwalls is leaning. Nevertheless, the task of restoring the lock is not dissimilar to the work that PCAS has undertaken at other locks such as Walbut and Coates. The big difference from thirty years ago is the increase in the number of regulations that we have to comply with, and the amount of paperwork that we have to do, especially in relation to health and safety matters.

This burden has become so great that we felt it necessary to employ consultants to guide us in these matters. We managed to avoid this for the works at Thornton and Walbut Locks that were part of our Bicentenary Project, But the Canal & River Trust is tightening up on these matters all the time. We have now received tenders from several firms of consultants, and are currently comparing them before making an appointment so we are very near the point where work can start. It is highly regrettable that bureaucracy and officialdom have reached such a point, as it adds greatly to our costs.

Once we get started, we expect the works to go on for about three years. Most of that time will be taken up with brick laying, but before that a considerable amount of demolition will be required. Much of the work will be undertaken by volunteers, using both our own working party members and other groups. Contractors will be involved at some stages, such as installing the cofferdams required to isolate the lock from the rest of the canal. A contractor will also be used to build and install the lock gates.

SANDHILL LOCK APPEAL

Originally we estimated that the cost of restoring Sandhill Lock would be £150,000, and an appeal was launched for that amount. The need to employ consultants and to comply with regulations has caused us to revise the estimate to £200,000. It has been very encouraging to see how quickly our

The Chairman's Column

fundraising has progressed. Currently £90,000 has been raised and money continues to come in at a satisfactory rate. We are confident that there will be sufficient funds to complete the works in the timescale envisaged.

NEW HORIZONS

As the season draws to a close, the society's tripboat **New Horizons**, is heading towards another successful year. The tripboat is one of our best sources of revenue, and is a major contributor to our Sandhill Lock Appeal.

FINALLY

I would like to express my appreciation to all those people (members and non members) who have enabled the society to make such strides forward in the restoration of the Pocklington Canal in the last few years. They are many in number, and include working party members, those involved in the organization of events and fundraising, those that crew **New Horizons**, and many who work behind the scenes. Also I am grateful to all those who contribute financially.

Paul Waddington

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.



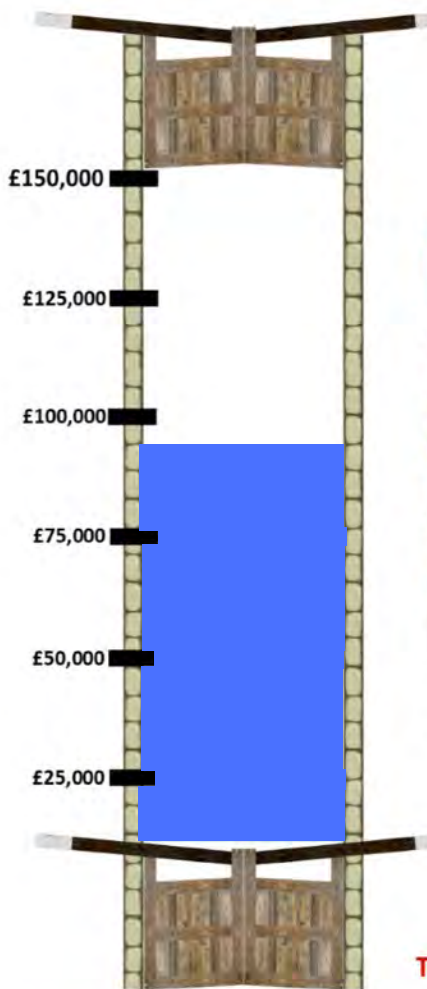
Registered Charity 500637
www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org



Search for Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

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

Work Party Report October 2019

CRT have accredited four of the work party to use a large mower and we now have the use of one on request, shared between us and CRT Selby lock. This is soon to be added to by a “strimmer/brushcutter” course for four additional members which will thus enable us to “tidy” the canal areas at will without any permissions or paperwork problems.

The grass cutting schedule carried out by Fountains has been reduced so the work party is trimming lock sides and landing stages as required in between their visits in order to keep place tidy. We also managed to get some help from them with the weed cutting, because of the prolific growth of “blanket weed” this year due to the long spell of warm dry weather. (We managed to time this nicely just before the arrival of our visitors for the 50th boat rally.

A landing stage has been fashioned on the offside above No.8 bridge by re-boarding the bank.

CRT's Gawburn arrived late July and has since dredged problem areas at Thornton & Walbut locks, and cleared out the reeds between the Melbourne moorings.

Contractors finished fitting the restyled rails on No 7 bridge & the work party have rebuilt the brick parapets and landscaped the surrounds. The commemorative bench has been replaced.

The usual annual tidying & painting of locks, bridges & benches continues.

It was hoped to cure the Coates lock gate problem but this has had to be postponed due to lack of rainfall causing significantly low water levels in the upper canal pounds. We will attend to this when revived levels permit.

Many thanks, as usual to the work party volunteers (of whom we now number 12!) for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the season. We are now looking forward of course to getting stuck in to the refurbishment of Sandhill lock!

Richard Harker
Working Party Organiser

Working Party Report October 2019



Forming part of the Heritage Lottery funding grant was the replacing the fence panels on bridge 7; as seen in one early photograph which forms part of the Sheila Nix MBE collection. The new pre-made panels arrived in Melbourne on the 24th July. In the bottom picture and with the new panels in place PCAS working party members are seen restoring the brickwork at bridge 7.

Upper photograph by Malcolm Slater. Lower photograph by Tim Charlson.



Work Party Report October 2019



The Canal & River Trust's work boat **GAWBURN** came on to the canal on the 16th July to carry out some dredging and other works. One place that needed dredging was at Walbut bridge, the depth of the canal here was causing some boats to ground and unable to proceed up the canal.

Photographs by Malcolm Slater



Not one, but two..



Weed growth is always a problem on the canal. The PCAS weed cutting/work boat **Sheila Nix** is pictured here working above bridge 2 at Storwood. Skipper Tim Charlson and first mate Glyn Smith clear the way on 20th July. The crew seem totally unaware of the brown bear looking on from the bank.

CRT contractors were also busy weed cutting from East Cottingwith up the canal. Their boat the **John Nuttall** is seen on the 20th August above Hagg Bridge. Both machines are a product of "Aqua Tractors" Somerset.

Photographs Malcolm Slater





New Horizons



We have had a busy season and at the time of writing, **New Horizons** has carried about 2.300 passengers. There are a few weeks still to go. Thanks very much to everyone who has come for a trip this season, and also to our 25 crew members who have given up their time to run these trips. Special thanks to Bob Ellis, who has taken the bookings and arranged crewing of the boat for many years. He will be giving up this post at the end of the current season. Bob will continue to crew but will now be able to take more holidays during the boating season.

The popularity of short trips has been boosted during the past couple of years by activities associated with the Canal & River Trust's Lottery - funded project. PCAS will continue to run small events to attract public interest in future, as well as the major ones that require "all hands on deck". Our most recent major event was a Boat Rally, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of PCAS.

New Horizons ran short trips on both the Saturday and Sunday that weekend.

Once the installation of the landings have been completed, allowing crew and passengers to get on and off the boat safely, we will be promoting longer trips to Bielby.

It is always welcome to have the family groups return and we now have some annual visitors. Both last year and this year we have run trips for the Yorkshire Wolds Walking & Outdoor Festival, organised by the Beverly Tourist Information Centre. Hopefully they will become regulars. Alistair Anderson



New Horizons sets out on her maiden voyage along the canal with the official launch party on the 22nd May 2004. *Photograph Malcolm Slater*

🏠 (/) / Notices and stoppages (/notice...

Low Water Levels - up stream of Thornton Lock

Detail

From Date: 29/08/2019 14:00

To Date: On-going

Type: Navigation Closure

Reason: Water resources

Is the towpath closed? No

Location

Closest waterway: Pocklington Canal

Starts at: Lock 7, Thornton Lock

Ends at: Swingbridge No. 8

Description

Due to low water flows we are unable to maintain navigation from Thornton Lock upstream to Bielby Arm.

We will continue to monitor and reopen as soon as the feed increases.

The canal was closed between Thornton Lock and Bridge 8 on the 29th August. Unfortunately this coincided with our 50th Anniversary Boat Rally. Pictured above is the notice that was posted on the Canal & River Trust's website. The reason for the closure was the lack of water in the canal, caused by low rainfall on the Wolds above Pocklington. The rain feeds into the canal keeping the levels high. At one point on the closed section the water level was said to be only 14 inches! The canal reopened in early September.
The above notice appeared on the Canal & River Trusts Website.

PCAS 50th Anniversary Boat Rally held over the weekend of the 14th & 15th September

Images taken at the society's 50th celebrations boat rally.



Above. One of the first boats to arrive was the **Westwood**, based at Skipton. The boat was photographed on the 11th September between Cottingwith and bridge No.1 Below. A full Melbourne Arm on the 14th September.

Photograph's by Malcolm Slater



50th Anniversary Boat Rally



Above. Society and trade stands lined the side of the bank of the Melbourne Arm. Below. Canal art specialists “Sugarfoot” gave painting demonstrations. Photographs Malcolm Slater



50th Anniversary Boat Rally



This Page. The South Pennine Boat Clubs Handspike dancers together with their mascots (below) gave performances throughout the weekend.

Photographs Malcolm Slater



50th Anniversary Boat Rally



Above. Music was provided by the South Pennine Boat Club and a Country & Folk group adjacent to the beer tent!

Photographs Malcolm Slater



Antiques & Valuation Evening

It was a packed Melbourne Village Hall on the 19th July for the visit of Auctioneer Caroline Hawley of TV fame. As well as valuing the many items brought along by the audience she also gave an illustrated talk about what is hot and what is not in today's antiques trade!

Thanks go to Debbie and her team for a superb evening.



The Modification of No.7 Swingbridge

Bridge No.7 has now received modifications. it now resembles its appearance as it did in the early 20th Century. Alistair Anderson explains why.

The well known swingbridge at the junction of the Melbourne Arm with the Pocklington Canal has been modified to resemble the appearance of the bridge early in the 20th century. The old photo is from a postcard sent to an address in Melbourne and postmarked Easingwold. It is one of the many photographs in the collection of the late Sheila Nix MBE, who was Secretary of PCAS for many years. Sheila had captioned this photo: "Melbourne Swing Bridge in 1909 with postmistress in boat & parlour maid at the Hall". It remains a mystery why some of the writing on the back of the postcard appears to have been erased.

The modification of the superstructure of the bridge was done as part of the Canal & River Trust's Lottery- funded project and included to provide a feature of heritage interest, much like the wheel-operated paddlegear at restored locks on the canal. The deck of the bridge is unaltered but will receive a fresh coat of paint.

The modification of the bridge should have been done last year but there were access issues to be resolved. The work combined with modification of the brickwork to improve safety and enhance the appearance. The brickwork has been rebuilt by PCAS working party volunteers.

The charming old photo appears on a sign beside the bridge. Perhaps the scene could be recreated. All we need is a boat, a postmistress and a parlour maid.



Photographs from the collection of Sheila Nix MBE. Lower two images by M. Slater.

The Eye in the Sky

The first prize in the PCAS raffle held on the 18th May was a trip in a helicopter. This was won by Richard Harker who took working party colleague Richard Woodcock with him. The flight followed the course of the canal from Canal Head to the Melbourne arm. All the photographs by Richard Woodcock



Above. Two views of Canal head. Top Lock (*Restored 1996*). The main York-Hull trunk road is seen top left of the picture.

Below. Top Lock looking down the canal towards the Silburn Lock (*disused*).



The Eye in the Sky



Above. Silburn Lock (*Disused*).
Below. Giles Lock (*Disused*).



The Eye in the Sky



Above. The next big restoration project for PCAS is Sandhill Lock. It is hoped to begin work on the restoration of the lock shortly.
Below. Coates Lock (*restored 1990's*) and bridge.



The Eye in the Sky



Above. Walbut Lock (*operational*) and the adjacent Mill Farm.
Below. Thornton Lock (*operational*).



The Eye in the Sky



Above. Repaired and restored as part of HLF project by PCAS working party members, the award winning Church Bridge.

Below. Boats moored in the Melbourne Arm.



Out and about with the PCAS Promotions Unit

Sales officer Tim Charlson and his team have been busy out and about promoting the society. Ros & Eddie Sibley have looked after the sales stall for several seasons as well attending many rallies, fetes and galas.



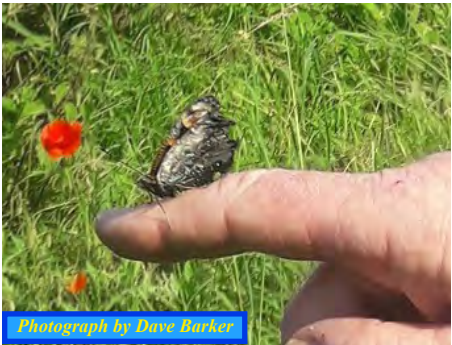
Top Left Ros and Eddie with Tim Charlson (centre). Above Eddie & Ros with the stand open in Melbourne Village Hall. Top Right East Cottingwith Fete 2019 and Glyn Smith was in charge of a rather wind - blown stand. Middle Right Ros with the stand at the Pocklington Lions Fun Day 2019. Lower Right Who can ever forget 2018 when another two miles of canal were opened to boats? Debbie and Ros show two of the souvenirs produced to commemorate the event.



Above The Canal Head information Centre is open on most Sundays. Photograph taken 2001. Sheila Nix MBE Archive.

Wild life along the canal

By Malcolm Slater



Photograph by Dave Barker



The above images are some of my humble attempts at being a wildlife photographer. *Top left* image is a chirpy robin seen at Melbourne. At the same location the pheasant came walking down the track towards the camera. The peacock butterfly' is something that I would not have believed. They all came onto my hand without inducement and seemed very content to stay allowing me get these shots. All were free to fly away at will, which they did. The giant black slug may be disappearing from our gardens but they continue to thrive around the canal. The one pictured here measured five inches from nose to tail!



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Co-op local cause

Go online coop.co.uk/membership



PLEASE HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR

SANDHILL LOCK,
POCKLINGTON CANAL

THROUGH THE

CO-OP

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

has been selected to be part of the

CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND

So what do you do?

- **If your not already a member join the Co-Op**

www.coop.co.uk/membership

**Select Pocklington Canal Amenity Society as
your chosen benefactor.**

- **Shop at the Co-op as much as you can using you're
card and buy Co-op own branded goods when you
can**
- **Ask your friends and family to do the same**

POCKLINGTON CANAL:

A Gem in the Landscape

Sep 2016—Aug 2019

364 volunteer
days

(no of days x no of
volunteers)

295 people
took part in
activities

(including family wildlife
workshops, bird walks etc)

259 people took part in
guided walks

Church Bridge
shortlisted for
two awards

(winner in the East Riding of
Yorkshire Chairman's
Awards, runner up in the
Living Waterways Award)

2,083 attendees across
6 large events

2,426 school children
took part in education
sessions

100% of capital
work complete

(dredging, Church Bridge,
Swing Bridge)



The First **50 years**

1969 - 2019

**Pocklington Canal Amenity Society's
50 years of achievement**

Compiled by Malcolm Slater



Our look back through the archives takes us to the mid 1990's when the restoration of Coates Lock was started, but first we take a look at the state of the lock before work began. The lock construction is a mixture of both brick and stone. Top left, framed by the road bridge, is the lock in 1969. Above right is a view from the road bridge taken in 1970.

Below and looking down the canal towards the bridge in 1991.

Photographs from the Sheila Nix MBE archive collection.



1969 - PCAS the first 50 years - 2019



The by - wash at Coates lock was put in during 1995 with help from the Waterways Recovery Group (N.E). Contractors later installed sheet piles for the dams. The numbering and removal of the coping stones was followed by around 3ft of silt being removed from the lock chamber itself. The pictures on this page were both taken in 1995. *Photographs Sheila Nix MBE archive collection.*



1969 - PCAS the first 50 years - 2019



Work was advancing well when both these pictures were taken in 1996. The Jones KL15 one ton crane had been purchased from a scrap merchant near Canal Head and restored to working order by the society.

Photographs Sheila Nix MBE archive collection.



1969 - PCAS the first 50 years - 2019



1997 and the restoration of Coates lock was nearly complete. Contractors had been employed by British Waterways to continue some of the work still needed. PCAS members later fitted the coping stones and the restoration project was completed. *Photographs courtesy Sheila Nix MBE archive collection.*



1969 - PCAS the first 50 years - 2019



Coates Lock taken in 2019. The lock requires a small repair and is generally in very good condition. Some dredging work to the winding hole will need to be done above the lock.

Photographs Malcolm Slater.



PCAS Merchandise



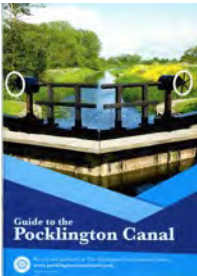
Head of Navigation
Plaques £7 each.



Anniversary Plaques £7 each.



Bicentenary Plaques
£7 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.

Canal Head information Centre
Is open between April and
October



Fridge Magnets £3 each



Canal Head cards, large £1.50. Small £1 each.



Pin Badge £3 each



PCAS Mugs five designs to choose from £4 each.

Please Note:

Postage and Packing must be added to all orders for details please contact the sales officer, Tim Charlson m 07926 910717

Email: tcharlson58@gmail.com

Most of the merchandise and books are available from the Canal Head information Centre. **Postal sales welcome.**

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

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www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

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The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

One copy free to members

£2