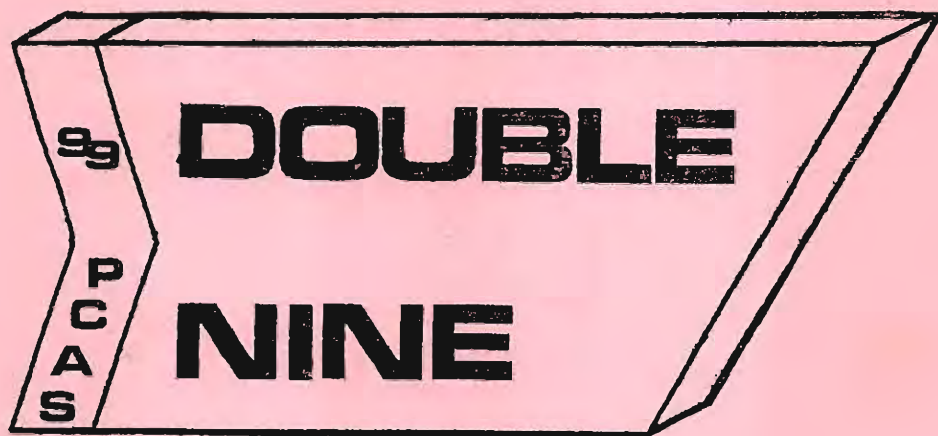


Solomon

No. 9



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
OF
The Pocklington Canal
Amenity Society



MARCH 1971

POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY



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1971 is the year which determines the future of the "Remainder" Waterways, of which Pocklington Canal is one. It is also an important year for the future of the adjoining River Derwent. Having in mind the critical economic situation in the country, it is clear that, despite continued promises of support from the powers that be, Government money is not too readily available. It is essential, therefore, for our own supporters to maintain pressure to upgrade these Waterways - Now or never!!

Our Volunteers, backed by our indefatigable fund-raisers, are doing a magnificent job. The constant arrival of fresh Volunteers joining our 'regulars' and the consistent rise in membership month by month, demonstrate only too clearly the growing insistence that our Canal should be opened. The coming months are vital - let none of us relax our efforts !

Gill Silt

Our local Press are among our most valued supporters. They suggest that the Canal is to be developed as a "Fun Centre" - Well, our Volunteers certainly appear to enjoy their visits, even working thigh-deep in 30 years' slime and mud in a lock bottom ! But we should not wish it to be thought that we have the slightest intention of developing the Canal as nine miles of "Amusement Park". Except for one or two limited areas, we firmly envisage the Canal remaining rural and peaceful as it is at present.

As for the Derwent, practical work there has hardly begun but our Chairman, as a member of the new Yorks. Derwent Trust Ltd., is keeping an eye on things for us, and has already spent considerable time in this connection - this in addition, of course, to many hours of unseen, unsung work which he and Mrs. Lount regularly put in on Pocklington Canal affairs.

THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION DONATION TO P.C.A.S.

The Ramblers' Association and P.C.A.S. have many aims and interests in common and we have always enjoyed most friendly connections with their East Riding Branch. They are, at present, actively concerned, in co-operation with ourselves and B.W.B., in restoring the Canal towpath. It is surely due to the interest and goodwill of the Branch, and especially of David Rubinstein, their Secretary, that we have recently received a most generous contribution of £25 towards our Restoration Fund from the National organisation of the Ramblers' Association. Like ourselves, they rely on voluntary contributions to finance their splendid work, which makes their gift to us all the more generous. We are greatly encouraged by their wish to back up what we are doing.

Stop Press ! Some stiles already erected.



I.W.A.A.C.

We are happy to print, opposite, a copy of the letter read to I.W.A.A.C. on Nov. 12th, last, from the Minister for Transport Industries, Mr. John Peyton. P.C.A.S. have happy memories of I.W.A.A.C's visit to our Canal in Dec. '69, and we are glad to know that their term of office has been extended. May they continue unflagging in their efforts.'

To Alderman Illtydd Harrington, J.P.,
Chairman of I.W.A.A.C.

From The Minister for Transport Industries.

10th November, 1970.

Dear Alderman Harrington,

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd October.

As the meeting of the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council on the 12th November will be the last to be held during Members' present period of office, I should like to send them, through you, a message of thanks for all the hard work they have done during this first 2½ year term.

Collectively, you and your colleagues cover a wide variety of interests: all of you have in common a desire to further the amenity and recreational uses of the waterways. But you will know all too well that the public money that can be made available for subsidising amenity and recreation is limited, that costs are rising alarmingly and that Government has been making steadily increasing grants for the upkeep of the waterways. This I know you will all agree presents a serious challenge.

I have seen the report on the many visits and inspections which the Members of the Council have made and know that members have given unstintingly of their time and of their special knowledge.

Their recommendations and suggestions have, I know, been studied carefully by the British Waterways Board. I am sure I may count on the Council to address themselves to the pressing problem of preserving amenities provided by the waterways, by which the Government sets store, whilst reducing the burden on the tax payer. This is a most worthwhile job, and I am glad to know that the advice and experience of a body with members of such wide and varied experience is available to help.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) John Peyton.

WORKING PARTIES

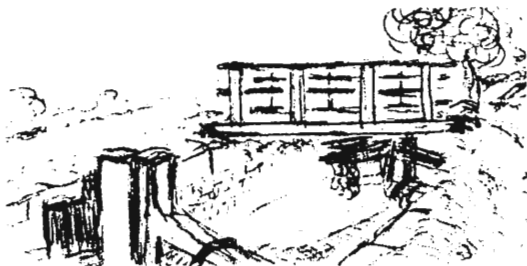
December 12/13th, January 9th/10th, February 6th/7th.

Our last working party for 1970 found us starting clearance work in the chamber of Gardham Lock. After successfully building a sandbag dam across the tail of the lock, diverting the flow from an adjoining dyke, and having cut and fitted additional planks on the topgates, pumping commenced.

We were not able to pump out the lock completely, but this did not prevent the removal of a large quantity of assorted rubble, paddle posts, bailing wire, and a pair of potato-scales, in addition to the usual quantity of mud. Several good sized fish were transferred to the pound above the lock, mainly tench and bream. One other find of note was a hole in the timber floor of the top end of the lock, which will be investigated further next time. At the same time further clearance work was carried out on the banks in conjunction with B.W.B. Staff. So into 1971 - and, with the New Year's Day snow melted away, January's volunteers concentrated on clearing the offside bank from Mr. Baldwin's bridge upstream towards Melbourne. The bank here is being used to deposit spoil as the dredging proceeds. With B.W.B.'s Drott having uprooted most of the scrub, members' tractors came into their own lifting stumps and large branches onto our bonfires, despite the sticky conditions underfoot. By the Sunday evening nearly 600 yards of bank was clear ready for the dragline.

February's volunteers continued the clearance work burning branches removed from the trees lining the towpath along the 600 yard length above Mr. Baldwin's bridge and thence downstream past the next swing bridge. In addition the remaining portion of a large fallen willow tree were removed, followed by several smaller trees felled into the Canal by B.W.B. Staff.

The remaining clearance work being on the offbank where scrub and trees prevented access to the adjoining dyke, some work remains for next time. The last three working parties have all been quite successful and blessed with pleasant weather. Once again



the generous loan of tractors, pumps and power saws, not to mention skilled operators, have led to steady progress and made things so much easier for the rest of us, who as one volunteer put it, have to do it 'mandraulically'. Our ladies have encouraged and fortified us with excellent tea and soup from the caravan, and we are very grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Baldwin for kindly allowing us access to the canal, and car parking space at Westfield Farm.

Once again we were pleased to welcome our friends from Durham University, who are looking forward to joining us again in the near future. The continuing help and co-operation of B.W.B. Staff is appreciated.

B.W.B. Work on the Canal.

Having reached the first swing bridge past the Melbourne Arm the dragline has changed to the off bank and is steadily working towards Mr. Baldwin's bridge. Having completed it's work the Drott has moved on elsewhere.

Brickwork repairs are continuing, with repairs to the bridges over the sop dyke alongside the towpath which provide access to the Melbourne Ings. In addition part of the syphon culvert carrying Black Drain under the Canal has been rebuilt. The dredging of the Thornton - Walbutt pound forecast in the last issue has not yet taken place due to problems with spoil disposal.

New timber gates and stiles have been erected on the roadside entrances to the towpath at Walbutt and Thornton Locks.

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GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW - JULY 13TH, 14TH, & 15TH.

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society has generously offered P.C.A.S. free space to exhibit in the section devoted to conservation, the theme being 'PRIDE IN BRITAIN'.

We need volunteers to help to man this stand and three free tickets are being made available for the show's duration to P.C.A.S. Even if you are only able to help for part of a day we will be grateful, so please give your name to any Committee Member.

This stand will enable P.C.A.S. to reach a wide cross-section of the general public.

REGISTRATION AS A CHARITY

Following the adoption of the new Constitutional Rules to comply with the Charity Commissioner's requirements at our Special General Meeting on Saturday December 12th. '70, formal application was made to the Commissioners; this has been acknowledged and, no doubt, in due course when the postal service returns to normal we will learn more.

We apologise for the absence of copies of the new Rules in the last issue of 'Double-Nine' this being due to an administrative error.

Members!

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

With the current Postal situation your subscription may by now be overdue, and we are unable to gently jog your memory. We will be sending reminders as soon as the dispute is settled, and would remind members that prompt payment is not only appreciated but saves us spending your money on further reminders!

Copy for next issue by May 10th. please!
Editor.

SOME ENCOURAGING FIGURES

MEMBERSHIP

currently stands at 388 and 2 corporate

GROSS TAKINGS

October Fashion Show £12. 5. 6.,
Sherry Party (£7.2.0.), Canoe Trip
and Dance £38.

NET PROFITS

Christmas Fair £32. 5. 0.
New Year Dance £40. 0. 0.

Once again our very real thanks to all concerned,
not least to all those Pocklington business people who
so generously donated prizes for the New Year Dance.



A SECOND R.A. CANAL RAMBLE - SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, 1971

On March 28th, Sunday, the Ramblers' Association are holding one of their Rambles, starting from Pocklington Aerodrome to Allerthorpe, and along the Canal. They should find the going by the Canal a good deal easier than on their first visit, last May! Not quite so many nettles! P.C.A.S. members are welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to David Duke, our Assistant Working Party Organiser, and his wife Linda, on the safe arrival of their son Paul on December 1st. Paul has already been seen at a Working Party - he didn't manage to sign the attendance book, but he kept a watchful eye on the tea and soup.'



HOW T'CANAL SOCIETY WERE FORMED.

It happened one Sunday, no so long ago,
When Eric was walking by t'Cut,
On a sticker displayed on t'back of a car,
About saving canal or some such.

He stopped and he looked, then the driver he saw,
And said "Now young man, what's this here,
About saving t'canal from a watery grave,
Let's sit and talk of it here."

So off they both went and got settled down
With some tea, in a nice easy chair,
And Eric asked questions as fast as he could,
And t'other one answered quite fair.

They talked for so long till darkness came down,
So Eric remarked to young chap,
"Come up to our farm and rest for the night,
We've a couch that's just right for a nap."

So off up to t'farm the couple did go,
Still talking of this here and that,
And halfway through t'night conversation went on,
Till Eric fell sleeping on t'mat.

The following day they continued their chat,
As ideas came into their mind,
The thoughts that they had of t'Pocklington Cut
were t'best that both lads could find.

They pictured the Cut with all t'trees removed
From t'middle where t'water was missing,
And t'lock gates replaced, and paddles all fixed,
With boats coming up, engines hissing.

On the towpath they saw people walking about,
Quite proper, and not making noise,
And then here and there some fishermen sat,
Some old, and some only boys.

And then t'picture changed, a turmoil there was,
A host had foregathered by t'Cut,
The men were all armed with shovels and spades,
And t'women were cooking in t'hut.

A tractor was there, and a crane with a can
For lifting the muck from the lock,
Then a man with a barrow would wheel t'muck away,
And return like a knife to the block.

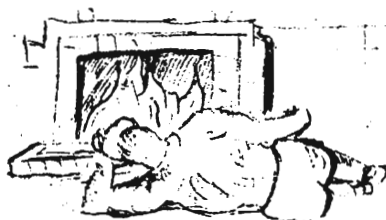
The workers that came were all sorts of folk,
Who took to the job as though playing,
But best of it all, when t'work was all done,
Not one of 'em there wanted paying.

But brass had to be found, to pay for some things
That couldn't be got on the tic,
So what could they do to bring in the brass,
Large lumps and lots of it quick?

A party we'll have, said Eric at last,
By t'Cut there, near t'Wellington Oak,
A tent we will have, and side shows and that,
A cafe, and somewhere to smoke.

All of these things the couple did see,
As they talked there of this here and that,
And that there is how t'Society were formed,
As Eric lay there on the mat.

ANON.



Advertisements

P.C.A.S. is very grateful to all its advertisers. are making a real contribution to the Restoration of this Canal and to the waterway cause generally. "Double Nine" has a wide, and steadily increasing circulation, both locally and in all parts of the country (not to mention New Zealand), so you should also get value for money !

You

EDITOR.

Advertisement Rates (per year)

Full page £6 Half page £4. Quarter page £2. 10s. 0d.
Four issues per year. Circulation approx. 300.

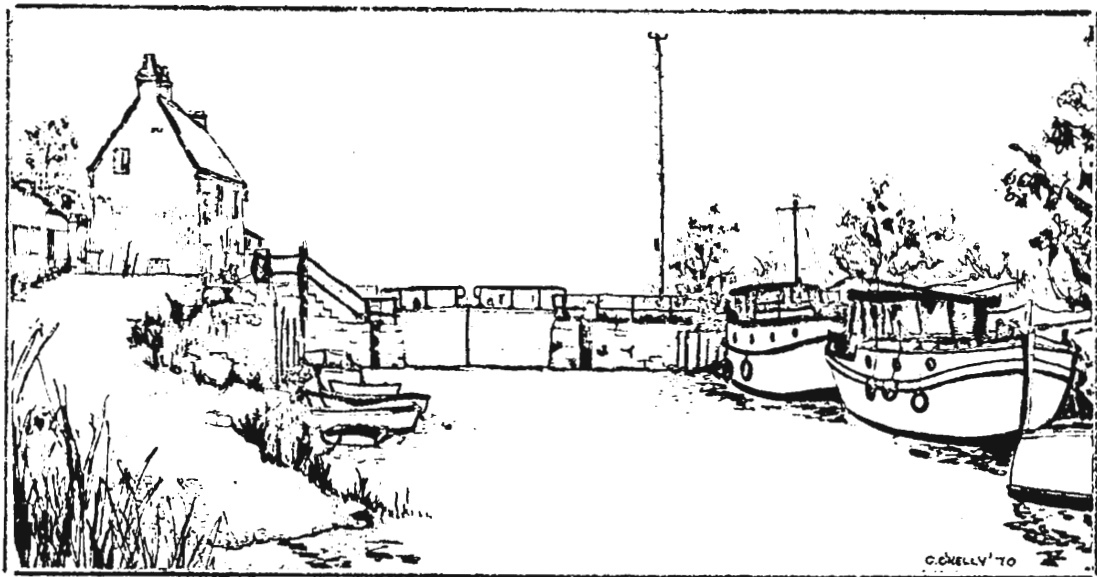
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LINTON LOCK

Linton Lock on the River Ouse about ten miles up from York, a vital link in the through route to Boroughbridge and the Ripon Canal. Support is still much needed here and one purpose of the York Whitsun Rally is to draw attention to this.

Canal-Side Willow Trees

Because they tend to send their roots out mostly towards the water where they can easily get their food supply, willow trees growing by the water's edge eventually become top-heavy and are liable to fall into the water, eroding the bank behind them. They also, of course, impede the free passage of maintenance machinery. Hence the policy of B.W.B. and the River Board is to remove all bank edge willows etc., in order to preserve the banks.

AND THIS WAS CONSERVATION YEAR - OR WAS IT ??

BUTTERCRAMBE MILL BRIDGE

The Society has sent a letter to the Minister of Environment protesting at the proposed demolition of this lovely old bridge on the Derwent. It is senseless to destroy the very things people enjoy there at a time when, at last, it seems likely that the River will be restored to navigation. All in the cause of faster, heavier traffic!

and HOWSHAM MILL too,

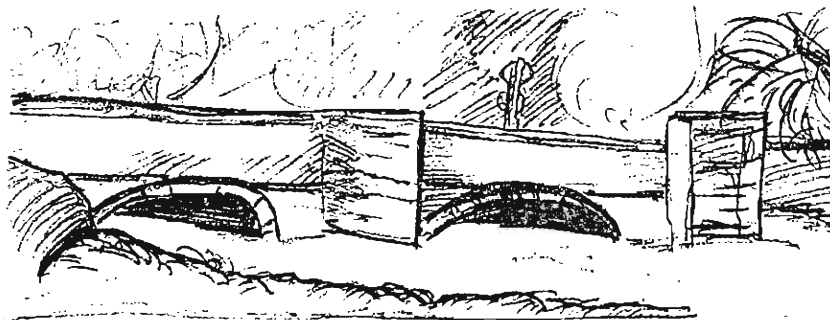
Surely some way could yet be found to save something of this unique little building with its delightful Strawberry Hill Gothic stonework. Is there no fund which could help to preserve at least the outer stonework, even if it is now too late to do much about the mill machinery?

And what about SUTTON-ON-DERWENT??

Photographs of the remains of the Mills can be found in a booklet recently published by the East Yorks. Local History Society, entitled:

"EAST RIDING WATER-MILLS" - by K.J. Allison.

This contains a general historical account of water-mills in the Riding, and a survey of the sites of all the mills still existing in 1850 and of those still standing today. There are diagrams and photographs. Obtainable, price 50p., from E.Y. Local History Soc., Purey Cust Chambers, York.



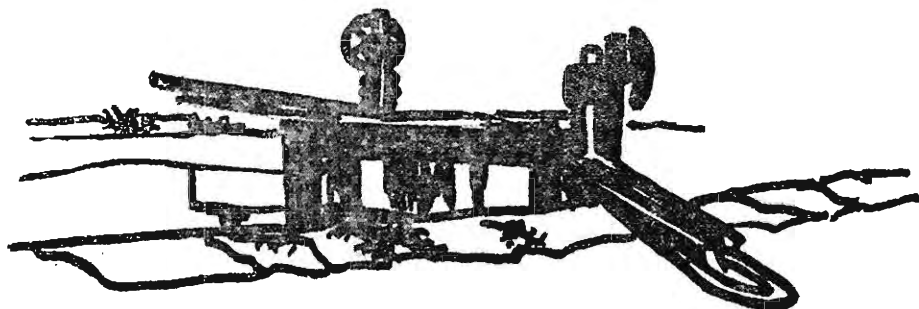
BUTTERCRAMBE MILL BRIDGE.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Society's second Annual Dinner Dance took place, in spite of the fog, at "The Four Winds Restaurant", Driffeld, on January 22nd., and was a friendly and enjoyable event.

In the unfortunate last minute absence, due to illness, of our patron Mr. J. Chichester Constable, Capt. James Hewat proposed the toast to the Society in a most entertaining and encouraging manner. Our Working Party Organiser David Tomlinson, proposed a toast to our guests and the Press, and recalled the Society's recent offer of £500 to British Waterways towards the re-opening of Cottingham Lock, and emphasised that this would be a big step towards our goal of making available an eventual round trip, by water or by towpath, of 100 miles of Canal and River, between the Ouse, Malton and Pocklington. Cllr. Patrick Cooper, himself a member, who was deputising at a few hours' notice, for Mr. Ian Walker, Area Engineer, B.W.B., Castleford, also unavoidably absent due to family illness, replied on behalf of the guests. He congratulated the Society on its enthusiasm and determination and on its splendid achievement. He also drew attention to the pleasure to be had, not only from boating, but also from the opportunity for taking a walk along the towpath in such pleasant, unspoilt surroundings.

Mr. E.H. Grever was an able Toast-Master and Stan Seeds provided music for dancing for our eighty members and friends.



COTTINGWICH BOTTOM GATES.

MODEL OF POCKLINGTON CANAL TOP LOCK

- Progress Report from Two Boys at Pocklington School -

We estimated that to gather the necessary information and photographs to work from, would take about a month but, later, found that it would be stupid to attempt to start with the information we had gathered in that short time. The time was extended and, after nearly three months, all the plans were finally drawn up.

We decided that we would divide the making of the model into three parts. They are as follows :-

- (a) the actual lock chamber
- (b) the upper pound
- (c) the lower pound

We chose the model to be made out of fibreglass because it was a convenient material to work in for various reasons. The main stage, which we are working on at the moment, is the construction of the lock gates. To make these watertight we have had to make a few modifications, such as inserting small magnetic strips in the ends of the gates to keep them together.

We anticipate that this model will resemble the real thing but, due to the scale, it will not operate exactly like the real thing. We hope, though, that it will work just as efficiently.

The completion date will have to be July 1971 because that is when one of us is leaving school. We hope the model will travel around the country along with a display board showing photographs and other interesting information.

Robert Hayes and David Richardson.
13.1. 71.

Uncle Peter's Fishing is a victim of the Strike. Sorry!

"£10,000 TARGET TO SAVE A HUMBER KEEL" -

Headline from the 'Guardian', Jan. 26th, 1971.

It appears that the Humber Keel Trust is making a final effort to save "Mayday", probably the last of the Humber Keels, now lying derelict at Goole. It is hoped to move her to the Maritime Museum at Exeter. A long way from home for this last descendant of the Viking long-ships! These keels traded on the Humber and adjoining waterways and the smaller ones came up our own Canal. The cover decoration of "Double Nine" shows a keel, minus her mast and big square sail.

Our efforts to contact the Trust have been frustrated by the Postal strike. We hope to have more details later.

POLLUTION

P.C.A.S. was officially represented (by D.G.T.) at a one-day conference on Pollution at Castleford, organised by the Yorks. and Humberside Clean-up Campaign. A most interesting talk was given by Mr. Lovett, of the River Board, on River Pollution. Disappointing that so few other organisations from the East Riding were there.

We are glad to know that the Campaign is to continue unabated. Mark Andrew, it's Director, has already done much to promote the appreciation of waterways.

THE CASE FOR RESTORATION

MORE PROFITS !

P.C.A.S. SURVEYS - "The Case for Restoration"

Five hundred of these were printed just fifteen months ago at a cost of £71. Of these about 325 have been sold to bring in roughly £80. A further 100 copies or so have been distributed as complimentary copies, and there remain some 70 copies on hand. (Available from the Secretary, price 28p. post free)



YORK RALLY OF BOATS - SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, MAY 29th, 30th, 31st.



THE WATERWAYS NEED YOU ! Please try to reserve some time to come and help - we need lots !

Come by water if you can or by land. But DO COME!!

WHY A RALLY IN YORK ? Chiefly because this is I.W.A.'s Campaign Year for saving the "Remainder" Waterways, and York is the nearest suitable spot to the Pocklington Canal and the River Derwent, & Linton Lock.

There will be exhibitions, films, etc., as well as all the other usual attractions on the site, and we shall need lots of help if we are to make the most of this excellent central site, in the midst of York's year-long 1900th Anniversary Celebrations.

Wanted--volunteers

Offers of help with land-based events to : S.M. Nix, 74, Westminster Road, York, 'Phone: 23338.

All boating matters to: R.Hearfield, 60 Wetherby Road, York, 'Phone: 78331.

P.C.A.S. Ladies are running a home-made cake stall, fruit pies, snacks etc. etc. on the Rally site.
PLEASE bake for us if you can !

And we need volunteers to sell ice-cream too!

NEW NARROW BOATS

NONE BEEN BUILT FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS,
but we can now offer the nearest thing to "Josher" line, since Yarwoods finished building.

Call and see our 'Hampton class tug and cruiser hulls. 35 ft.—70 ft. Traditional steel construction, or if your choice is for a roomy 25 ft.—30 ft. cruiser, then our "Compton" steel hull may be just the thing you are looking for.

Engine fitting, cabin work and fitting to completion can be undertaken to customer requirements at sensible prices.

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Diary of events

- 19 -

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| MARCH | 6th, 7th. | Working Party |
| MARCH | 8th. | P.C.A.S. Monthly Committee |
| MARCH | 25th. | Talk on Pock. Canal at Sheffield, at Dega Club, 546 Eccleshall Road, (N.E. Mids. Br., I.W.A.) All Welcome 7.30 p.m. |
| MARCH | 28th Sunday | R.A. Ramble including Canal. For details 'phone: Hull 845810 |
| APRIL | 3rd, 4th. | Working Party |
| APRIL | 3rd. | A.G.M. 7.15 p.m. Thornton Village Institute. |
| APRIL | 5th. | P.C.A.S. Monthly Committee |
| MAY | 1st, 2nd. | Working Party |
| MAY | 3rd. | P.C.A.S. Monthly Committee |
| MAY | 22nd, 23rd. | Working Party (a week early) |
| MAY | 24th. | P.C.A.S. Committee |
| MAY | 29th, 30th, 31st. | York Rally of Boats and Exhibition (no Working Party this weekend. Come to York instead!) |
| JUNE | 19th, 20th. | Working Party |
| JUNE | 28th. | P.C.A.S. Monthly Committee - <u>NOT</u> June 21st. |
| JULY | 13th, 14th, 15th. | P.C.A.S. Stand at Gt. Yorks. Show. |
| AUGUST | 13th -16th. | I.W.A. National Rally at Northampton |
| AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY | | I.W.A. Rally at Sheffield Basin. |
| SEPTEMBER | 11th, Sat. | Canoe Trip up top of Canal |

ADVANCE NOTICE

P.C.A.S. GARDEN PARTY - SATURDAY JUNE 26TH. AT WEST GREEN,
POCKLINGTON

All the Fun of the Fair, Stalls, Displays, etc.

BOOK THIS DATE NOW! LOTS OF HELP NEEDED!

DON'T FORGET

FUTURE WORKING PARTIES

dates as follows :-

March 6th/7th
May 1st/2nd

April 3rd/4th
May 22nd/23rd

June 19th/20th.

The May 22nd/23rd date has been brought forward one week so as to free volunteers to go along and help at the York Rally over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend.

At our April Working Party we are looking forward to welcoming a party from the N.E. Midlands Branch of I.W.A., who are attending both days and staying overnight in Thornton.

It is planned to continue with the clearance work both on the Canal banks and in Gardham Lock Chamber.

Members attending should look out for direction signs on the York Road at Melbourne, and at Church Bridge. Further information can always be obtained from Melbourne 216 or Stafford 61284.

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEMBERS ! THIS IS YOUR SOCIETY!.

This annual meeting is an opportunity to hear what is being achieved and planned and to give the Committee the benefit of your ideas.

Agendas and Nomination Forms are enclosed with this magazine. MAKE THIS A DATE !

And complete the evening with a : HOT PIE SUPPER
in company with our visitors from N.E. Midlands!

THORNTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE 7.15 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD.

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PHURNACITE



It's Phred Again

Hello Friends! Here we are again! Shades of Henry VIII!! The axemen have been at it again, chopping and burning wood all along the banks. Loads of volunteers all with noses enjoying the scent of Spring in the air and the smell of burning willows. Not unlike the cigar I was given at the Annual Dinner - or perhaps it was the volunteer in me imagining things! I don't remember too clearly, you know! And anyway it was a foggy night! Hardly the kind of weather we get for Working Parties - as one of our I.W.A. friends remarked: "Your's are always lovely weather, ours it always rains!" - Well, if you can't beat 'em.....! Time marches on by Jove! Soon be the A.G.M.! Don't forget - vote for Phred!

THE B.P. TROPHY

The B.P. Trophy awarded to our Chairman at I.W.A.'s Annual Dinner last year has been returned for this year's award. It has occupied a place of prominence at our H.Q. and will be missed.

To this year's winner sincere congratulations!

WANTED

MYFORD LATHES WANTED
also SMALL MILLERS BENCH DRILLS, WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT
for MODEL-MAKING

CASH PAID

WALTON, EAST ST., LEVEN., NR. HULL.
Telephone: LEVEN, 538