

DOUBLE NINE

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY
MAGAZINE



October 2020

Issue 120



This image, taken in August of the canal between Thornton and Walbut locks, shows how quickly nature can re-claim the waterway. The Canal & River Trust dredged this section of the canal in December 2017.

*Picture courtesy of Andy Phillipson skipper of the boat **ALPHEUS**.*

Editorial

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Welcome to your October 2020 issue. I'll try to write this editorial without mentioning the "C" word as I know that it will crop up many times as you read through the magazine. It is very true to say that whilst the canal has been in lock down for most of the year, Mother Nature has taken back control but as the lockdown restrictions are now easing our PCAS working parties have recommenced. In late August our weed cutting boat took the lead in cutting back the overgrowth of reeds and weed in the canal, gradually working towards Bielby. CRT contractors also assisted in this process. Working down the canal towards Cottingwith.

The virus in 2020 has had a very severe impact on PCAS finances with no income being generated from trips or events. To offset this, if every existing PCAS member could enrol just one new member, we would generate some much needed funds. Just a thought.. Finally, I never thought that I would be able to walk into the bank wearing a mask and get money out without them phoning the police!

Malcolm Slater

Front Cover: The Canal & River Trust's workboat **Thorne** arrives at bridge 6 to carry out modifications. Behind it is a contractors boat, the **John Nuttall** which was weed cutting down the canal towards East Cottingwith.

Rear Cover: A view of the small boat **Tuglet** from the following boat **Nutwood** as both vessels travelled down the canal. Both boats were making their way to Goole for maintenance on the 5th May 2018.

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Closing date for articles etc for the February 2021 issue is the **16th January 2021**.
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.

Chairman's Column

A Frustrating Year

It has been a frustrating year for the Society. The restrictions and regulations associated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on virtually every activity that the Society undertakes. As a consequence, there has been little progress made towards our goal of the full restoration of the Pocklington Canal, and in particular the works at Sandhill Lock. Nevertheless, a few things have been going on behind the scenes that should prepare the way for the resumption of activities when circumstances allow.

New Horizons

Our tripboat, New Horizons has stood idle throughout the summer season. It was not possible to offer public trips during the lockdown period, and, after that was eased, social distancing continued to make public trips on a boat of that size impractical. However, at the time of writing, one family charter has taken place, and there is the possibility of one or two more before the end of the season, which has been extended to allow these to take place. New Horizons will be going to Goole in early November, a little later than originally planned for reblacking. The loss of most of a season of boat trips has, of course, meant the loss of one of our most important income streams.

Working Parties

Covid-19 was also responsible for the cancellation of almost all of the working parties over the summer months, although a small amount of weed cutting has been undertaken by our weed cutting boat, Sheila Nix. Also some time has been spent refurbishing the welfare unit that the Society purchased earlier in the year. Regulations now require that welfare facilities are provided at work sites, and we decided that purchasing a unit would be a better proposition than hiring one.

Restoration

The planning of the restoration of Sandhill Lock has also come to a virtual stop. This is something that has to be done in partnership with the Canal & River Trust, and involves regular meetings. CRT took the decision to furlough many of their staff during the lockdown period, and since that ended, most of the people that we deal with have been working from home. In these circumstances, it has proved almost impossible to make any progress. Consequently, the application for Listed Building Consent, something that only CRT can do, has still to be submitted. This along with other approvals

Chairman's Column

that are required, means that we are not we are not likely to see any work on the project until next year. However, with our welfare unit in place, and the preparatory work already undertaken by our consultants, we should be ready for a quick start, once circumstances allow.

Events and Activities

In a normal year we would expect to have at least two outside events, one in the Spring and one in the Summer or Autumn. We would usually also have three or four indoor events, including the Annual General Meeting and our customary November Sunday Lunch. This year, we have not been able to hold any of these events. I believe that 2020 will be the first time that the November Lunch has not taken place in 50 years. We can only hope that next year will be different.

Fundraising

With so many things cancelled, our fundraising has taken a big hit. To make up for this, we tried something new. That was crowd funding via the Internet, and that proved to be a worthwhile venture. Over £3.000 was raised, which is a great result, and far more than I had expected. I would like to thank everyone who contributed. Also I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the collection boxes at Canal Head and Melbourne, which have done very well this year.

Paul Waddington
PCAS Chairman

Donations

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



Registered Charity 500637
www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org



PCAS 2021 Calendar now available

See page 27 for more details

Work Party Report

As a result of the “Lockdown” working party activities were suspended as from 17th March & not able to recommence until 7th July.

Time since then has been spent catching up with the usual “spring” activities, e.g. Bank repairs, lock gate beam painting, and bench/picnic table staining etc. Not a very a very exciting period I’m afraid.

Work continued on the weed boat repairs & it was eventually put back into service on the 1st September. Fortunately, in the meantime, CRT had arranged for a “contractor” to cut weed for us from East Cottingwith up to Melbourne.

Our new welfare unit has had a substantial de-rust & paint job and is now awaiting it’s final coat of “PCAS Green” to blend in with the environment, at the moment it looks as though it’s in military winter winter camouflage.

So we are pressing on as best we can, within the “group distancing” restrictions and unfortunately, as I write it looks though things aren’t getting any easier.

My thanks to all who turn out for their collective efforts,
(it gets us out of the house for the moment)

Richard Harker

PCAS Work Party Supervisor.



Left: The PCAS working party on the 29th September concentrated its efforts on painting the new welfare unit. This completely changed its appearance, on what was to be the best day of that week for painting, as the weather changed the following day.

Work Party Report



Above: Members of the PCAS Tuesday working party, painting the welfare unit on the 29th September. Left to Right are Tony Fenech and Robert Fouracre.
Below: Left to Right Robert Fouracre on the steps whilst Tim Charlson is on his tip toes determined to reach the top. *Pictures by John Lundie.*



Work Party Report



Top picture: Working parties resumed in early July. Steve Ashby takes the opportunity to prepare **New Horizons** for painting on the 20th August.

Photograph courtesy Alistair Anderson

Below. A meeting took place at Coates Lock between the CRT and PCAS to discuss the water leakage from the lock's bottom gate on the 1st September



B.T. poles removed from Church Bridge.



Several months ago British Telecom erected distribution poles across Church Bridge at Thornton. It subsequently appeared that the necessary paperwork had not been completed, and BT were required to remove the poles as Church Bridge is a listed structure. Contractors rerouted the cable underground on the 8th September - it now lies seven metres below the bed of the canal. The offending poles will soon be removed.

Pictured above: The tunnelling machine working at Thornton Bridge.

Pictured Below: The view of the exit hole on the Thornton Village side of the bridge.



Is this the first boat to reach Pocklington?



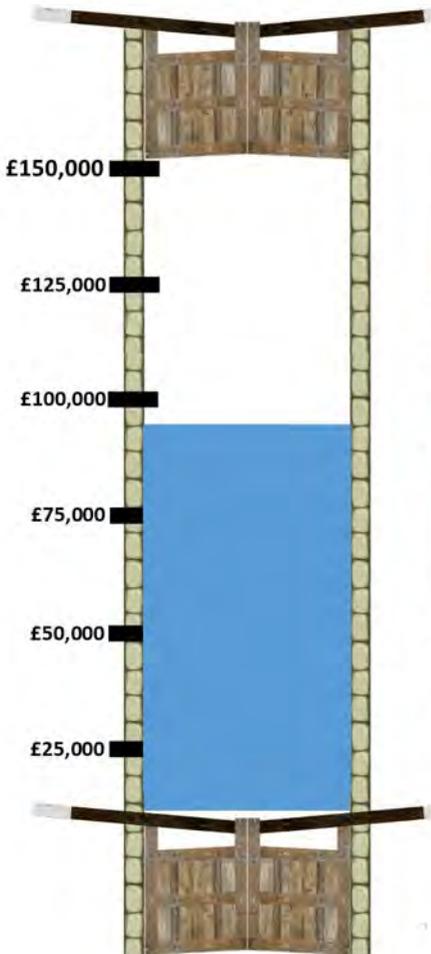
It was decided in 1989 that PCAS would have a float in the Pocklington Arts Festival Parade which was to be held on the 3rd June. This presence would help publicise the canal's restoration. The float was a model canal boat which fitted on the top of a car. Member John Watson of Huntingdon constructed the boat from plans drawn up by Paul Waddington, and the very clean car was also provided by Paul.



POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

RESTORATION APPEAL

SANDHILL LOCK



£150,000

Required to restore
Sandhill Lock

Work Starting 2020



PLEASE DONATE BY

Using canalside donation boxes

Direct into PCAS Bank Account

quoting SANDHILL

SORT CODE— 40-37-01

ACCOUNT NO—20674451

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE - www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

CRT and PCAS fight back

Whilst the canal has slumbered for most of the year, Mother Nature has tried to take back the waterway with rampant weed growth. The contractors weed cutting boat the **John Nuttall** together with PCAS's **Sheila Nix** started to cut back this overgrowth. The CRT boat worked towards East Cottingwith and the PCAS boat working up the canal towards Bielby.



This page: The PCAS Weed Cutter/Workboat **Sheila Nix** busy clearing the overgrown weed growth between bridge 7 and Thornton Lock on the 1st September.



CRT and PCAS fight back



Above: Contractors weed cutting boat **John Nuttall** clearing weed growth near bridge 6.

Below: Onboard the **John Nuttall**, as the cut vegetation is loaded onboard.



Canal & River Trust at work on the canal

On the 9th August the CRT workboat **Thorne** moved up the canal to swingbridge 6 to undertake some modifications.



New Horizons makes it out.

*Our trip boat **New Horizons** carried its first passengers of 2020 on the 12th September. This was for a private booking, with all the necessary Government guidelines being observed regarding the pandemic.*



*Above: **New Horizons** approaches bridge 6 on its return from Gardham Lock.*

Below: A second pre-booked trip was undertaken on the 4th October.

New Horizons passes bridge 6 on what was a wet Sunday morning.



Membership Matters

Most members are now renewing their memberships by using standing order. This is by far the best way to help us run the membership database. As an alternative a payment direct into the PCAS account (showing your name as reference) is acceptable. What is now much more difficult is handling cheques. With so many banks now closed or on limited hours it becomes difficult to get these paid in.

Remember a standing order is always under your control. You can change it or delete it at any one time.

Remember also to keep us up to date with any change to your address, email, telephone etc, so we have your latest details. Any changes, simply drop me an email. With our income well down this year is there a friend or family member who would appreciate a membership as a gift from you? They would receive Three newsletters each year as well as having the opportunity to become involved with crewing, joining our working party or by helping out at events which we hope can be nearer normal some time in the future.

Roger Bromley
Membership Secretary

Membership

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

Please send all new memberships & 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.

The Pocklington Canal or is it?

The coloured postcard pictured on the left is titled "Pocklington Canal".

It is clear that this may not be the case. I have yet to find the canal as wide or with such steep banksides. Could it be the Derwent above Loftsome bridge? This was published by the South Cave WI. Did they publish any more postcards featuring waterways? Any assistance about the postcard or any other information will be gratefully received. *Editor.*



Pocklington Canal

© South Cave W.I.

The canal then and now

We take a look at the canal and how it has changed from the early days of PCAS and how it looks now in the 21st century.



Above: East Cottingwith lock bottom gates and the cut leading to the canal 1969.



Above: The same location 49 years later in 2018 as **Nutwood** returns to the canal.

The canal then and now



Above: Bridge 8 looking up the canal and a remarkably clear towpath in 1995. The boat seen in the picture is the **Buccaneer** owned by Bernard Jessop.



Above: It is almost impossible to take the same picture today, as mature trees now line both sides of the canal. This picture was taken looking down the canal from the bridge in July 2018.

The canal then and now



Above: Bridge 7 in 1969.

Below: Bridge 7 with new brickwork and replica handrails restored in 2019.

The brickwork repair was undertaken by PCAS working party members.

The new rails were copied from an early 20th century photograph. They were installed by CRT with help from a Heritage Lottery Grant.



The canal then and now



Above: This photograph from 1969 is bridge 5 (Baldwin's Bridge) at that time it stopped boats reaching Melbourne. It was rebuilt by PCAS volunteers and the rebuild took two years starting in 1980.

The rebuilt bridge was opened on the 20th September 1981.

Below: Baldwin's bridge. **Dock of the Bay** has just passed underneath the bridge and is seen heading down the canal.



The canal then and now



This page: This large tree is just upstream from Church Lane, East Cottingwith. Some of the tree was in danger of collapsing over the canal. The top picture shows the tree on the 1st March 2019 whilst below, four days later on the 5th March, the offending limbs had been removed.

Pictures courtesy of Tim Charlson.



Can you help the PCAS archives?

Have you any negatives, pictures, cine film, video or any anecdotes that you could share with us?

While we are all in lockdown there can be no better time to have a look through all those old photograph albums and drawers.

Do you or anyone you know, have any old or recent pictures of the Pocklington Canal? Does anyone have a story to tell about anything or anyone connected with the canal?

Every single picture is of interest to us!

If you do have any material could we copy and return it to you?

We will obviously take the greatest care of anything that you send us.

PCAS is always interested in acquiring pictures, film and video to add to our archives.

Finally, most importantly, we are always interested in receiving Articles for possible inclusion in Double Nine magazine!

Please send any material to: malcslater879@gmail.com

Can someone lock us through please?

This picture below shows the swan family "locking" through Walbut lock.

The swans that live on the canal have all done very well this year,

With this family have managed to rear a brood of eight .



Hagg Bridge Repairs



Above: Work is progressing well with the £900,000 re-build at Hagg Bridge and seems to be on time for completion in October. The new steel crash barrier/timber fencing is now in place, replacing the former post and rail fence.
Below: New timber facings have now been attached to the crash barrier metals.
Photographs courtesy of Tim Charlson.



A look back through the Archives

Compiled by Malcolm Slater

We take a look back at one of the canal's nine locks. The next lock up the canal after Sandhill is Giles Lock which is the subject of this issue.

The lock did receive cosmetic attention in the early 90's when the Waterways Recovery Group held a canal camp.

Photographs from the Sheila Nix MBE archive collection & Tim Charlson.



Two photographs of Giles lock taken in the early 1990's just before the working parties started to clear vegetation and tree roots which were growing close to the lock chamber.

A look back through the archives - Giles lock



Top picture: Working party members erecting scaffolding inside the chamber at Giles lock in 1989.

Lower picture: In charge of the cement mixer was our very own Alistair Anderson.



A look back through the archives - Giles Lock



This page: Members of the Waterways Recovery Group as well as members of PCAS set to work with the restoration of Giles lock in 1989. Working parties at this time were only held on the second Sunday of each month. It is truly amazing just how much the society did achieve! One of the wing walls was completely re-built.



A look back through the archives - Giles Lock



This Page: The coping stones at Giles Lock required re-setting and it was thought that some had fallen into the lock chamber. An appeal went out in the April 1999 issue of Double Nine for the loan of a JCB in order to recover them from the bottom of the chamber.



A look back through the archives - Giles Lock



Tim Charlson has been able to update this month's archive feature with these pictures of Giles Lock taken on the 11th September. Although at first glance the lock looks in fairly good condition, the brickwork requires attention. It will be several years before PCAS will be able to start the restoration of this lock.



New additions to PCAS sales



PCAS has published what may be our first ever calendar.

The 13 page, A4 size calendar for 2021 has one month per page plus an illustrated cover which is wire bound with hanger, and features twelve photographs, all of which have been taken by PCAS members.

The calendar is a strictly limited edition publication and is sold on a first come first served basis.

Price £6.50 inc P & P

Available now



Key Ring
Two new key rings are now available. Design No1 features New Horizons on one side and on the reverse the PCAS logo. Design No2 features Thornton bridge and on the reverse is a picture of the canal.

Price 50p each.



Ball point pens at 50p are one of the latest additions to the PCAS sales shop.

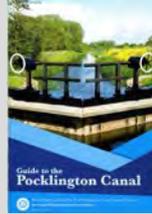
Every purchase of merchandise generates income for PCAS restoration



PCAS Sales



Pen 50p



Canal Guide £5



Canal Head Cards £1



Fridge Magnets £3



Pin Badge £3



Brass Plaques
Head of Navigation.
50th Anniversary.
Bicentenary 1818 - 2018.
£7 each



PCAS Mugs
Five Designs Available.
£4 each

Please Note:

Postage and Packing must be added to all postal orders.

For details please contact the sales officer,

Tim Charlson 07926 910717 email: tcharlson58@gmail.com

All the above merchandise and selected pre-owned books are available from the Canal Head Information Centre.

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

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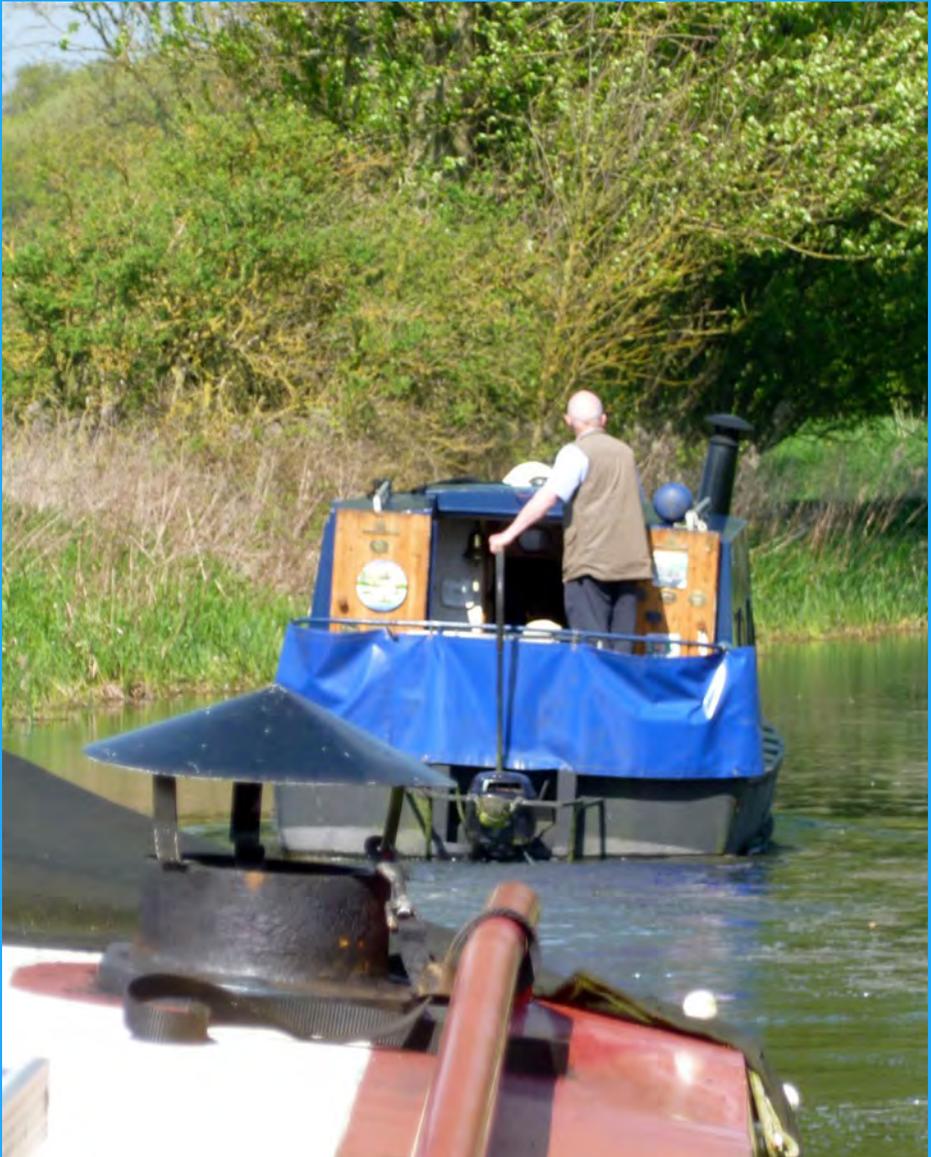
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The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

One copy free to paid up members