

# DOUBLE NINE



Quarterly Magazine  
of

THE POCKLINGTON CANAL  
AMENITY SOCIETY



1979

December

1980

No 40

# The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society



Registered Charity 500617

## PATRONS—

THE EARL OF HALIFAX, J.P.,  
H.M. LIEUT. YORKS. E.R.  
SIR PAUL BRYAN, D.S.O., M.C., M.P.  
ALEX LYON, M.P.  
PATRICK WALL, M.C., V.R.D., M.P.  
CLLR. T. E. SCAIFE, J.P., F.S.V.A.  
J. CHICHESTER CONSTABLE, ESQ.  
B. ALLISON, ESQ.

## COMMITTEE

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Chairman                                    | R. G. Walton, ARICS, Hawthorne Cottage, Flinton, nr. Sproatley, E. Yorks. HU11 4WE.<br>Tel: Aldborough (040 17) 592.  |
| Vice Chairman                               | F. H. Left, 10 Regent Street, Pocklington, Yorks.<br>Tel: Pocklington 3100.   |
| Secretary and Editor of '99'                | Mrs. S. M. Nix, 74 Westminster Road, York. YO3 6LY.<br>Tel: York (0904) 23338.  |
| Treasurer                                   | D. G. Tomlinson, MOD POLICE, RAF Saxa Vord.<br>Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9TJ.   |
| Assistant Secretary and Press and '99' Rep. | Mrs. M. O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, Yorks. YO4 2BG. Tel: Pocklington 2687.  |
| Membership Secretary                        | Mr. R. O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, Yorks. YO4 2BG. Tel: Pocklington 2687.   |
| Joint Working Party Leaders                 | Miss Sue Crooks, c/o 3 Queen's Mead, Lund, nr. Drifffield. Tel: (emergency) Middleton-on-the-Wold 529.<br>R. O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, Yorks. YO4 2BG. Tel: Pocklington 2687. |
| - also -                                    | (WP Correspondence to S. Crooks please)<br>Mrs. V. Barron, C. R. Huitson, Miss E. Johnson, E. A. Lount, C. R. Pearson, E. Tottle.   |
| Hon. Auditors                               | Pickles & Co., Chartered Accountants, Selby.  |
| Hon. Consulting Engineer                    | C. T. G. Boucher, Ph.D., M.Sc., N.I. Struct.E., ARIBA.  |
| Pocklington Canal Boat Club Secretary       | Mrs. C. Alden, Hollyhock House, East Cottingham, York. YO4 4TH. Tel: Melbourne 388.   |

NOTE: Opinions expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society.

# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## 'CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM'!

As indicated by our Chairman in his Christmas Message, there has been much measuring and prospecting this autumn along the Canal. As with the Lock House, it is too early as yet to publish any details, but the Treasurer tells us we have now topped the £4,000 mark for Thornton Lock gates. All sorts of possibilities are being actively explored. Despite inflation and the rest of the doom and gloom all round, we do feel the navigational outlook can be described - to borrow a phrase from Peter Hardy - as one of 'cautious optimism'. Incidentally, we could use some engineering bricks in the near future, if any of you have some you're not needing!

## SHELL AWARDS 1979 - PCAS RECEIVES CHEQUE FOR £750.

PCAS has been awarded £750 from Shell Oil UK under the 1979 Awards Scheme organised by Shell and IWA. We thank Shell most heartily for our own Award and we applaud the company for their generosity and public spirit. They have increased the total available to the long list of schemes around the country. A great many people are going to be praising Shell in the months to come - which must be good for Shell! It is certainly good for the inland waterways too!

(Further details of PCAS and other Awards on pages 12/13).

## OTHER FIRMS PLEASE COPY!!

Comparatively small sums could bring great benefits to our cash starved waterways while at the same time generating wide publicity for any firm far seeing enough to make such a thoroughly useful contribution to the improvement and conservation of a wonderful part of our countryside. Come on East Yorkshire! Is Shell to have all the glory?

## GOVERNMENT PLAN TO ABOLISH 'IWAAC'

IWAAC (Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council) was among the so-called quangos listed in the autumn in the Government's plans for cutting down expenditure.

If IWAAC cost the country a lot to run there might be some argument for its abolition. But it is run on a shoestring, with only two paid officials. It is true that it does not have as many 'teeth' as we might wish - if it had then Pocklington Canal might now be a 'Cruiseway' instead of still a poor 'Remainder' waterway! IWAAC has pressed for it to be upgraded for many years. Nevertheless we feel that IWAAC should be retained. It is a statutory body established under the Transport Act of 1974 and, as such, does have certain duties and powers, however slender.

IWA have written to the Minister to offer their services should IWAAC be abolished. But IWA do not have statutory powers. IWAAC themselves are concerned lest, in any legislation needed to bring about their abolition, the current safeguards available to waterway users might be reduced. This could particularly affect the 'Remainder' waterways.

## BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978

The Board report a remarkably successful year despite many problems. The Board's future was assured at last. The grant in aid from the DoE increased to £16,800,000 and, following the Fraenkel Report, the Government has allocated £5 million in each of the next two years for urgent arrears of maintenance through the country.

It is very disappointing that the Board has had to accept a cut in the money available to them, following Government spending cuts. The waterway system in this country is old and the need for bringing it up to standard becomes even more apparent. The need to bring all bridges up to proper safety standards was recognised in 1967 and 'Operation Bridgeguard' was set up to complete a long-term project which is still being implemented. The Board wonder why government cannot commit itself to a similar long-term project to bring the safety of the actual waterways themselves up to proper standards. The recent tunnel disaster when two men lost their lives only underlines the urgency. We offer our sympathy to the families concerned.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

\* \* \* \* \*

1979 - NOT BAD AT ALL!

1979 has seen a gradual increase in activity within the Society. The year dawned gradually and when we finally dug ourselves out of the snow it was AGM time. The status quo was maintained within the new committee and events and working parties continued as planned.

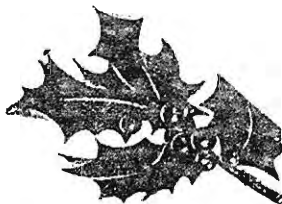
A change of government has made further financial aid towards the restoration of the Canal extremely unlikely and so any further work on the navigation will have to be paid for either by ourselves or the statutory authority, BWB.

The Canoe and Dinghy Cruise in September reminded people of the obstructions to through navigation to Melbourne (and the 'Cross Keys'!) and the definite lack of grant aid seems to have fired the spirit of determination within the Society to think of, and push for, cheaper alternatives for new swing bridges.

So, as 1979 draws to a close, we can look forward to the possibility of real action on the Canal, to enable completion of Phase One of the restoration (i.e. to the tail of Thornton Lock), and the commencement of Phase Two (to the tail of Coates Lock) by starting to re-gate Thornton Lock.

As our year ends on a higher note than recently I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

RICHARD G. WALTON, Chairman



'HAPPY CHRISTMAS' FROM THE EDITOR!

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all our readers! And many thanks to all contributors and advertisers. Please keep on supporting us - we can't produce a successful magazine without you!

## REPAIRS TO COATES BRIDGE ON THE CANAL

The Society have expected for some time that both Coates and Walbut Bridges over the Canal would need to be repaired and strengthened in the near future. In fact it was PCAS who asked BWB to take a look at Walbut's safety last year (which they did most promptly). But it was purely by chance that one of the Society committee members discovered that work was proceeding on Coates Bridge in November.

Several of us went to have a look. We found that the bridge had been virtually taken down above the level of the arch and rebuilt. When we looked at it it was nearly complete again. As far as we could see it has been rebuilt as it was before. The bricks are modern and raw looking at present and larger than the old original local-made ones, though not as big as some (presumably through metrication). As the brick mellows it should all look very attractive once more.

## A Case for More Communication?

Whilst viewing the repairs we were approached by one of the local farmers. His concern was over the closure of the road and consequent inconvenience. Coates only carries a minor lane, important though this is to local people. His greater worry was that he expected Walbut to be next on the list, and Walbut carries a much busier Highway. If the road here is closed for any length of time it could cause a lot of inconvenience to a lot of people. Local residents remember the difficulties at Hagg Bridge a year or two ago.

Quite obviously the bridges have to be made safe and closure may be the only way to do the necessary work. The Canal Society are on the spot and many local residents tend to tackle us when any problems crop up on the Canal. We have suggested to BWB at Leeds that it would be helpful all round for us to know what work is planned and who exactly is responsible. Many difficulties could be ironed out or forestalled if we knew who to put in touch with who.

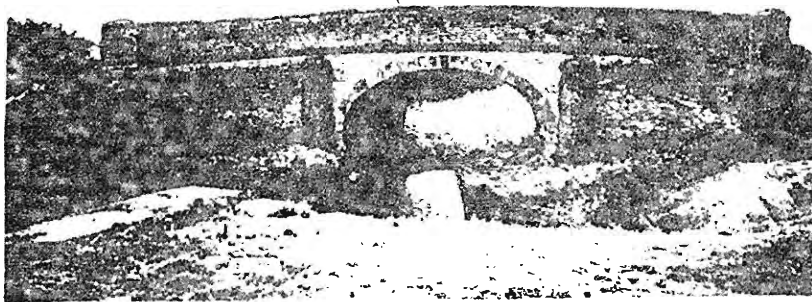
## So, Who is Responsible?

Safety of bridges is clearly not under 'Amenity' and it was suggested we enquire from North Wolds. North Wolds said try Humberside - Highways Section in Cemetery Lane, Pocklington. From them we learned that the folk to ask were British Waterways at Thirsk House in Leeds. It is they who deal with bridges.

Thirsk House then explained that if a canal bridge carries a major highway it will probably come under the County Highways direct. If it carries a lesser road then BWB will be responsible for repairs and safety etc. Whilst the lower part of the bridge is BWB's responsibility, anyway, the public road part has to be repaired in compliance with standards laid down by the County Surveyor. Thirsk House section of BWB also assured us that they have a full list of all 'listed' bridges and 'ancient monuments' and work according to the statutory regulations for these. It will be remembered that the Society got the road bridges over the Canal 'listed' some years ago.

## Just a Matter of Knowing

Everyone we consulted was most helpful but it took the best part of an hour and several long distance telephone calls to track down the right department to talk to. And WE do have quite a lot of information and addresses to start with! No wonder it is a problem for ordinary local residents who are worried. It is difficult to know the best answer but, certainly, easy access to reliable information does help smooth out a lot of wrinkles and forestall unnecessary 'aggro'.



- Coates  
Bridge -

# WORKING PARTIES

SEPTEMBER - A start was made on painting Gardham Lock - quite a lot to be done there, as there is also a swing bridge across the lock to be painted.

To those hard-working people who helped to clear out the bywash, a special thanks - you all smelled very sweet at dinner time!

We also carried on with our preparations for the Canoe and Dinghy Cruise.

Thanks are expressed to our farmer friends for allowing us to take our cars and all our gear over their land to the Canal.

It must have been a fine day because our Assistant Secretary was doing her Canal Society paperwork beside the Canal. We also had a visit from our former Chairman and his wife who were sick visiting in the area and looked us up at the same time and were pleased to see we were still carrying on the good work.

OCTOBER - Finished painting Gardham Lock.

NOVEMBER - A very wet day, but managed to do foundations for the PCAS seat at Canal Head. The seat was made by Bob Pearson some time ago and he reckons the PCAS on it stands for PLEASE COME AND SIT! Thank you Bob!

DECEMBER - The day started off very wet. Was work possible or not? Well, when people purposely come from Liverpool, Leeds, Hull and York just to work on restoration the weather is just a mere detail. Number 5 swing bridge or, as it is known, Baldwin's Bridge, was completely cleared of trees and rubbish and also brought to light the very poor state of this bridge. We hope this will soon be corrected one way or another.

FUTURE DATES - 13th Jan. 10th Feb. 9th March 13th April



*Tradesmen & D.I.Y. Handyman appreciate*  
**THE RIGHT TOOL OF THE RIGHT QUALITY & PRICE.**



TROWELS for Plastering, Concreting & Pointing; SPIRIT LEVELS from 9" upwards; LINES & LINE PINS for setting out; BUILDERS BARROWS & SHOVELS; IMPACT WOODWORKING & GENERAL ADHESIVES; PIPE GRIPS; STILLSON & BAICO ADJUSTABLE WRENCHES; IMMERSION HEATER WASTE & TAP SPANNERS; PIPE BENDING SPRINGS; STEEL WOOL & FLUXES; HACKSAWS; HACKSAW BLADES & BOWSAWS; TENON, PANEL & HANDYMAN WOOD SAWS; GLASS & TILE CUTTERS; TINSNIPS; PUNCHES; STEEL MEASURING TAPES; FOLDING BOXWOOD RULES; WOOD CHISELS, COLD CHISELS; RAWLDRILLS & TOOLS; AUGER BITS, BRACES, TWIST DRILLS & HAND DRILLS; ENGINEERS', JOINERS & BRICKLAYERS HAMMERS, SCREWDRIVERS; PLAIN & RATCHET; BRADAWLS.

BUILDING & PLUMBING MATERIALS.  
 IRONMONGERY.



FOR SMALL QUANTITIES OF SUNDRIES  
 SCREWS, NAILS, HINGES, ETC. Ask to see the

ECONOMICAL NEW 'AINSTYPAK'

DESIGNED TO REDUCE WASTEFUL SURPLUS ON SMALL JOBS

21 UNION ST. POCKLINGTON. TEL NO. 2118



**AINSTY**  
 FACTORING COMPANY LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: 29-39 YORKERSGATE MALTON. TEL: 2444

AND BRANCHES

BROOK ST. SELBY. TEL 702822- LINTHORPE RD. MIDDLESBRO' TEL 246282

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF PCAS

(or RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP)

Please complete the form below and send with your remittance to:  
R. O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, York YO4 2BG. (Or hand  
it to any Committee Member). Thank you!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Adult £1.00

Individual Junior 40p

Family or Joint Membership  
(husband, wife and all  
children under 18 years of  
age) £1.50

Corporate £3.00

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Tel: .....

I wish to join PCAS .....

I wish to renew  
my subscription .....

Please tick as necessary.

Total Subscription  
enclosed .....

Age of Junior Members .....

Enamel Member's Badge 40p  
+ 10p p.p.

Please enquire for details of  
Covenants and Life Membership (£25)

BANKER'S ORDER

To: ..... BANK  
Please pay to Midland Bank Ltd., POCKLINGTON, York (40-37-01) for  
the credit of the POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY A/C 20674451 the  
sum of ..... now and on 1st January.

Name .....

Address .....

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1979

The past year has once again shown the increased interest in the restoration of the Canal. Fully paid up memberships stand at 340 at the time of going to press. We have had numerous visitors during the year and have received donations from them, along with their comments. "You're doing a marvellous job!" "Press on with the good work! Here's a fiver!"

Now once more I must ask for your subscriptions for 1980. These will remain at £1 single and £1.50 for family membership. For this you get three magazines per year plus the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to restore a 70-odd acre linear water park for all to enjoy.

Subscriptions are not going up but inflation is, and it looks as if postage will too! If any of you would like to include an extra 30p to offset postage on your three magazines, this would be most gratefully received. (We do, of course, deliver as many as possible locally).

I must welcome all new members, those who have covenanted for seven years (that's confidence) and to those "10 year olds" - Happy Anniversary! I look forward to receiving your subs and donations. Membership cards will accompany the next magazines to save postage.

Seasonal greetings to you all! See you on the Canal in 1980!

R. O'K (Membership Secretary)

## BWB AREA ENGINEER MEETS SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As BWB's local Amenity Assistant, Cerry Turner is constantly in touch with the Society. But, for a variety of reasons, it was only this autumn that most of the committee were able to meet Ian Walker's latest successor at Castleford, Mr. Peter Barnes, who is the present Area Engineer. Peter Barnes spent an afternoon with us and we were delighted to meet him and Mrs. Barnes and we particularly appreciate their willingness to come out on a Saturday afternoon to be with us.

## DAVID LOWE ON FILM AT BINGLEY FIVE RISE - NOVEMBER 1979

A recent BBC TV programme featuring the town of Bingley showed some excellent film of David Lowe of Apollo Canal Carriers escorting BBC presenter Ken Cooper up the Five Rise Locks.

### SHELL/IWA AWARD SCHEME 1979 - PCAS GIVEN £750

PCAS has been awarded £750 from Shell Oil UK Ltd under their Shell/IWA Waterways Restoration Scheme for 1979. The money will go towards putting gates on Thornton Lock. The letter informing the Society of the award says:

"We were most impressed by the work carried out by the Society and feel that this contribution will help you towards the goal of completing the first stage of opening up the canal for the ultimate benefit of everyone in the community."

This is a real shot in the arm! It is the largest of the Awards in this region and will now enable us to pay for at least a set of top gates for the lock. With this handsome contribution we now have £4,000 available, mostly raised by you, our members, and friends.

### Presentation by Lockside

Rodney Miskin, Public Affairs Manager for Shell, presented the cheque to our Chairman, Richard Walton, on Sunday morning 25th November, standing beside Thornton Lock itself. He also gave Richard a copy of the excellent 'Shell Book of the Inland Waterways' by Hugh McKnight. Richard certainly spoke for us all when he said how tremendously grateful the Society were for the £750. In a scattered rural area it is not easy to find large sums of money and it is very encouraging when industry are prepared to help so handsomely.

### A Wide-ranging Assignment

Rodney Miskin, accompanied by Charlie Turner, IWA's Region Chairman, had made a punishing tour of inspection of all the local sites putting in for an Award, during September. On the Sunday of the presentations Mr. Miskin and the reporter and photographer drove over from Cheshire in sluicing rain and bitter cold, stopping off at Huddersfield, Stamford Bridge, Driffield and Ripon, as well as at Thornton Lock. And they still contrived to show interest and enthusiasm! Our thanks also to George Parkes who was with us in his capacity as IWA North Humberside Branch Chairman. Just one of the many ways George supports us! Thanks Val, for those life-saving hot drinks too!

## ELEVEN MAJOR AWARDS - AND MANY, MANY OTHERS

This is the second year of the SHELL/IWA AWARDS for Waterway Restoration, and Shell have greatly increased the amounts made available this time. Altogether eleven major Awards of over £500 were made, including two of £1,500.

£1,500 went to the SEAGULL TRUST which is providing boat trips for the handicapped on Scotland's Union Canal; and £1,500 towards gates on the CAEN HILL LOCKS at Devizes in Wiltshire on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The other major grants went to the Erewash Society for Langley Mill lock gates, to Droitwich Canals Trust for a new weir and bywash, to WRG North West for a new minibus for transporting volunteers, to Bugsworth Basin, to Stratford upon Avon Canal Society for strengthening banks to the River Stour Trust for a (waterways) museum project, to Ifield Mill near Crawley - and to PCAS.

The full list includes a vast array of waterway projects all over the country, receiving sums ranging from £25 to £300 or £400.



## CANAL HEAD LOCK HOUSE

It is too early yet to give any firm news on the future of the Lock House at Canal Head. But the Society committee are following up several useful propositions and are in active consultation with BWB on possible schemes. We all seem to be agreed now that the house ought to be lived in and this is an encouraging start.

The Board are also in sympathy with our efforts to make the most of the Canal Head area generally and they are shortly to move in with machinery to demolish the old, rather tatty outbuildings near the house. In their place a new garage will be built to house the BWB van etc. They also hope to plant some more trees.

THANK YOU!DONATIONS

These have come from many quarters, including £5 from Councillor Ken Tinson, Mayor of Pocklington, and £7 from Brayton Women's Institute after a Slide Talk, several from visitors to the Canoe Cruise and, of course, many from people topping up their annual subscriptions and other postal orders and cheques etc. Dr. Johnson sent £5 as a 'thank you' for a happy week spent on the Canal, something he said would have been impossible if not for the work of this Society. £1 came from Mrs. Sherburn for some drawings. Yet another gift, of £10 this time, part of the sale of a magnificent painting of Knaresborough Market by Mr. Horne.

GOODS FOR THE STALL AND RAFFLE PRIZES

We have received many generous gifts from many of you and they are greatly appreciated. We must thank especially Hilda and Francis Loft for a large consignment of jewellery (sold like a bomb at Barmby Feast!), Bill Parker for a camera and a box of books and the Straughans for a variety of useful items.

PUBLICITY

Once again we must thank PETER HARDY from Walkington for organising a great deal of excellent publicity for several PCAS events recently. He has given first rate interviews on Radio Humberside and contributed most useful articles in the local press. All have brought good returns and resulted in a number of enquiries for membership etc. Thank you Peter.

LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

We are grateful to the Loney family for use of their water carriers and to Carol and Gerald Alden for use of their Calor gas cooking rings, also to David Higgins and many others for lanterns etc. To Val and Gordon Barron for using their oven all one Saturday to pre-cook a sack of potatoes - not to mention scrubbing them and wrapping them in foil, along with lots of other preparations for the Halloween party; to Sue Crooks for all the time and trouble she takes shopping and preparing. To George Parkes, as ever, for constant use of his trailer.

## CANOE AND DINGHY CRUISE - 23rd SEPTEMBER

The Canoe and Dinghy Cruises organised by the Society have always been popular events. The first one was way back in 1970. It was started off by the then Mayor, Councillor Eric Scaife, a ceremony he performed many times for us in the years following. The Cruise had lapsed for a year or two but was revived this September. The craft taking part assembled at Cottingham Landing and we were delighted to have the present Mayor of Pocklington, Councillor Ken Tinson, keeping up the tradition and starting the Cruise off.

Keen participants came from Hull, Market Weighton, Drifffield and Castleford, joining with local members and friends. The Lamb family from Elvington and their friends arrived in fine style as Indians and Cowboys, a colourful sight as they paddled in to the finish under Melbourne Bridge. The PCAS tent with refreshments and a few items for sale awaited crews by the end of the Arm. The Inland Waterways tent was also there with information and books etc. for sale.

It was a fine, sunny day and a good opportunity to explore the lower end of the canal. There were many appreciative comments. PCAS Stall took £10.50, a small raffle made £3.85 and we received donations totalling £7.15.



## THE HALLOWEEN PARTY AT CANAL HEAD ON 27TH OCTOBER

Between fifty and sixty folks came including a magnificent witch in a pointed hat. There was a skeleton on Henry's tractor, a crescent moon and ghostly faces in the trees too - only the fluorescent card didn't 'flu' properly until going-home time when it got plenty of car headlights on it!! Very good all the same. Then there were the turnip lanterns. Eric and Alison Lount's were judged best of the grownups and prizes went to two young Huitsons. Hot dogs were served from a candlelit 'grotto' and soup and roast potatoes from the barbecue. And a super bonfire to warm us all as we gathered round and sang with the guitarist and folk singer. We had a fine, warm evening after earlier rain and I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

CRUISING THE POCK - 1979by the ChairmanSATURDAY 30th June

Three small boats gathered at Cottingwith for a day on the Canal. Converted 'Tomboy' ONION with 2 HP Suzuki escorted by ARCTIC MINNOW, a Board of Trade inflatable belonging to Boyd Line, powered by a 25 HP Yamaha but towing AMERICA, an Avon inflatable. The flotilla was crewed by four adults and four children. We left Cemetery Lane at about 12 noon and proceeded up the Canal. The Yamaha outboard stopped first, buried in weed that had the consistency of a wet blanket. Undaunted we cleared the prop and re-started only to have the Suzuki stop almost immediately.

We made the second swing bridge an hour later, including some bow-hauling by the ladies - through nettles - and decided on lunch. Relieved by the knowledge that we must now be over the worst we produced the barbecue, wine, beer etc., and spent a very leisurely hour or so before continuing on our way. During lunch MITHRANDIR had passed on its way to Hagg Bridge for water so the weed had taken a bit of hammering and the going was a little better.

MITHRANDIR returned and found the children doing an 'all change' between the boats but no damage was done and we reached Hagg Bridge with no further problems. Between Hagg Bridge and Gardham Lock the Canal was pretty well clear of weed with the bottom visible for most of the way. Time was now against us so we went through Gardham Lock and straight back again - a bit of a waste of water but, by the smell of it, it needed changing anyway!

A leisurely run back down the Canal, with now only minor (comparatively) weeding problems, saw us at Cemetery Lane at 5 pm after nearly six miles of very pleasant cruising.





SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

PCAS Canoe and Dinghy Cruise. We assembled at Cottingwith with the other participants, ONION just as it had been removed from the Canal some three months earlier (well - some leaks had been repaired!) Once again we had four adults but only one child plus equipment and only one boat. We followed the other boats and cruisers steadily up the Canal with fewer weeding problems than previously (the weed having been cut by BWB). We had picked up another crew member at the start and he was more than happy to do as much of the driving as possible, so that made it a more relaxed day than usual.

All the boats stayed fairly close together and nearly everyone went up Gardham Lock together - it would have been quicker with the bottom paddle closed! A gentle cruise up to Melbourne, including gymnastics to get under one of the fixed bridges, saw us join the encampment in time for a leisurely lunch and chat.

We managed a trip into Thornton Lock chamber and spent a few minutes recovering a nearly new moped from under Church Bridge before leaving to ensure a 4.30 pm arrival at Cottingwith. Back under the fixed bridges (thinking 'We could surely lift them a little?'), through Gardham Lock, through the Swing bridges, and the end of a very enjoyable cruise.

MONDAY 29th OCTOBER

A bright, sharp day which gave us our most pleasant day's cruising yet. With the assistance of a newly retired couple we were mobile at 11 am, lunching at the junction with Melbourne Arm. A quick look at Thornton Lock chamber and the Arm, for ideas for future projects, and on down the Canal. Each of the three fixed accommodation bridges were measured and rough levels taken, to give some idea of the work required to raise them to give a more acceptable clearance.

We barbecued our lunch on Baldwin's Bridge and just had time to reach Melbourne before the early evening drew in. A fine, dry and possibly productive day's cruising.

R.G.W.

FROM 'IWA NEWS'MEETING BETWEEN IWA and BWB

A meeting planned for October between IWA and BWB had to be postponed to the end of November owing to industrial action by railwaymen in the London Area.

BWB CHANGES

IWA have received BWB's proposed fees for 1980. It was felt that 17% proposed increase for cruising fees was in line with inflation but that the proposals to raise mooring fees by 24% required further examination and would be raised at the joint meeting. BWB have since explained that the extra increase on Moorings is simply because Moorings have to include 15% VAT and other charges do not.

BWB STOPPAGES

IWA note that although the 136 planned stoppages between now and the end of March 1980 may seem excessive it ought to be remembered that IWA have been pressing for the volume of maintenance work to be increased. However, IWA are to raise a number of points: avoiding closures during school holidays, also for a longer period either side of Christmas; and the involvement of an IWA representative when stoppages are being planned.

HYDRAULIC PADDLE GEAR

At the request of BWB IWA sought the views of all its local committees on the proposal to replace traditional paddle gear with the new hydraulic type. There was an excellent and almost unanimous response. There is little support for any change. Overwhelmingly the IWA members feel that the existing mechanical gears fit in with the historic canal scene, which they wish to preserve. It would be disastrous for the environment if the variety of gearing now in use were to be standardised.

On a practical note it was considered that the hydraulic gearing is heavier to work, especially in cold weather, and more difficult to repair when it goes wrong. Also the mechanical gearing is safer in an emergency as it can be run back quickly. This alone should be of paramount importance when we are trying to be safety conscious. As a rule mechanical gearing is likely to be cheaper and easier to maintain.

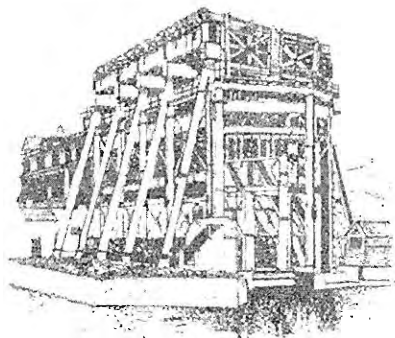
MORE FROM 'IWA NEWS'NATIONAL RALLY 1979 and FUTURE RALLIES

IWA say the 1979 National Rally at Northwich appears to have been a huge success, with 620 boats attending and the town of Northwich and the River Weaver coming to life in a fantastic way. Plans for the 1980 Rally at Lee Bridge on London's River Lee are well advanced - dates 16/17th August 1980. And there is discussion on a possible 'National' at Leeds in 1981 or 82.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE CUTS

BWB's grant from central government has been cut like many others. IWA has been in correspondence with the Minister, Mr. Marcus Fox, MP. IWA Council were due to meet him on 29th November.

IWA Officers also hope to meet the all-party Inland Waterways Group in Parliament early in the New Year. This group is open to membership by any MP, whatever his party, who is interested in our inland waterways.



Anderton Lift  
- River Weaver -

CANALS '79 - A ONE DAY CONFERENCE

Leeds University Union Canals Society, backed by IWA, organised a one day conference in Leeds in November entitled CANALS '79. Speakers came from BWB, IWA, Rochdale Canal Society, the University and PCAS, and subjects covered included history, construction, modern potential for freight and for amenity, the role of IWA and some local restoration schemes, 'Job Creation' and the views of an economist. 35 people took part and there was some lively discussion. Congratulations to the members of Leeds University who arranged this successful day (followed for their own members by a Disco/Dance in the evening). Perhaps an idea to try elsewhere?

FISH-EYE VIEWas observed by DENIS MOOR

(Denis Moor is Scientific Officer for the York Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. See news item on page 32)

I was suspended over a natural amphitheatre, looking down like an astronaut floating in space.

The colours were superb; sedges on both sides, water milfoil, mosses. An abundance of wild water lilies stared up at me from the sandy bottom.

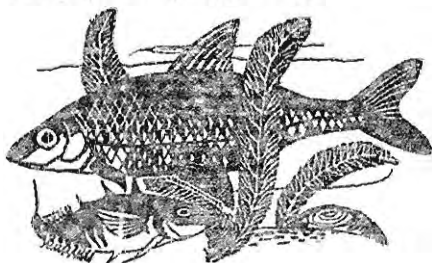
To my left, into the arena swam a shoal of tiny fish, wheeling and flashing as their bodies moved in unison and, directly below, parading up and down were about a hundred small roach. When into the play came the really large contenders - roach possibly up to two pounds in size.

Lurking in the reeds on my right was a ferocious looking pike, no doubt awaiting the chance to make his deadly attack on some unsuspecting smaller fish, when, suddenly, looming up towards me was the largest tench I have ever seen, and I immediately froze. He came so close that he was actually staring into my mask, and I had to drift gently away to bring my camera into focus on him.

=====

I began filming and recording the life in Pocklington Canal in the summer of 1977 and have found it a quite fascinating subject, completely different from my usual diving sites.

In nineteen years I have dived in the wonderful visibility of Sardinia, on a First Century Roman shipwreck and underwater city, to the gloomy black cold water, working on lock gates at Naburn and Castle Mills in York. I have concentrated mainly on the Farne Islands, Northumberland, searching for shipwrecks, and mud-larking on the bottom of the Ouse and Derwent for old clay pipes and bottles.



Now, whenever conditions are reasonable for photography, out comes my diving gear and camera equipment and I'm off into my twilight world of the Canal.

Evan at 7 am the sun has been beaming down on me and I've watched as the rays filtered through the water, causing dancing reflections under the lilies. At the other end of the clock I had a midnight dive last July. The water was still and black, vapour rising from the surface among the reeds. But what a miraculous transformation when my underwater lamp came into action! I could even mesmerise small perch to eat from my hand in the shallow water.

=====

I have taken over 350 slides in an area which so far hasn't been cleared and so is very rich in vegetation and fish life. Most are close-ups of larger fish, mainly because I find stalking them very exhilarating, after taking up to one hour to achieve one good shot of a pike.

=====

One lovely Sunday morning, while closing in on a shoal of very large roach, I noticed them moving around an object further down the Canal, and, when nearing this, I discovered a pike of about five pounds lying motionless under the surface. As I approached I recognised him by the missing scales as 'Old George' often filmed on previous dives, and he slowly moved off into the reeds. Suddenly, from underneath, shot an eel about two feet long and grabbed the pike's tail fin, shaking it ferociously, and just as quickly zoomed off down and out of sight in the heavy weed. By the time the pike had swung round the eel had gone. Judging by his attitude to me now he obviously thought I had bitten him!

=====

When I come out of the water in summer it is lovely to hear sky-larks, reed warblers, reed buntings singing away, and an occasional sedge warbler attempting to mimic a starling or other birds nearby. And the various scents of wild flowers are very relaxing.

The seasons' underwater colours change, as on land, winter being very dreary and not much fish life. Also it's terribly cold and I often need warm water from a flask to be poured down the inside neck of my diving suit and also a drink of steaming coffee, laced with rum, when I've finished my dive. Every time I dive here it is a new adventure and I have had hundred of exciting experiences in

this quiet water. And, if you happen to be an angler on the bank, please don't throw clods of much because I can assure you I don't frighten any of the fish away. In fact they have quite accepted me as one of them now. And remember, I can possibly tell you where all the big ones are!

D.M.

=====

#### TRAPPED CYGNET SET FREE AT WALBUT

A cygnet became trapped one day last October in a narrow space between the lock gates and temporary stop planks at Walbut Lock. Children had damaged the old gates and BWB were doing emergency repairs. Henry Richardson found the cygnet. It had not enough space to take off and was by now too fierce to handle and its agitated parents were circling overhead. The RSPCA came to the rescue and, while Mr. Terry Ridsdale, who lives at the adjoining house by Walbut Bridge and Mr. Lindley managed to guide the bird with a rope, RSPCA's Inspector Hartley succeeded in catching it in a ring at the end of a pole. The cygnet was quickly reunited with its parents and three other cygnets below the lock. A happy ending for the family of swans who regularly set up home in this part of the Canal.

#### SUNDAY LUNCH AT THE 'PLOUGH' AT HAYTON - 18th NOVEMBER

Thirty-nine members sat down to an excellent roast beef lunch. There were several families we had not seen for a while. And we were pleased to have Councillor Loney with us. Also, of course, Gerry Turner who had brought his father along; and Henry Richardson. Bill Parker came over from Bradford, accompanied by his daughter Mary. Eric and Doreen Lount made the trip from Flam-borough, having been assured by Richard that there would be no special surprises this November! Chris and Viv Lawton just made it in time from Pickering where they now live. They had three month old Sarah with them and she appeared to enjoy every minute of it! They wonder if she is our youngest member.

Landlords Mr. and Mrs. Harris made us all very welcome and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves thoroughly. The Raffle made £9.50 and the Stall took £27.

### PCAS SOCIAL COMMITTEE - COULD YOU HELP?

A new SOCIAL COMMITTEE for the Society has recently been set up under the leadership of SUE CROOKS. Sue would welcome anyone who would like to join this little group. The idea is to meet as required so as to organise details of social meetings and events, e.g. Barbecues, Lunches etc.

Any bright ideas, offers of equipment, help 'on the night' and so on would be very welcome. We suspect there are a number of you who, though you may not feel equal to serving on the main committee, would like to be involved and could help from time to time. So do please get in touch - either with Sue direct or with any of the committee. And even if you cannot help please let us have your ideas for further meetings, etc., when, where, what .....

### MICHAEL HANDFORD

We continue to be grateful to our Life Member MICHAEL HANDFORD for the support and publicity he provides for Pocklington Canal - most recently in comment and three photographs featured in his double page Restoration Round up in IWA's latest issue of 'Waterways'. Thank you Michael! (Also for the complimentary remarks on the quality of this magazine).

### WHEELCHAIR NAVIGATORS

The 'Guardian' reports that the Spinal Injuries Association has launched an appeal for £25,000 to pay for a narrow boat which can be skippered from a wheelchair. The six-berth boat, which will be based at Rugby, will have two hydraulic lifts and is to be ready for hire in 1980. The purpose of this is to enable disabled people to enjoy a holiday with their families just like the rest of us. Details from SIA, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1. (Tel: 01-388-6840).

### DO YOU KNOW THEIR ADDRESSES???

Can any reader please tell us the present addresses of these members:

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. GRAY, who were at 87 Shakespeare Grange, Leeds 9.

Mr. and Mrs. ALAN MELLOR, 9 Field Top, Baillife Bridge, Brighouse.

VALE OF BELVOIR COALFIELD AND GRANTHAM CANAL - AND OTHERS  
WILL CANALS BE ELIMINATED??

First of all the British Waterways Board have decided to drop their plans for a new canal in the Vale of Belvoir Coalfield. They say it would not be economically viable. This will be a great disappointment to many of the objectors at the official enquiry which opened recently.

Secondly BWB are now telling the Enquiry that, if subsidence on the Grantham Canal as a result of mining should cost more to remedy than it would cost to eliminate the canal, then they would have to eliminate the canal.

Grantham Canal Restoration Society are naturally very concerned and they have written to PCAS and to other similar societies about this.

Other Canals could be affected

Grantham Canal Society say that, until now, they thought the problem was only for their own canal. They now consider that the issue could affect canals all over the country. They consider the issue so serious that they are engaging Counsel to represent them at the Enquiry (at a cost of around £2,000). They do not agree that BWB have got their sums right. They will submit that the Coal Board should pay for any damage they cause to the canal. At the moment BWB have to pay for about 30% of the cost of any damage by the Coal Board to their canals.

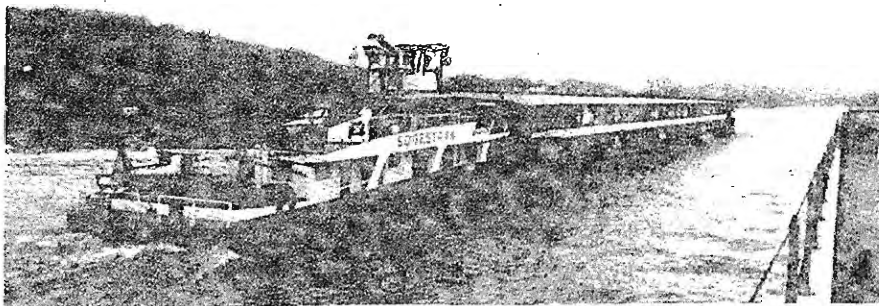
They point out that, if cost of repair as against elimination is the only deciding factor in any situation such as this then many other canals could find themselves under threat - acknowledged 'Cruiseways', let alone 'Remainder' waterways! The Grantham Society ask us to write in support of their case. Meanwhile - Selby?? 'Remaindered' Pocklington??? And Grantham note that the NCB are looking at over 50 possible mining sites.

(G.C.S. contact: 'phone their Chairman, M. D. Mitchell, on Long Eaton 2095).

=====



## MOTORWAY CALLED THE SEINE - RENAULTS TRAVEL BY BARGE



1,000 Renault cars per day travel by special barge, down the River Seine and adjoining waterways. Some go to distribution points in France, some go direct to the ports for export.

Detailed studies proved that the best method of transport from the factories would be the river, giving greater security, fewer delays, no bottlenecks and even less atmospheric pollution. Also, to transport 1,000 vehicles, two special convoys would suffice. To carry the same load by road would need no less than 125 car transporters each carrying eight cars.

So, for the past thirteen years Renault have been moving between 900 and 1,000 cars per day by water. Each convoy consists of a large push-tug pushing two special barges; the barges are made in America and are modelled on those in use on the Mississippi. The pilot's cabin can be raised on hydraulic screw-jacks so as to give a better view when required. They are equipped with radar. Most of the locks en route take the complete convoy in one operation. The convoys normally work round the clock, with crew members doing two weeks on board and one week on home leave. Where the Seine joins the Oise, at Conflans Ste-Honorine, there is a boat museum and a school for boatmen's children.

To release scarce and expensive land in Paris and other built-up areas, Renault constructed a large transit and storage depot beside the waterway. Over the last thirteen years they reckon more than four million vehicles have been transported via the Seine - end to end a convoy totalling 16,000 kilometres, half the circumference of the earth!

(courtesy Renault AUTOWORLD)

THE RIVER DERWENTPLANNING CONSENT FOR NEW LOCK AT KIRKHAM

When the new weir and other works were constructed at Kirkham some years ago the old navigation lock disappeared. Without a lock here Malton is cut off from the lower reaches of the river and the rest of the waterway system. Ryedale District Council, who have always supported the Derwent Trust's restoration scheme for the river, had already given outline planning consent for them to build a new lock; and the Trust had bought the land for this.

So it was something of a shock when what was expected to be a routine renewal of consent last autumn met with objections from several councillors and was turned down. The Trust appealed and a number of people, including PCAS, supported them by writing to the Council. At their 5th November meeting, after considerable discussion, Ryedale did in fact renew the planning consent after all. So the Trust now have a reasonable interval in which to submit detailed plans.

A Vital Decision - This was, of course, a very vital decision. Had planning been finally withheld it is unlikely that volunteers would have felt it worth working on projects lower down river nor would anyone have been likely to donate the sums of money necessary to fund the restoration if that restoration were forced to stop so far short of its natural terminus. Not only is Malton the obvious goal but the scenery above Kirkham, where the river flows through a tree-lined gorge, is also most spectacular, and often only accessible by boat.

SIR PETER SCOTT, CBE, DSC

Some time ago Sir Peter Scott accepted an invitation to become a patron of the group 'Consyder'. Sir Peter is a Vice-President and founder member of the Inland Waterways Association which began in 1946. Having since discovered that the aims of 'Consyder' are at variance with those of the IWA and of the Derwent Trust, he has decided that it would not be appropriate for him to remain as a patron of 'Consyder' and has accordingly withdrawn.

=====

## YORKSHIRE DERWENT TRUST ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Readers who attended the PCAS Annual Meeting last year will remember Roger Womersley talking to us about the aims and the work of the Derwent Trust and urging PCAS members to become Associate Members of the Trust.

If you support the restoration of the River Derwent to navigation and would like to see it opened once again up to Malton you could help the Trust's efforts to do this by becoming an Associate Member. The Trust Secretary, Dr. Graham Smith, tells us that they would welcome PCAS members to join them without further payment simply so as to support the restoration. If, however, you would also like to receive their periodic Newsletter then they ask for £2 per year to cover costs of this.

For further information please contact Mrs. Heather Smith, Park Gate House, 39A Park Road, Guiseley LS20 8EN; telephone: Guiseley 74548.



## N.B. 'LAXTON CASTLE' - VISITOR FROM NEWARK

Narrow Boat LAXTON CASTLE whose home mooring is at Farndon, near Newark, paid a visit to the Pocklington Canal during September. Her owner, Dr. M. Johnson of Eakring, Nottinghamshire, brought her up single handed and he told our member David Ericson that he had spent a very peaceful and enjoyable week up near Baldwin's Bridge. His wife, also a doctor, had joined him at the weekend, and, as they always bring their bicycles on board, they were able to explore quite a bit of the surrounding countryside.

Dr. Johnson explained that he had come up by car last winter in the snow to investigate the locks on the Derwent. In the Canal he had turned round in the winding hole near Gardham Lock and come up the rest of the way backwards. He intends to return next year. After stocking up at Melbourne Shop he left us for a second week up the Ouse to Ripon. And Thank You Dr. Johnson for your donation!

WANTED!! - FOR PCASUSED ENVELOPES - PLEASE SAVE THEM FOR US!

Envelopes are expensive! Please save your used ones for us! We particularly need envelopes large enough for posting this magazine. Please hand them to any committee member and we will put clean labels on them and get them to Mrs. Leonard, our tireless addresser! Thank you all in advance!

SPARE KNITTING WOOL

Have you any unwanted knitting wools? Mrs. Lount senior, at Flamborough, can make useful saleable items with it. We can pass it on for you.

SILVER PAPER, SCRAP METAL

Both these make useful money. A large black bag of foil is worth around 40p but RING TOPS from coke and beer cans etc. are worth more, so please keep these separate.

=====

MORE NEWS OF THE "WORLD SHIP TRUST" PROJECT

Barry Beadle introduced the newly formed WORLD SHIP TRUST in the April 1979 issue of this magazine. It has been founded by Frank Carr as an international ambulance service for historic craft. Barry and Esther Beadle are the local public relations officers (and a lot more besides if past form is anything to go by!)

Barry tells us that they hope it will not be long before the WST is registered as a charity. Then they can press on with fund raising in a big way. Meanwhile the following items would be very gratefully received:

WANTED: Any SHIPPING BOOKS or MAGAZINES which could be sold at gatherings etc. Also CRAFT BOOKS, AIRCRAFT MAGAZINES, MECCANO MAGAZINES, FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES. (PCAS can pass these on for you if this helps).

=====

# DIARY OF EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Sunday 13th January                     | PCAS Working Party.  |
| Thursday 17th January                   | PCAS Committee at E.J.'s, York.                                      |
| Friday 18th January                     | PCBC Dinner (contact C. Alden).                                      |
| Friday 25th January                     | IWA Cottingham - Peter Hardy 8 pm<br>(Civic Hall)                    |
| Saturday 9th February                   | IWA Jumble Sale - Cottingham   |
| Sunday 10th February                    | PCAS Working Party   |
| Thursday 14th February                  | PCAS Committee   |
| Friday 22nd February                    | IWA Cottingham - 'Choose your<br>Holiday' (Hire Co. Films) 8 pm.     |
| March 1st to 17th                       | 'Waterways of East Yorkshire'<br>Display in Hull Central Library.    |
| Sunday 9th March                        | PCAS Working Party   |
| Friday 14th March                       | Open Meeting Hull Central Library<br>Slides of Local Waterways 8 pm. |
| Friday 28th March                       | IWA Cottingham - AGM and Slides by<br>Alan Ball 8 pm.                |
| Sunday 13th April                       | PCAS Working Party   |
| Sunday 20th April<br>(Provisional Date) | PCAS Annual Meeting - details later<br>(and Sunday Lunch)            |

## MEETINGS OF HULL MARITIME SOCIETY

Barry Beadle draws our attention to two meetings of the Hull Maritime Society:

### TUESDAY 25th MARCH 1980

L. HOBSON, ESQ., Engineer to the Humber Bridge Board on:  
THE HUMBER BRIDGE

### TUESDAY 29th APRIL 1980

CAPT. A. J. C. HARVEY (former Master P.S. 'Lincoln Castle')  
and

B. BEADLE, ESQ., (local rep. 'World Ship Trust')  
on

THE NEW HOLLAND FERRIES

Both meetings to be held at 7.30 pm in the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull.  
Further information from: Hon. Sec. 'Hull Maritime Society', Town  
Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square, Hull.

LETTER TO THE EDITORMUTUAL TOLERANCE ON THE DERWENT

The latest anti-boating meeting held by the organisation, Council for the Conservation of the Yorkshire Derwent, at Malton, hopefully brings to a close an unsavoury chapter in the annals of the river.

This meeting followed the pattern of those at Bubwith, Sutton and York, in being virtually unattended by the general public. On each occasion the opinions expressed from the platform in a 90 minute presentation were courteously listened to, and then totally rejected in the subsequent discussion by the majority of those present.

These never exceeded 20 or so in number, and on two occasions the round dozen were only just achieved.

The speakers' aim of fomenting dissention between groups of river users, failed totally. Contributions from the audiences of anglers, walkers, boating people and farmers demonstrated that, along the river they respect and tolerate each other's presence, and avoid interfering with the chosen pursuits of their fellows.

The organisers of these meetings now have an answer, perhaps not the one they sought. Most of the people of the Derwent Valley have voted - with their feet - by staying away in vast numbers. The few who attended have explained to CONSYDER the reasons for their rejection.

Is it too much to hope that this group will accept the verdict?

They can safely leave the future of the river in the hands of those best qualified to safeguard it. These are the councillors of the local authorities, and the creative societies who seek to advance the happiness and recreation of their fellow men, and the well being of wild life.

J. M. GREENWOOD

Brook House

Leavening

Malton

---

George Cooper & Sons  
(COAL) LTD.

Deans Lane,  
POCKLINGTON, York  
Telephones 3185 & 3075



Wholesale Distributors throughout  
the East Riding  
of all Grades of

HOUSE COAL,  
COKE,  
COALITE,  
PHURNACITE

---

GOLD AWARD FOR CANAL PHOTOGRAPH BY PCAS MEMBER DENIS MOOR

Congratulations to Pocklington member DENIS MOOR! Mr. Moor, who is Scientific Officer for the York Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club, has won a Gold Award for an underwater photograph taken in Pocklington Canal. The picture, of a toad, was entitled 'A Froggy Would A Wooing Go' and it was chosen from over 4,000 entries from nineteen countries in a competition held by the magazine 'Diver'.

Another picture, a colour print of a tench, also taken in the Canal, gained a Special Certificate and was on show, with fifty other prize-winning photographs, in the Dome at Brighton. The Tench was in the Exhibition Section; the toad was in the section 'Animal Life - British Isles'.

Denis Moor says he spent most of his spare time as a lad fishing and learning to swim in the Pocklington Canal, and it is still one of his favourite spots. Even after swimming and diving in waters all over the world he still considers Pocklington Canal to have the most beautiful underwater scenery of all.

(Denis Moor's article 'Fish-Eye View', on page 20, was written for us before his recent competition success. But it is particularly fitting that it should appear in this issue of our magazine. Ed.)

=====

FARMING FOCUS??

Of course PCAS always had a head start with the farming community, what with having a farmer first chairman and several farmers on the committee. But still it comes as a bit of a surprise to find an item of canal news (the £750 Shell Award actually) under the Gazette and Herald's 'Farming Focus' - Looking at Agriculture with Gordon Currie! There we were sandwiched in between 'Profits Lost on Pigs' and 'This Week's Prices at the Stock Marts'! Perhaps we shouldn't complain though. The general heading did declare STILL VITAL TO MAKE A GOOD JOB OF THE BASICS, so evidently they must reckon PCAS do that! Obviously meant as a compliment! Thanks, 'Gazette and Herald'!

=====