No. 6

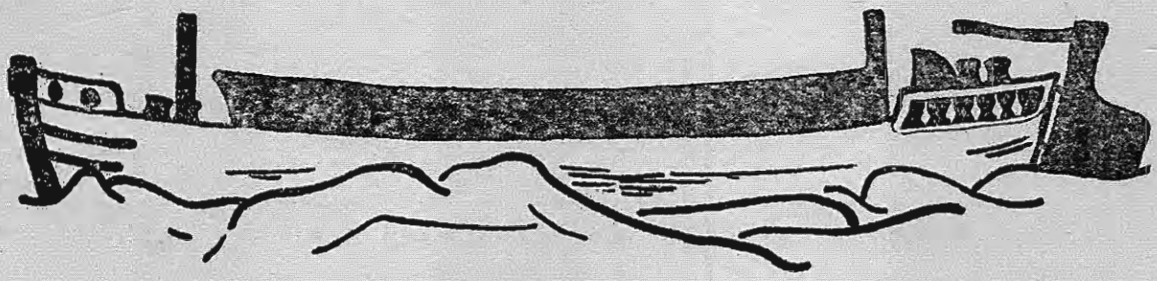
DOUBLE NINE

PCAS 99

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

OF

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society



JUNE 1970

POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

Patrons---
THE EARL OF HALIFAX, J.P.,
H.M. LIEUT. YORKS. E.R.
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.
J. CHICHESTER CONSTABLE
B. ALLISON

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COMMITTEE

Chairman	E.A. LOUNT Village Farm, Thornton, Melbourne, York. 'phone: Mel.216
Vice-Chairman	I.B. CLOSE, Rosehurst, Gt. Ouseburn, York.
Secretary	MRS. S.M. NIX, 74, Westminster Rd. York. YO3 6LY 'phone : York 23338
Asst. Sec.	C.J. SOLOMON, Harmer Hill, Millington, Pocklington, York 'phone Pock.2361
Treasurer	MRS. D.E. LOUNT - as above -
Membership	R.G. WALTON Northfield House, East St., Leven, Nr. Hull. 'phone. Leven 538
Working Party Organiser	D.G. TOMLINSON, 12, The Crescent, Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford. Staff.61284
Assist. W.P. Organiser	D. DUKE, The Caravan, Village Farm, Thornton, Melbourne, York. ('phone: via the Chairman)
"99" Editor	please contact the SECRETARY or CHAIRMAN

W. OLDFIELD F.H. LOFT C.E. POPPLE

N. STEELS F. WHITWELL

Hon. Auditors PICKLES & CO., Chart. Acctns., Selby.

Hon. Consulting Engineer: C.T.G. BOUCHER, PhD., MSc., C. Eng., MI Struct. Eng.

Having now got six wonderfully successful working parties under our belt, this comparatively young society are beginning to get the hang of things, and such is the enthusiasm of our workers that one of our more concientious members has offered his boat for sale so that more urgent matters shall not be neglected.

This is the kind of positive attitude needed to get things done in this Conservation Year.

We are of course most grateful for the publicity given to our venture by other Societies, and pledge our support of their aims wherever possible, as in our joint event with the Ramblers Association.

Gill Silt

1970 is European Conservation Year.

In doing our bit in support of the Yorkshire and Humberside Clean up Campaign.

We may not get the whole canal cleared up this year, but it wont be for the want of trying.

Within the same context we support the aims of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and would certainly like to avail ourselves of their offer of young trees to commenorate this Conservation Year. After all, if we are to hold Nine Mile walks along the towpath, what could be of greater beauty and charm to the beholder, than a rich backcloth of young and FRIENDLY TREES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our First Annual General Meeting

The first A.G.M. of the Society was held on Thursday 19th March at Thornton Village Institute In the chair was Mr. Eric Lount who began the proceedings by welcoming all those present. Apologies for absence were received before the Chairman launched on his report of the Society's first year.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Lount began by reminding members of the early beginning of the Society - of its official foundation on the 1st January 1969, of the formation of a committee, of the opening of membership (Now up to a total of 250) and of the securing of Patrons who included the three local M.P's and the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding. The numerous landmarks in the history of the Society's first year were then outlined: the first financial donation (from I.W.A) for instance, the Public Meeting, the garden party and other fund raising efforts, the compilation of the Survey, the gathering support from organisations both big and small. All these things, the Chairman emphasised, were proof that progress had indeed been made, and that no-one in the Society had reason to fear the brick wall some pessimists had at the outset forecast would block our way.

********** oOo **********

Following the Chairman's report, the audited accounts were presented and briefly explained by Mr. Simpson on the Treasurer's behalf. These having been duly approved the Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr. Simpson for his audit and took the opportunity to render thanks also to Mr. Clegg of B.W.B. for his ready help and advice, to Mr. Richardson of Canal Head for practical assistance and co-operation and to Mr. Parker for his very generous contribution to the Society's printing needs.

The Constitution was the next item on the agenda. A brief explanation of proposed additions and amendments made it clear that these were aimed essentially at making proper provision for the distribution of any financial assets in the event of the Society's dissolution, thereby meeting the requirements of the Charity Commissioners if in future the Society wished to register as a charity; and also at providing a proper procedure whereby any member can call a Special General Meeting if desired.

The Constitution having been adopted and tellers appointed the way was now clear for the election of Officers and Committee members. Mr. Lount duly vacated the chair and in the absence of any other nomination the Vice-Chairman proposed that he should resume it forthwith. Not, however, before Mr. Close was able to move the adoption of the Chairman's report, which was carried unanimously, and to pay tribute to the quality and quantity of all Mr. Lount had done in this first year. He alluded specifically to the amply deserved award to the Chairman by the N.E. Branch of the I.W.A. of the B.P. Award and the plaque was exhibited for all to see.

Back in the chair, Mr. Lount paid tribute in his turn to the zest and work capacity of Mrs. Nix as Hon. Sec. and to applause she was presented with a bouquet on the Society's behalf. There being no other nominations for Officers, the Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Hon. Sec. were duly confirmed in office and then the election of the Committee members took place, details of which will be found elsewhere. This was followed by the election of Auditors, the nomination of Mr. Simpson acting for and on behalf of Pickles and Co., Selby being carried unanimously.

The final item on the agenda, Any Other Business, was broached by Mr. Popple who was speaking as a Vice Chairman of N.W.A. revealed the partly sad, partly

happy news that as a result of the winding up of N.W.A. the P.C.A.S. stood to receive an allocation of funds amounting to approximately £100. There then followed a most valuable exchange of views initiated by Mr. Wollaston, on the implications for anglers of the Society's plans to re-open the canal.

The formal agenda thus completed, refreshments prepared by the ever-efficient Ladies Committee downed and much enjoyed, the meeting concluded with excellent cine films taken by Messrs. Tomlinson and Parker respectively, and equally excellent slides from the Nix and Duke collections. Working parties were the theme - what had been done, the actual doing of it and what had to be done still. Having seen them, no-one could surely doubt that the Society, its members and its helpers possess the will to go forward and as we all know, 'where there's a will there's a way.'

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Very grateful thanks to those Committee members who have now retired. And a warm welcome to the newcomers. The Committee foregather regularly, once a month, at Thornton. Being a Committee member is certainly no sinecure!

ACCOUNTS as at 31st December, 1969

Summary of P.C.A.S. Accounts, 1969

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Members Subs	85	Stationery	44
Donations	29	Postages	13
Sale of Books, badges etc.	24	Cost of Badges, Tea towels etc.,	62
Garden Party	80	Bookstall	17
Fashion Show	23	Advertisements	4
Coffee & Sherry Part Parties	74	Survey Costs	4
Boxing Night Dance	59	I.W.A.A.C. Visit	2
Refreshments at Meetings	9	Driffield and Seaton Ross Shows	5
Jumble Sale & Whist Drive	24	Working Party Insurance	5
Bank Interest	408	Production of Magazines	15
		Admin Expenses	17
			188

Excess of Income over Expenditure £220

Meeting and Jumble Sale - East Cottingwith. Friday, 6th March

A goodly crowd, of all ages, squeezed into the Village Room at East Cottingwith on the evening of March 6th, for the Society's first public event here. After clearing the Jumble and Bring-and-buy stalls, we sat round a huge, blazing coal fire and drank the excellent coffee and refreshments provided by Mrs. Nowell and her helpers. Finally our Secretary showed some slides of the Canal and other linked Waterways. Society funds benefited by £13. 0s. 9d.

WILD LIFE

MESSAGE FROM LIEUT-COLONEL J.F. NEWMAN, M.B.E., EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' TRUST LTD.,

A canal is man-made and yet it derives its flora and fauna from the natural communities of the area and some plant and animal associations may survive here, long after their natural haunts have disappeared.

Change never ceases, although it is sometimes so slight as to be almost imperceptible. Man must adjust himself to changes in his environment, but he must not become resigned to any change. He must always be seeking to conserve the maximum variety of features of interest and beauty in the countryside.

It was, therefore, very pleasing for the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust to hear of the steps taken by the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society to preserve the Canal. The Trust's natural concern is that these parts of the Canal and its retaining banks which afford habitats for interesting plant and animal communities shall be preserved and we are happy to know that the Society is sympathetic to the Trust's views in this matter.

THE CASE FOR RESTORATION

'POCKLINGTON CANAL, THE CASE FOR RESTORATION'

Extract from an Article entitled 'IWAAC' in the March 1970 Bulletin, No. 92. published by the Inland Waterways Association.

After explaining the job of IWAAC in general, the author (IWAAC Chairman, Iltydd Harrington) goes on to describe in some detail their visit to the Pocklington Canal last November 28th., as being a good example of their inspections of waterways in need of restoration.

After describing their enthusiastic welcome, their walk and their meeting with the press, he then adds:

> 'The Council have subsequently received the full proposals of the PCAS. This is a graphic tribute to the determination of this group of Yorkshire farmers and their friends, As a matter of routine I acquainted the local M.P's of our visit. The Pocklington, I know, is not as grand an aim as the Kennet and Avon restoration or as intense a target as the Ashton but the whole operation on the Pocklington is a text-book of patience, prudence, perception, and pressure. The Advisory Council will now discuss fully the case for this canal and will eventually decide upon a suitable recommendation.
>
> On all recommendations of the Council there must be consultation with the British Waterways Board before they are eventually passed to the Minister of Transport'

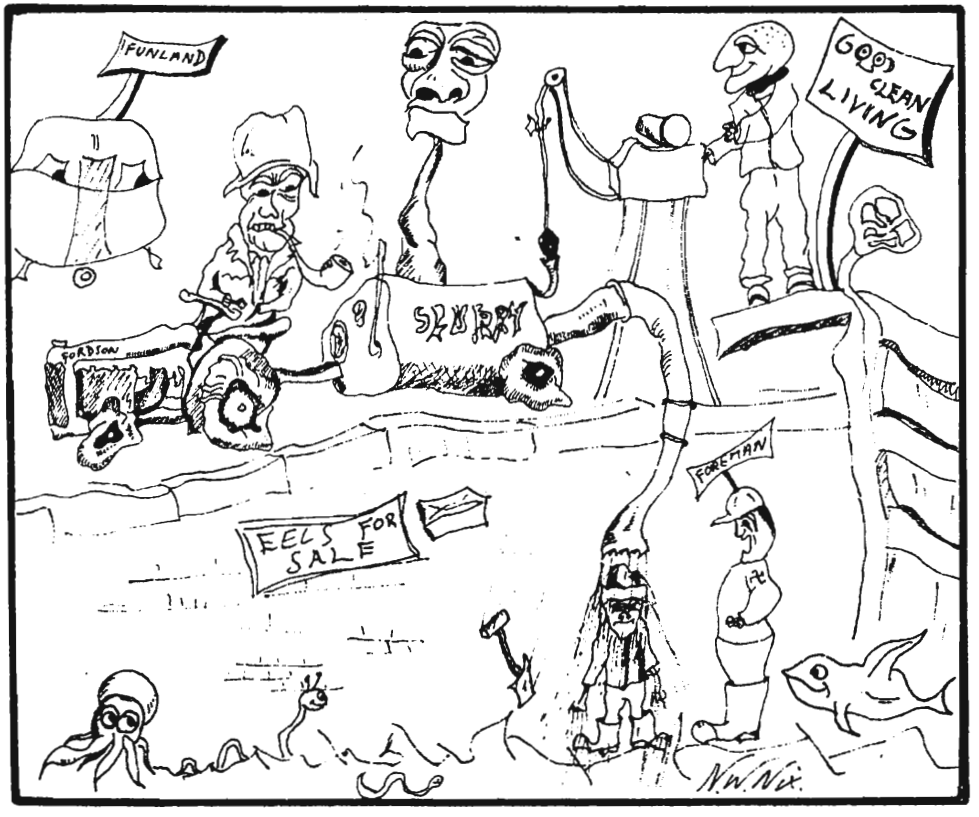
✓

NOTE: Copies of the Booklet may be obtained from the Secretary, price 5/6d post free.

Large MAP also still available at 10/6d.

Restored Canal Lock at Bath

On Saturday May 16th B.W.B. Chairman, Sir Frank Price, will open the bottom lock of the flight of seven, connecting the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal in Bath. Bath City Council has contributed £7,500 in three annual grants towards the work on the locks, this being 50% of the estimated cost of restoration. BWB have supplied the new lock gates, and the Kennet and Avon Trust the volunteers and raised monies towards the restoration work.



WORKING PARTIES -

March 7/8th; April 4/5th; May 2/3rd.

Our last three working parties have continued work on the Walbutt - Thornton level. The main object of our attention has been cleaning out Thornton Lock chamber. At the time of writing we have cleared from the top gates to a point about four feet beyond the bottom gate cill. An area of say 60' x 14' has been cleared of silt and a certain amount of rubble with a depth at the top end of the lock of about 3' and this has risen to nearer 6' as we have dug and sucked our way along the chamber.

The 'suck' is of course a tribute to East Riding ingenuity, nothing to do with the English so I'm told! Basically all one requires is a 'Slurry Slave' driven by the power take-off from a tractor, and sufficient pipe to reach the silt in the bottom of the lock chamber. As the tractor pumps out the air in the 'Slurry Slave's tank, this in turn creates the 'suck' which removes the silt from the lock chamber. We have had to extend the machines pipe with a piece of irrigation piping and once set up, it works a treat. The last 6" of water in a lock chamber can often be more difficult to pump than the first 4', our 'vacuum cleaner' certainly helps out! One should of course have small volunteers ready to rescue any Fish or Eels sucked up into the machine. We found large numbers of eels and a few odd fish survived quite happily being 'sucked' out of the lock and then spread in an adjoining field.

At the same time a considerable quantity of silt has been removed by each working party by powered hoist and wheelbarrowed away.

In view of the badly silted state of the canal below

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Perhaps when Thorn
gets its' new gate
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to the paddlegear
useful life again.

Again I must record a vote of thanks to all our volu
those who have again loaned tractors, the 'Slurry-Slave',
operated pumps and petrol pumps, power saws. Our ladies
unfailingly provided excellent quality tea and soup. B.
local representative Henry Richardson has been a welcome
each time, and always to hand is help and advice from Mr.
and the Area Engineer Mr. Walker. Two parties of volunt
Durham University group for Industrial Archaeology have s
our efforts, and will be with us again later this year.

One junior member summed it all up, on being asked i
liked them 'Working parties are smashing!'

D.

ting a timber stank across the bottom end to keep the
used the two sides of the old lighter to supply the
One of the main causes of the silting has been the
eding water from the back into the canal.

xing parties work has been completed on the repairs to the
n several of the stone copings had found their way into
ll was crumbling away in places. We have been able to
copings and having cut out three courses of crumbling
been re-instated, our professional bricklayers have made
f these repairs.

nued on removing the odd small bushes on the offside bank,
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Thank you

MELBOURNE DANCE - FRIDAY APRIL 24th

A big thank-you to the Ladies who organised this very enjoyable evening. Mr. Stan Seeds and his electronic organ provided the music and a good time was had by all, resulting in approximately £20 profit for the Society funds.

COFFEE EVENING AND COUNTRY FAIR - FRIDAY May 1st

at WALLOWAYS, EAST COTTINGWITH.

A very big Thank-you, too, to Mr. and Mrs. Alden who opened their home and garden for the evening. There were numerous stalls and side-shows and excellent raffle prizes. It was only disappointing that the shocking wet weather kept some folks from coming along to enjoy the results of Mr. and Mrs. Alden's hard work and ingenuity. None-the-less the event raised the splendid total of £15. 14. 11d.

THE SOCIETY is also very grateful for invaluable help from a number of people, at this busy time - for help with printing, addressing envelopes (a tedious but most necessary task), and for the loan of allsorts of most useful equipment.

The regular flow of new-comers, persuaded to join by one or two of our number, is also a great help and encouragement.

NORTHERN WATERWAYS ASS.

Very grateful thanks to N.W.A. for their generous donation of £104. on the winding up of their Association.

1969 - IN RETROSPECT

The year has been full of excitement for those of us who have been fortunate enough to have been in close touch with all that has gone forward - and 1970 may well prove to be even more exciting!

Public Meetings at Pocklington, Melbourne, Thornton and Cottingwith; Stands at Seaton Ross and Driffield Agricultural Shows, Jumble Sales, Fashion Shows, The Canal Head Garden Party with its Barbecue and Dance, the Boxing Night Dance in Pocklington, not to mention Coffee and Sherry Parties during the year - all contributed to bring us into contact with the Public, so as to get our ideas across to them and to gain their confidence in return - as well as financial support without which we cannot exist.

While all these functions were being organised and attended many were busy researching for information. taking photographs etc., to put into our Booklet 'The Pocklington Canal - The Case for Restoration' (5/6d post free from: Mrs. S.M. Nix. 74 Westminster Road, York). There is also available a masterpiece of map-making, show a 6": 1mi. plan of the canal, with first rate enlargements on a scale of 25": 1 mi. of various key points such as locks and arms. (10/6d post free from the same address)

It is satisfactory too to be able to state that our relations with Local, Regional and National Authorities are excellent and much hard work has gone into the development of communication with these Public Bodies. In this sphere there is little glamour, but the work is of far reaching importance to the eventual restoration of the Canal. Constant pressure too has been exerted by supporting Voluntary Organisations on our behalf.

In November Mr. Iltydd Harrington and General Sir Hugh Stockwell, Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively of the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory

Council, walked various lengths of the Canal with other members of their Council and members of the British Waterways Board. Their Report is awaited a with confident interest.

Our Working Party Organiser has spent much time and energy during the year preparing the way for monthly Working Parties to start early in January, 1970. The first Working Party assembled on the appointed day with an average turn-out of 40 members per day, and similar numbers to these have been maintained consistently up to and including May 1970.

Throughout 1969 came a steady stream of would be members month by month - and still they are coming in 1970 Such then is the success that has been achieved by the PCAS in its first year. The year 1969 is ably summed up by Mr. Iltydd Harrington in these words:

> 'the whole operation on the Pocklington is a textbook of patience, prudence, perception, and pressure'

April, 1970. J.N.

'T H E H A T'

I was interested to read in the March issue of 'Double Nine' that further information is required regarding the production of the species of 'hat' as worn by our Assistant working Party Organiser (A.W.P.O) Following the request for that further information I made exhaustive enquiries and research into the available sources of information, and came across some enlightening facts.

It would appear that the male 'hat' keepts to its bed during the hours of darkness, whilst the female

'hat' keeps to her bed during the daylight hours, thus the two sexes have no chance of meeting. This, therefore, sadly reduced the production rate. However, to offset this defficiency there is a period of time when the two sexes may meet on common ground, this period of time is when there is a total eclipse of the sun. It therefore follows that during these infrequent eclipses all the 'hats' are employed on the business of reproduction, which follows that there is a deluge of young 'hats'

One would assume from the foregoing that there would be sufficient 'hats' to supply the needs of all, but this is not so. Before the young 'hats' are barely weaned large numbers are pounced upon by housewives for the express purpose of using the young 'hats' as egg cosies. The action of placing the young 'hat' over a hot boiled egg has the effect of restricting the growth and eventually stopping any further growth, so the young 'hat' remains an egg cosy.

The few 'hats' that escape the egg cosy manage to grow, and in time attain the size of $6\frac{7}{8}$ or, on rare occasions, the size of $7\frac{1}{4}$ (for those persons who have received the title of 'Big Head'). It will therefore be seen that there are very few 'hats' available at any time, and the chance of obtaining a mate for our A.W.P.O's 'hat' would appear to be very remote. This I regret very much, as young 'hats', even though sold as egg cosies, would swell the funds of the P.C.A.S.

The time to wean the young 'hat' does not depend on the age, but on the size, and the rule is - when the young 'hat' is large enough to cover a Thornton Brown Egg it is then safe to wean.

Quantum valeat.

FISHING

Those parts of the Pocklington Canal which maintain more than a foot of water contain fish of a surprising size. Few people could have expected so many to have lived in Thornton Lock. Tench, bream, perch, small pike, and eels without number have all been found and transferred to a safer place. Many more must have been drawn up by the pumps and come to a sticky end in the silt left on the banks.

The beck from which the canal draws its water supply originates in springs at the foot of the nearby Wolds. This water has filtered down through hundreds of feet of chalk. Similar water feeds the Driffield Navigation and the nearby streams to the East, which are famous for their trout fishing. The mineral content of the water derived from the chalk makes it especially suited to the growth of minute water creatures and larger shrimps and snails, which provide good food for fish.

The beck itself contains many dace, which love streamy water and would not be at home in the canal. Roach too are plentiful and these are also to be found in the canal. On the other hand, the tench and bream thrive only in the still or slow-moving water. Those which were taken from the lock and placed in the beck would quickly move downstream to find a quiet place.

Some of our younger Society members, having seen for themselves the fish to be found, will no doubt wish to try their hand at catching them. During the coming months we will be describing some of the different fishes and giving a few tips on how they can be caught.

THIS MONTH - THE PERCH

The latin name, 'perca fluviatilis', means 'river perch'. This tells us that there are other kinds of perch, some of which live in the sea. A handsome looking fish, the perch has a striped body. The lower fins are pink and the dorsal fin (on the top) and the gill covers are spiky. Small perch love little red worms, especially if they wriggle. As they grow larger they are to be caught with spinners or small fish as bait. Look for perch in the Lockpits, or near walls or piles.

Although they grow to a weight of five pounds or more, most of the perch that you will catch will be much smaller than that! Sometimes small perch can be a nuisance when you are fishing for other fish, but if you hook a bigger one you will need all your skill to land him on the bank, as he will fight hard.

Perch are edible and on the Continent are an important food-fish, but in this country very few people bother with them.

Next time, that exciting fish - the Pike!

'Uncle Peter'

CANAL RAMBLE

On Saturday, May 16th, about thirty members of the E. Riding Branch of the Ramblers' Association walked the length of the Canal, from E. Cottingwith to Canal Head. This was the final event of their National Footpaths Week campaign.

It was warm and sunny all the way, the trees newly out, patches of enormous cowslips, butterflies, the cuckoo and much besides. Many of our visitors confessed to pleasurable surprise at this unsuspected walk in their midst - in spite of some truly ferocious nettles at the lower end!

That Welshpool By-pass!

On behalf of the PCAS Chris Solomon has written to the Welsh Office, Cardiff, in support of the widespread objection to the proposed by-pass being built on the bed of the Montgomery Canal, in Welshpool.

Montgomery County Council, Welshpool Borough and Newtown U.D.C. have all expressed their support in principle for the re-opening of the thirty miles or so of canal, running through the wonderfully scenic countryside on the Welsh Border.

Concreting Party at Acaster

A contingent of volunteers from PCAS went to Bishopthorpe one Saturday in April to give a hand in laying three and a half cubic yards of premix concrete, part of the building foundations in Acaster Malbis Boat Club's new Club Ship, 'Heron'.

Countryside Park round Devon Waterway

The isolated remaining length of the Grand Western Canal, between Tiverton and Lowdwells, will become the central feature of the first Countryside Park in Devon. The County Council together with local Councils, are working on a plan to take over the Canal from British Waterways Board and develop it for various amenity pursuits.

This waterway formed part of the projected line from Exeter to Taunton, where it was to be linked to the proposed but never built Bristol and Taunton Canal. Authorised in 1796, the engineer, John Rennie, estimated its cost to be £211,875, for 36½ miles. In fact, the part built, eleven miles in length, cost nearly £250,000 and was opened in 1814. Later, in 1838, the Canal reached Taunton.

Sold to the Great Western Railway, who closed the link to Taunton, the Canal continued to carry a dwindling quantity of stone until 1924, and in 1962 the navigation rights were extinguished.

One doubts if the optimistic promoters of the Grand Western Canal ever foresaw the new role their Canal will play in the 1970's!

D.G.T.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS To John Walton, of Leven, near Hull, brother of our Membership Secretary! John gained first place in the recent East Riding Young Farmers' Junior Public Speaking Contest, for which he received a silver milk churn, suitably engraved. His subject? Our Pocklington Canal, of course!

DON'T FORGET

Future Working Parties

The dates of the next Working Parties are as follows:

May 30/31st June 27/28th, July 25/26th, and August 22/23rd.

The venue for the May working Party will be Thornton Lock.

After May, the venue will be Canal Head, part of our effort being devoted, each month, to preparing the site for our Garden Party, and also to removing young saplings growing in the walls of the locks above Coats Bridge.

At the same time I am hoping that we shall be able to be working on the lower section of the Canal between Thornton and the Derwent at East Cottingwith, but at the time of writing (May 8th) plans are fluid and not yet finalised.

Members will be kept fully in the picture as soon as all is settled, but in the meantime up-to-date information can be obtained by telephoning MELBOURNE 216, from either our Chairman or the Assistant WPO David Duke.

D.G.T.

WANTED

- CAMERA.

Any camera which has a negative size not less than 2" x 2" or more, urgently wanted by the Society. Anything is good enough, including old box cameras etc.,

Please write or phone Secretary, York. 23338

WHAT'S ON

Diary

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

SAT./SUN. MAY 30/31st.	WORKING PARTY - please make a special effort for this one!
SAT. JUNE 13th.	FAMILY OUTING - as on circular.
SAT. JUNE 27th.	COFFEE EVENING - Village Farm, Thornton.
SAT. JULY 11th.	GARDEN PARTY - South Acre Farm, Melbourne.
SAT. AUG. 15th.	GRAND GARDEN PARTY at CANAL HEAD - further details later

Remember

SAT. AUG. 15th.	GRAND GARDEN PARTY - CANAL HEAD BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

Philosockical Phred

Well hello again friends, here we are again and isn't life hectic, Dances, Coffee Evenings, Working Parties, Rambles, this lot would have you work your fingers to the bone. But we certainly are making a mark now with all the volunteers and wierd and wonderful machinery. Every fourth week looks like a flash back to the Gold Rush in the Klondyke.

I must say the sight of our W.P.O. disappearing left foot first into the slurry tank did appal me rather, shades of Jonah and the Whale! I don't know what we should do without him for six days and nights.

I'm told that we have a particularly good crop of baby frogs and that the wild Duck will be hatched and away by now, according to one of my naturalist friends you know.

We also had some very eminent people down by the Canal too, and having my ear close to the ground you understand, I shouldn't be at all surprised to see a dredger here one of these fine days. Then we may see Thornton pond restored to its proper level. Just think of all that water. NEAT.....