

DOUBLE NINE

THE

POCKLINGTON CANAL

AMENITY SOCIETY



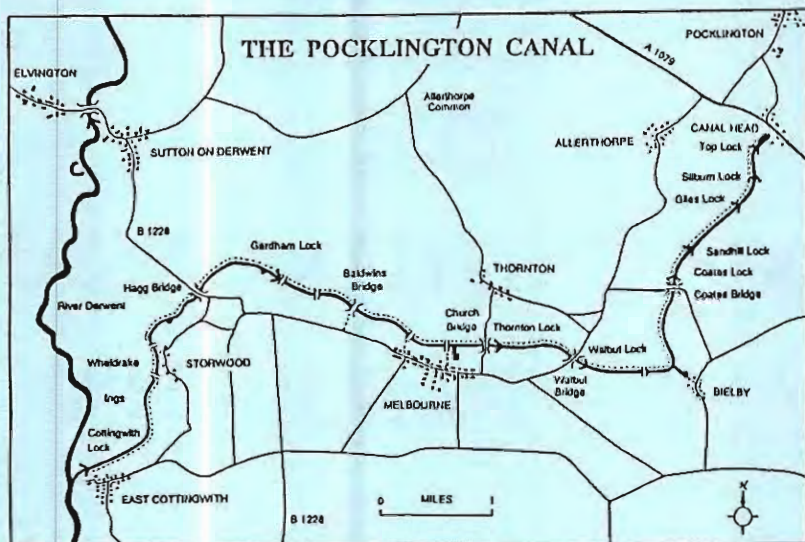
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THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY

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Note: Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Society unless so stated.

A FUTURE FOR THE POCKLINGTON CANAL?

In 1990 British Waterways prepared a document entitled *A FUTURE FOR THE POCKLINGTON CANAL?* It was a discussion document and various options for the future of the canal were considered. In it BW stated that their preferred option was "*full restoration with limitation of navigation*". At the time this was a great step forward because it was probably the first occasion that BW had declared their support for the restoration project. Later their words were followed up by actions that gave us further reason to believe that BW had a commitment to the project. It was in this climate that the restoration of Walbut Lock was undertaken.

WHY THE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE?

More recently we have noticed that British Waterways have been more cool in their support and I have challenged the Regional Manager to declare exactly where BW stand on the matter. The responses have been either non-committal or evasive, thus re-inforcing our doubts about their commitment to the project. We will, of course, continue to press BW for a firm statement of support for the restoration project.

PCAS DETERMINED TO PRESS ON!

None of this will have any effect on the Society's objectives or determination. Our work will go on whether or not it has the support of BW, and I am sure that we will succeed in the end. History does have a habit of repeating itself and various canals have been restored in the past without the benefit of whole-hearted support from the owners. The British Transport Commission and its successor, British Waterways Board, put all sorts of obstacles in the way of the restoration of the Peak Forest Canal but the project went ahead. Now it is classified as a *Cruising Waterway*. Will it be the same story on the Pocklington?

*** * DESPITE ALL OUR TRIBULATIONS THE NEWS IS GOOD!**

WALBUT LOCK

Firstly the work at Walbut Lock is now virtually complete. Some adjustments are required to the gates, and the temporary bywash trench needs filling in. The project, although it took slightly longer than we hoped, has cost a little less than we anticipated. The Society can be justly proud of itself here.

NO 8 SWINGBRIDGE

Following their closure and subsequent removal of the unsafe wooden deck of this farm accommodation bridge in November 1992, British Waterways had declared their intention to rebuild it with a new fixed span. (They have little option over this as the Pocklington Canal is a *Remainder Waterway* and not a *Cruise-way*, so that their spending is strictly limited). When it became clear that we had at least *some* money available, we decided to go ahead with full restoration. This was a collaborative effort between British Waterways and ourselves. It has also benefitted from a grant of £5,000 from Humberside County Council who have now designated a public footpath to connect the towpath with the village of Bielby at this point.

continues . . .

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN *continued* . . .

As reported in our November issue, PCAS organised and paid for a new steel deck which was completed a year ago, though it cannot be permanently installed until completion of the foundation works. These have been a collaborative effort between British Waterways and ourselves. BW, because of their statutory obligations to continue to provide a farm accommodation bridge, have carried out the underwater foundation works and have contributed the greatest part of the cost, and the Society has paid the balance. The bridge is now in place, although it does not swing at the moment. The Society will shortly be going in to rebuild the retaining walls around the bridge recess and to do other works to complete the job.

TOP LOCK In recent months Society working parties have been at Canal Head at Top Lock. One wingwall has largely been rebuilt and the lock is being prepared to receive a pair of top gates. This will allow the dam in the top pound to be removed, which will greatly improve the appearance of the canal by the Picnic Site which is, after all, our 'shop window'.

GARDHAM LOCK We have, at last, received notice that East Yorkshire Borough Council will fund the cost of replacing the rotten gates at Gardham, up to a maximum £15,000, to be paid on receipt of the appropriate invoices. This is something we have been hoping for for a long time (it is 18 months since the Society first approached the Council) and it is indeed good news. The works are planned for October so as to allow time for construction of the gates and to avoid the main part of the cruising season.

THE FUTURE There is plenty of work scheduled for 1994 --- Top Lock, No 8 Swingbridge and Gardham Lock --- but we are already planning future projects. Consent is being sought for dredging upstream of Melbourne, with a view to working on one section next winter. Beyond that, our next big project will probably be Coates Lock. With the experience gained at Walbut I would anticipate that rebuilding this lock should take less time than Walbut. However, the start date will depend on funding and we do not have any funds in place for Coates as yet.

PAUL WADDINGTON *Chairman and Working Party Organiser*

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KEN GOODWIN *National Chairman of IWA and Friend of PCAS*

Ken Goodwin died at the end of January. He was on IWA Council from 1973, first as National Treasurer, then as Chairman. In 1989 he stepped down due to ill-health. But restoration was dear to his heart and he still maintained a punishing schedule supporting schemes around the country. Over many years he did much to encourage PCAS and to promote our cause at national level. The last time I saw him he was far from well, but warm-hearted, entertaining, and enthusiastic as ever. We had just unloaded his car, which he regularly filled --- and it *was* filled! --- with cans and foil collected up for Pocklington, and which he used to deliver to Westminster Road, en route from Macclesfield, and earlier from Wales, to various far more important people and places. Ken was a great personality and he had a great talent for getting people on his side--to the great benefit of our waterways. He did a great job. *SMN.*

WALBUT As some of you will have seen at Canal Head, the Thermometer Board has gone! **The £50,000 target for the Walbut Appeal was reached this winter!** Our warmest thanks to all our many supporters! Names of recent donors will appear next time.(Sorry, but at the moment the Auditor has the list!) **NO LET-UP THOUGH!** As Paul has made clear, the Society has plenty more jobs to be tackled. And whilst we press on with restoration, the already restored parts need to be kept that way. There are also items like more public information boards, maps etc. We have more machinery to maintain and insure (We have just bought a useful second-hand crane). It all costs money! **So the fund-raising must go on!**

NESTLE UK VOLUNTEER AWARD In February PCAS received a cheque for **£200** from NESTLE UK in York. Thanks to new member, Paul Graham, who works for Nestle and who who is also a regular PCAS volunteer, and who applied their **VOLUNTEER AWARD FUND** on our behalf. **THANK YOU ALSO TO NESTLE.**

ALUMINIUM CANS and FOIL MANY THANKS once again to all our can and foil collectors, especially to Wilf Johnson and Jeff Pecksen, Mike Handford (Chairman IWA Restoration Committee), the Barkers, the Littles, Northumbria IWA, and many others. **Grand total raised for 1993: £448.26. So please keep it coming!**



*Remains of No 8 Swingbridge showing original foundations
November 1993*

THE SOCIETY AGM

SUNDAY APRIL 24 1994

The Society's Annual General Meeting takes place at the Wellington Oak at Canal Head on Sunday, 24 April at 2.15 pm approx., in the Function Room, following our usual Lunch there. We hope many of you will join us at the Lunch but you are very welcome to come along afterwards just for the meeting if you prefer. The Bar staff will direct you if you haven't been before. It is very friendly. Bring a friend. **Do come if you can!**
AGM AGENDA: *Apologies, Minutes of last AGM, Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report & Accounts, Election of Auditors, Election of Officers & Committee, AOB.*
Elections: The four officers are elected annually and the present four are all prepared to stand again, as are the present committee members. **But we would welcome nominations for new committee members!** How about it?? There is plenty to be done but we think you would enjoy it, and you would be helping the canal. If you are interested, or know of other members who might be, do please ring one of us.

SUBSCRIPTIONS! Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January: *Adults (family or individual): £5; Concessions (unwaged, students, OAP): £3; Life: £50.* Thank you to all who have already paid up. For those who haven't, there is a reminder enclosed with this magazine. There are also some of you who pay by Banker's Order, who are still paying at rates of as low as £1 or £1.25!! We would be very grateful if you could update your BO's on the form enclosed.

NEW MEMBERS We welcome the following who have recently joined the Society: Mr R. Bromley (Cottingham), Mr P. Graham (York), Mr I. Hunt (Costock, nr. Loughborough), Mr P. Kitchin (York), Mr I. Parker (Old Malton), Mrs C. Richardson (Aughton, Sheffield), Ms M. Smith (Kippax, nr. Leeds); also K. Bower, D. Owen and P. Steel, all of Pocklington, who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and have joined us for this year; they have already been actively involved.

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THE NEW HORIZONS TRIP BOAT

Thanks to Paul Waddington the trip boat hull has been moved to Goole to a more secure and convenient, outdoor site in his boatyard there. The bulk of the welding is now completed, the steel has been shotblasted and a first coat of primer applied. A start has been made on painting and several kind donors have given us various useful items.

The decision to locate the boat at Goole was taken after careful consideration. It is further from Pocklington but does have other clear advantages. The NH Group consists of ten PCAS members who have already put in much hard work. **But there is much still to be done** to complete the boat for use on the canal and we now want to take advantage of the better (we're eternal optimists!) weather. The aim of the *New Horizons Trust* is to involve especially older members of the community in using their time and talents. We would very much welcome any such people who would like to join us in working on the boat (Petrol money is available). There are all kinds of jobs to be done. If YOU, or any of your friends, would like to know more about it DO PLEASE CONTACT US. *R.O'Kelly (Trip Boat Group Chairman) 0759 303510, P.H.Price, P.Waddington, S.Nix, A.J.Anderson, D.Carnell 0469 30138, S.Fawcett 0759 303157, J.Herd 0759 303161, G.Parkes, W.H.Richardson.*

PCAS BARBECUE CANAL HEAD SATURDAY MAY 7 th

Once again Peter Price has offered us the use of his garden and tent for our Barbecue on May7th. **Tickets: Adults£3, Children £2.** It helps a lot if you can book beforehand. But do come ! Food provided for you to cook. Soup and drinks also available. **Helpers also very welcome!**

ROTARY SPONSORED WALK ON THE CANAL SUNDAY MAY 8

The tent for our Barbecue is again thanks to the Sponsored Walk. The Walk is in aid of AGE CONCERN in HUMBERSIDE and other Rotary Charities.

All details from: **D.M.A.Quirke tel: 0759 318200.**

RECENT EVENTS : At the November Lunch the Raffle made £38.50, the Stall took £87.39 which included £15 from items auctioned. The recent Vintage Tractor and Engine Rally at Canal Head on Easter Monday was also a great success despite the bitter weather! (Perhaps a Bonfire Party next Easter?) PCAS banked £233. Our grateful thanks to the Engine Club and their members. We were pleased to hear the *Wellington Oak* also had a successful day and made a generous amount for the *Candlelighters*.

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**MANY THANKS FOR GOODS TO SELL** We sell books, bric-a-brac, toys, games, jewellery etc all through the year. You are very generous. Please keep up the supply, especially as the season for events approaches. Please save all coupons, trading stamps, postage stamps etc. Michael Handford's IWA Charity Bank uses these to make more cash for the canals (including Pocklington).

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● **PROVIDENT MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE** === Another useful way to add extra cash to the coffers of PCAS with any or all transactions you enter into with *PMLA* . Contact Society Sec. for details or phone Graham Hocking direct at *PMLA* on Leeds 0532 450854. All transactions strictly under *Lautro* rules. P. WADDINGTON.  
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**LETTERS or SUGGESTIONS FROM YOU ?** The Editor would be very pleased to have letters for publication or suggestions from members and readers for discussion --- if you live near the canal and have improvement ideas or if you would like more information, please do get in touch. (Space is always short in '99 ' so please keep letters for publication as short as possible --- and our apologies for items held over to the next issue. *EDITOR*

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**MRS MADGE RICHARDSON and MR M.A.(TONY) RABETT** We are sad to report the deaths of two Life Members. Mrs Richardson and her late husband, Len, of Station Farm, Shiptonthorpe, had been members for many years and were generous and enthusiastic supporters at numerous PCAS events. Mr Rabett lived at Depden Hall, near Bury St.Edmunds. He joined PCAS in June 1990 when he and friends from Stockton Locks brought his Alf Matty tug *Governor No 5* up to York and Ripon, and to Melbourne. He enthused about Pocklington Canal and had hoped to come again.



# SUNDAY LUNCH & AGM SUNDAY APRIL 24

PCAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and LUNCH  
at the WELLINGTON OAK CANAL HEAD near POCKLINGTON

( A 1079 directly opposite Canal Head entrance. Ample parking. )

Lunch 12.30 for 1 pm AGM 2.15 pm approx.

Lunch: (in the Function Room) Choice of starters, choice of main course with vegetables etc (or vegetarian dish), choice of sweets or cheeseboard, coffee. Cost: £8, juniors £5.50. Pay on the day but we must have your bookings as soon as possible please! Please ring Sheila Nix 0904 623338 or Sylvia Fawcett 0759 304157. Gifts for the Raffle or the Sales Stall most welcome.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 7 May PCAS Barbecue Canal Head 7.30 pm  
Sun 8 May Rotary Sponsored Walk on canal (contact:details page 5)  
Thurs 12 May PCAS Committee Meeting 7.30 pm  
Frid 20 May IWA Cottingham Talk on *Sobriety Project* 8 pm  
Sat 21 May Stall at Sherburn in Elmet Gala ( helpers welcome! )  
Sun 19 June IWA Visit to Chesterfield Canal ( details 0482 652237 )  
Mon 21 June PCAS Committee Meeting 7.30 pm  
Sat 16 July Stall at Barmby Feast  
Tues 26 July PCAS have Charity Stall on Pocklington Market  
Sat 12 Nov PCAS stand at Hull Local History Book Fair

**WORKING PARTY DATES** PCAS Working Parties normally take place on the SECOND and LAST SUNDAYS of each month. New volunteers always welcome. Please contact Paul Waddington on 0472 352936 (or PCAS Sec). WRG NE (Waterway Recovery Group North-East) will be helping us on April 30, and May 1 and 2.

● **NEW-STYLE HEAD OF NAVIGATION PLAQUES** Handsome oval brass plaques with srewholes in maroon, green, black or royal, available on proof of reaching Melbourne by boat; from the Huitson's, Rose Cottage, Melbourne ( almost opposite the pub), or from S. Nix in York (adress inside front cover); £8.50 collected, £9 by post.

● **PCAS T-SHIRTS and SWEATSHIRTS FOR SALE** Adults' and children's in variety of colours. Good quality, with PCAS logo. Adults: Sweatshirts £13.50, T-Shirts £7.50; Juniors: Sweatshirts £10.50, T-Shirts £6. Good selection in stock. Apply : S.Nix.

■ **NEW GUIDE TO THE POCKLINGTON CANAL** recently published by PCAS. Its 36 pages contain a wealth of information about the canal and surrounding area., its history, geography, restoration and wildlife, with general maps of the area and 6 strip maps of the canal from the Derwent to Canal Head. Attractive line drawings and useful telephones and addresses. Available from Mrs O'Kelly, 15 Chappangate, Pocklington (opposite OXFAM ) or from Mrs Y. HUITSON, Rose Cottage, Melbourne, @ £3.25, or by post from the Society Secretary @ £3.55.

☛ **PCAS BARBECUE SAT MAY 7 7.30 PM DO COME!!**