

# DOUBLE NINE

## THE

### POCKLINGTON CANAL

### AMENITY SOCIETY



# MAGAZINE

November 1990

No.61

# THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY



Registered Charity  
500637

## PATRONS

The Earl of Halifax  
East Yorks Borough Council  
B Allison Esq  
David Davis Esq MP  
Major Sir Patrick Wall MC VRD

## COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Ivor J Loney, 44 Algarth Road,  
Pocklington, York YO4 2HJ  
Tel. 0759 302080

### CHAIRMAN and WPO ORGANISER

P R Waddington, 15 Princes Avenue,  
Grimsby DN31 2AA Tel. 0472 352936

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

J W Gatenby, Littlethorpe Cottages,  
Rudston, Drifffield, E. Yorks  
Tel. 0723 891194

### SECRETARY and '99' EDITOR

Mrs S M Nix, 74 Westminster Road,  
York YO3 6LY Tel. 0904 623338

### TREASURER

D G Tomlinson, 87 Gill Way, Rosyth,  
Fife KY11 2UL Tel. 0383 418858

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

S R C Stallard, 42 Back Lane, Holme  
on Spalding Moor, York YO4 4AW  
Tel. 0430 860734

### OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A J Anderson, G D Atkinson, M Lord,  
C R Huitson, G Parkes, J Wootton

### AUDITOR

F D Simpson FCA, 5 The Crescent, Selby,  
N Yorks YO8 OPU Tel. Selby 704904

### POCKLINGTON CANAL BOAT CLUB SECRETARY

Mrs Gill Forth, North and South Cottage,  
Bielby, York YO4 4JL Tel. 0759 318421

BRITISH WATERWAYS CANAL MANAGER for Pocklington Canal is Keith  
Dowell, Naburn Lock, Naburn, York Tel: 090487 229.

British Waterways, Canal Basin, Melbourne Tel: 0759 318887

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

# The Appeal

## PCAS 21st BIRTHDAY APPEAL

We are enclosing a copy of the Appeal leaflet with this magazine. The leaflet has already gone out to many local businesses and to more than seventy charitable trusts, and grant-making bodies. The leaflet is for your information and in the hope that some of you may also like to contribute to this very worthwhile restoration task at Walbut. Please forgive the hard-pressed distributors if you have already received a copy and have responded, as some of you have. We have set a high target but all contributions, however small, are very greatly valued and all will be acknowledged.



## GOOLE RALLY DONATE £300 TO PCAS FOR 'BIRTHDAY'

Bill and Barbara Peace from Bempton were the prime movers behind the Boat Rally at Goole in September. We were invited to take our Stall. Unfortunately we could only be there on the Saturday. We were made most welcome and had a good day, made even better when Bill told us they intended to donate around half the proceeds to PCAS as it was our twenty-first birthday. A few weeks later your chairman and secretary were invited along to the Club one Saturday evening, royally entertained and presented with a cheque for the magnificent sum of £300. Thank you all again, Bill!

## REDUCED MOORING FEES AT MELBOURNE ARM

In order to encourage more use of the canal and in particular to fill the Melbourne moorings, our BW Manager, Keith Boswell, has managed to persuade the 'powers that be' to 'drastically reduce the annual mooring charges.' They will be discounted to 25% of the current Class I fees.

This is a real break-through, something which the Society, and even more the Boat Club, have been urging for a long time. We congratulate Keith and we hope his efforts will be rewarded by a full complement of craft in the Arm. He would like to give PCAS and PCBC members first priority so, if YOU are interested do contact Keith Boswell soon! Other clubs will be notified so don't delay! (Keith's number, at Naburn, is 0904 87 229 )



## THE 1990 AGM AND ELECTIONS

This year's AGM took place on Sunday April 22nd, following Sunday Lunch at the Wellington Oak. There was a good turnout but no fresh names put forward for the committee. So the existing four officers were re-elected. The retiring committee members were also re-elected and co-opted member Mark Lord was formally elected. So the committee remains exactly as last year. The proposal to raise Family Membership to £3.00 was carried. Individual membership remains at £2.00, Corporate £5.00 and Life £30.00.

## THE MARQUEE(S)

Our marquee, 14' x 36', is usually available on loan, in return for a donation to Society funds. Our old 20' x 40' one is being pensioned off — unless anyone wants to buy it?? (offers invited). The newer one is a useful shape for stalls, a bar, disco etc. It has been out regularly this summer, thanks to George Parkes who does most of the loading and unloading and generally oversees operations. — (Bookings via PCAS Secretary on 0904 623338)

# RESTORATION

Giles Lock — During the summer most of our efforts have been concentrated at Giles Lock. Extensive repairs have been carried out to the walls and these should be completed by early next year. The lock will then be reasonably sound from a structural point of view. Dredging will still be required and we are not fitting gates for the time being. These works will have to wait till more funds are available.

Top Lock — At Top Lock there was a burst of activity by the Employment Training Scheme during the Spring. About two-thirds of the brickwork in the main chamber has been done and we are hopeful that the ETS team will return to complete the job. In order to improve the appearance of Top Lock we recently replaced a number of the coping stones including one which must surely be one of the biggest ever used in the construction of any canal!

Thornton Lock — Meanwhile there has also been some activity at Thornton Lock. The new gates were delivered in September and will probably be fitted by the time you read this magazine. It is disappointing that hydraulic paddle gear is being fitted ( I thought we had seen the last of it ) but no doubt it can be changed before too long. There only remains some landscaping to do which we will tackle before too long.

Walbut Lock — Our next project is to be Walbut Lock and we have every confidence that it will be fully restored, including gates, by the end of 1991. Arrangements are already in hand for Navvies Anonymous and the Waterway Recovery Group to work on this lock and we anticipate employing a contractor to do the brickwork. Some of the ancillary work, such as moving the coping stones, we will do ourselves as we have developed considerable expertise in this area.

Old bricks — Finally we have spent a considerable amount of time recovering second-hand bricks. About four thousand have been collected, mostly from a tip at Monk Fryston. This has saved us about a thousand pounds although there is quite a lot of work cleaning them. Is there anyone apart from me who likes cleaning bricks? If there is, why not spare a few happy hours chipping away with a hammer and chisel at Canal Head? It's great fun!

PAUL WADDINGTON

FOR SALE — JOHNSON 4 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR. All proceeds to PCAS Walbut Lock Appeal.

Tel: 0482 29056 during business hours and ask for Jack. (Folding Bike for sale also).

#### 4. THE SOCIETY'S 21st BIRTHDAY DINNER LAST JUNE

This was a very happy occasion, a large gathering which included many founder members and several members and their families whom we had not seen for some years. Ian White, BW's North-East Manager, was able to join us and spoke most encouragingly about progress on the canal. The Chairman read out good wishes from absent members and noted our first two cheques for the Birthday Appeal which we were about to launch. There was much chatter and clicking of cameras so it was quite late when Eric Lount, our founder Chairman, rose to talk to us in splendid East Riding dialect about the 'old days' of the Society and other amusing tales. A proper birthday celebration!



Some of the Founder Members of the Society  
at the 21st Birthday Dinner on June 23rd.

#### GERRY TURNER'S RETIREMENT

Gerry Turner has retired this autumn from British Waterways Leisure and Tourism department. Over the years Gerry has taken a great interest in the 'Pocky', both at work and in his spare time too. He is a PCAS member and we wish him a very happy retirement with more time to enjoy his long-distance walking and production of his excellent tape slide-shows and his many other interests.



MALCOLM HARRINGTON — ONE-TIME EDITOR OF '99'

Long-standing members of the Society will remember that the first few issues of our '99' magazine were edited and produced by a young helicopter pilot who had worked with our Treasurer (who was then Work Party Organiser) on the restoration of the Stourbridge locks. We lost touch with Malcolm when he was posted abroad. Imagine the present editor's delight on receiving a letter from him this June,

Malcolm went to Dubai 'for one month' to fly a special helicopter but is still there flying helicopters after some thirteen years! 'Waterways World' also travels abroad and it was the excellent article and pictures of the canal in June which spurred him to make contact and rejoin the Society once more. His letter also included a generous contribution to the Appeal Fund. He says he still manages two weeks on the canals most years and has trained his family to enjoy them too, but guesses they aren't quite as fanatical as he used to be!

MARK LORD MOVING TO THE SOUTH

Shortly after being formally elected to the Society committee in April Mark began putting the Society membership details on to computer, liaising with Simon Stallard, with the intention of taking over from him as Membership Secretary. Recently he has been heavily involved with addressing and despatching the Appeal literature to many local businesses and to over seventy Charitable Trusts, an exacting task for which we are most grateful. Now, much sooner than envisaged, Mark is moving to take up a new post in Kent. He has our good wishes. Mark hopes to go on helping in various ways but, for the time being, any subscriptions or membership enquiries should be sent to the Society Secretary. New arrangements later.

VISITING BOATS — AND WALKERS

The second part of NB KADUNA's voyage to Melbourne in 1989 appears further on. David Watts from London brought NB ILEX. This summer several boats have reached Melbourne from 'foreign parts', including PENNYWISE in May and in June Tony Rabett's converted Alf Matty tug GOVERNOR NO 5. They brought the tug from Bath. Later on they came round to York and on to Ripon. Recently we had an enquiry from the skipper of a Cornish shrimper. He came from the River Welland through to York this summer and intends to come again next year. We hope to see them on the canal too. We reply to numerous enquirers, some of them walkers, but we don't always know how they fare. Please tell us if you meet any of them.

# SALES STALL & INFO CENTRE

## THE SOCIETY STALL

We started the season with three successful days at the IWA's National Trailboat Rally at Hebden Bridge, coming home with a total of £283. In July Barmby Feast and Melbourne Gala were followed by the Charity Stall in Pocklington market. This last raised the splendid total of £186, virtually all profit as all the goods were donated (at some events we also sell small toys, badges books etc which we buy in). Goole Rally, Cottingham Feast and the Rotary event in Burnby Gardens ended the outdoor season. It didn't rain at any of these events but the (indoor) Padric Charity Fayre in October was unlucky. The rain poured down and thinned the attendance. We did very satisfactorily all the same and were pleased to take part. Stall takings are also boosted, of course, by the sale of numerous things - apples, onions, jewellery, books, pictures, etc - between events. The Information Centre, too, sells many books, guides, drinks, special charity chocolate bars etc etc during the summer.

THANK YOU ALL who have contributed. You provide us with some wonderful money-spinners. Do please keep them coming! We have a stall at the Beverley Charities Fair on November 16 and our November Lunch on the 25 November. Thank you too to all our helpers. And new ones are always welcome!

## THE INFORMATION CENTRE

We have had a good season again, largely due to Sylvia's willingness to give up most of her summer Sundays. George Barker and others help but it would be good to have one or two more volunteers to do a stint from time to time next year.

The Centre turns in a useful income for the funds but, equally useful, is the opportunity it provides for us to meet people. Recently Mrs Kathleen Tilbrook and her sister Iris spoke to us. They used to live at the Lock House, they said, and Iris was named after the irises on the canal. Their maiden name was Woollorton. Does anyone remember them? A gentleman who flew in Halifax bombers from Melbourne Airfield during the War also came and showed us pictures of himself and other off-duty crew members bathing at Walbut Lock! Many new members and new recruits to the Work Parties have made their first contact with the Society at the Information Centre.





# THANK YOU !

7.

There are always so many people to whom we want to say 'Thank you' and, if we leave any of you out, it is certainly not intentional! We know there are many unsung collectors of 'ally' foil, ring pulls, jumble, salvaged envelopes etc, and what you do is really valuable. Be assured that all is put to good use or profit. We have been given delicious apples, and onions (large and savoury), which we bagged up (separately!) and sold to friends. Lots of you send us paperbacks which always sell well. A large bag of bluebell bulbs have been planted along the hedgeside at Canal Head. An anonymous 'French student at Hull University' left a large bag of books one weekend outside the Information Centre, 'to be sold for the canal'.

We now have so many clothes we hope to arrange a Jumble Sale after Christmas. The bric-a-brac, pictures, trinkets etc, which arrived for the Market Stall sold fast, likewise dolls, pot pourri hedgehogs, jewellery and much besides. We can find outlets for most of your surplus treasures, so please keep up the supplies!

Bricks and Cans — We must especially thank member Wilf Johnson from Monk Fryston for salvaging thousands of old bricks (see report on Restoration) and innumerable sacks of drink cans. More bricks, too, from Norman Dean. Dirty, tiring tasks but they certainly help the finances.

Machinery — So have the donation of a cement mixer in need of some repair and Robin Terry's JCB at Giles Lock in response to our appeal in the last '99'. Thank you!

## CAR BOOT SALES AT THE WELLINGTON OAK

Many thanks to the Wellington Oak for encouraging us to run Car Boot Sales in their field behind the pub this summer. We need to persuade more people to come and buy when we start up again next Spring. But we have had several good sales bringing in a useful income to the Society funds, and of course we've been able to sell our own goods too. Our thanks to Derek and Danny, also to the Herd family who have been a tower of strength on the organising. And we shouldn't forget the many friendly buyers and sellers. We look forward to bigger and better in 1991.

WATER-COLOUR PAINTINGS FOR SALE — We have a few of Mr A.J.Horne's framed water-colour paintings for sale in aid of funds. One is of Marrick Priory but most are of local East Yorkshire villages and views. Please apply PCAS Secretary.

NARROWBOAT 'KADUNA'

Christine Meredith completes the story of her trip from Stratford to Melbourne in the summer of 1989.,



You can't see very far either side of the River Derwent because of the flood banks, but ahead it really is quite breathtaking. It gets so narrow in parts with overhanging trees etc. that there is only just room for one boat. We approach East Cottingham Lock onto the canal. It isn't as easy to get into the canal as we thought it was going to be as there is quite a lot of silt outside the gate and not for the first time, did I wish we had a banana shaped boat!

John manages to find the channel and we go into the lock. Paul and I are let off to do the paddles. The lock is obviously very small and we do have to go in at quite an angle. Paul and I lift the paddles to let the water in, and very soon we realise that, in fact, the nose of the boat has got stuck under the lock gates. So very practised we are, we quickly shut the paddles down and rush to the other end to let some water out, and try again. This time going in at an even sharper angle - this is successful and up we come.

Just by the lock is a very interesting sign with hand-painted butterflies and birds and lots of information telling you what you can expect to see along the Pocklington Canal. It really is beautiful, as you come out of the lock the canal is absolutely covered with huge great lily pads, so you can see that not many boats come up and down. There are also a lot of strange looking sheep, I think they are Border Leicester and Blue Faced Leicester. There's shaggy ones, curly ones, there's big ones and little ones, and they are all a little bit wary of the boat going past.

We approach the first bridge that we have to open ourselves. We were given a special key as we entered the River Derwent and it is negotiated without any trouble.

The fields along this canal are just full of wild flowers, white and yellow as far as you can see. It's as if they have not been sprayed so are allowed to grow naturally. The farms as well are like stepping back in time. Picture book farmyards with a few obviously pet sheep and their lambs. Ducks and geese, lots of chickens scratching around and one or two brightly coloured cockerels on high making their presence heard. A little further along and in amongst the trees there is a peacock, it takes your breath away.

Around another bend and the view opens up before your eyes, right across to the Yorkshire Wolds. We pass a small herd of cows and they all stop cuddling to look at us. You can see them thinking "what's this strange animal going down our waterway?" and again they are all a little bit worried. Some of them walk towards us to have a better look and the others just stand and stare.

We arrive at Gardham Lock with a bridge across, both have to be negotiated. To get there we have gone through an arch of willow trees with their branches touching the water the other side of us. In the distance you can see the inevitable metal army striding across the countryside carrying its wires, but even that can't spoil the view.

Baldwin Bridge is next and it looks very low. Paul asks John if we need to take the centre chimney off, but he doesn't seem to think that is necessary, so off we go. Guess what? We ended up with a flattened chimney! The centre of the bridge gets quite a bit lower and that's where the damage was done, so beware anybody who's going to do that bridge - take your chimneys off first!

We arrive at the end of the navigation. Immediately after the last bridge you take a sharp turn to your right and enter the Melbourne Arm, which has been wonderfully done. There is a lovely large landing stage on the one side, and across the other side are the facilities which boaters need.

We tie up and then find that the engine is boiling! We decide that "thingybobs law" has followed us all round this holiday because lots of funny things have gone wrong. Obviously, the engine has boiled because with all the journeys we have done recently the mud box has got full, so we decide to shut up shop and walk into the village and have lunch at the Cross Keys whilst the engine cools down.

Having had a very pleasant lunch we then walked to Rose Cottage, but "thingybobs law" was at us again - they weren't in! So we had to leave them a little note telling them about us and hoping they would send the plaque on to us which they did.

We fill the engine up with water as it has cooled down nicely and we move the boat across to the other side so that we can pump out and do all the things that boaters have to do. The other side is quite reedy so I get off first to enable John to throw the ropes to me, and then help Paul off. I climb amongst the reeds ready to help Paul off, but John said it was very funny because as I leant one way to catch hold of Paul he leapt the other and guess what? yes - we both landed up in the water! Paul is now in the shower - I have to wait my turn!

Having bathed and pumped out, washed down the boat and done all the things one wants to do, we set off back down the canal. The swing bridges are very easy to open and we learned the lesson about Baldwin Bridge, so we didn't flatten the other chimney.

It is quite as delightful going back down as it is coming up. The locks obviously are a little bit more difficult to negotiate, so one does have to take some care, but it can be done with patience and thought and it really is worthwhile doing.

We moor up that night just before the lock back onto the River Derwent. There is a small field with a few caravans in it, and the people from the caravans come to help us moor up. Very friendly. As we are sitting there in the evening eating our dinner two people walk past the boat and we can hear them saying "where on earth is Wilmcote?" so when they came back again I popped my head out and told them where Wilmcote was. They were in fact middle aged twins and they were obviously ornithologists. They had their binoculars round their necks. They told us about a nightingale we might hear that evening if we wanted to walk a little way along the lane and listen. The weather got a bit cooler and there was a doubt as to whether it would actually sing that night, but it would be worthwhile going.

If anybody is thinking of doing the Pocklington Canal I really can't recommend it highly enough, although the lily pads were there, there was always a channel you could go along in the centre, so in fact, they don't cause any trouble. All the bridges are easily worked and all the locks can be negotiated, as I said, with thought and patience.

I think out of the boating I have done over the last 14 years, the Pocklington Canal will take a very very special place in my memory.





# 10. SUNDAY LUNCH

PCAS SUNDAY LUNCH SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER 12.30 for 1 p.m.

at the WELLINGTON OAK at CANAL HEAD near POCKLINGTON

This is a friendly social gathering for members and friends. Do come and join us. Cost: £7.00 per head (£4.50 children). Pay on the day but WE MUST HAVE BOOKINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE! Please ring:

York (0904) 623338 or Pock (0759) 304157

Gifts for the Stall and the Raffle will be very welcome, and we hope to have an Auction. All proceeds to the Birthday Appeal. Mr and Mrs Boswell will be our guests.

Menu: Soup or Melon Boat with Orange; Roast local Turkey with Cranberry Sauce and seasoning or Roast Leg of Pork with Madeira Sauce or Hazelnut Roast with Cheese Sauce, plus Seasonal Vegetables; good choice of Sweets; coffee.

## DATES

SAT. 17 NOVEMBER PCAS STALL at Charities Fair at Beverley

FRID. 23 NOVEMBER IWA COTTINGHAM P. Waddington on the Grand Canal of Ireland

SAT. 8 DECEMBER IWA Christmas Party at Cherry Burton  
(for IWA details ring SMN 0904 623338)

Future PCAS dates will be announced later.

### WORKING PARTIES —

Our regular Work Parties are held twice each month, on the SECOND SUNDAY and on the LAST SUNDAY. We meet at Canal Head at 10 am. Bring a packed lunch and your wellies — or other suitable gear. A number of new volunteers have joined us this summer and have become part of the regular team, which is splendid. If YOU would like to give it a go please get in touch and come along. Cleaning old bricks is only one of the jobs! (Contact Paul Waddington or Sheila Nix.)

### SOCIAL EVENTS FOR PCAS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS —

The committee are regularly concerned that there are many fairly local Society members whom we never have an opportunity to meet and whose views we never hear. We wonder if you have any ideas about meeting from time to time? Would slide shows be of interest? Would members like to meet for a drink or a bar meal from time to time? If so, where, Pocklington, Melbourne, Cottingham? We would welcome your views on this. Do ring or write! Meanwhile, we hope to see you at the November 25th Lunch. Do come!