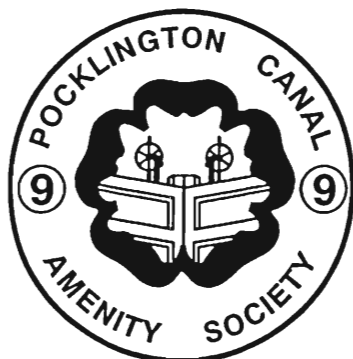


THE
POCKLINGTON CANAL
AMENITY SOCIETY



INTERIM NEWSLETTER

February 2000

No. 76½

Sheila Nix is awarded the M.B.E.!

George Parkes writes:

It was with very great pleasure that I read in the national press on New Year's Eve that our dear friend, Sheila Nix, had been awarded the M.B.E. for services to inland waterways.

As you will probably know, Sheila is a founder member of our society, acting as its secretary since its formation in 1969. She has been the editor of its magazine, *Double Nine*, and its stall organiser for many years. The society has hardly had an event, either indoors or outdoors, without Sheila being very much involved not

only 'on the day' but also in advance during the planning stages. She has devoted an enormous amount of time to the society over many years. As a result, the society's presence at many functions all around the area has done tremendous good in promoting the aims of the society and in encouraging visitors by boat and otherwise to come and see for themselves what it is all about.



Sheila has also been a central and faithful member of the local Inland Waterways Association in this area for even longer. In the early seventies, the area was served only by the North Eastern Branch of the I.W.A., meeting monthly over the winter at the Leeds Polytechnic. Sheila was very encouraging to me in forming the local Hull and East Riding Section of the I.W.A. in the summer of 1973 at an inaugural meeting held at the Humber Yawl Club at Brough. As time went by, the North Eastern Branch became the North East Region and the Hull and East Riding Section became the North Humberside Branch. Sheila has served both on region and

branch committees throughout this period, acting as both the Vice-Chairman of the region and host to its committee for a number of years. In addition, she has been the Branch's Social Programme Secretary for an equally long time. As if all this isn't enough, she has been a member of other waterway societies as far afield as Ripon in the north (serving on the Ripon Canal Society's committee) and the Wey and Arun in the south!

This award is truly deserved and it could not have been awarded to a more appropriate inland waterways enthusiast.

*George Parkes
1st February 2000*

OUR WISH TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
TO ALL PCAS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society was officially set up, with considerable public backing, in January 1969. 1999 marked the Society's "30th Birthday". It was a very busy and exciting year, in all sorts of directions. The "Birthday" Dinner in June, followed next day by a trip up the Canal for some of our guests, and an evening Barbeque for visiting boaters, was most successful and enjoyable - our traditional November Lunch likewise. There were many other more routine activities too and we were delighted to see so many members and friends in the course of these events.

But there is a downside to all this activity of which we are only too conscious! We have not kept in touch with all of you, our members, as regularly as we would have wished, especially those of you who live at some distance and cannot easily get to local events. It has been suggested by one of our officers and agreed by the committee that, in order to keep in touch more satisfactorily, we publish two issues per year of the usual *Double Nine* Magazine as before, but with two additional mailings in between, in the form of a thinner news-sheet such as this one you are reading now. The date of the Society's year 2000 AGM is Sunday, 16 April. We aim to publish a full issue of *Double Nine* Magazine, with more detailed news and features, well before the AGM.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FUTURE WORKS

We were pleased to see our Waterways Manager, Keith Boswell, back at Naburn during 1999, following almost two years' secondment to manage the East Midlands and South Yorkshire Navigations. We would also like to thank Pete Wade, Acting Manager in Keith's absence, for all he did to help. Pete is still part of the Naburn – and Pocklington Canal – team as Waterway Operations Engineer.

When Keith returned to Naburn he was particularly concerned to generate renewed impetus on the Pocklington Canal Management Plan. Following discussions with colleagues, he soon arranged a meeting with English Nature to set out a range of objectives which could be progressed, the main one being to revise the Plan in the light of comments received from the consultation period. The next stage was to determine jointly a programme of works to be carried out. Keith

Boswell and Roger Hanbury, British Waterway's Head of Environmental Services, had already met with our PCAS Committee in April 1999 to discuss future plans, and he and Keith came to one of our meetings again in September for further discussions. It was agreed we all, BW, EN and PCAS, needed to work as a team if we were to achieve real progress in the present climate. Two most encouraging meetings have now been held at Heslington, in the York University offices of English Nature, at which EN, BW, PCAS and the Environment Agency, sat round the table and discussed what could be done. Following the November meeting Pete Wade and EN's Sarah Woolven have agreed various works on the Canal, including depth sounding above Thornton and Walbut, which has already been partly done, and the likelihood of further major work on Coates Lock and elsewhere. There is to be a further meeting at Heslington in March.

WORKING PARTIES

During last summer these were devoted mostly to the Tripboat at Goole. More recently, one seat has been removed from Canal Head for restoration and a new seat in memory of Barbara Ogilvie has been installed beside Walbut Lock. Other maintenance jobs are also being carried out at working parties on the second and last Sundays of the month.

*Information about working parties from Paul Waddington:
01757 638027 (home), 01405 763985 (work)*

Paul also says he would be glad for someone else to help organise the work parties as he is often busy at Goole at weekends. Are there any volunteers out there?? Please get in touch!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are sending membership cards with this newsletter to save postage. Unless you are a life member, you should find a membership card in this envelope, together with a letter from our Membership Secretary, Nigel Lockwood.

If you have not paid your subscription for 2000 please send it to Nigel as soon as possible. Local members can pass their subscription to any committee member or Ray O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington.

ABOUT PEOPLE

We offer our warm congratulations to recent IWA National Chairman and longtime friend of PCAS, **Audrey Smith**, on being awarded an OBE last summer.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since our last magazine issue: **Dr D. DuBlon & Dr A. Cohen** (Life Members, Leeds), **Mrs Betty R. Harrison** (Holme-on-Spalding-Moor), **Diane and Stephen Harrison** (Leeds), **Mr & Mrs W. Latus** (Pocklington), **John Pomfret** (Durham), **Linda and Vic Randerson** (Hull), **Dave Smith** (Goole, husband of Mrs Victoria Iredale-Smith), **Julie and Peter Walwyn** (Pocklington), **David Wilkinson** (Newcastle-under-Lyme).

PCAS COMMITTEE

We welcome **Mrs Angela Stallard** who was co-opted onto the Society Committee last October.

DEATHS

We are sad to record the deaths of members: **Gordon Barron** (Scarborough), **Mrs Joyce Gilbert** (East Cottingwith), **R.J. (Bob) Hunter** (York), **Mrs D. Kennedy** (Hitchin), **Mrs Doreen Lount** (Flamborough), **Mrs Nancy Marsden** (Bingley), **Mrs Pat Smith** (Sheffield) and **R.S. (Bob) Wilkinson** (Barlaston). Fuller details will appear in the next magazine.

OBITUARY: R.S. (BOB) WILKINSON

Bob Wilkinson joined PCAS as a Life Member in May, 1979. He died in August 1998. It was only some time afterwards that we learned of his death, just too late to record it in the last *Double Nine* Magazine. Bob's son, David, says that, next to his family, canals were one of his father's most enduring loves. His interest in waterways went back to a time when many of today's most popular routes lay derelict or under threat. Campaigning was important. In recent years Bob suffered from increasing ill health and found writing and other activities difficult. But his enthusiasm and determination remained as strong as ever and he continued to write long and interesting letters on all sorts of waterway matters – still in handwriting which would put many of us to shame! Although he lived at Barlaston, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Bob always had a great fondness for the Pocklington Canal and did much to support the Canal and the Society over many years. We are sad he is no longer with us.

THE SOCIETY STALL

Away Events Our first outing with the Stall in 1999 was our usual, enjoyable day at Sherburn in Elmet Gala in May, with regular stalwart helpers Jeff Pecksen and Wilf Johnson. We had to miss out on Strawberry Island, which was disappointing. But Barmby Feast on 17 July was as good as ever. Joan and Gordon Muspratt brought their highly successful Canal Tunnel game and also helped with the tent and sales, etc. July 27th saw two of us in Pocklington Market at 7.30 am setting up for our day on the Market Charity Stall. Angela Stallard, Mary Credland and George Parkes were there as usual. Raymond O'Kelly provided storage and general backup as usual too, and several members and friends came along with still more bric-a-brac and books to sell. A very useful and profitable day.

Selby Heritage Weekend In September British Waterways staged Open Days at Selby for the National Heritage Weekend and they invited us to take our stall and display stand. So, as well as providing a presence at Canal Head, thanks to Anne Alden, over Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 September, we also set up our stall in the sunshine beside the Selby Canal on both days. We also had our PCAS 30th Birthday Banner flying. The Basin and the towpath are most attractive now, with all BW's new plantings; and the specially commissioned metal sculpture which was unveiled by Selby MP, John Grogan, on the Saturday, is most impressive. Our thanks to Angela Stallard, Paul Graham and two friends from York, who helped to 'man' the stall; also to BW for the shelter of their very smart mini-marquee and for several welcome extra hands when it came to loading-up time.

We do need more helpers! The last stall outing for the year was indoors – our regular visit to Beverley Local History Book Fair in October. A special thank you to Sylvia Cook who came to the rescue at the last minute and stayed all day to help – just like old times again. So, we had a good season. But we could have gone to several more events if we had had more helpers available.

The Information Centre The same applies to the Information Centre at Canal Head on Sundays. Apart from one or two wet days, we managed to open every Sunday, plus Bank Holidays, from Easter 1999 until mid-November! Raymond O'Kelly and I were there most Sundays and Angela Stallard on a good many. We had other welcome helpers from time to time – some not even members! But we have lost a number of regular helpers, both for Canal Head and for other events, in recent years and we would very much welcome some new recruits! The more we can do in this direction, the more much needed funds we can raise to help restore and maintain the Canal. It looks as if we may have some major works to be paid for in 2000 so, if you think you could help sometimes and would like to know more about what's involved, do please give me – or one of the other help

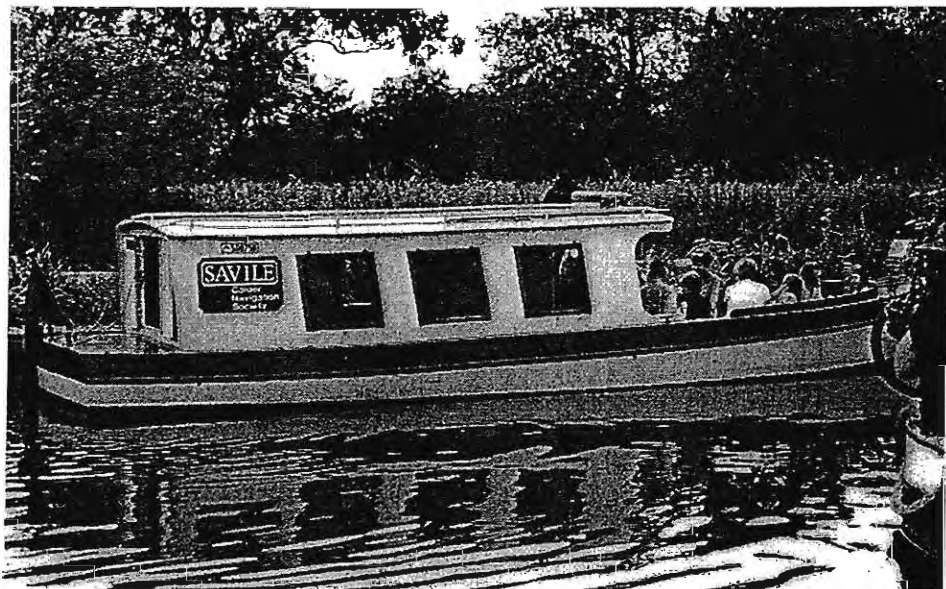
ers or committee members – a ring. It's really very enjoyable and the many friendly and interesting people we meet is an added bonus. We expect to re-open at Easter again this year.

ALUMINIUM CANS AND FOIL

Many thanks to our various regular collectors and a number of welcome newcomers who bring their contributions to Canal Head at weekends. Please keep it all coming! The price of aluminium fluctuates but your cans, foil, and scrap aluminium, such as old kettles, pans, pieces of sheeting, etc, bring in a very useful income for which the Society is most grateful. We would like to offer special congratulations this winter to Wilf Johnson of Monk Fryston. Wilf has been collecting for us in all weathers for a good number of years now, since he retired. Since starting in earnest in 1989, Wilf had notched up a grand total of four tonnes in weight by the start of 1999. He's already made a good start on the next tonne!

THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Thirtieth Birthday of PCAS was celebrated last June and a full report will appear in the next issue of *Double Nine*. Our grateful thanks to members of Calder Navigation Society who brought their tripboat *Savile* (pictured below) to Melbourne for the 'Birthday Weekend'. They not only carried VIP guests on the Saturday morning but also gave trips to many other visitors after that. Special thanks to the main organiser, Colin Scott, who, with Dick Ineson, crewed her over the weekend and who later presented PCAS with a £50 donation from the weekend's activities.



DONATIONS

Towards the end of last year, we were delighted and most grateful to receive a generous donation from Bob Wilkinson's son, in memory of his father. David suggested that, although he knew his father would have wished most of the gift to go into Society funds, he felt it would be good to have something permanent and visible on the Canal to remember him by. The Society committee agreed with this and our thinking is to use some of the money to provide name boards beside some of the other locks, in the same style as the one already in place at Walbut. The possibility of name plaques for some of the bridges has also been suggested.

We are particularly grateful once again for a donation of £50 received from Pocklington Town Council last July. PCAS has good reason to be grateful to the Town Council for its ongoing support in a number of ways, including space on its website, which has provided the Society with welcome publicity and feedback. A goodly number of other recent donations will be acknowledged in the next magazine.

COATES LOCK APPEAL

The £30,000 Appeal for Coates Lock, launched by our patron, Lord Halifax, has now raised over £26,000. The lock chamber has been handsomely restored but, as yet, there are no gates or paddle gear for the lock. We only need another £4,000 to reach our target! Perhaps this is a good spot to say THANK YOU to all the countless members and supporters who have made the present total possible. Without the cans and foil, bric-a-brac, books, stamps, coupons, coffee labels and all the other things you give us, and without all the wonderful donations, large and small, which keep on coming, we would be very hard pressed indeed!

In conclusion...

We hope this news sheet will put you back in touch with various important developments and with main events past and to come. We expect to send out a full *Double Nine* magazine in March. Any feedback or comments, or 'Letters to the Editor' are very welcome.

