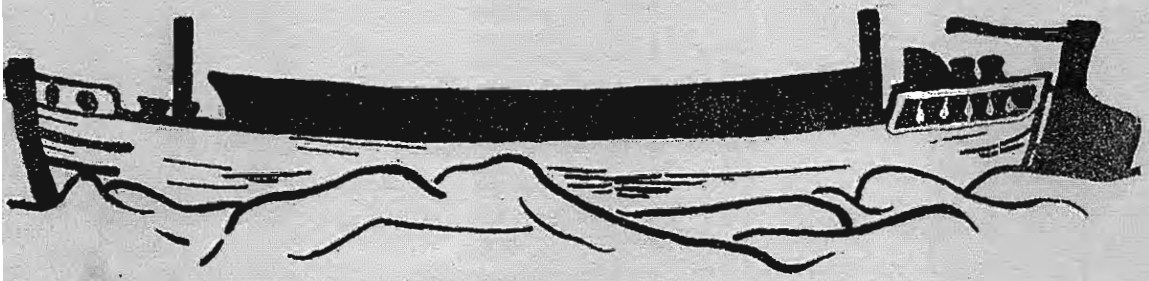
DOUBLE NINE

Quarterly Magazine
of
THE POCKLINGTON CANAL
AMENITY SOCIETY



AUGUST 1978 No. 36

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

Registered Charity 500637

PATRONS—

THE EARL OF HALIFAX, J.P.,
H.M. LIEUT. YORKS. E.R.
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- also -	Mrs. V. Barron, B. Colley, D. Duke, D. Higgins, C. R. Huitson, Mrs. M. Ingleby, E. A. Lount, Mrs. D. E. Lount, R. Pearson, E. Tottle.
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NOTE: Opinions expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

ERIC LOUNT -- FIRST CHAIRMAN OF P.C.A.S.

FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS FROM 1969 to 1978

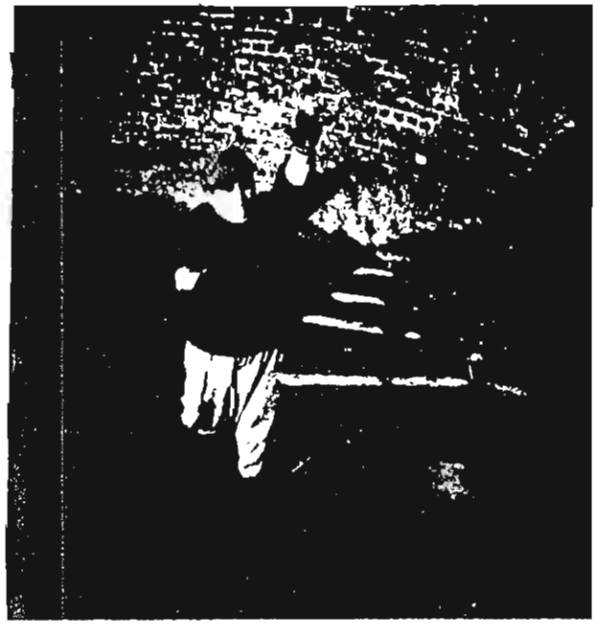
When PCAS first got under way Eric and Doreen lived in Thornton, at Village Farm. Eric reckoned they were still 'off-comers' really; they'd only been there fifteen years. But their roots were in the neighbourhood and they lived and breathed 'canal', Pocklington Canal.

They could nearly see the Canal from the farm and they crossed it every day to get to the shops and school. They always came to York that way (crossing the Canal twice) and there was nothing they loved more than to see their cows grazing contentedly in the two fields they owned just above Church Bridge. But the Canal was derelict.

This is not the place to recount the full story of the restoration or the history of the Society. But it was entirely due to Eric's determined initiative that the idea of a society finally came to life. The very first gathering of interested folk met at Village Farm (and first sampled the famous Lount hospitality). And this despite the fact that Eric had at that time just suffered a severe accident which robbed him of the sight of one eye.

Many more meetings - and socials and coffee evenings etc. - were held at Village Farm and, later, at Thornton Lodge. Working Parties assembled and knocked off there - and frequently stayed on for a natter and a bite to eat! Nothing was ever too much trouble to them for 'the canal' and its supporters. Often, one suspects, the farm took second place if something needed seeing to for the Society. The Lount caravan became the 'Society' van and provided many a weary volunteer with hot soup and tea.

- COMMENT -



As Eric Scaife pointed out at the Society AGM, getting a totally new concern 'off the ground' is not easy. And it is worth remembering that, in 1969, canals were far from being the household word they are today. In the Midlands and the South enthusiasts were struggling against great odds to restore derelict waterways. In our part of the world such ventures were virtually unknown.

Eric Lount began with neighbours and friends. Many of them, living and working near the old canal, were glad to help improve it and bring it back to life and use again. The idea spread, and Eric watched the membership grow quickly from tens to hundreds. Many were still fairly local but many more joined from all around the country and even from overseas.

PCAS's first Chairman isn't Yorkshire for nothing! He could always be forthright when the occasion demanded! But he and Doreen never lost their good humour nor their sense of humour. From the first time he sought actively to foster good relations with the various authorities, including of course, BWB. He spent many hours behind the scenes in pursuit

of this in those early and formative days of the Society. That we have continued to enjoy a happy and fruitful relationship with the authorities and that Pocklington Canal Amenity Society soon won recognition even down in London and other 'foreign parts', was due largely to Eric's leadership and direction.

'Peter' Young and others had paved the way (see page 10). Eric launched the Society, and found he had the support of many. This April he handed over the leadership to Richard Walton but, thankfully, he remains with us on the Committee. We hope he will remain for a long time. But, whatever the future brings, Eric Lount wholeheartedly partnered by Doreen, will always be remembered as the wise and enthusiastic Chairman of our first ten years.

++ Cleaning and Repairing the Syphon April 1970 ++
Eric and other Volunteers

- COMMENT -

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACCEPTS AMENDMENT ON FREIGHT TRANSPORT

On 31st July the House of Commons accepted a House of Lords Amendment to the Transport Bill which lays a duty on the Secretary of State for Transport to promote a national policy for the use of inland waterways for commercial transport.

DAVID WAIN, Chairman of IWAAC, in a recent News Release, comments that this is an important step. It will enable Parliament to ensure proper co-ordination between the Transport and the Environment Departments so as to develop both freight and recreation on our waterways. With proper planning there is definitely room for both to function without significant interference with each other, he says. We agree.

We hope this will be allowed to happen! It is not many weeks since the Minister, Denis Howell, declared that the waterways were all right for recreation and amenity, but there was no case for commercial transport!

A Member of the House remarked the other day - in connection with the size of lorry loads - that he considered the Road Transport lobby in the House was far and away the most powerful lobby there. In fact there is a keen group of waterways supporters in the House but it is up to each one of US to make our views known whenever we can, by writing, speaking etc!

- COMMENT -

FREEDOM OF THE TOWING PATHS - BWB Press Release (June)

The Board say:

"There is an ever growing demand by the general public to walk the canal towing paths, and the Board have decided to remove present restrictions. In both town and country, towing paths are an individual asset for leisure and recreation.

... Public rights of way exist over some of the Board's towing paths. For access to others, members of the public have hitherto been required to obtain a permit from the Board. This requirement has now been dropped and permits are no longer necessary".

They do add that organisers of public events, walks etc. would be well advised to inform them so as to avoid conflict etc.

We suspect - in fact we know! - that many members of the public were not aware that the towing paths were not always open to them previously. In many midland towns it used often to be impossible to reach the tow paths except from a boat. It was also impossible to get OFF them, to go to the shops etc! They were enclosed by high walls and padlocked, spiked gates. There was nothing like this, fortunately, up here. But there WAS a notice (until someone pinched it!) at the entrance to Canal Head, Pocklington, which read quite clearly:

'No Public Right of Way, by Order'

This relaxation still does not mean that all towpaths have become Public Rights of Way. And, in fact, BW do not think they should; legally, such a move could make it difficult for the Board to manage their own canals since, if they WERE Rights of Way, the local authorities would have rights over them which could possibly conflict, even though it might mean more L.A. money being available. Not an easy one! But excellent to be de-restricted!

S.M.N.

RICHARD WALTON - NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY

Richard was elected unopposed as new Chairman. Before handing over the meeting to him, Eric Lount reminded us that Richard had been in this right from the start. He was, at one stage, our Membership Secretary. He is a surveyor, working with a firm in Hull, whose work takes him around and about a bit. He took time off to get married and build a house to live in but he had always kept in touch. "And now," said Eric, "it is a good time to take over as Chairman because, for the past eighteen months, it has been a bit slack on some fronts. Folks won't be expecting you. When rabbits haven't been shot for two or three years they get lax, so this is the time to go out in force and clobber 'em!"

— A Message from the new Chairman appears opposite: —

APPEAL FOR RESTORATION FUNDS - RESULTS TO DATE

Somehow or other its up to us to raise the money! So approaches have been made recently to various local business firms and other organisations for help. After all, it only needs around £4,000 or £5,000 to have a set of lock gates named after you, complete with handsome plaque!

To date we are delighted to announce sums varying from £25 from several banks and a splendid donation of £50 from the SHEPHERD BUILDING GROUP of York.

This is an excellent start and we thank them most warmly. And now, what about all you others? PLEASE see what you can do! The restoration will benefit a lot of people probably including some of your employees too!

Messrs. RAYLORS of York have offered us use of plant and equipment at attractive rates and we thank them too.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTERINGS

Since my appointment at the last AGM I have decided to see more of the canal than I have in recent years and I WALK provided the first opportunity. The fairly pleasant nine miles walk gave me plenty of time to study the canal and past work, some of which is nearing its tenth birthday. Although my party was last to finish we did raise £35 between us, some of which should find its way back to the Society.

The weekend at Frodingham Beck (i.e. at DNAA's Rally) saw the river trials of 'The Onion' and its new power plant, a massive 2 HP Suzuki outboard! This little engine is quite adequate for pushing my rebuilt 'Tomboy' but it is very susceptible to weed, and this on the Driffield Canal which has plenty of clear water.

This, of course, brings me neatly to the most noticeable aspect of our canal. The weed is appalling! It is quite unthinkable that I should take my boat on the 'Pock' in its present state, and most other owners of small boats, and some with much larger craft, are of the same opinion. BWB have assured us that the weed will be removed in time for the Rally in September, but many are disappointed that the work was not done earlier in the year to enable them to enjoy the canal in the summer (!) months.

What can be done about this? The main problem is that the 'Pock' is still a 'Remainder' waterway and BWB are duty-bound to spend their resources on maintaining and repairing 'Commercial' and 'Cruising' waterways, leaving the 'Remainder' waterways until time and circumstances permit! We are unlikely to be upgraded to 'Cruiseway' status as things are, despite the strong recommendations made by IWAAC and their predecessors. So we must find a way of keeping the weed down to an acceptable level. Plenty of cruising during the growing season is one answer - any others?

R.G.W.

WORKING PARTIES

APRIL - The weather turned out to be very pleasant and encouraged work to go ahead. We enjoyed a visit from the West Riding IWA Working Party, led by David Carpenter. They did some useful work and evidence of their efforts will be seen by the next generation. They will be able to say to their children, "We put that coping stone back in position." Well done, West Riding IWA WP, and thanks for coming.

Once more we were assisted by St. Thomas's Scouts from York who worked like beavers, removing hundreds of bricks from the canal side to a more suitable site, ready for the bricklayers.

Now that the hundreds of tons of spoil have been removed and the land surrounding the Canal Basin levelled, we were able to embark on our landscaping programme. We were delighted to have the full co-operation of BWB on this. A large number of trees were planted very professionally and these will, in years to come, enhance the Canal Head area. A great day's work thanks to all who helped!

MAY - The May Working Party was held at East Cottingwith Lock. Our ranks were swelled by members of Durham University and also by members of IWA Northumbria Branch. All the lock fittings etc. were wire-brushed and given a good undercoating of black and white paint. The grass surrounding the lock was cut down and tidied.

JUNE - The IWAlk happened to coincide with our Working Party We again worked at Cottingwith Lock and set to with our brushes. This time it was to apply the top coat of paint, to finish off the job. Whilst the painters were busy another gang were busy with a 'Flymo' giving the grass a lawn-like appearance. We completed the job in time for the walkers to see and appreciate our efforts. The 'before and after' pictures of this lock take some believing! They really show what can be done and what is now being done to create an amenity and to beautify the countryside.

(Some of our members who usually 'work' were occupied on this occasion in walking, marshalling or doing refreshments etc. for IWAlk).

JULY - We had a very enjoyable Working Party. The weather was marvellous and, although members were a bit thin on the ground (possibly due to hols.) we did manage to 'tidy the front hall' as it were. Firstly by clearing out the shed - with the help of an expert mouser called Sam!) Now we can actually step inside! We then did some weeding around the newly planted trees, most of which have taken.

Please come along in August when David Carpenter and his team will be joining us once again.

RAY O'KELLY and SUE CROOKS

P.S. With a bit of luck, it is hoped to get the area around the basin at C.H. weeded and seeded during the early autumn. It should then begin to show up all our hard work at last! And, once it is properly grassed, it should be much easier to keep in order.

FUTURE WORKING PARTIES

PLEASE NOTE ONE OR TWO CHANGES OF USUAL DATE!!

Sunday 13th August Meet at Canal Head, making and fixing canalside seats. With W. Riding IWA.

Sunday 3rd September (NOT 10th) At Cottingwith to prepare the Rally site for following weekend.

Sunday 1st October (NOT 8th) At Mr. Baldwin's Bridge, below Melbourne, to remove fallen tree from the Canal. David Higgins and his lads from Leeds are coming to help. (Sunday 8th is the Driffield Canal Walk so that leaves you free to attend!)

Sunday 12th November and Sunday 10th December
Meet at Canal Head unless advised to the contrary.

LETTER TO "THE MOST MERITORIOUS OF CANAL SOCIETIES"

With his permission we print below the main part of a letter sent to us recently by our member Mr. G. C. E. ('PETER') YOUNG. Mr. Young now lives in Italy but was for many years a solicitor practising in Pocklington.

As most readers will know, Pocklington Canal fell into disuse finally in the thirties and, during the Second World War, became pretty derelict. In 1959 it was proposed that the navigation rights should be withdrawn and the Canal sold to Sheffield City Council, to be used for infilling with sludge - mainly chalk - from the Water Extraction Plant at Elvington. It would have become a moving quicksand.

Fortunately the Canal has always had its champions and 'Peter' Young was in the forefront of local and very soon, national opposition to this scandalous project. It was in no small measure due to his energetic lead that these proposals were dropped.

Later in the same year the new Inland Waterways Redevelopment Advisory Committee considered the future of the Pocklington Canal. They would not then recommend that it should be reopened to navigation throughout; but nor did they approve of the monstrous 'sludge' idea. Instead they advised that it should be allowed to continue to 'exist' as it was. Though it needed the 1968 Labour Government Transport Act to make the way possible for restoration, it was 'Peter' Young's campaign and the subsequent IWRAC recommendation that left us any canal TO restore!

Via Roma, 26
62026 San Ginesco,
Macerata.

"I must confess to being rather proud of my small part in saving the Pocklington Canal from the Sheffield sludge. I recall that when the City's vile intention was revealed I made a survey of the many worked-out gravel-pits in the neighbourhood, and then telephoned their Water Department to come and inspect my happy discoveries. When we had

visited a few, their Engineer confessed that he had seen enough alternatives to take all their sludge for a hundred years. When I remarked that that would let the Canal free, he replied frankly that they had assured the whole Council that a minute search and tooth-combing had not revealed any possible alternative to the Canal, and that they could not, without unthinkable loss of face, confess their error.

At this point I interested the rest of the IWA Council and, with their authority, briefed Counsel for an appeal to a Special Committee of the House of Commons. The hearing was really delightful. Our Counsel tied the Sheffield Clerk and witnesses in the most complicated and pleasing knots, and then the Chairman of the Committee, the admirable Chuter Ede, pulled these tight until the miscreant's Counsel was on the verge of tears. Our Counsel was stopped almost as soon as he opened his mouth: "We have heard enough!" I regret to say the City Clerk refused my friendly proffered hand!

An English friend sent me a local paper with a most ridiculous attack on the Canal and Derwent schemes, but also a subsequent issue in which many excellent letters seemed to me to tear the article to pitiable shreds.

I am still sorry for the decision (I hope susceptible of amendment - dare I say, correction?) not to extend the navigation eventually to the canal head. A Pocklington Canal which does not lead to Pocklington seems a nonsense. Should you not change the name of the cut to the Waterham and Entymological Canal, or something of the sort? It seems from your excellent magazine that the Canal Head is receiving beauty treatment and really this seems to me excessive delicacy towards the water bugs; delightful little creatures, I have no doubt, but not, I believe, unduly sensitive or thin-skinned.

Once more, my warmest thanks and good wishes to the Committee who have done and are doing a wonderful work. Fifteen years ago I couldn't interest anyone, which makes your success the more notable.

Yours sincerely,

C. G. E. YOUNG

THE SOCIETY'S NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was a good attendance again this year at the Sunday Lunch at 'The Plough' at Hayton and at the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society which followed. We were especially pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. Eric Scaife, old friends and staunch supporters. It was grand to have members from as far away as Tyneside, also some welcome new members, as well as all the regular attenders.

ERIC LOUNT RETIRES AS CHAIRMAN

The Committee had heard at their last meeting but, undoubtedly, the shock news for most people attending was Eric Lount's announcement, at the end of his Annual Report, that he would not seek re-election as Chairman.

Main points from this and the other Reports and business will be found on pages 14, 15 and 16. Eric concluded his speech with these words:

> "I want to thank you all for supporting an idea which came to me about eighteen or nineteen years ago but didn't get under way till June '68; and, having very nearly completed ten years and then having moved out of the area, reluctantly I am giving up the chairmanship of the Society. The Chairman needs to be someone wholehearted and preferably a younger man. Thank you all very much, for my wife and myself."

Sheila Nix, Secretary, proposed the adoption of the Chairman's report. She commented on the help and support she had always had from the Chairman, and on Eric and Doreen's wonderful generosity and hospitality to us. The Seconder was Eric Scaife.

Mr. Scaife remarked that it was only after she knew that they were coming that the Secretary had asked him if he would be prepared to 'say a word'. He went on:

> "I said it would give me great pleasure to do so. I do not know how many here have been concerned with the getting off the ground of any organisation, but

> I can assure you that it is very easy to jump along with any that is running along successfully but a different thing entirely to get a thing like this off the ground!"

He said that it must be a matter of deep regret that Eric is resigning and, in his Report, he had obviously belittled his own part in the Society, this Society which is now nationally known; and the country owes him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Scaife referred to the BP Trophy (presented to EAL in 1970 and to SMN in 1978) and said the Society should be proud that, twice in ten years, it had come to this Society. The Shell Award, too, showed what in higher circles the Society stands for.

> "I have always been interested in this Society and you have been very fortunate indeed in your Chairman, and I hope his successor will take over with the same amount of enthusiasm!"

It was understandable that Eric Lount, living now in Flamborough, would not be able to give continuing leadership but it was to be hoped that he would continue on the Committee. He seconded the Chairman's Report and with it expressed his warm appreciation of the work done in ten years in office and more in ideas.

MAIN POINTS FROM THE AGM REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Eric Lount, Chairman, said: "It may seem that it has been a much quieter year but, unless you are a member of the Society Committee, you would maybe not realise that an awful lot HAS gone on."

A considerable amount of effort had been expended in explaining our views in order to counter some people who do not seem to want the kind of things we want ... or which, sometimes mistakenly, they think we want. Restoration undoubtedly benefits a great many and a great variety of people.

During the year we had had consultations with Humberside Council, North Wolds District Council, Parish Councils, and other groups; we had had a friendly and useful exchange of views with our MP, Sir Paul Bryan. Our thanks go to Councillor Derbyshire of Pocklington who is our official liaison with North Wolds; he spares no effort to carry out his role fairly and regularly.

There have been no council grants for some time now and it has been a matter of self-help all the way. He thanked the many who had supported the Society, with fund-raising, walks, coffee evenings etc. Raymond O'Kelly had taken over the Membership and was most persuasive! Raymond, assisted by Sue Crooks, was also responsible for the Working Parties.

The Society continued to liaise with the Yorkshire Derwent Trust; also with the Yorkshire Water Authority; we had protested about the £5 admin. charge on the river, and had put our views on the Derwent byelaws etc.

He thanked Bob Pearson who had retired as Work Party Organiser in September 1977 after doing a marvellous job. He also thanked British Waterways Board, particularly Gerry Turner their Amenity Officer, and Henry Richardson, their ever-helpful 'man-on-the-spot' at Canal Head. He congratulated Sheila Nix on winning the BP Trophy.

Treasurer's Report

David Tomlinson, Treasurer, reported; "All in all, quite a good year as far as money is concerned. We now have the £2,000 we offered to BWB in an effort to stimulate the restoration of Thornton Lock." Every economy was obviously practised, resulting in a happy-looking balance sheet despite the rising prices. "I hope we shall be able to continue," he said. "After paying towards Thornton Lock not

much will be left in the bank but we shall have a warm glow!"

David thanked Mr. Simpson, of Pickles & Co., our Auditor. He also paid tribute to John Nix who had so successfully run the Society Stall for some years now. John felt the time had come for him to give up this responsibility. David pointed out that the Stall provided about half our income.

COMMITTEE FOR 1978/9

After the Elections (always necessary so as to decide who shall stay on for two years and thus ensure continuity) the new Committee is as follows:

New Chairman Richard G. Walton

Other Officers as before.

New Committee S. Crooks, M. Ingleby and R. Pearson (all with second year to serve)

V. Barron, B. Colley, E. Lount, D. Higgins, D. Duke and C. R. Huitson.

(Edwin Tottle, who could not attend the AGM, was co-opted at the first Committee Meeting).

Many thanks to the retiring Committee and a warm welcome to the new one!

Monies taken - The AGM Raffle made £13.70 and the Stall took £15.10. A very useful addition to funds. Thanks to all!

The River Derwent and the Yorkshire Derwent Trust

At the end of the Society business the Chairman introduced Roger Womersley, Treasurer of the Derwent Trust, who gave a brief indication of what was happening there.

Volunteer Working Parties had continued at Howsham and it was hoped to complete the weir this summer. Dredging had been done by the YWA and high points taken out so as to ease flooding.

On the political side yet another 'Working Party' had been set up, this time by the Yorkshire Water Authority. "We view these with a certain amount of concern," Roger said. "Like yourselves, there are only a certain number of people actively involved with restoration and the more time we spend on discussions of this sort the less time there is for restoration."

"The other thing on the 'political' side is that we are merging the Derwent Society and the Derwent Trust. A full explanation is in the recent Derwent Newsletter." Roger then invited all members of PCAS to become members of the Derwent Trust.

The Trust were putting a landing at Stamford Bridge and getting ahead to build gates. Regarding Priory Lock at Kirkham, the situation had changed due to a change in status of the area; it no longer enabled the Tourist Authority to claim certain grants to aid such projects. The grants were now deflected to another area. "It is worrying," Roger said, "when mere changes in the law completely alter your fund-raising." But, as far as the Trust was concerned, they were fully determined to press ahead and would like our support so that the Derwent can become a navigation and an interesting river for all walks of life who use it. "In unison we can go forward in strength!"

STOP PRESS!! - WHELDRAKE BRIDGE

A letter from the YNT just received explains they are sympathetic but bridge unsafe; it is already being demolished. (received 11th August) ... see page 30.

RIVER DERWENT - YORKSHIRE WATER AUTHORITY'S CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT and PCAS'S COMMENTS

The YWA recently issued a questionnaire on the recreational uses of the Derwent and its banks and YWA's role in this. PCAS asked to be put on the list of groups consulted. Our views were prepared and discussed in considerable detail at the July Committee Meeting and have now been forwarded to the YWA.

The main points were all ones we have made before at meetings and in this magazine, namely:

1) the need for a legally and widely constituted NAVIGATION AUTHORITY with powers to control behaviour of craft on the river, enforce speed limits, wash etc. (YWA already have control of pollution but do not have navigation control).

2) that, with give and take and sensible planning, there ought to be room for ALL who wish to enjoy the various amenities provided by the river and its banks, including boats under reasonable control. No one group should have a monopoly over the rest.

Other Groups who have sent comments to date are: NYCC, North Wolds BC, Malton Town Council, Parish Councils of Sutton on Derwent, Huttons Ambo and North Duffield; Salmon and Trout Association, Canoe-Camping Club of GB, CPRE, Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, Yorkshire Museum (York), Wildfowlers' Association of GB and Ireland for Shooting and Conservation (WAGBI); and IWA NE Region and NH, and PCAS.

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ALSO FOR SALE : : 'WATERWAYS WORLD' Spring '72 (Vo. 1 No. 1 - December 1976) all in very good condition.

also : : IWA BULLETINS Nos. 97-111, 114 and 115.

--- offers in aid of PCAS restoration ---

'HOLIDAY CRUISING ON THE BROADS AND FENS' L. A. Edwards, including Stanford's Map. £3 (new - in aid of PCAS)

PCAS STALL - SUMMER 1978

JOHN NIX RETIRES FROM THE STALL - For some years now John has organised and run the Society Stall. At the close of last summer season he felt the time had come for him to give up this responsibility and he did so officially at the end of the year. Tribute was paid to his work by the Treasurer at the AGM, where he noted that the Stall had brought in roughly half our income.

STILL AT WESTMINSTER ROAD -- We still house the stock, tables etc. at Westminster Road as this seems most convenient. We appealed, early on, for extra help this season and the response has been most heartening and helpful.

A NEW TENT -- We also appealed in the last '99' for a fresh tent or caravan etc. to ease life with the Stall (the old one, given to us by David and Margaret Simpson, is still most useful but gets no younger and takes a lot of heaving about!). So we were thrilled when Denis and Dorothy Jobling presented us with a smaller and lighter one. This has proved really excellent for shorter events. It takes less room in the car and is simple and quick to put up. Thank you, Denis and Dorothy, very much indeed!

Mind you, we nearly lost it first time out, at DNAA's Frodingham Rally! On the Saturday the gale was so strong that George Parkes put his trailer inside it for the night and lashed the two together! (Sunday made up by being a perfect sunny, summer day with happy crowds of visitors).

OUTINGS THIS SEASON -- These included several indoor meetings, followed by Market Weighton Carnival (a hot, sunny afternoon; David Higgins took time off to have 10p worth of ride on the giant crane and survey the town from the skies!); then Pocklington R.U. Gala (little sun and MUCH dust!) we all washed our hair when we got home - not to mention much of the remaining stock!

A pleasant weekend at Frodingham, then Barmby Feast, Masham Steam Rally and two days at the Vintage Tractor Club Rally (this one under cover, thank goodness, in the Murton Livestock Centre out of the downpour!). And, last, but not least, despite the rain again, was Driffield Show; here we

had the older, larger tent and could not have done without it; everything had to be crammed inside, stall, customers and all! It was a good day, though, in spite of it all and with lots of people.

A GOOD SEASON! -- The season's takings so far total around £310, less rent or donations for various sites and the cost of items brought in. We have had many gifts for the Stall, including a cut glass vase, Mrs. Leonard's very popular coat hangers, several items from Carol and Gerald Alden, original paintings from Mr. Horne, two pairs of new sheets, etc.

THANK YOU ALL! -- Thank you very much everyone who has helped in whatever way at all, with gifts, with help, with ideas or whatever. Please keep on! The money is essential and the publicity is equally so - and those who come do have a lot of fun too!

SMN

P.S. Next big outing is the Cottingwith Rally in September. Gifts and help for this would be especially welcome! Stock is getting a bit low!

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FOR SALE : : (from 74 Westminster Road, York 23338)

PCAS MEMBERS BADGE (ENAMEL) 50p

PCAS CAR STICKER 22p (15p plus post 3 for 50p)

'FLYING SAIL' by M. Ulyatt £2.25 First hand accounts of Humber Keeling days, with old photos)

HULL and COTTINGHAM CANAL PROJECT by R. Bain 25p

DRIFFIELD NAVIGATION GUIDE 30p

DERWENT GUIDE (Yorks. Derwent Trust) 60p

- all prices include post and packing, all benefit PCAS

THANK YOU'S!

There are such a lot of people to say 'thank you' to! It is impossible to list everyone, so please if your name is not mentioned don't think the Society is not grateful!

We have already mentioned the gift of a further tent from the Joblings, and gifts for the Stall from Mrs. Olive Leonard and from Carol and Gerald Alden. Julia Barron made up beautiful packs of PCAS Notelets. Ray O'Kelly and Edwin Tottle have mended the old frame tent most expertly (tried and tested at Driffield!). Sue Crooks is having a Notice-board made for Canal Head. Friends have collected silver paper (needs a LOT of this to buy a pair of gates - 6 kilos made 60p! But it all helps, so keep going!)

Many different members and friends have helped with the Stall during the year, have arranged meetings, given donations, walked - on two legs AND three! The Committee have enjoyed hospitality at various different houses and long-suffering families have put up with our invasions!

Quite a lot of you have been cajoled into writing for the magazine, quite apart from the regular contributors. Some of you have produced pictures for it too. (We would love more of both! And how about some 'Letters to the Editor'?? You surely can't agree with everything!).

And, of course, a big thank you to all who come to the Working Parties, both members and visitors.

Our thanks go to our Local Authorities at Humberside and North Wolds. They can't always find us the money! But they are always most considerate and helpful and go to a great deal of trouble on our behalf. So, too, do all the members of British Waterways, at Castleford, in London, in Leeds, at Hillmorton and at Canal Head.

==========

MR. and MRS. NORMAN DEAN - Norman was married on 6th May. A card was sent from the Society, and we all offer Mr. and Mrs. Dean our very warmest good wishes. We were pleased to see them both at Frodingham, also at Masham, and we look forward to having them with us at the Cottingwith Rally in September.

ROSE DOES IT AGAIN - ON THREE LEGS THIS TIME!

MRS. ROSE WELBURN, an enthusiastic supporter of the Canal restoration, is a great beliver in 'You can't do the same thing twice!' So, following on the success of her sponsored walk last year for Canal Society funds (well over £70), this year she decided to do a three-legged walk with her brother Barry Goodwin.

The pair set off from Pocklington Library at 9.10 am on Sunday morning and walked, three-legged, to the 'Coach and Horses' pub where Rose's brother-in-law is landlord, arriving at 12.45. This turned out to be a good choice as customers had a whip-round and added £10 to the sponsor money. The final proceeds of £102.16 were halved between the Canal Society and Pocklington Lions Club.

Mrs. Welburn handed over her cheque for £51.08 to Ray O'Kelly, our Membership Secretary, at a Coffee Evening held at her home, Grove House, The Balk, Pocklington on 4th July.

COFFEE EVENING HELPS TOO!

Rose's Coffee Evening was held in aid of the CANALSIDE SEAT FUND and raised £9.50 for it.

£250 GIFT TO FUNDS FROM ANONYMOUS PCAS MEMBER

The THORNTON LOCK GATES FUND has had a most marvellous boost! During June your Secretary received a cheque for £250. The cheque was made out on behalf of their client by the bank and was accompanied by a simple printed note with said: 'Dear Secretary of PCAS, please accept the enclosed towards Thornton Lock Gates Fund. Best wishes, Anonymous Member.'

So we have no idea who you are! But we are all tremendously thrilled and greatly heartened by your generosity. Our thanks are no less warm even though we cannot make them to you personally! I might say the Secretary went to school that morning in a bit of a daze - I think the boys must have wondered what had hit her!

--- ooOoo ---

RAFFLE PRIZE PROVIDES A MEMORABLE OCCASION

..... A TRIP ON 'COMRADE'

-- Bridlington member DAVID ERICSON who is also a member of P.C. Boat Club, won Second Prize in the 1977 Thornton Lock Draw, a trip on the keel 'Comrade'. We persuaded David to write about it for '99'. In his spare time David also makes excellent models. He says this makes up a little for the destructive side of life he sees so much of in his work in the Fire Service ---

--- ooOoo ---

"I had often heard of the Humber Keel COMRADE but never thought that I would be given the chance of a cruise on this fine old lady of the Humber.

On hearing that I had won Second Prize in the Draw I was extremely pleased to say the least and looked forward with anticipation to experience the pleasure of a sailing journey which really belonged to a bygone era.

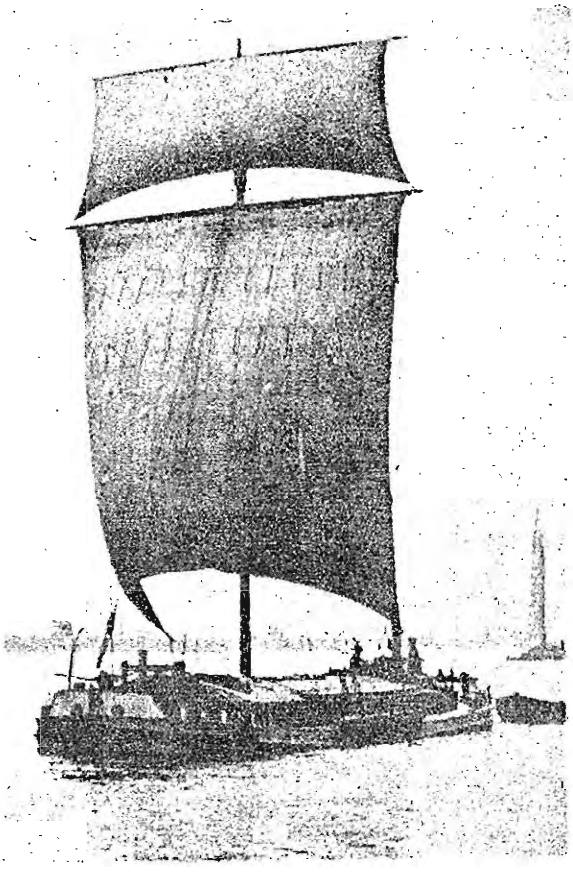
COMRADE was built at New Holland in 1924 and is constructed of steel and timber. The River Humber and its connecting waterways were among the strongholds of working sail in Britain and this particular type of craft were often seen working well into the heart of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. I am informed that the Humber Keel and Sloop Preservation Society purchased COMRADE aided by grants from the Science Museum and the Maritime Trust. She has been completely re-rigged, mostly by voluntary help, and sailing trials were held in August 1976. COMRADE is usually based at Beverley Beck but at the present time, July, she is cruising on the inland waterways in the Leeds area exhibiting historical displays.

After several months and numerous telephone calls to officials of the HKSPS (incidentally, my thanks to Mrs. O'Kelly for her kindly information which enabled me to contact the appropriate personnel) a sailing date and time was duly arranged.

The Sunday morning arrived and I found myself at the Old

Harbour in Hull (suitably armed with food, drink and camera) where COMRADE was moored awaiting her passengers for the day. Captain Schofield, master of the vessel, arrived to take charge. After introductions, I was shown round the keel and some of its past history was related to me.

At approximately 9.30 am we cast off and slipped astern past Sammy's Point using auxiliary diesel engine, after which sail was set and we headed towards the Humber Bridge. The weather proved to be the best for sailing the crew had experienced this year to date, i.e. strong winds and plenty of sunshine. As the frame-work of the bridge was approached you could see spider-like figures busily spinning their threads of steel. We then altered course and headed back down river nearer to the South Bank, passing Immingham where large tankers were observed discharging their cargo. On then towards the open sea, the wind filling the large sail to capacity. Nearer to Grimsby many vessels were seen anchored, waiting for the tide to turn to give them safe passage to their berths. Through binoculars one was able to witness holiday makers sunning themselves at Cleethorpes.



Spurn Point loomed closer. It was then the skipper decided to change course yet again and head back up river. On the North Bank Old Paull lighthouse was standing a lonely sentinel, having now been converted to a private residence. And

so all good things must come to an end and as we neared Corporation Pier our grateful thanks were extended to Captain Schofield and his ever-helpful crew. It had been a most interesting and enjoyable cruise on this Old Lady of the Humber, a truly memorable occasion."

DAVID ERICSON

HUMBER KEEL AND SLOOP PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Further information from: M. Ulyatt, 28 Blackthorn Lane, Willerby, Nr. Hull.

DRIFFIELD NAVIGATION HAS COMMISSIONERS AGAIN AT LAST!

After ten years of tortuous negotations the Driffield Navigation has properly appointed Commissioners again at last! The Order was signed by the Charity Commissioners on 10th July. This means that there is once more a legal body with powers to administer the waterway.

It will be recalled that there were once over ninety Commissioners, of whom a quorum of eleven was required to appoint successors. The last one died without fulfilling this function!

We congratulate the DNAA and all their past and present officers who have worked so hard to bring about this necessary Order. The Commissioners will have the legal powers but there seems little doubt that the role of DNAA will become of even greater importance as a supportive and volunteer body of workers. We wish them and the new Commissioners the very best of success!

--- ooOoo ---

'BRASS TACKS' PROGRAMME - BBC-2 and LOCAL RADIO

The BBC Television Programme 'BRASS TACKS' on 26th July featured Freight Transport on Inland Waterways. The TV feature was good and showed clearly the enormous potential of this form of carrying on certain waterways, in this case our own Sheffield and South Yorkshire. It showed how noise, vibration and pollution on our roads could be lessened, and safety increased, by taking suitable heavy loads by water.

Following the TV showing various local Radio stations then broadcast a phone-in type discussion. Radio Humberside invited several PCAS and IWA committee members to join their studio panel for this. Unfortunately, due to holidays, and Driffield Show etc., and rather late notice, none of us were able to accept. However IWA South Humberside's representative kept the flag flying and Bob Hewson put through a phone call.

The Trade Union representative, though obviously right to defend his members' job prospects, seemed quite unwilling to concede the claims of any other trades or transport systems and rather dominated the discussion.

Local waterways, including Pocklington, got a good plug from the BBC interviewer but we could have done with speakers on the panel.

RADIC HUMBERSIDE 25th JULY

This was a good week for plugging local waterways! Your Secretary was interviewed by Radio Humberside's Paul Drewitt on 24th July over the telephone, and two short extracts were broadcast early on the following morning.

One was about the Sheffield and South Yorkshire and the strength of the case for Government backing for its modernisation and increased use etc. The other was a chance to answer some of the criticism so freely levelled against us by 'Consyder'.

IWA's SPONSORED 'IWALK' -- SUNDAY 11th JUNE

Thousands of people walked the banks of our waterways all over the country on the weekend 10/11th June. Locally about a hundred people walked the length of Pocklington Canal. The sun shone and Mr. Scaife set the walkers off in fine style from the Lock House.

Most took a break for lunch at Melbourne. On arrival at Cottingwith drinks were provided in the PCAS marquee (also first aid for a few honourable blisters!). P.C. Boat Club were having a boat weekend and laid on a supply of hot dogs for the hungry. A working party was in action at the lock.

John Duncan, the organiser, had put in an enormous lot of work beforehand and he and his helpers ensured a smooth-running (sorry, walking!) and thoroughly enjoyable event which raised some £350. He also obtained excellent coverage, both before and after, in all the local media. A pity national coverage for this national event was not of the same order! Nonetheless the national total is expected to be in the region of £30,000.

DNAA WINNERS OF IWA NORTH-EAST REGION CUP

The important work being done by DNAA in this region was recognised by the Inland Waterways Association in the Spring, when they awarded their Cup to DNAA for the organisation which has done the most for the waterway cause in the area during the past year.

SLIDE/TALKS

Slide/Talks on Pocklington Canal have been given recently to St. Thomas' Scout Group (where they were able to see themselves working on the canal on the slides), to the Pocklington TocH Ladies, to a Chapel Fellowship group, to Pock Canal Boat Club, to a school group in York and to a York Rambling Group. More are in the 'diary'.

We should like to thank various groups for donations kindly made to restoration funds.

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. No. .....

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

BANKER'S ORDER

To: ..... BANK

.....

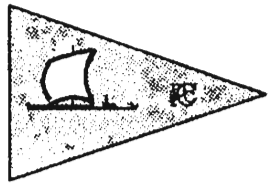
Please pay to Midland Bank Ltd., POCKLINGTON, York (40-37-01) for the credit of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society Account No. 20674451 the sum of ..... now and on 1st January.

Name: .....

Address .....

.....

Pocklington Canal Boat Club



BOAT CLUB PAGE

The biggest news must be the work to rule of the lock keepers on the Aire and Calder Navigation. This put the lid on the proposed club cruise to Strawberry Island. Although two boats did make it, they went on the Friday, others were stuck at Selby for the weekend. We may try again next year if S.I.B.C. will have us.

The River Derwent has been in the local news again. I don't think I have ever read so much unadulterated rubbish about boats causing pollution in all my life. Some people seem to think we have the 'Amoco Cadiz' plying up and down pumping out oil in vast quantities. I also seem to remember the last time the York Water Works had to close down, it was because of chemicals spilt from a Farm!!! Has it ever been shut down because of spillage from a boat?? Never mind, let the conservationists get on shooting their ducks!

It is hoped that this '99' will be out before the Rally on the 9/10th September. The aim of this rally is to promote the Pocklington Canal as a multi-use amenity. Although there will be boats there, we hope, a fishing competition is being organised by the York Anglers and a walk along the towpath by the East Yorkshire ramblers. The latter for those who couldn't make the sponsored walk perhaps!

On a pure boating note a cruise up the Derwent, that river again, has been organised jointly with the Breighton Boat Club for the following weekend, 16/17th September. It is hoped that the Yorkshire Derwent Trust will be able to arrange something at Stamford Bridge in the way of campaign for the re-opening of the rest of the navigation.

Although a little late in the season the A.W.C.C. handbooks are now available price £1. If ordering by post please include a 9p stamp for return postage. The handbook lists

details of all the member clubs who offer facilities. The system does work as I used it during my holidays to leave my boat at Airedale Boat Club, Bingley. Also available are A.W.C.C. ties, lapel badges, car stickers and plaques. Details from me at 'Somerton', Main Street, Leconfield, Beverley. HU17 7NQ.

A thought for next year. The IWA National Rally may be held on the River Weaver, just over the Leeds and Liverpool along the Bridgewater and down the Anderton Lift.. How about the Club winning the Award for the club with the largest number of boats attending - all 30 of us?

P. J. Leadley

STOP PRESS!! Pock Canal is to be dredged in time for Rally in September; and in future in the Spring in time for summer season.

WANTED - TRADING STAMPS, CIGGY COUPONS FOR WRG

CAN YOU HELP?? Can you spare any Green Shield, Pink or Co-op Stamps or any Cigarette Coupons? If so, WRG can use them!

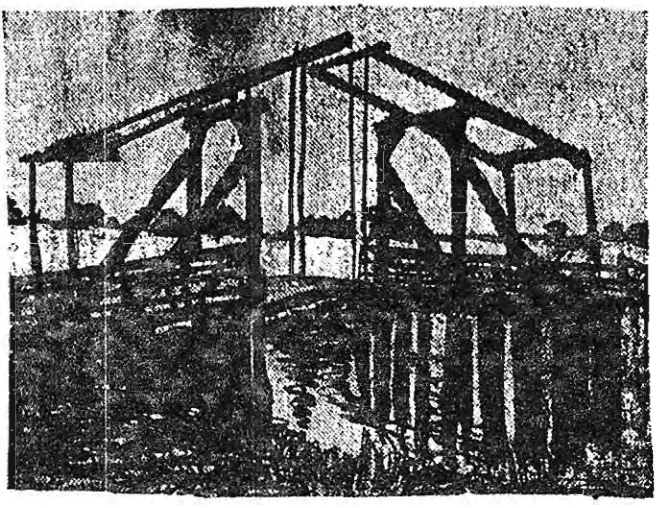
Please send all you can spare to: Harvey Cooke, 40 Rickyard Road, Westone Park, Northampton NN3 3RS (or let us have them and we'll forward them for you).

What's WRG, did you ask? If stands for Waterways Recovery Group (alias 'Navvies', alias 'Graham Palmer's Lot' and more!), thoroughly experienced, centrally co-ordinated gang of over 2000 volunteers with a pool of useful machinery and equipment, ready to go - anywhere, tackle anything - in the cause of waterway restoration.

It is to maintain that pool of equipment that they need our stamps! The current target is for DUMPER TRUCKS, those most useful and versatile of tools. So please help if you possibly can!

S.M.N.

++ the old bridge as it was originally ++



THREAT TO OLD BRIDGE OVER THE DERWENT AT WHELDRAKE INGS

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, who own the old wooden bridge which crosses the Derwent from West Cottingwith and Thorganby to the Wheldrake Ings, have had to close it recently as they say they cannot guarantee its safety. An article in the Yorkshire Evening Press in June reported that it would eventually be dismantled and replaced by a new one.

The old Van Gogh style superstructure by which the deck was lifted for boats has of course long since gone. Some of the supporting timbers look pretty tatty - at any rate when viewed from a boat! Nevertheless this is the last remaining example of several oldtime bridges over the river (there are some uprights in midstream still at Wressle). Many of us feel strongly that it ought to be preserved, both as a historic relic and as an attractive part of the local landscape. Artists paint it, it features on the cover of Richard Kenchington's book 'The Derwent Way' published this summer in the 'Dalesman' series. The YNT themselves have a picture of it on a recent leaflet.

We appreciate that preservation means money. But we think that money could be raised and that, if necessary, volunteers properly directed and supervised could be mustered to do much of the work. The IWA Region Committee were of the same mind on this and we have written to the Trust to put our views.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Sun. 3rd September	Joint Working Party, Rally Site
Sat/Sun 9/10th Sept.	Restoration Rally, Cottingwith
Thursday 14th Sept.	PCAS Committee, Flinton
Friday 29th Sept.	IWA Hull University, Ken Hawkins on Sheffield and S. Yorks Canal, 8 pm.
Sun 1st Oct (NOT 8th)	PCAS WORKING PARTY
Friday 6th October	'Tibbenham's Travels' Film, also stalls, cakes etc. IWA Small Hall, Cottingham 8 pm.
Sunday 8th October	DNAA Walk (contact: R. Humphrey)
Friday 20th October	IWA Hull, Film 'Yorkshire Water' by Y. Water Authority, 8 pm University.
Sunday 12th Nov.	PCAS Working Party
Friday 17th Nov.	IWA Hull, Local Slides, Young Peoples' Institute, George St. 8 pm
Sunday 10th Dec.	PCAS Working Party

FUTURE PCAS EVENTS

A BARN DANCE is being arranged for the autumn, probably in Woldgate School, with an experienced 'Caller' and a good supper. Details later, but we shall need your help on the day and selling tickets beforehand! This can be a good money spinner - but only if we sell all the tickets and provide a really good supper and tombola.

JUMBLE SALE — Please save and collect Jumble for an autumn Jumble Sale, also probably in Pocklington.

COFFEE EVENINGS, SLIDE SHOWS etc. etc. - we hope to arrange some ourselves, but if YOU, the members, can also lay on anything to make a bit of money and a pleasant get-together for friends and neighbours, that would be splendid! (And many thanks to those who already have!)

DON'T FORGET

RESTORATION RALLY - COTTINGWITH SAT/SUN SEPT. 9/10th

All the usual attractions --- Bring your friends!

WE SHALL NEED HELP TOO!

So please volunteer, don't wait to be asked!!

This is a joint rally, IWA, PCAS and PCBC -
Rally Organiser: P. J. LEADLEY tel. Leconfield 50661

PCAS PETITION

Also included with this ussue of '99' you will find a PETITION FORM. The object of this is simply to show to the authorities concerned just how many of us DO in fact wish to see the Pocklington Canal restored. It helps them to judge more effectively the claims of other groups such as 'Consyder'

PLEASE GET AS MANY SIGNATURES AS POSSIBLE (names and addresses) and return to SMN, 74 Westminster Road, York YO3 6LY. Even if its just your own family it is still very much worthwhile! PLEASE HELP!

IWA CHRISTMAS CARDS We have agreed to help the IWA by including their 1978 Christmas Card info with this issue of '99'. Please do support them if you can!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS -- PCAS do not sell Christmas Cards but the PCAS Stall do have a selection of items suitable for gifts, e.g. Jewellery, Pottery, Tea Towels, Coat Hangers, Address and Notebooks, Society Plaques, Handsome Embossed PCAS Notelets etc. Please ask any of the Committee or the Secretary.

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CANALSIDE SEATS FUND

Two donations of £5 each had been offered some time ago towards seats beside the Canal. Since then another £4.50 has come in. With Mrs. Welburn's contribution the total now stands at £24. (Some of us have been labouring on the Canal for 10 years now, so I suppose its natural we should think about sitting down occasionally!)

The idea is to build sturdy, vandal-proof seats, to be sited at intervals along the Canal, possibly one beside each lock for a start, and more at Canal Head. The Working Party Organisers have now purchased suitable second-hand wood and railway sleepers and a start will be made on the work at the August Working Party, when we shall also be assisted by a party from West Riding IWA.

Contributions Anyone wishing to add to this Fund for Seats should please send their donations to Raymond O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington, YO4 2BG.

Bob Pearson Special

In addition to the seats above Bob Pearson has already made a special one of his own design which will, when completed, be put in position at Canal Head.

MR. HORNE'S PAINTINGS

Those of us at the AGM at Hayton were able to admire Mr. Horne's beautiful water colour paintings of the local countryside. We persuaded Mr. Horne that he ought to put some of his work on show. He agreed to our making arrangements to do this if possible and made us a most generous offer. When any of the paintings were sold he would donate half of the proceeds to the Society. They cost around £24 each.

Mary Ingleby is currently arranging to get them shown in Beverley, and we hope to have them in York. We would be glad to hear from anyone who could help in this in any way. There must be many people who would love to have an original painting of this sort, but we do need to get them shown as widely as possible.