

DOUBLE NINE

THE

POCKLINGTON CANAL

AMENITY SOCIETY



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THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY



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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

REAL PROGRESS AT LAST - IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO!

Joint Package Agreed by the Board -

At long last, after three or four years of mounting pressure and exasperation on the part of the Canal Society, British Waterways Board have agreed on a package of measures for replacement of the two swing bridges, numbers 6 and 7, at Melbourne. Two new Manpower Services Commission teams, sponsored by our patrons the East Yorkshire Borough Council, have already begun work on preparing foundations for the bridges and will later start work on Thornton and Walbut Locks. PCAS are paying for the fabrication of the new steel decks by a local contractor. BWB are overseeing the whole undertaking. It is hoped that the bridges will be ready for use sometime next Spring.

On-going Help from the MSC -

During the summer the previous MSC teams completed the excellent car park and new approach road at Canal Head, built new stiles and gates at points along the towpath, and installed picnic tables and benches provided by the Society via another MSC Scheme Group in the Borough. The results reflect great credit on the teams and their supervisors and the Society owe a considerable debt of gratitude to the Board's MSC Co-ordinator Alex Thomson for his enthusiastic overall direction.

And now an Offer from WRG -

Finally, just before going to press, your committee decided to take up the splendid offer from the Waterways Recovery Group to organise a two week summer work camp in 1986 to clear out and repair the Top Lock at Canal Head provided the Society fund the materials and equipment. This follows WRG North-West's very successful visit last April when some eighteen volunteers repaired the byewash. (See also page 10).

We Depend on You our Members

For some years now we have perforce only been able to carry out 'cosmetic' or amenity kinds of jobs. Valuable as these undoubtedly are, and much appreciated by the public, it is heartening to see the start of actual restoration work again. The spiralling costs of all this (increased by the long and frustrating delays!) make it necessary to appeal once more to you our members and readers for further financial and other support. (Fund-raising details appear on other pages). Also, now that the MSC teams are doing many manual tasks, it has been decided to stop regular monthly work parties for the time being so as to concentrate on raising as much money as possible to supplement what we may attract from other sources. We have a lot to do in the coming months! Of course one way of reducing costs may well be to appeal for help with specific manual jobs from time to time in place of the regular monthly forays. In the past the need for help from our members has always resulted in a splendid response and we feel sure you will respond again this time when so many exciting projects are at last beginning to take shape!

MORE RESTORATION PLANS AT CANAL HEAD

WATERWAYS RECOVERY GROUP TO REPAIR TOP LOCK

For some time there has been talk of working on Top Lock at Canal Head. It may not seem the logical place for restoration at the present time as it will clearly be a number of years before there is through navigation to Canal Head. However all progress is worthwhile and there are two good reasons for working at Top Lock. Firstly it is our 'shop window' and the canal as a whole is likely to be judged by what people see at Canal Head. We have heard stories of people pulling off the main road, taking a brief look at the top two pounds and going away unimpressed. The second reason is that doing restoration at both ends gives an extra incentive to complete the intervening part.

WORK CAMPS

There are now prospects of significant progress at the top end of the canal. BWB have just dredged part of the top pound and the MSC team have, of course, done a lot of amenity work in the area. Now it is probable that work will start in earnest on Top Lock. Following their very successful weekend last April, when some eighteen volunteers from WRG North-West rebuilt the byewash, WRG have made us a further proposition. They plan a preliminary weekend this winter, followed by a full fortnight work camp during summer 1986. For those unacquainted with the Waterways Recovery Group this is an itinerant group of neo-navvies who organise work camps all around the country. All volunteers, they have considerable experience and expertise in canal engineering and are used to taking on major jobs.

PLANS OUTLINED

Alan Jervis, Dave Carnell and Neil Edwards of WRG inspected the site recently, accompanied by George Parkes, Chairman of North Humberside IWA. They have drawn up a scheme to repair the chamber of Top Lock which is in a bad state. Briefly it consists of the following steps:

- temporarily extending the byewash at the bottom end
- with piping; making an earth embankment above and
- below the chamber so that the water can be pumped
- out; removal of coping stones from around the chamber;
- excavation behind the lock walls; demolition of un-
- sound brickwork, rebuilding of chamber walls, and
- replacement of coping stones.

Their labour is given free by the volunteers but they will require the Society to pay for plant, scaffolding, materials and accommodation. This has been estimated at £5,000.

THE APPEAL

WRG make it clear that they can only take on the project if they can be assured by us that the money will be available, and this brings us to the crux of the matter. After paying for the bridges currently being fabricated we will be hard put to raise £5,000. However, your committee have decided to go ahead subject to scrutiny of WRG's more detailed plans. We shall be meeting to discuss with them any ways we can reduce expenditure but costs will still be substantial. Grants will be sought from our local authorities and other public bodies. We will also be applying for a grant from IWA's central funds. However we must look to our own membership for the balance, and to this end a special appeal is being launched.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN!

All members are asked to contribute to the TOP LOCK FUND. Dig deep into your pockets and see what you can come up with! Any amount, no matter how small, will be gratefully received by the Treasurer or by any committee member (addresses inside front cover). Cheques should be made out to PCAS. As an alternative some members may be able to make something to sell or to organise a bring and buy sale or a coffee evening. However it is raised and however small or large the amount all monies raised will be gratefully received.



PRE-CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 17th NOVEMBER

PCAS's pre-Christmas Sunday Lunch at The Plough at Hayton is by now a popular annual event. Our special guests this year are the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of East Yorkshire, Councillor and Mrs. Peter Barker. Mr. and Mrs. Barker live in Pocklington and have always taken an interest in the Canal. We are especially pleased to welcome them on this occasion in their official capacity.

Details of the Lunch are on the back cover. Do remember to book as soon as possible!

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN -

MELBOURNE OR BUST! - OR AT LEAST BROKE!

Those of you who attend the Society's Annual General Meetings will know of our increasing exasperation resulting from promises of action on Bridges No. 6 and 7 not being fulfilled.

Well, at last we are to be allowed to get on with the job of providing two new steel swinging bridge decks. These decks will be fixed on newly rebuilt sub-structures and we HOPE that they will be operational in Spring next year (- 1986!)

The steel sections needed for the bridge decks are being fabricated by Priory Welding and Engineering Ltd. of Pocklington Industrial Estate. By the time you read this the steel will have been delivered and the fabrication started.

When all the various parts have been fabricated, shot-blasted and primed the bridges are to be assembled either by the Society members or by operatives on the MSC Scheme. This Scheme has been set up to reconstruct the original bases to enable them to take the increased loading of the new bridges. The operatives are guided by a craftsman supervised under the auspices of BWB's Engineering Department and they have already been pictured in the local press after exposing the pivots of the original timber swing bridges.

On completion the new bridges will, in nearly every respect, be identical to those already in use on the Canal. This standardisation has been the cause of yet another delay, as BWB Bridges Section has now standardised on a much larger, heavier and of course more expensive design. But the local Area Engineer and ourselves won the day and at least we have managed to standardise the Pocklington Canal!

We have committed ourselves to a great deal of expense on this project so willing helpers to assemble and paint the bridges are required as well as assistance in a new round of fund-raising which is now needed to restore our dwindling funds.

RGW.



STAN PRECIOUS

We are very sad to record the death this summer of STAN PRECIOUS in Hull. Stan Precious was a Life Member of the Society and was a regular member of our early working parties. His boat was one of the first to cruise the canal after the Thornton pound was first dredged and restored. He and Mrs. Precious were always there when there was a job to be done. We send our sympathy to Mrs. Precious and their family.

FUND RAISING

Your committee has decided that more effort should be put into FUND RAISING! This is because practically all the money we have at the moment is committed to be spent on numbers 6 and 7 swing bridges. It is considered prudent, not only to build up our reserves again, but also to look forward to expenditure on further stages of restoration.

After the work that is now being put in hand is completed, the next task will be re-gating Thornton and Walbut Locks. Lock gates are very expensive and, although other sources of funds may be available, the Society will undoubtedly have to contribute a goodly proportion of the cost.

A second reason for transferring some of our efforts away from working parties and towards fund-raising is that manual labour is now available from the Manpower Services Commission. They are now doing some of the labour-intensive jobs that would formerly have fallen to the Society. Your committee is hoping that all the pent up energy that has previously found release at working parties will now be directed towards fund raising. The society shall will, of course, continue to be taken to local shows etc. and we also have one or two other ideas.



WI MEMBERS ENJOY CANAL TRIP

During August members of Fangfoss with Bolton Women's Institute made the acquaintance of "Ebenezer" and the Pocklington Canal. Afterwards their Secretary wrote:

"My fellow members have asked me to write to say how much they enjoyed our canal trip last night. The gentle movement in peaceful surroundings, the kindness of the weather, and above all the warmth of friendship and interest shown by skipper, crew AND ship's dog made it a memorable evening."

THE SOCIETY SALES STALL IN 1985

The Society Sales Stall has attended Barmby Feast, Drifffield Show, Pocklington Lions' Gala at Kiplingcotes, the IWA York Rally (two days), Bridlington Market Charity Stall, Howden Show (two days) and Pocklington and Market Weighton Rotary Club Gala in Burnby Gardens at Pocklington. The Stall also appeared at the Society's Annual General Meeting and will be hoping for its usual good sales at the Society's pre-Christmas Lunch at Hayton shortly after this magazine appears.

The main ingredient this 'summer' has been the RAIN! Two of us struggled to put up our new (second-hand) tent at Kiplingcotes in a gale and heavy squalls of rain. There's one member who won't forget that in a hurry! An ex-Merchant Seaman and, as he said, you don't get much practice with tents on board ship. The awful weather caused a low attendance at an excellent gala. The second days at York and Howden were totally washed out and we packed up in thick mud on both occasions! The Rotary Gala in Burnby Gardens also took place in a continuous downpour though a large crowd supported the stalls despite the wet. Fortunately Bridlington gave us a fine, sunny day again and we did a roaring trade, from 7.45 am until the market closed around 4.30 pm. We had to miss Bishop Wilton Show as this took place the Saturday of the York Rally.

Total takings at these outings amounted to £695 less £84 paid out in rentals for sites. Of course not all this is clear profit as some of the stock is bought in. But you our members and friends have been even more generous than ever this season with your gifts. Hence our bumper results. Thank you all VERY much indeed.

Sales of paperback books, some hardbacks, and aluminium foil etc. have so far brought in £108 this year. Thanks here too to all our regular and faithful collectors. Your hard work is certainly worthwhile.

Special Thanks must surely go this season to Don Gray from the Midlands (whose narrowboat 'Pensax' was last spotted moored up at Skipton in August, though we hear he was also seen in the Canal by one of our newer members earlier on). Don and family filled our Treasurer's car (not to mention my house!) with a truly marvellous selection of items as they prepared to leave their house on shore and live on their boat. All now sold, either on the Stall or separately.

And Margaret O'Kelly must have sighed with relief when we packed the things for Bridlington and restored her house to something more like normal! She had been filling her attic for some months with contributions from members and friends. And now she says she's started for next year! It took two estate-back cars to get everything to Bridlington, some food but mostly clothes and household and gift items. We sold the lot apart from some second-hand children's socks and tights!

Helpers

A small but faithful band have done marvels and we had a good team at Bridlington all day. But we could do with MORE members to help. Please, if you could spare a day or part of one, next season, do volunteer your services. Those who come thoroughly enjoy it (even in the rain!) and enjoy going round the shows etc. into the bargain.

THINGS TO SELL - OUR THANKS AND PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING!

An item appears elsewhere on the need for us to devote more efforts to fund-raising this next year or more. We're not QUITE into house clearances yet but almost anything you can give us can be sold somewhere. Unwanted gifts, 'nearly-new' clothes, books (especially paperbacks and illustrated hardbacks etc.), foil, bric-a-brac, jewellery (not necessarily the very valuable sort, though of course we shan't refuse this!), smaller antique items, old china, silver etc., old 'Dinky' toys, Meccano and the like. There is money too in computer paper, and in ordinary newspaper, but only if anyone is willing and able to organise collection and storage.

To all the many members and supporters who already donate some of these good things the Society is MOST grateful. Please keep going! Contact SMN, M. O'K or any committee member (see details inside front cover). Thank you all!

DONATIONS - Many members add a donation to their basic membership subs. Paul Waddington and George Parkes sent a donation from the sale of newspaper; IWA North Humberside sent a third share of the proceeds of their Iwalk on the Canal in June, member John Peck sent another £25 from giving waterway slide talks, Pocklington Pentecostal Youth Group gave a £60 donation raised on a sponsored walk on the canal earlier in the year. The Society is VERY grateful. If we have left anyone out please accept our apologies. We also thank Mr. Horne for four more attractive water-colour prints of local river and canal scenes.



A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO JOHN GAGG

A special word of thanks to John Gagg for his constant efforts to give us some useful publicity. And he ALWAYS manages to add a personal note to his many circulars and appeals for information. Quite an achievement when one considers how many he must have initiated for Waterways Summer this year.

NEW MEMBERS

We are always very pleased to welcome new members and we do try to make contact with them as soon as possible if they are living locally. If you have joined recently and are wondering why you have still not received a newsletter till now please bear with us! It has been a particularly hectic summer on the waterway scene and there is just not enough time to go round! We don't want to put up basic subs but the cost of posting magazines is a big drain on resources. Should we produce shorter newsletters more often or should we save the cash for restoration? Let us know what you think.

GRAND BARBECUE AND DRAW

There is to be a GRAND BARBECUE at Canal Head on Saturday, 17th May 1986. The emphasis is to be on the word GRAND. Just think for a moment of juicy steaks sizzling over hot charcoal and long kebabs packed with tender mushrooms, tomatoes and peppers, and interspersed with tender chunks of prime beef! Add to this the strong fragrance of spicy barbecue sauce and the all-pervading aroma of gently frying onions, and you will have some idea of how enjoyable the event will be. Not to mention the warmth of the fires and the company of some of the nicest people you could hope to meet - I mean members of PCAS.

No doubt you will agree that the word 'grand' is fully justified. After grandeur, the emphasis will be on fund raising. We are not ashamed to admit that the prime purpose of the event is to raise money - lots of it!!

There will be a Tombola, sideshows and a Grand Draw. Draw tickets will be sent out with the next issue of this magazine. But, before this can be done, we need prizes! This is where we need your help now! Remember, no prize is too big or too small. Here are some ideas:

Canal Cruising Holiday (or any other kind of holiday)

Photographic equipment,

Electrical goods, Soft Toys, Games

Bottles of Whisky, Wine, Hampers,

Sweets, Foods etc.

Furniture, Canal Ware, Pot Plants

In fact, virtually anything will be welcome because items not used for the Draw can go to the tombola or be sold on the Society Stall. It is impossible to have too many tombola prizes. Unwanted Christmas presents are a good source. The gifts you get at petrol filling stations by collecting vouchers is another. All items will be gratefully received as we shall want several hundred prizes.

Helpers will also be needed, of course, both before and during the event. Ideas of ways to make the event more enjoyable will also be welcome, especially if they help to bring in a bit of money. Do we, for example, have any musicians who could provide some of the music?

All offers of prizes and help, together with any bright ideas will be gratefully received by Paul Waddington (address and phone inside front cover).



GUIDES' FLAME GOES BY CANAL

A torch which started out from Buckingham Palace to mark 75 years of Guiding arrived in the Pocklington district on 28th June. At East Cotingwith five former Guiders, who were in on the early days of the movement, boarded the Society workboat to help carry the flame on to Melbourne. They were Mrs. Annie Ruder, Mrs. Marjorie Cains and Mrs. Olive Leonard of Pocklington, Mrs. Peggy Ruddle from York and Mrs. Lavinia Craven of Fangfoss.

Ranger Guides then took the flame on by canoe to Bielby Bridge by Coates Lock, and then on by pony along the towpath to Canal Head. Since the Canal stops short of Pocklington, local Brownies carried it on the final lap into the town itself by horse and cart.

Our picture shows Mrs. Jennifer Soloron, Divisional Commissioner for North Wolds District Guides, holding aloft the flame. Jennifer's husband Chris was at one time joint secretary of PCAS. Olive Leonard is a founder (and still very active) member.



WRG NORTH-WEST REPAIR THE TOP LOCK BYEWASH -

ACCOMMODATION VOTED FOUR STAR (BUT NOT THE WEATHER!)

We cannot do better than reprint WRG North-West's own account from WRG's newsletter "NAVVIERS" No. 98 - with acknowledgements to the author and the Editor:

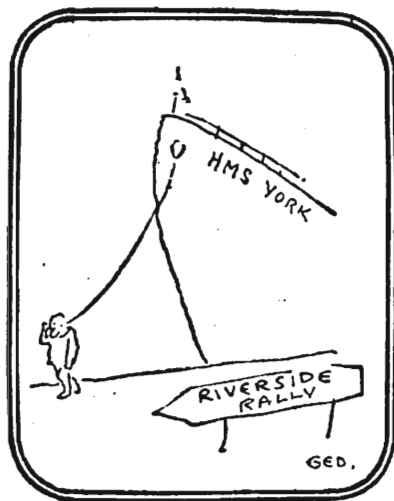
We have just returned home from our first visit to the Pocklington Canal (you turn right off the Derwent at East Cottingwith, floods and court cases permitting). This was a trip into the unknown as we knew nothing of the local arrangements. Despite a comment from the local organisers that they thought the earth closets across the yard at the village hall had been replaced(?) we set off.

The first mistake was letting Palmer have the van as he only works on GMT and so we were an hour late moving off. Our first group to arrive were navigating with a pre war OS map and so couldn't find the hall opposite the pub as the former wasn't listed and the latter had moved to different premises. When eventually located the hall turned out to be four star complete with new kitchen, hot water, working central heating and a view of river, canal and flooded fields. The 'new' pub served Websters on hand pumps (note for London WRG) and there was a party going on. The clock also showed a different time from the One Elm.

We were working alone on Saturday as the local organiser had a legitimate excuse and everyone else had flu. Still, it gave us a free hand. The old basin at Canal Head was full of water even though the feed had been diverted and the only way to drain it was by a rather dodgy looking paddle that hadn't been used since Brindley was a lad. The trouble was it was on the far side and had to be approached by heroically balancing across the remains of the gates - and it's a wide lock. The first attempt to move it broke the windlass but with 24 inch Stillson and a long pole to poke the mud, bubbles could be seen in the lock below followed by a rush and the basin drained. Out rushed the water and out rushed the couple who had just moved into the converted warehouse. They proved friendly as well as curious. Our work was to reconstruct the towpath side top wing wall and when the water had gone the mud proved to be taller than wellies. After head scratching we hijacked the Canal Society punt which floats just as well on mud and we could survey the problem. About five brick courses below the coping stones had failed and only good luck was holding the wall together. We relaid the bricks and realigned the copings and despite another late night on Saturday and hailstones of epic proportions on Sunday we finished the job. The paddle (they are probably not called that over there) worked both ways and the basin started to refill. We met several PCAS members on Sunday and were photographed from all angles by the local camera club and posed for the press. Now people can stare in disbelief at the state of the off side wall while standing in safety on the towpath side. Next the lock itself.

The York Rally, like many others this dismal summer, was exceedingly wet! By Sunday morning the Ouse towpath beside the moorings was flooding and several events had to be cancelled. A great pity as the site was excellent with plenty of attractions, and fifty-three boats attended. The 128' Belgian 'spits' size barge SYENITE, fresh from unloading 340 tonnes of sand at Knottingley, was one of several commercial carriers at the Rally. The Calder Navigation Society's ex-Windermere launch DOREEN took people along the moorings, including the York MP, Conal Gregory and his family, after the official opening.

On Sunday afternoon the Lord Mayor of York, Cllr Mrs. Marjorie Bwyne, braved the deluge to lead the impressive parade of boats through the City. She was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Miss Brenda Milner, who told us she often walks the Pocklington Canal towpath. PCAS members were considerably involved in the Rally, helping and on boats. Gerry Alden won the Narrowboat Tug of War. Three members were on the Rally Committee, and another is President of York Motor Yacht Club who kept open house for the boat crews. A shame it had to rain most of the time!



CAMPAIGN TRIP UP THE FOSS

One (sunny!) day just before the York Rally, local author Mark Jones took a party including some councillors for a trip up the Foss in his new narrowboat. He wanted to show them how much could be done to improve this neglected part of York's waterway frontage. We wish him all success. This is a cause dear to the heart of your Editor and other local waterway enthusiasts, and probably to many others too. Local support preserved the footpath near the Ring Road some years ago but much more could be done. Mark Jones suggested dredging for a start. The Council point to fewness of boats. But the present heavy lock charges at Castle Mills deter the majority. Let us hope Mark Jones' initiative will persuade the powers that be to take a fresh look.

A CANAL JOB

One youngster's account of his first visit to Pocklington. And if that sounds a bit like a bank raid, well there are certain similarities!

by Nicholas - a Higlet

Almost before 'Euroclydon's' wheels had stopped revolving, we all piled out! Twelve squirming bodies in a (nominal) 7-seater doesn't leave you a lotta room to move ('Euroclydon' is Hig's 'multicoloured' Land Rover - that's what the DVLC call it!). (Yes, you can look it up - Acts 2:2 and 27:14. Very appropriate we thought.) Then we began the gentle art of unloading everything from the roofrack. Chains, crowbars, ropes and shackles flew in all directions, closely followed by spare wheel (whoops) - there hadn't been room for it inside! Numerous other pieces of equipment, all vitally necessary for the restoration of any self-respecting canal (or so we are told! Actually, I think he brings half of them for show... - "Ouch. Gerroff me ear!"), join the ever-growing pile. Last of all, the three biggest help Hig lift off the roofrack. Then everything has to be laid out, neatly and in order, so's we can find it. To be honest, it does look quite impressive. But we can't possibly use it ALL can we?.

We were split into two groups, and I was with Sara, Steve, Johnny and Philip. The other group was Jenny and Alex (my sisters), and Julie (Sara's sister). So, of course, we had to do better than them, didn't we! They thought the same! Our group was sent off with a platform trolley (can't think where I've seen one of them before!), a hand-winch called 'Thomas the Tirfor', and sundry other tools, to the far side of the canal to remove a whacking gurt boulder that was threatening to go for a swim, having already accomplished a fair imitation of Humpty Dumpty! The others were to make a start on removing some of the dense jungle of reeds just below the top lock. (Who said girls 'can't' Don't let our Alex hear you - she's quite capable of ramming a crowbar down your bread-basket, egged on by Julie who can bellow louder than my Dad!).

Shifting the boulder turned out to be quite a simple task... well, compared to some of the things we had been asked to do before! First, we had to dig the sticky clay away from under the edge. Then we threaded a continuous loop of chain right round it, before pulling it through itself. Attach to Thomas the Tirfor, anchor Thomas to tree, and jolly well 'Heave Ho' (I'm just glad our Mum couldn't hear the language that went with this simple exercise! I'd never heard the like since the last time I'd had to tidy out my bedroom - the day before! - otherwise I wouldn't have been able to come!) All the slack in, we checked the shackles. Serious winching then began, backwards and forwards, and the stone slowly lifted. Then it started to slide, gouging out a great trench in the mud. Crowbard and curses! Spades and shovels. Dig! (S'funny, really - I'm

supposed to go out for some clean healthy fresh air, but usually come back caked, and with a lot of new words that I didn't really understand before!). Now came the difficult bit, getting the boulder over the edge so as not to damage the coping stones. Steve, Philip and Sara levered the stone up the bank with their bars, while Johnny (who is about as wide as he is high - they forgot his Plimsoll Line!) winched in, accompanied by strange rhythmical chants! Having got it ashore, we swore it onto the trolley, but I don't think Asda would have got much for it! Then we heaved and dragged it round to the Engineers Tip Sidings. (That's 'railway' for 'rubbish dump') Mission accomplished, now who could we annoy?!

Meanwhile, the others had not been having much success. Well, not in clearing the reeds. But they had succeeded in getting absolutely plastered which, after all, is the main reason we want to come! So we joined forces, and the bigger gang made 'Melvin's Method' work like a charm! You know all about Melvin's Method don't you? (I've never met this Melvin kid, Hig says he's still getting caked - growing cabbages! He seems to have been quite a character - a worthwhile friend). My chief memory of that afternoon was watching the amazing sight of a whole island of reeds and a huge chunk of canal bed, take off rapidly in the opposite direction! and we did it! If somebody had told me at school that kids could do this sort of thing, I just wouldn't have believed them! Yet here we were, up to our you-know-what's in you know what, doing something useful, enjoying ourselves immensely, and NOT being shouted at not to! The sensation is unbelievably wicked!

As the day progressed, and the mountain of reeds piled up, a group of spectators gathered on the lock above to watch our antics. Some were amused and smiled, some took pictures (please can we see some?), but other members of the audience did not seem to enjoy the spectacle provided for their entertainment, and were actually seen to be restraining their offspring! Among the crowd was a group of four kids who turned out to be from a 'special' school! And you know what happened to them don't you? (See '99' Nu. 49) But all good things come to an end, and when they had to go, I happened to overhear a rather worried voice asking "What am I supposed to tell the Headmaster?!" But that was his problem - I think they'd enjoyed themselves!

Eventually, in the late afternoon, the strain began to tell, and we were all starving! (We always are after one of Hig's do's). My Mum says she likes him cos he stops kids bein' faddy. So we called it a day and stripped off. And that is best left to your imagination! I'll only say that we are all treated alike and anybody who's fussy just has to make their own arrangements! Mostly, we are just too cold to argue. It's much quicker just to get on with it - the sooner we are changed, the sooner we can EAT!



The table is set up in the back of the Land Rover and the cooker coupled up ('railway') again). We have all been well trained in getting the priorities right - kettle on first! Then virtually everything cookable we have (and some that's not), is shovelled into the big pans and got hot. Nobody worries much what's in it - which is as well cos what comes out of those pans bears no resemblance whatever to what went in! I thought I knew what butties were till I joined this lot! Hig says the record is a loaf cut in half (!) with a slab of butter in the middle! Anyhow, "it all goes down the same 'ole" as Johnny said as he poured salad cream on his fruit pie (or blud all over his trifle! Poor trifle - but it didn't last long anyway!) Drinks is usually tea with more sugar than I'm allowed at home, coffee with twice as much sugar as I'm allowed at home, or 'toffee' with... It's useless telling Hig you don't take sugar - he just puts more in! The things he does with food and drink, I don't know why he doesn't catch everything that's going. He says he hasn't time! Come to think of it, nor have I.

Eating over, and the washing up done in good honest canal water (!) the roofrack is refitted and loaded up with all that huge pile of junk (sorry, ... 'equipment'... but, ... well, yes, we have used most of it!). The journey home was as memorable as the rest of the day. We sang songs and told jokes (most of which are unprintable). We swop reminiscences of other things we have done, places we'd found, things we'd seen, friends we had made, and things we had learned from our expeditions. For me, I think I have learned most that, no matter what goes wrong, there is always a way round it. So I hope that any of you reading this, the next time you see us, will take a big deep breath, and let go of your kid's collar! They can always go home in their pants!



"DOMESDAY SURVEY" VIA POCKLINGTON CANAL

During the summer term pupils at Melbourne Primary School took part in the nationwide "Domesday Survey", recording changes in the life of their locality. Following a talk and slides by Paul Waddington, one of our committee members, some of the children had a trip down the Canal on the Society workboat. They found this fascinating. Melbourne is a canal village and the children knew a lot about the canal but, for most of them, it was the first time they had been through a lock; for many their first trip on a boat there. Their thank you letters were impressive.

Pupils from Class 5 at Wilberfoss Primary School also had a trip on the Canal during last term. Val and Gordon Barron, who took them all, received letters from them too. They all liked the boat, and the fish, and the dog, and the freshwater 'oysters' (mussels). But what took first prize? Definitely our weed! They took it home as souvenirs! Goodness knows what their mums thought! Steven told us: "I put some blanket weed in my lunch box and it didn't turn out too well (it went all over my bag)." Visiting boaters will appreciate the problem.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 7th November	PCAS Committee Meeting
Sunday, 17th November	PCAS Sunday Lunch at The Plough, Hayton (see back cover)
Saturday, 14th December	IWA NH Christmas Party at York
Saturday, 1st February 1986	PCAS Film Evening at Pocklington Youth Centre, New Street, Pocklington 7.30 pm
Saturday, 17th May 1986	Grand PCAS Barbecue at Canal Head

Note. Regular PCAS work parties have been suspended at present (see page 5). We may be arranging special ones from time to time. If you are interested please enquire from one of the committee.

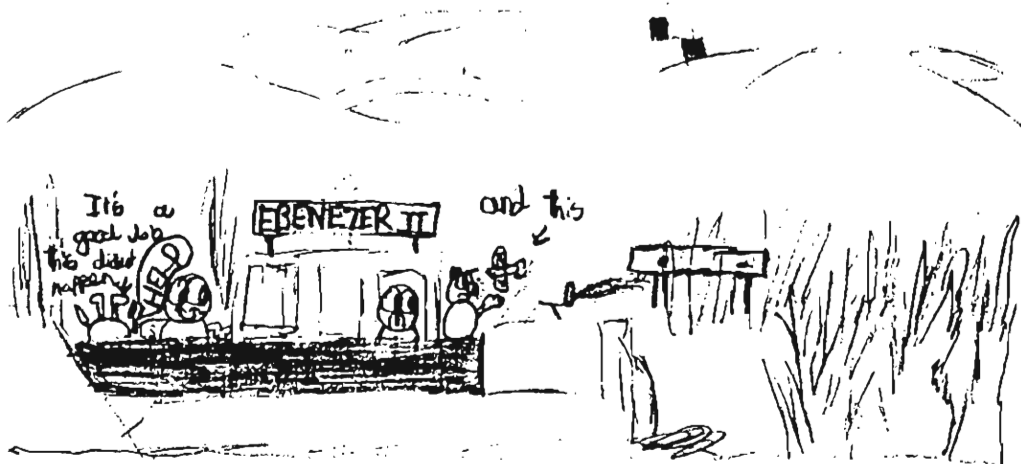
POCKLINGTON CANAL BOAT CLUB - NEW OFFICERS

Officers elected at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Pocklington Canal Boat Club were:

Chairman	G. H. Alden
Secretary	Mrs. Hazel Terry
Treasurer	Mrs. Helen Whitton
Membership Sec.	Mrs. Yvonne Huitson
Moorings Officer	C. R. Huitson

Mrs. Terry can be contacted at:

Sherbrook Farm, Melbourne, York YO4 4QE
Telephone: Melbourne 224



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:

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
 plus 10p p. & p. 50p

Please enquire for details of Covenants
 and Life membership (£25.00)

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.....

George Cooper & Sons
(COAL) LTD.

Deans Lane,
POCKLINGTON, York
Telephones 3185 & 3075



Wholesale Distributors throughout
the East Riding
of all Grades of

HOUSE COAL,
COKE,
COALITE,
PHURNACITE

SUNDAY, 17th NOVEMBER - SUNDAY LUNCH

at THE PLOUGH AT HAYTON - 12.30 for 1.00 pm

Do come and join this popular and informal social get-together! A good three-course lunch and coffee in our own room. Cost under £5.00; reduced prices for children. A good Raffle and Christmas Sales Stall. Plenty of time for chat and get home in daylight! Special guests: Councillor and Mrs. Peter Barker, Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of East Yorkshire.

Pay on the day but NAMES AND NUMBERS as soon as possible please to: Mrs. V. A. Barron, 13 St. Helen's Drive, Chapel Hill, Pocklington, York. Tel: Pocklington 2913.

Gifts for the Stall or the Raffle will be very welcome!

(The Plough is on A1079 2 miles east beyond Canal Head, Pocklington, towards Market Weighton)

PCAS FILM EVENING - SATURDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 1986

Make a note in your next year's diary! On SATURDAY, 1st FEBRUARY we are having a Film Evening at the newly refurbished Pocklington Youth Centre. We hope to show recent film and slides of the Canal. There will also be a Sales and Bring and Buy Stall, Raffle etc. and refreshments. 7.30 pm.

ALUMINIUM BEER CANS

A number of our readers have been collecting the ring pulls from beer cans etc. and these have been a good source of revenue. Please continue to collect them. However, the rest of the can also has some value and are now worthwhile collecting too. Formerly these were made largely of steel and had little value. Now they are almost all made entirely from aluminium. Paul Waddington (address front cover) will be happy to relieve you of aluminium beer and other drink cans provided they have been flattened please.

CHRISTMAS CARDS! (USED ONES!)

It may seem a bit early to be talking about Christmas Cards, but this is the last '89' you will receive before Christmas. You may be surprised to be told that used Christmas Cards (and Birthday Cards too for that matter) can be converted into money! The trick is to convert them into new cards and gift tags. So - you've guessed it - we are collecting used Christmas Cards. All donations to Paul Waddington or any committee member please.