

DOUBLE NINE
THE
POCKLINGTON CANAL
AMENITY SOCIETY



MAGAZINE

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THE POCKLINGTON CANAL AMENITY SOCIETY



Registered Charity
500637

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

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

A Busy Summer

It has been a busy summer for the Society. Towards the end of May we had our usual Barbecue but this year we opened it to the public so that it could be included in the Pocklington Arts Festival. Also part of the Festival was our Canal Open Day on the Sunday following the Barbecue. It was a successful event — with wonderful weather — but there were some things we shall do better next time. Our final contribution to the Festival was our entry in the Parade through Pocklington. Our 'float', a model narrowboat on top of a car, did not win any prizes but it did attract a lot of attention.

Gates Ordered for Thornton

The Society has been busy on the Restoration front too in recent months, often assisted by various visiting volunteers to whom we are most grateful. A full report appears later. But perhaps the most exciting development is that new gates have been ordered for Thornton Lock. The Society is contributing £5000 towards these, which is most of the cost. British Waterways will fit them and we are told they should be installed by the end of the year. The gating of Thornton Lock will extend the navigation by about a mile although this section is very shallow. The Board are planning to do some more dredging but we do not know yet when this will take place.

The Ever-Present Quest for Funds!

The expenditure of £5000 on Thornton Lock gates will almost eliminate our available funds. So we need to place an extra emphasis on fund-raising again and, during the summer, the Society Stall has been taken to numerous fetes, fairs and galas. We had a productive and pleasant afternoon at the new-style Cottingham Feast, our first such visit for several years. This is pleasing because we do like to attend local events. Also the Information Centre at Canal Head has been open every Sunday throughout the season and this also brings in a useful income, apart from the opportunity to talk to many visitors.

Help From Members, Old and New

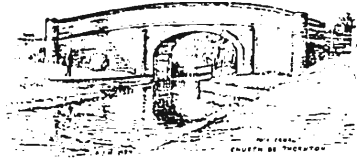
So many of our members donate all kinds of items for us to sell, including regular sacks of milk tops, drink cans and other sorts of aluminium foil. I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributes and please keep it up!

Finally I would like to mention how gratifying it is that new members are joining the Society all the time and that some are becoming quite active. The efforts we have made to raise our public profile do seem to be producing results.

PAUL WADDINGTON



RESTORATION



New Volunteers

There is plenty to report on the restoration front. We have continued with our monthly working parties and these have been most successful. Attendance has been very good, with several new and enthusiastic volunteers. Indeed support has been so good that we now have two working parties per month. Most of our efforts during the summer were concentrated at Silburn Lock (the second one down), and later at Giles (the third one).

Top Lock Disappointment

The situation at Top Lock, however, is most disappointing. Back in April we had a meeting with East Yorkshire Borough Council and British Waterways. The Council were keen to take on a new project for their Employment Training Scheme (their work at Thornton Lock being virtually completed) and BW were keen that the new project should be the completion of Top Lock. Since we estimated that Society work parties would require about a further two years to finish the work there, we agreed to withdraw from Top Lock and hand over this site to the Employment Training Scheme. So we could now expect the most visited lock on the canal to be completed in a much shorter time than would have been possible with our volunteers working only at weekends.

Technical Difficulties

Unfortunately we understand that technical difficulties to do with removing water from the chamber have been encountered. Apart from some extra fencing round the lock nothing has been done there so far since the last PCAS work party last May, though we are assured that the delay is only temporary.

Silburn Improved

Our own efforts have produced some useful progress lower down the canal. At Silburn, although the condition of the lock was comparatively good, some small repairs were necessary to the brickwork at one of the top gate recesses and this required the removal of some of the coping stones. This work is now complete and the coping stones have been replaced. On the far side of the chamber a number of bushes and trees had grown up and these have been cut down. The roots which were threatening the brickwork have also been removed. The condition of Silburn Lock is now very good.

Much Longer Working Expected at Giles

Similar work is currently being carried out at Giles Lock. However the condition of this lock is much worse than at Silburn and we expect to be working here for some considerable time. A very dense thicket has been cut down on the far side of the chamber and awaits a bonfire. This has given access to a large tree stump whose roots have caused considerable damage. Removal of this entails moving the copings and will probably take several work parties. At the same time preparations are going on for the rebuilding of one of the wing walls. Some of the coping stones are missing and presumed to be at the bottom of the canal. Does anyone know a feasible way of recovering these? They are estimated to weigh around half a tonne.

Various Other Jobs Undertaken

A number of other jobs have been undertaken. At Canal Head the notice board and map of the canal has been propped up and repaired and the first of some paving stones laid outside the Information Centre. Considerable time has also been spent on the dumper truck. The engine has been reconditioned, the brakes and clutch adjusted and all parts lubricated. One or two jobs have also been carried out on our workboat.

Plenty Still To Do - Further Volunteers Welcome!

There is plenty going on and plenty still to do! We DO need more volunteers, especially now that we have doubled the number of work parties to two per month. They take place on the SECOND and on the LAST Sundays in each month. We meet at Canal Head at 10.15am before moving on to the current work site. Finish around 4 pm. Bring a packed lunch. If you think you may be able to help in some way please contact Paul Waddington on: 0472 352936.



STOP PRESS! - 4 November

P.R.W.

Good News! We have just heard that the ET team have returned to Top Lock this week.

SUBS ?

Have you paid your subscription for this year? Most of you have but, if it has slipped your mind, please send it forthwith to the Membership Secretary or to one of the committee if that is easier and we will pass it on to Simon for you. Thank you in anticipation.

CAN OTHER READERS RECALL ?

MORE CANAL HEAD CONNECTIONS

Your Editor has had some fascinating correspondence with Mrs Greta Gibson who lives near Hitchen in Hertfordshire. She and her mother recently stayed at Aughton Hall beside the Derwent whilst tracing some of their local ancestors. Mrs Gibson says she thinks Mrs Marsh's great great grandfather, John Walsh (who lived at Canal Head), must surely have known her mother's great grandfather, Charles Weddall, and probably many other members of the Weddall family. It appears, she says, that when Charles was forty-seven in 1851 he moved to Sikes Farm at Burnby. She assumes he moved away from Canal Head when the railway arrived and trade on the canal started to decline. Charles's son, also Charles, took over the farm in 1877.

Charles's father was a 'miller, cornfactor and gentleman'. His father, in turn, was a 'coast waiter' (i.e. a tide-waiter) living in the house next to Selby Bridge. His new boat in 1785 cost £14. 19. 8d. This included sails, masts, ropes, ironwork, new ash oars etc. This man, John Weddall, was married to Everilda Jackson of Pocklington. We wonder if all this sparks off any other local memories? Do please tell us if so.

THE CANAL IN DAYS GONE BY — CAN YOU HELP US?

Do any of our readers have any memories of the canal in the past or have friends or relations who were connected with it? There must surely be others like Mrs Gibson and Mrs Marsh. We would love to hear from you. Does anyone remember the canal in the twenties when the keels still brought cargo up to Melbourne and beyond? Does anyone remember pleasure boats on the canal before it finally closed and fell derelict in the mid-thirties? Does anyone have any interesting stories or, above all, any photographs? Anything you can tell us would be of great interest to the Society and, no doubt, to many other local people. You can contact the Editor or any of the people listed inside the front cover. We would willingly come to see you if you don't feel like writing to us.

GOOD WISHES FROM HOLLAND

PCAS Life Members Andre and Yolanda Hoekema wrote to Raymond O'Kelly earlier in the year from Amsterdam. They congratulate our recently retired Membership Secretary on 'the enthusiasm and capacity of persuasion' of his organisation. 'Please do give the Society our warm greetings', they say, and best wishes for the works in progress of which we are well informed by the nice periodical Double Nine!' They also enclosed a generous donation to funds. Thank you Mr and Mrs Hoekema!

SALES STALL & INFO CENTRE

We have had the Society Stall at Melbourne Sports, our Open Day, Bishop Wilton Show, Barmby and Cottingham Feasts, Burnby Hall, Pocklington and Bridlington Markets and two days at Hull Regatta. The weather has been splendid throughout and so have the profits! The two market stalls were the best ever. So a very big thank you once again to everyone who contributed so many goods for sale and to everyone who helped. We couldn't do it without you!

But please keep up the supplies because we can sell many of the items you give us throughout the year. Over £60 has been banked this way just recently.

Our Information Centre at Canal Head has been open every Sunday through the season, from May to October and we have met many members and visitors. We have now closed till next Spring. But we DO very much need some more helpers! It is an enjoyable way to spend a Sunday but the regular(s) do need a break from time to time! We hope some of you will volunteer to come along occasionally next season.

The job is pretty peaceful as a rule but we had an unexpected — and unwelcome — drama one Sunday. Stubble burning in the adjacent field fired the hedge beside the Centre and caused a hasty evacuation. It could have been very nasty. Fortunately the Fire Brigade arrived just in time to contain the blaze. But not before all the stock, thrust out on the grass, was covered in smuts. The kippery smell lingered for a long time after.

S.M.N.



COULD YOU FIND ROOM TO STORE OUR MODELBOAT??

The Society's model narrowboat which was constructed during the summer to take part in the Pocklington Festival Parade is in need of more permanent storage. It is fairly light in weight (so as to fit on top of an average estate car when on display), just over 17' long and needs to be kept dry. It is currently slung diagonally from the Chairman's garage roof but is making it pretty difficult to use the garage for anything else! Could anyone find it a home, at least for the winter? It would be a tremendous help.

SUNDAY LUNCH

PCAS SUNDAY LUNCH SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 12.30 for 1 p.m.
at the WELLINGTON OAK at CANAL HEAD near Pocklington

This is a friendly social get-together for members and friends. Do come and join us. Cost: £6.25 per head (reduction for children). Pay on the day but WE MUST HAVE BOOKINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE! Please ring:

York (0904) 623338 or Pock (0759) 304157

Gifts for the Stall and the Raffle will be very welcome.

Guests at the Lunch will be the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of East Yorkshire, Cllr and Mrs J.R.Saul, and Cllr. Mrs J. Turner, Chairman of the Personnel Committee there.

Menu: Soup or Pear and Cream Cheese, Roast Pork and Trimmings with Roast and Croquet Potatoes, Carrots and Cauliflower etc, Coffee and Mandarin Gateau or Rhubarb Crumble or Cheese, Coffee and Mints.

BW TAKES OVER OUSE

Control of the navigation on the River Ouse finally passed from the York City Council to British Waterways on 19 October last. The transfer covers some forty-one miles of the river from just above Goole to Widdington Ings above York. It does not include Linton Lock which remains under the control of the independent Linton Lock Commissioners. This means that BW now control navigation from Goole to Ripon, with access to their northern network of canals via Selby.

Boat owners now need a River Registration Certificate from BW costing £100 for a typical ten metre cruiser. But lock fees at Naburn are abolished. The takeover does not include the River Foss. This remains under York City Council and fees are still payable at Castle Mills Lock in York. British Waterways say they intend to develop facilities along the Ouse and to improve the standard of maintenance and service to users. They also promise to curb disruptive activities such as water-skiing and speeding. The twenty-seven foot 'River Ranger', similar to the Thames River Police boats, is expected to become a familiar sight patrolling the Ouse in coming months. Patrol Inspector Bob Edwards is quoted in the Yorkshire Evening Press as saying that they do not want to be authoritarian but they are out to ensure that the various water users do not create problems for other water users.