



Pocklington Canal Project Newsletter #4: September 2017

Discovery Day at Canal Head

Join in the fun on a free, drop in Open Day at Canal Head on Saturday 2nd September between 10am and 4pm. You could try your hand at coracle sailing (a traditional boat used on waterways across the country), willow weaving to help create sculptures to go on display and pond dipping in the basin. Don't forget to take part in the Heritage Trail to claim your free prize (may contain chocolate...!)

Did you know that willow coppices were maintained in the lower reaches of the canal (near East Cottingwith) for the weaving of baskets, fences and even eel traps?

One off Habitat Days – Hay Raking

Following our series of one off Himalayan balsam pulling days, we will be running a couple of days to rake up the cuttings along the towpath after the last grass cut has taken place in mid-October. Hay raking is a technique used in nature conservation to prevent the cuttings rotting down into the soil and enriching it. Our native wildflowers typically thrive on nutrient poor soil so when the soil is 'enriched' through rotting processes we tend to see less diversity of native flowers. If you are interested in joining the volunteer mailing list to receive dates of these days when they are available please email lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk.



Please help make this event a success and share on Facebook or print a copy of the poster to display



Our Explorer Team visiting East Cottingwith Lock during a training day

Explorer School Sessions

New for September 2017! We can offer Education Visits both in school and on site at Melbourne Moorings on the Pocklington Canal! Our Explorer Volunteers can visit schools to run Water Safety Assemblies and 'Build a Canal' sessions, or alternatively schools are welcome to arrange a free visit to the Pocklington Canal where children can enjoy a trip aboard the New Horizons (in partnership with PCAS), pond dipping and a history walk. Visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers to view and book free school sessions.

There's more going on than what's covered in this quarterly newsletter, but we prefer to keep this contained within two pages. For all the updates, take a look at our **Facebook page** (search for Pocklington Canal) or visit the Canal & River Trust website and look for the **Pocklington Canal blog pages**.



Archaeology Dig

Our two week dig uncovered the foundations of the Dennison Warehouse at Canal Head, most likely constructed around 1834. Twenty volunteers joined us for this dig, and Paul has created an interactive 3D model using photogrammetry which you can view online at <https://skfb.ly/68XAR>. Even better, come and see the trench which will remain open until September 2018.

Event round up

The Yorkshire Mammal Group and the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group ran wildlife events in July, and Eco Sapien led a Family Nature Safari in August.

Oral history in the pipeline

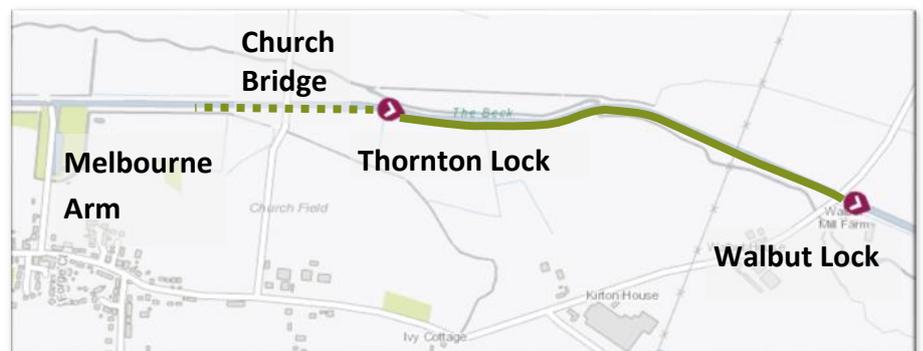
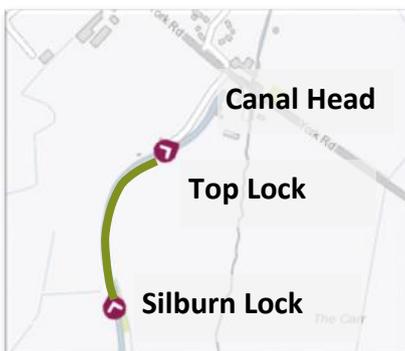
We will be looking for people to volunteer on a new project to collect people's memories of the canal over the winter. Watch this space for details!



From Left to Right: Taking a close up look at a bank vole on our small mammal walk; Paul's 3D model of the archaeological trench; Dig volunteers admiring their efforts and planning the next excavation trenches!

Dredging plans

Land and Water will dredge two sections of the canal between October 2017 and February 2018 thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant. As previously announced in this newsletter, these sections will be between Top Lock and Silburn Lock, and between Walbut Lock and Thornton Lock (shown in green below, maps not to scale). In addition, Canal & River Trust will be funding dredging downstream of Thornton Lock (shown in dashes on the map below) as part of the Bi-Centenary Restoration Project (in partnership with the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society).



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