



Pocklington Canal Project Newsletter #6: February 2018

200 years of the Pocklington Canal!

2018 is an important year for the canal. Not only does it mark the 200th anniversary of the canal's official opening, 2018 will see a major restoration success for both the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society and the Canal & River Trust.

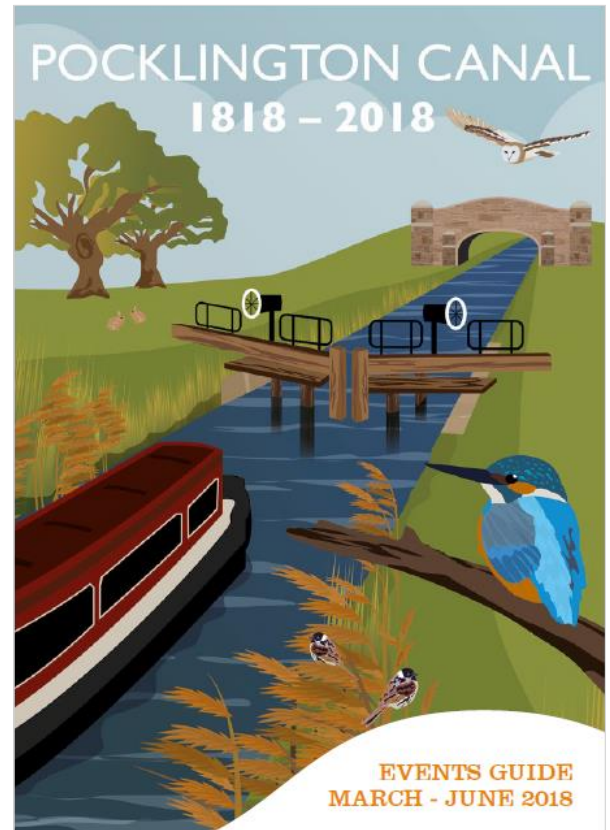
Pocklington Canal is special for its wildlife, built heritage and its importance in the local community. To celebrate, the Project Team have put together a great series of events to mark this landmark year in the canal's history. The first of two bicentenary events guides is out now, which covers March – June. The cover has been designed by a local graphic artist.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, thanks to players of the National Lottery, has supported our upcoming events programme as part of this 'A Gem in the Landscape' Project.

www.pocklingtoncanal.eventbrite.com

Volunteer Walk Leaders wanted

We're looking for volunteers who would like to lead guided walks on the occasional Sunday from the Canal Head visitor centre. An initial walk will take place on 4th March which is open to everyone, especially those who want to know more about this volunteer role. More details here: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/opportunities



Event highlights—book now!

Oral History Workshop

Join us on 13th March for a training session on how to best record people's memories as part of our new Oral History Project. Everyone is welcome to attend. Those wishing to volunteer on the project should contact lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Archaeology Workshop

Join us on 22nd April to see how the Denison Warehouse excavation went, and to help sort through the finds from the dig. There will be a further excavation on this site in July, and all will be welcome to join in.

Book: www.pocklingtoncanal.eventbrite.com

For all the updates, take a look at our **Facebook page** /PocklingtonCanal, follow us on **Twitter** @PockCanal, or visit the Canal & River Trust website and look for the **Pocklington Canal blog pages**.



Project update

Major habitat improvements have been completed within two sections of the Pocklington Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The two areas had become dominated by reed sweet-grass and were being shaded by trees, which had led to a decline in the quality of the SSSI. Dredging and tree works were carried out in winter to minimise disturbance to breeding birds. The open water channel should provide perfect conditions for the colonisation of some of the rarer aquatic plant species which will increase biodiversity in the SSSI.

A new signage scheme will give visitors a better understanding of the canal's natural and built heritage, and is due to be installed in April 2018. A new leaflet will accompany this scheme.

Volunteers continue to be critical to the project's success, with the "Explorers" education volunteers offering free school learning sessions and volunteers researching the archives ahead of an exhibition in June.

Swing Bridge 7 is due to be modified to make it more fitting for a Georgian canal, with new designs taken from a historic photo. This work has been moved back to autumn 2018.

For more information on this £496,600 project, funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/our-regions/north-east-waterways. This project is being led by Canal & River Trust in partnership with Pocklington Canal Amenity Society (PCAS) and Natural England.



Top to bottom: Dredging (credit Malcolm Slater), Tree works underway, newly restored Thornton Lock.

Progress on 'Restoration Appeal'

PCAS are leading on a project with the support of Canal & River Trust to open another two miles of the canal by restoring two locks. Thornton Lock was completed in June 2017 and work on Walbut Lock is currently underway. The canal between these two locks was dredged as part of the SSSI habitat works and is now passable by boat. A small number of boats of this section should have positive effects for plants and insects.

A small number of boats has been seen to have positive effects for wildlife on the lower section of the canal that lies within the Lower Derwent Valley SSSI (near East Cottingwith). The movement of boats has helped keep the channel open and there is less shading by trees, so the biodiversity within this section of the canal is in good condition, compared to that of the Pocklington Canal SSSI (between Canal Head and Melbourne). Both projects have closely involved Natural England.

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www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal



working in partnership