

Calder Navigation Society
Newsletter August 2021



Now here this…….A message from our Chairman

At last, we have a semblance of normality with Savile able to cruise and people getting together again!

We sadly have said our goodbyes to two of our members since the last Newsletter, Valerie Auty and Derek Pegg, more about this sad news as you read on. As we lose two supporters then we also gain two and we welcome them, again not sure if I should print the names what with this GDPR thingy but they know who they are, all 2 of them – welcome!

At last we have seen activity on the Savile front, already we have completed three private bookings and at the time of writing we are engaged in the Brighouse "Ryecorn Thank You" events which take place in Brighouse on the first four Sundays in August. We also have two firm bookings for Savile later in the year and I am sure that Avril wishes to thank all of the crew volunteers for stepping forward.

Our "Survey" page on our website is now up and running and already some interesting comments have been received. We encourage boaters and waterway users in general to enter their comments, positive and negative.

Our Society is involved in the presentation of an award for our efforts in repainting Ha'penny Bridge at Battyeford. The presentation will take place on 11th September



at the South Pennine Boat Club, if you would like to attend as a guest then please let me know ASAP.

We continue with our efforts to impress upon C&RT the importance of carrying out repair work and have tried to pressurise them into taking action with the Battyeford Weir among other defects as well as notifying them of invasive species sightings. With regard to the rubbish and plastic waste caught up in the trees on Battyeford Island (land owned by C&RT) we now have our Member of Parliament on the case, and I am told that he has written to C&RT and is waiting for a response.

Can anyone answer the question we received from the Editor of Waterways World regarding the purpose of the chains hanging from the lock wall at Calder Grove Broad Cut River Lock? Answers please to me or our Secretary.

Once again may I take this opportunity in thanking you all for your support and I wish you a safe and happy (late) summer.

Thank you,
Peter Davies, Chairman

A Tribute to Valerie Auty



Sadly we were informed that Val died on 10th June and the funeral was held on Tuesday 29th June. Val had suffered a long slow decline and Geoff had to become House Manager, Chief Cook and nurse as well for nearly a year.

Geoff writes that since boating holidays were gradually established on the rivers and canals, he has lost count of the many boating holidays he had with Val. The last one was on the Canal du Midi in 2018. The picture shows her enjoying driving the Cirrus boat – Geoff and Val's preferred model for a cruiser (sleeps 2 – 4; and can be driven from the roof or inside at the front).

Many years ago Geoff met Colin Scott on "Doreen", the original CNS trip boat, when on one of his scout trips in the early days of the scout boat "Jubilee Venture". Colin persuaded Geoff and Val to join CNS. In consequence, Val has been with Geoff to



many CNS and IWA events. This included the Ceilidh Dances held at South Pennine boat club and the guided walks arranged by Richard Stead. The last time was at the unveiling of the CNS plaque in Mirfield.

Val was always a loyal supporter; willing to help to make things happen. Our condolences go to Geoff and the family, Val will be sadly missed by all who knew her at CNS.

A Tribute to Derek Pegg - with thanks to Jeannette Watson

Sadly Derek passed away on 2nd July and his funeral took place on 27th July. Covid restrictions meant that there was no limit on numbers and CNS were well represented at the church. Our condolences and best wishes go to Mary and the family. Derek was an exceptional man, a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

Derek was called up and did his National Service in the RAF where he always said all he did was play cricket and football. After National Service he became an art teacher where he no doubt inspired many budding artists. He joined Barnsley Cricket Club where he played with Dickie Bird and Michael Parkinson. Derek always wanted a boat and in fact had a 'project' in his garage for some years. He and Mary purchased a Hardy and called it Osprey. They progressed to a small canal boat called Charlotte Alice, named after Derek's mum, and then to a 50 footer, a second Charlotte Alice.

He was an active a member of CNS where he was Membership Secretary for a number of years, Derek was meticulous in his record keeping, evidence of which is contained in the current membership secretary's files! In later years Derek started a painting class at the boat club where members endeavouring to paint were encouraged and inspired by him.



He took part in all the events at the South Pennine Boat Club and CNS ceilidhs and was a star of the boat club rally shows being a bird, a bungle girl and a ballet dancer called Rudolph Nearenough among many other parts. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him at the Calder Navigation Society and elsewhere.



Saving Wildlife and Saving Money! – Update

Last time we discussed the C&RT's plans to review the grass cutting regime. According the their website, the entire Calder & Hebble Navigation had been put into the mowing regime designed for redundant canals and mowing was to be reduced to minimal levels.

This naturally fired up our chairman and even the newsletter editor and both raised the matter with the powers that be at Head Office. We have yet to receive a reply, presumably our protestations have been kicked into the long grass. But fear not, despite the fact that the C&RT website still clearly shows the C & H under the redundant canal mowing regime, no one seems to have told the local management and after a slow start the grass is now being cut.

Invasive Species

Reduced grass cutting certainly encourages plant growth but there are some plants and animals that the C & RT could do without. Invasive species represent a growing threat to the waterways and are becoming increasingly expensive to deal with.

Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that have been introduced by man and that have subsequently escaped and now grow well in the wild, squeezing out native plant and animal life. There are now many invasive plants and animals in Britain and if you want to learn how many there are and how to identify them check out the website below:-

http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=47

Check, Clean & Dry

C&RT and other national bodies are very concerned that waterway users are inadvertently transferring invasive species from one waterway to another by carrying the seeds and spores on their equipment. In response they have introduced a national campaign, **Check, Clean and Dry** that is supported by C & RT. It encourages all users of the waterways to check, clean and dry all their equipment before leaving a waterway and moving to different waters. It may not be practical to lift your narrowboat out of the water to check, but anglers, paddle boarders and kayakers regularly move between rivers and canals and they certainly can check, clean and dry their equipment.



Three of the Calder & Hebble's serious invaders

Himalayan Balsam at Brighouse

Himalayan Balsam has spread along almost all rivers and canals forcing out native plants. It dies back in winter and leaves river banks exposed to erosion. Fortunately it is one of the invasive species that can be tackled by everyone. It is easy to pull out but it quickly grows from seed and it will be a massive task to eliminate it from British waterways.



Japanese Knotweed at Kirklees



Japanese Knotweed is a major problem for C & RT as well as other landowners. It spreads along riverbanks and railway lines and can be very difficult to get rid of it. Several years of chemical treatment is needed to eradicate it. It needs professional treatment and cannot be dealt with by volunteers.



Floating Pennywort at Battyeford

Floating pennywort first proved to be a problem on London's Waterways but is now spreading north and is even thriving on the cold and wet Battyeford cut. Left untreated it can rapidly block waterways and by removing oxygen from the water can kill fish and other water living creatures.



From the Papers….The Halifax Branch - start to finish

From the Leeds Intelligencer 14 October 1824

CALDER & HEBBLE NAVIGATION

NOTICE is hereby given, that Application is intended to be made to Parliament during the next Session, for Leave to bring in a Bill, in order to obtain an Act to enable the Company of Proprietors of the Calder and Hebble Navigation, in the West Riding of the County of York, make and maintain Navigable Cut, Canal, or Branch, from and out of certain Cut or Canal belonging to the said Navigation, at or near a certain Place called Salterhebble Bridge, in the Township Skircoat, in the Parish of Halifax, in the West Riding of the County of York, to certain Place near the Town of Halifax, in the County aforesaid, called Bailey Hall, in the Township of Southowram, and Halifax, all within the said Parish of Halifax; which said the intended Navigable Cut, Canal, or Branch, is intended to pass from, into, or through several Townships.....

Work went ahead and for a mere £58,741, the Halifax Branch was completed in the spring of 1828. On Friday 28th March, the celebrations began when the company's committee boat **Savile** led a convoy of vessels up the Branch to Halifax. Later in the day a Public Ball was held in the New Assembly Rooms in Halifax and a reet grand time was had by all present.

From the Halifax Evening Courier 11 September 1942…

ABANDONMENT of the HALIFAX BRANCH of the CALDER AND HEBBLE NAVIGATION

In the matter of the Railway and Canal Act 1888 and of a Warrant of the Minister of War Transport, dated 2nd June 1942, authorising the abandonment of a certain portion of the Calder and Hebble Navigation. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 21st August 1942, The Minister of War Transport, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by Section 45 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act 1888 made an Order releasing the Company of Proprietors of the Calder and Hebble Navigation from all liability to maintain that portion of the Calder and Hebble Navigation commonly known as the Halifax Branch Canal-extending from its Junction with the main Calder and Hebble Navigation at Salterhebble to the Halifax Basin in the County Borough of Halifax……



Jubilation

Do you remember the **Jubilation**? Back in the 1970's she was Calderdale's Youth Service boat and could be seen almost every weekend zigzagging up and down the navigation, crewed by young people and their leaders from the area's youth organisations. She was feared by other boaters but loved by the teenagers who got the chance to sail away often as far as that well known holiday destination of Wakefield.

And without the **Jubilation**, I would probably never have got the chance to sail England's canals. I had always fancied a narrowboat holiday but my wife thought otherwise. But then she got a job with Calderdale's Youth Service. After a month or two she was invited to go on a training weekend aboard the **Jubilation** so that she could learn how to lead parties of young people on weekend canal breaks.

It was the breakthrough I needed. All of a sudden, sailing on the English canals was a really good idea and I should have thought of it earlier. The following year, we headed out on our first canal holiday.

The **Jubilation** could be hired by other youth organisations as well as Calderdale's Youth Clubs and before long we were booking her to take groups from the local Deaf Children's Society, the Girl Guides and the Sunday School. Once we even made it to the Far East and spent an afternoon at Castleford.

These trips certainly had their moments, probably the worst was one night when the battery charger failed and the lights slowly faded away. As our party consisted of deaf children who depended on lip reading, it was clearly not a good idea. On another occasion some of the children were convinced they had seen a ghost at Anchor Pit in a thunderstorm. Calm was only restored when the ghost eventually revealed himself as the Waterways man who had come to close the flood gate.

I don't know what happened to the **Jubilation**, she was no doubt a victim of local authority cut backs. I am sure many local boaters were glad to see the back of her, but she was certainly a grand introduction to the waterways.



Rip van Savile awakes

Following her long rest, Savile is now back in business providing days out for booked parties and half hour voyages from Brighouse……..

Cruising Starts Again



Not quite the Cunard Line, but who cares…..

The sailing season is now in full flow and four successful day excursions have already taken place. There is another firm booking for late August, leaving from Brighouse and there should be more outings in September after Savile has moved back to Battyeford.

This could be just the day out you need to shake off the lockdown blues, so while we still have days available, get your friends and family together and lock down the Navigation.

To make arrangements get in touch with Avril at :- savile@calderns.org.uk
There is a booking form on the CNS website
She can also be contacted by phone on **07870 423194**

And just to show that you are really missing out, Avril has just received the following message from one of our satisfied trippers

"Hi Avril.
We all would like to thank you and the wonderful, happy, informative and friendly crew that looked after us yesterday, it was such an uplifting tonic for all of us.
All the best for the future of the boat and we all send our best wishes to you all. Jim."



Brighouse Summer Boat Trips

CNS has teamed up with some Brighouse businesses to provide short boat trips from Brighouse on four Sundays in August. John Buxton of Ryecorn Wholefoods said: “It’s a special thank you to all our customers at Ryecorn Wholefoods and Blakeley’s Fish & Chip Take-Away and for anyone else for shopping in Brighouse during the pandemic."



Savile shows off her refurbished Society name board as she turns into the Basin

For the price of their ticket, Brighouse’s loyal shoppers get the boat trip as well as fish and chips from Blakeley’s. It sounds like a good deal and canny Brighouse folk have been taking advantage in their droves. All four days proved very successful despite the weather. Most Sundays started wet and cold, but fortunately the weather improved as the day went on.

The businesses are responsible for selling the tickets, and manning the shore station. CNS provides the half hour trips from Brighouse Basin to Ganny Lock. CNS is being paid by the businesses for boat hire and they had no objection to the CNS donation bucket being pressed into service as well.

Ticket sales went very well and hundreds of Brighouse shoppers were able to have their first taste of sailing the Navigation this summer. The trips have generated lots of interest and several participants have shown interest in booking the boat for a full day’s outing.





Savile heads for Ganny Lock, passing the Brighouse Cruise Terminal

Asked to comment at the programme's half way stage, our trips organiser, Avril, reported that these trips have been hugely successful and highlighted the profile of CNS. She says that "This has resulted in enquiries and bookings for further private trips and new Memberships. The trip bookings for 15th and 22nd are looking very promising and will be fully booked by the given dates I'm sure. The teamwork from the Volunteer crews has been second to none and the passengers have so enjoyed themselves."



Savile turning in Brighouse Basin



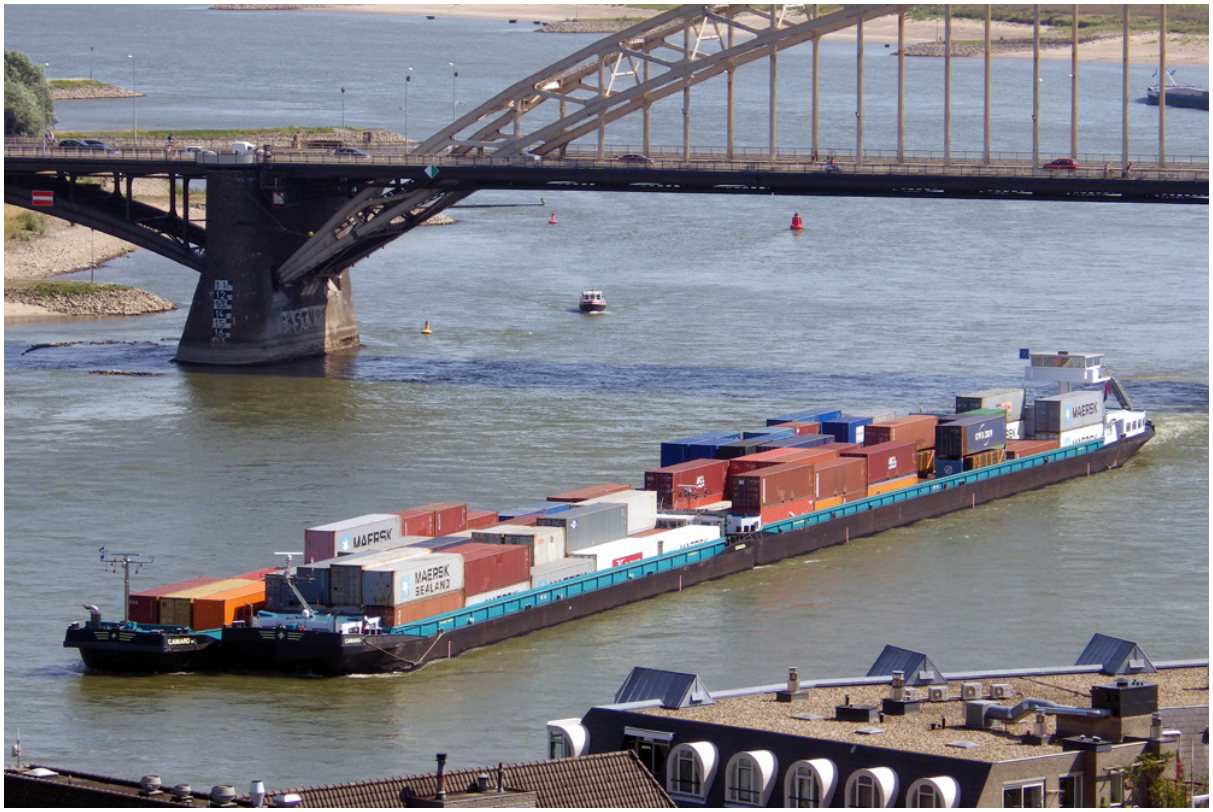
Articles & Photos for the Newsletter

Our aim is to publish the newsletter every three months, but sometimes we are a little short of both news and imagination. If you would like to write something for the newsletter or have ideas as to what we should be covering ….please get in touch. I can be contacted at

editor@calderns.org.uk

Spot the Navigation!

No prizes for this one, if you know the answer, you just get that good feeling inside when you know you are one step in front of the rest of us.



That's all for now, the next edition should be out in the Autumn.