

Calder Navigation Society
Newsletter April 2022

The Spring Collection

Primroses and rhubarb at Brighouse Basin



But first, a message from the Chairman….

At last, spring is in the air and very welcome too!

I would like to extend a welcome to our recently joined members and hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter, many thanks to our intrepid editor for doing such a fine job.

Savile has completed her annual dry docking and maintenance and looks quite splendid in her refreshed colours. In fact she has already been out and about doing her first private booking trip on 30th April from Battyeford to Brighouse and back. Our gallant crew braved the weather and all in all it was a very pleasant trip which our passengers thoroughly enjoyed. More trips have already been booked and we are looking forward to these hopefully in warmer weather!







In the last newsletter I mentioned that our C&RT Regional Director had agreed to attend a Q&A session at the South Pennine Boat Club which we were looking forward to armed with a long list of comments and queries. Unfortunately the event was postponed because of the local Covid situation. Members will be notified when a new date is arranged.

Our efforts working alongside the Mirfield in Bloom team to try and improve the visual aspect of the riverside on Battyeford Island are still in progress. We are still trying to put pressure on C&RT with regard to the horrible plastic and debris which is caught up in the riverside trees. They seem reluctant to do the right thing.

Please see the article on the Lock Cottage Saga where we are involved with the IWA and other interested parties in trying to persuade C&RT to come to their senses and not be so keen in trying to dispose of their assets. This is an ongoing saga.

That's about it from me so please stay safe everyone and enjoy the coming summer.

Peter Davies
Chairman



Wellbeing by Water – The Editorial

The Canal & River Trust's main marketing strategy at present is to promote the sense of wellbeing we all get when close to water. An excellent strategy and I could not agree more. What better way to spend your lunch break than sitting at a picnic table and tucking into your sandwiches at your local canal basin? It is even better if there are facilities to dispose of the excessive wrapping that food comes in nowadays. Surely such activity would gladden the heart of a C&RT marketing man.

But wait, a recent survey of my local canal basin shows that in the last few months, two out of the four picnic tables have been removed along with half the litter bins and one very pleasant seat. These items have been replaced by thirteen new notices.

I must be out of step with current thinking but I just cannot accept that standing to read notices is the true embodiment of wellbeing by water. What do you think? Have I missed something or should the Canal & River Trust have a rethink?

Dudley, Eunice & Franklin gang up on the Calder & Hebble



At the end of February three named storms hit Yorkshire in one week. Very heavy rain was followed by snow on higher ground and then a severe gale completed the trio of entertainments.

As one can imagine, the Calder rose rapidly and several sections of the navigation suffered flooding and damage. To top it off, several trees fell in the gale and one blocked the canal section above Ganny Lock near Brighouse. Fortunately the recent works at the Figure of Three Locks were not damaged but the towpath between Broad Cut Top Lock and Calder Grove Railway Bridge has suffered significant damage and is only passable with care.

Other areas of the navigation were less severely affected but C&RT's staff and volunteers have been kept busy clearing the debris and mud from locks and towpaths.



April Minicruises from Brighouse

1] Ryecorn Wholefoods & Blakeley's Trips



CNS has once again teamed up with Ryecorn Wholefoods and Blakeley's Fish & Chip shop to provide short cruises between Brighouse Basin and Ganny Lock. The traders want to say thank you to their customers who continued to shop in Brighouse throughout the Covid lockdowns and what better way to do this than to offer a cut price sail along the Navigation. Tickets can be booked in advance at Ryecorn Wholefoods or at the Harrison Lord Gallery in Brighouse. A £5 ticket includes a portion of fish and chips from Blakeley's and the £1 ticket includes a free soft drink.

The trips will run on Saturdays 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th April 2022 between 1000 and 1600 each day and will depart from behind Sainsburys near to the Bradford Road canal bridge.

2] Brighouse Artisan Market boat trips

If you cannot make it on Saturdays there is another opportunity to sail through Brighouse on Sunday 24th April when CNS will be running 30 minute boat trips whilst the Artisan Market is open.



Sponsored Walk – 15th April 2022

One of the Calder Navigation Society's members, Colin Longden is undertaking a sponsored walk for charity. He has jumped on board a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support after the recent passing of his mum at the grand old age of 99.

He is planning on walking the 29 miles from Hull to Grimsby on Good Friday with a fellow Grimsby Town FC fan. They are hoping to get there by the football match kick-off, which means a 04:30am start!

Colin has been doing some training walks on the 'other' Calder Navigation (Aire & Calder), but members may recognise him from various volunteering events on Savile, evenings at Harry's bar or recently skippering the water taxi in Leeds.

The Society wishes Colin good luck and good weather on his walk! If anyone would like to support the cause they can do so: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/footballfightforcancer

Take notice of this notice

The Canal & River Trust are very keen to increase their brand awareness and the rash of new blue signs and notices has now appeared along the Calder and Hebble. Although they are certainly leading the field in notice erection, others have got in on the act and here is a selection from the section of canal between Elland & Salterhebble.



Location

The new C&RT notices certainly let you know where you are. I am sure they will be useful when your hire boat breaks down and you need to tell the engineer where to find you.



Amended

This one is on the fence surrounding the lock landing at Woodside lock. The person who amended it certainly has a point, as it is three years since the landing collapsed.





Obvious

The only chance to miss the cliff edge at this point is if you are looking up at the notice and walk off the edge.



New Words?

Is this word in the dictionary? Have you come across **prohibative** before? I cannot find it anywhere.

Would 'Keep Out' not suffice?



Wrong Language

I know Japanese Knotweed is a fairly powerful adversary, but can it read English?

Maybe the notice should be in Japanese.



Informative?

This one is on the canal side. As far as I can see, the only relevant section for canal users is when they will be finished and the towpath closure cancelled.



Savile Drydock 2022



Savile underwent her annual out of water inspection and maintenance recently, entering the dry dock at South Pennine Boat Club on 29th January and leaving on the 12th February. Many thanks to the boat club for allowing us to use the facilities!

In all 13 volunteers took part, many thanks to them! Various jobs were tackled such as pressure washing and re-blacking the underwater hull, rubbing down the hull yellow area and then recoating, rubbing down, preparing and re-coating the green paintwork. The biggest job by far was removing the deck boards in the passenger well, taking out the ballast and then de-rusting the exposed steel. When cleared of rust a “rust cure” product was applied followed by a coat of anti-rust paint. This was a job which had been planned for quite some time and it is a relief to know that it was finally completed!

The deck boards were thoroughly cleaned before refitting and various touch up jobs undertaken. Avril has been busy making new curtains for the boat interior and she is now ready for the summer season (the boat that is).

We hope to see you at one of the events, please come along and help out if you are able or just come along and say hello.



Easter Fun – Traffic queues or a free day out? You choose.





Going off the boil

In the last newsletter we asked if anyone knew what a lock “on the boil” was. Geoff Auty leapt to our assistance and here is his reply:-

“Hi Peter,
Just a quick response after skimming through the newsletter. Many interesting topics I will consider in detail later!

I think the “boil” that was mentioned, is used when a leak causes water to bubble upwards, giving an appearance like water boiling in a pan (though it will be cleaner in the pan). I suspect it happens most often when there is wear at the bottom of a gate.”

Thanks Geoff! As to the rest of the **winter stoppages programme**, it rather went off the boil.

Cooper Bridge Lock 16

This work was cancelled, allegedly due to the impact of arising emergency works. So if you want to know what a lock on the boil looks like, head for Cooper Bridge as they aint fixed it yet.

Battyeford Lock 17

This work was completed and the new gate is in use.

Greenwood Lock 19

The works due to take place at this lock were reviewed and it was decided to do the work later in 2022 without a stoppage being required.

Huddersfield Broad Canal Locks 6 & 7

This closure took place and the work was completed. Some problems were discovered during the closure and the canal was closed for longer than had been planned.

Minor repairs

First reports were that the maintenance boat would start at Wakefield and work along the navigation, repairing faulty paddles etc. on the way. Second reports were that the boat would start from Sowerby Bridge and head downstream. By early March, the boat had been sighted at Elland but until the boating season gets going we won’t really know how much work has been done.

The Chairman’s advice is “Don’t hold your breath!”

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The Lock Cottage Saga



There is no doubt that the top lock at Salterhebble with its adjoining lock cottage is one of the most attractive locations on the Calder & Hebble. The cottage is one of a series built by the Calder & Hebble between 1770 and 1834 and is thought to date from about 1820. It is one of very few if not the only one still owned by the Canal & River Trust and is a Grade II listed building.

Early this year an eagle eyed enthusiast from Hebden Bridge came across a notice of an auction to be held on 22nd February at which the lock house would be sold with a guide price of £92,000. She was very concerned as the Canal and River Trust are obliged to give notice if they intend to sell off any of their historic assets and this had not been done. She contacted CNS and a letter of complaint was submitted objecting to the sale. A CNS member who is also involved with the Inland Waterways Association discovered that the IWA was also unaware of the proposed sale and they also took the matter up with the C & RT. As a result of the involvement of the IWA, the sale was postponed.

The Canal and River Trust are no doubt planning to sell the cottage to generate funding when money is short, but it would surely generate long term income if refurbished as a holiday let.

We don't know what will happen next but if you want to size up the property just in case the sale goes ahead – go to https://www.pugh-auctions.com/property/25657



What's going on at Salterhebble?



In the last Newsletter we had a look at Network Rail's plans to disrupt the Navigation; this time there is another major construction project to consider. Calderdale Council have already spent a great deal of time and money improving the A629 road between Halifax and Salterhebble and now they have moved onto the Salterhebble junction itself. Up to now it has often been quicker to travel from Elland to Salterhebble by canal than by road but the new plan promises to deal with this bottleneck.

A new link road is being built from the Elland By-Pass to Stainland Road and this includes a new bridge over the canal a few hundred metres below Salterhebble Bottom Lock. Work is well underway and the towpath has been diverted around the works and now links the canal side towpath to Stainland Road. Towpath walkers then have to walk along Stainland Road to rejoin the towpath just above the bottom lock.

The canal itself will remain open whilst works are in progress but there may have to be a few short closures when the bridge is put into place. So far the work has concentrated on piling works next to the Elland Bypass and works on the new roundabout on the Stainland Road side of the canal.



Stop Press - Last minute Newsflash……



The 2022 sailing season is underway!

After several days of ideal sunny warm days, the first outing of the year was approaching and things did not look good. The weather forecast was awful, the temperature just above freezing with rain and sleet as an added bonus. We asked the hirers if they still wanted to go ahead. Yes, they had seen the forecast but could not change the date and they were keen to go. Then the volunteer skipper tested positive for Covid. CNS was forced to find another skipper at short notice but despite all this Savile sailed from Battyeford on schedule.

And here she is arriving in Brighouse on a very cold and damp 30th March 2022. It had not been quite as wet as anticipated on the two and a half hour cruise but the passengers lost no time in heading for somewhere a little warmer for lunch.

There are already several more bookings for Savile this year and with warmer weather on the way, they should be great days out.

If you have not booked your outing yet, talk to Avril!
See the next page in this Newsletter.



CNS New Year Resolution Service – The results

In the last Newsletter we recommended two New Year's Resolutions for all CNS members. All you had to do was renew your membership and book a boat trip.

Congratulations are in order as almost everyone has renewed their membership!

The second resolution was to take a boat trip in 2022. There has been a great response to this resolution as well but if you have not yet planned your day out on Savile, now is your chance to make amends…..

If you are not familiar with Savile and her facilities, why not come along to one of the Brighouse boat trip Saturdays in April and have a look. She will be running half hour trips setting out from behind Sainsburys. For full details, see Page 4.

To make arrangements to take a trip on 'Savile'
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**



Spot the Navigation or Canal

Last time we featured the Manchester Ship Canal at Ellesmere Port on an unusually busy day. Traffic on the canal is a shadow of its former self especially on the upper section above Runcorn and only a few ships each month navigate the canal to Manchester. Even the Mersey Ferries excursions will turn short this year as lack of dredging at Manchester has made their berth unusable.

Another challenge, but this one is a little further away.



Can you name this inland waterway?

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

That's all folks; the next edition should be out in the summer.