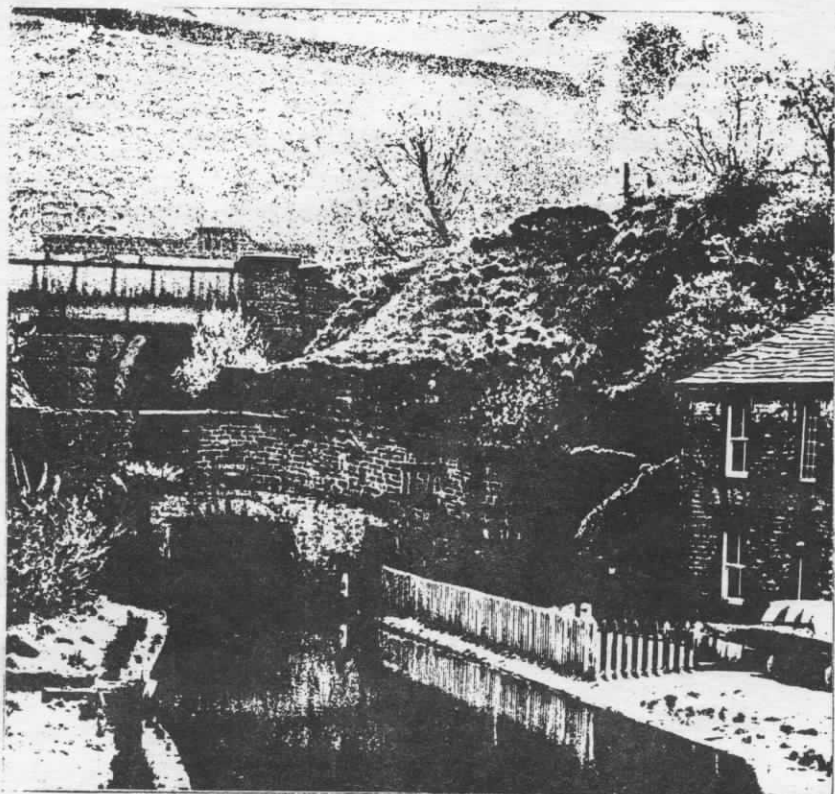


pennine link

The Journal of the
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

STANDEGE TUNNEL, Marsden



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October 1975

Dear Fellow Members,

I am afraid that this, our seventh edition of 'Penine Link' once again contains matter prepared mainly by the Committee members - where are all the letters we have been expecting? John Maynard received a number of replies regarding fishing and these have been condensed together for this edition. Personally, however, I have only received two letters since our last edition and copy for this journal is becoming more difficult to obtain every time. Can I therefore once again appeal to all members for snippets or screeds - lets make Penine Link not just the journal of the Huddersfield Canal Society, but the roaring voice of its members.

ED

Congratulations

Mark Blackstone for winning the IWA trophy for the longest unpowered voyage to the York Festival and for the first voyage of the whole length of our canal for 25 years.

Mark started from Dale Street carpark in Manchester on Saturday 2nd August and commenced his voyage up the Huddersfield Narrow on Tuesday the 5th. I managed to meet him at the end of Standedge Tunnel in Marsden on Saturday 9th, and did a little to help him down to Slaithwaite.

By Monday he had reached Aspley Marina where he was interviewed by Yorkshire Television.

From now on his journey should have been plain sailing, the waterway being navigable all the way to York, but BWB had presumably seen the TV interview 'Ah, they said' someone enjoying themselves on our waterway, we must put a stop to this ! So he was informed that they would not allow him on the commercial Aire & Calder. In fact the first lock gate was slammed in his face when he tried. He eventually managed it being taken in tow as a tender to a helpful power boat. BWB's argument was that it would be dangerous for a rubber dinghy; but what could be safer than an inflatable dinghy, which are used as life-boats !

But all's well that ends well, so again our congratulations to Mark the only member to have navigated the Huddersfield Narrow since the Society was formed, lets hope he will not be the last.

J K Maynard

Rallies

York - 22nd/25th August, 1975

'What do you think of the Water Festival ?'

'Very nice, all these pretty boats, they've come from all over'.

'Did you have a good look round the site ?'

'Site - what site ?'

This, unfortunately was heard only too often at York, despite promises last year, in the wake of Nottingham, that the 1975 Rally would have a much better site, we were disappointed.

The boats were split into two sections, one on each side of the town, and the Rally site was not visible from any of the road bridges. The signpost for pedestrians, and street publicity was also lacking. The weather was good, but while tourists packed the centre of York, relatively few people got to the Rally site. Also, due to inadequate manning of the gates, not all those that did come to the site actually paid to get in.

This last point however, should not reflect upon the organisers. It simply demonstrates the current level of apathy among IWA members. I'm sure that most of the boaters could have taken an hour off from their gin-swilling, or whatever, to help. Instead, they gave the impression that 90% of them didn't give a damn about the success of the Rally, nor the prosperity of the IWA.

These grouses aside, the rally wasn't too bad, some interest was shown, some money raised, but it could have been a lot better. Thanks anyway to those who turned up to help - and to those who didn't - there will be plenty of chances next year. In the words of next year's Rally organisers -

'Follow us to Peterborough - and let's hope it's worthwhile'.

and the next rally right in here please

Nuneaton - 13th/14th September

The less said the better really. Very friendly, well organised, well attended by boats, but VERY cold.

The weather kept a lot of people away, except the odd brass monkey looking for a welder, and the weekend was generally quiet. However, our campaign has been spread a little further, and a little more money raised, and every little helps.

Chris Griffiths

Situation Vacant

The Society urgently requires a Sales Officer to look after all aspects of our saleable material - this is a most important source of revenue as with increasing costs and static subscription levels, we need to rely more and more on sales at rallies, etc., to enable us to further our campaign.

If you feel you are the man or woman for this job, apply post-haste (or earlier) to - Chris Griffiths, 4 Fairfield Court, Stafford.

'Stanedge' or 'Standedge'

Clive Parker of Harrogate would like to know 'where the incorrect spelling 'Stanedge' for 'Standedge Tunnel' comes from, and why some people still insist on using it.

According to Clive, the majority of canal textbooks spell it 'Standedge' as do British Railways Eastern Region, when referring to the neighbouring railway tunnels.

Answers by the hundred please !

Please note that Bob Dewey's telephone number is High Flatts 596 (not 562 - printers error).

Medlock & Tame Valley Committee

The general synopsis of comments regarding the points raised in Penine Link No.6 are as follows :-

1. Increase in water flow should not seriously affect weed growth and reduction in weed in some stretches of the canal would be advantageous.
2. Fish always tend to swim against the current and although the thought of a canal empty of fish but Aspley Basin and Dukinfield Junction having more fish than water is amusing, it is technically incorrect.
3. pH changes are due largely to air-pollution control in the region.
4. Particular suspension is not considered detrimental.

The general concensus of opinion is that further dereliction of the canal can only be detrimental to the cause of the angling fraternity - their aims therefore are in essence, very similar to ours - preservation and improvement of the waterway to the benefit of all parties.

Feasibility Study

Have you obtained your copy ? - if not - send 50p + 12p postage immediately to Chris Griffiths.

1. From 'Waterways News', August

..... being a pusher-tug able also to work in reverse, the engineering staff had concluded that 'Freight Pioneer' was going one way when in fact she was proceeding in the opposite direction and had not reached the damaged gate at the time of its collapse.

Who says BWB don't know which way they're going ?

2. It was very kind of the editors of the IWA magazines 'Bulletin' (that treasuretrove of useful information and up-to-the-minute news), and 'Navigation'/West Midlands Region magazine, to review our feasibility study. It would have been even better if they had said where you can get a copy.

Dates for your Diary

Friday, 10th October, 1975

At 8 p.m. in the 'Highland Laddie', Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tony Lewery, artist and author, will talk about 'Narrow Boat Painting'.

He will describe his theories on the origins of the boat painter's art, and explain the differences in their styles and techniques. His talk will be illustrated by slides, and by actual examples of painted ware.

Please make an effort to come - it will be worthwhile.

25th/26th October, 1975

Peak Forest Canal Society International Working Party visit to the Forth & Clyde Canal. For details contact Tim Noakes, Wilmslow 24567 or Pete Stockdale 061-4852247.

Friday - 21st November, 1975

Wharf Inn - Huddersfield (opp. Aspley Marina).

Slide Lecture on 'Colne Valley Floor' by Dave Ellis of The Colne Valley Society.

Friday - 19th December, 1975

HCS meeting in Ashton. Details in next 'Penine Link' sometime in November and December.

PFCS Working Party visits to the Southern Stratford Canal, details from Tim Noakes or Pete Stockdale, as above.

Copy for 'Penine Link No.8' by 10th November, please.

Do you know of any Society wanting a speaker - if so please contact editor - we have people ready to give talks with slides to further the cause.

we need ^{more} members....

Make an effort to enrol a new member – the more support we have, the easier our task becomes.

Membership...	Junior	50p
	Full	£1.00
	Family	£1.50
	Corporate	£5.00 (minimum)
	Associate	£2.00 (Voluntary Societies)

To: THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, 3 PUMP ROW, HIGH FLATTS, HUDDERSFIELD.

I/We wish to join the Huddersfield Canal Society

Full name(s)
(Block Capitals please)

Address
.....
..... Postal Code

Telephone number

Occupation

Amount enclosed: Cheque/Money Order/Postal Order