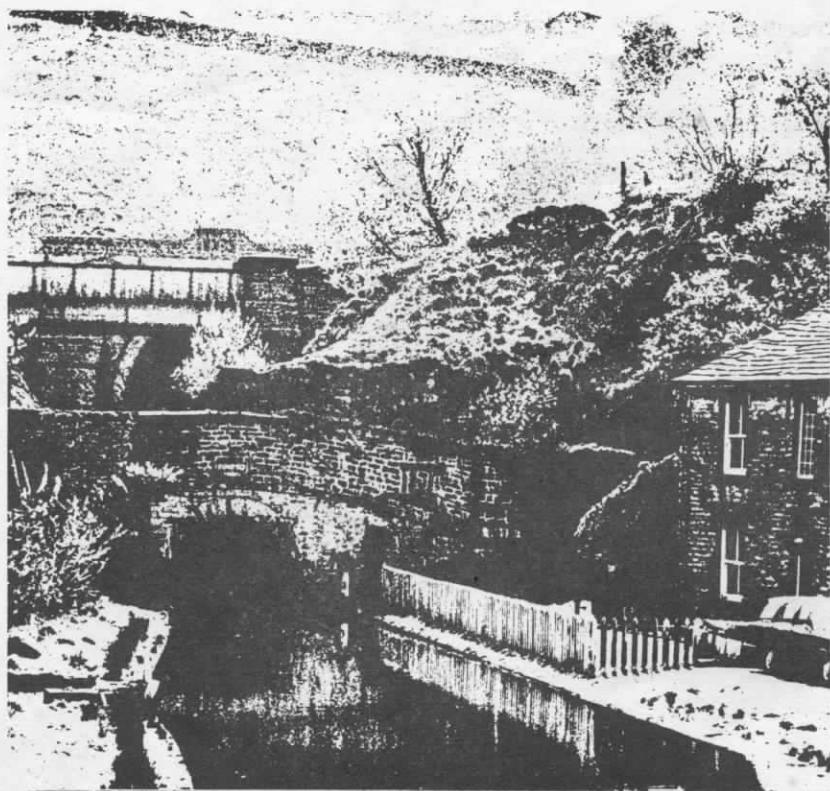


12

# pennine link

The Journal of the  
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

STANDEGE TUNNEL, Marsden



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Number 12

September 1976

Editor ..... .. Chris Griffiths

Printing & Distribution .. .. Derek Walker

T?4mping 1sqm .. .. would you take the blame?

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BEWARE OF THE DIGGLES

There now follows an editorial apology.....

...well, not much of an apology really. You may notice that this issue is of reduced size and most of the news come from other parts of the country. Sorry, but NOBODY SENT ME ANY COPY. I did have a couple of letters - one of these expressed surprise that there wasn't a report on the Standedge Tunnel walk. Why? because nobody sent me one.

This set me wondering. Do you really want a magazine? We could save a lot of money by not publishing one. Then I thought again; when Bates applied for planning permission, only a handful of members wrote to Kirklees to object.

Perhaps the members aren't worried about the canal anymore.

ARE YOU?? If you are, TELL US! But don't just tell us, tell your MP, your councillor, your friends - enroll them as members.

Despite the lack of interest of most of the membership, the committee has been very active recently. We have co-opted Peter Freeman as reported in the last issue, we now have Stuart Wilson on the committee dealing with sales/exhibitions. We have social meetings arranged for January, February and March (not that we expect anyone to attend) and a Christmas Social is being arranged. There has been progress on our next report - our proposals for rebuilding the canal in Stalybridge. A campaign rally is being organised for next year.

Please let us have YOUR views on what we ought to be doing. Are you happy with the way the society is being run? Let us know - PLEASE.

PRESS DATE FOR PENNINE LINK 13 - OCTOBER 15th.

\_\_\_\_\_ 0000 \_\_\_\_\_ 0000 \_\_\_\_\_

### Chairman's Message

Following the 'Bates' decision, I wrote to my local councillor with a list of questions; a a resume of those, and the answers received follows.

"How many objections were received?"

'17 letters from individuals, 18 letters from interested bodies together with two petitions containing 99 signatures'

"Did all members of the committee get a copy of them all?"

'Copies of all objections received up to that time accompanied a report on the application circulated with the agenda for the committee meeting to every committee member. Copies of objections received after the report was circulated, but prior to the committee meeting were placed before members who attended the meeting prior to its commencement.

"Does this decision mean that the Council has revised its previous resolution to protect the line of the canal?"

Resolution 175 of the council's Development Services Committee as confirmed at the meeting of the Council on 6th November 1975 stated, "That subject to any future applications for development being considered on its merits, a policy be adopted by this authority that no further developments be permitted along the length of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal from Wakefield Road, Aspley to the Standedge Tunnel, Marsden that would encroach upon the waterway or its towpath thereby prejudicing the development of its recreational and amenity potential or its ultimate return to navigation."

Any future applications received that would encroach on the waterway or its towpath will be considered on its merits because the policy already stated regard must be given for industrial development as was the case in this instance. Bearing in mind the Council resolution, I do not consider that there has been any revision of the resolution in this case.

"Do they realise that this is a National Waterway and not a local problem?"

The regional and national significance of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal was referred to in numerous letters of objection to the application. The significance of the objection was illustrated by the use of a display board showing the canal in its regional and national context.

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"Stuff in your Link" - no its not meant to be rude. The fact is you'll find IWA Christmas Card leaflets with your magazine (sic) and maybe some raffle tickets. The former are straightforward. The latter are to give us some ready cash. We get half the profit from the tickets we sell - but we don't have to pay. Can't be bad. Please try and sell your allocation. Money etc. to Bob Dewey.

SCOUSER'S COLUMN

(To be read in an appropriate accent with pauses for a rendition of 'Leaving of Liverpool')

Bob Keaveney, who was pur first publicity officer has risen to the dizzy heights of IWA Merseyside working party organiser since leaving us. He asks us to pass on the news that his working party is undergoing great expansion, and is about to embark on a regular programme of 'away' digs. These are:

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| October 10     | - Buxworth Basin (Sunday only) |
| October 23/24  | - Southern Stratford Canal     |
| November 27/28 | - Ironbridge Gorge Museum      |
| January 15/16  | - )                            |
| February 19/20 | -- ) to be arranged            |
| March 19/20    | - )                            |

In addition, single days may be arranged at Buxworth, Ellesmere Port, or elsewhere according to demand.

Any of the society's members would be welcome on these working parties, even if they don't live in Merseyside. An added attraction on the first date will be the recording of a thirty minute programme for Radio City - the Liverpool independent radio station.

Further details can be obtained from Bob at:  
7, Victoria Terrace, Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool.  
'Phone 051-733-2183 (evenings) or 051-236-9231 (day)

PS You don't have to support Everton or the other lot.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

David Hutchings\*\*\*David Hutchings\*\*\*David Hutchings

Oldham Community Centre - Wednesday 27th October  
7.45pm - admission by ticket only (donation 25p)

THE RESTORATION OF THE UPPER AVON NAVIGATION

Illustrated talk by David Hutchings MBE  
(Project Manager of the largest waterway  
restoration scheme yet undertaken)

Tickets available from Peter Freeman  
address inside front cover. Or on the door  
if still available. Limited accomodation.

Joint meeting of Huddersfield Canal Society -  
Rochdale Canal Society  
Peak Forest Canal Society

David Hutchings\*\*\*David Hutchings\*\*\*David Hutchings

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Does anyone know where MR & MRS FOXWELL (formerly  
of Marple) now live. Their Pennine Link has been  
returned by the Post Office.

This applies to everyone: we can't mind read (yet)  
so send your changes of address to Valerie or  
Derek. No address - No Pennine Link.

....NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....

....Whilst Kirklees are granting planning permission for building over their canal, we hear that Wychavon District Council have given consent for a new stretch of canal in Droitwich. The permission has been given to the Droitwich Canals Trust for a new route through the centre of the town.

The deviation is required because the Council filled in the old route to build a new road. It appears that this is the first permission to be granted for the construction of a new waterway for many years!! How long before Kirklees are forced to follow suit??.....

....Latest rumour to affect the Narrow Canal concerns the Reservoir Safety Act. An estimate of the additional overflow capacity required (by law) indicates that a massive new overflow channel would need to be built. This would cross the canal at the Marsden end of the tunnel (obliterating it?). BWB have indicated that the houses there are to be demolished. It is believed planning permission is required....

....David Hutchings presently seems to be running a campaign to keep the history of the Upper Avon restoration accurate. He was upset by an article in 'Waterways World' which had suggested that a firm of Engineers in Stratford had carried out much of the steelwork for the project.

As every student of recent waterway history should know, this work was in fact done by one crane driver, one welder, David Hutchings himself and small gangs of Borstal boys and prisoners. He says that '... waterways history is constantly being rewritten, usually by those who played no part in the making of it...'. This is becoming true only too often....



....The plans for a rally at Aspley next year, mentioned in the last issue are going ahead. Ideas and volunteers are still required.....

....We have written to the Huddersfield Polytechnic a number of times regarding their length of canal and the warehouse. We have had no answer at all - not even an acknowledgement. Does anyone have any contacts?....

....More about the Droitwich Canal....Although being in the happy position of owning all the route of their canal (including the river diversion) the Droitwich Canals Trust have been forced to cease work. This is due to a severe lack of funds, and has meant that the project manager has had to be laid off.

Despite this, a Job Creation scheme, employing twelve people will start shortly. The Army will also be carrying out some work on the canal....

....It is hoped that work will start shortly on the restoration of the Leek Arm of the Caldon Canal. No doubt that, when work is completed, the canal will be promptly closed for the construction of a new road/ a safety training exercise/ some other good reason which will not set a precedent for further stoppages.....

....The Grand Union Canal has suffered a serious leak at Bradwell just north of Knowle. It will not be reopened until December - whether it rains or not....

....The Wolverhampton Level of the BCN has been closed due to the unsafe condition of a road bridge. The alternative route, via the Wyrley and the Walsall is especially recommended for craft with wheels....

....The 'Elizabeth' a steam mill engine from Slaithwaite which some members visited on our working party has now been preserved and is being taken to Wortley near Sheffield ....



The Diggles - A socio-economic analysis of the only indigenous species existing in an on-going cavern inhabitation situation.

by: Prof. I.M.A.Burke OBE PhD FITPW and  
bar - Saddleworth University, Faculty  
of Philosophy and Clog Dancing.

Many years ago, the Diggles, a shy homely race, were driven from Scandinavia by the marauding Wegis (sic, I think, Ed). Eventually they came to settle in the natural caverns under Brun Clough and Pule Moss. This place, on the edge of the bleak Standedge Moor, became known as Diggle.

For generations the Diggles kept themselves to themselves living off the mushrooms which they grew in their caves. In 1841, the Huddersfield Canal Tunnel under Standedge was completed. The Diggles welcomed this - the canal passed through their caves, enabling them to trade with Lancashire and Yorkshire. Soon narrow boats were plying regularly to Huddersfield and Manchester carrying mushrooms.

Unfortunately, there were some accidents. In 1869, Archimedes Diggle, whilst collecting mushrooms, dislodged a boulder and sank a boat belonging to the Railway Company. The following year a gunpowder boat exploded in the tunnel 100 yards from the Marsden end. It is not generally known that Napoleon Diggle was seen shortly before the explosion about to light his pipe.

For a time the Diggles manufactured Standedge Rock for the tourist trade, but nowadays they keep to themselves and are rarely seen. However, if you are leaving the Diggle Hotel or the Hanging Gate just after closing time, you may be lucky enough to spot a Diggle scampering towards the tunnel.

..... and now - the real 'Diggle Story'

At the IWA Peterborough rally, a number of people were to be seen wearing Droitwich Canals Trust tee-shirts displaying a smiling dragon and the slogan "I Dig Diogenes". It was thought about time that we got our own mascot.

Back in the New Inn, Stalybridge, the HCS Think Tank swung into action. "Diggles!" was the cry ("And you mate" was the answer.) - and that's how they were born. Particular credit must go to Diana Cooper of Oldham.

Diggles are little white hairy creatures who, as you should now know are supposed to live in the caverns near Standedge Tunnel. They have pink ears and hands and normally wear a red waistcoat.

Initially, we will be selling Diggles from our publicity stand. If they catch on, there is the possibility of Diggle Tee -shirts, a Diggle cartoon etc. (Anybody got any more ideas). The first ten sold very quickly at Diggle Fete. We could have sold many more. With each Diggle we give a membership form and a history similar to that given earlier in this issue.

Peter Freeman.

### More about Publicity

Our new stand is made of push-together bits - and appears to disassemble into a thousand pieces. It has been well used, making visits to Peterborough Oldham, Mossley and Diggle.

Peterborough was notable for good sales of Standedge rock and the CAMRA guide to waterways pubs. (I thought it was more noticeable for the lack of boats, the shortage of money being spent by the public, and the fact that the bar ran out of beer on the Saturday night - ED- Who is Ed - Bob)

At Oldham's carnival we were next to the beer tent (at 30p per pint I didn't bother). As neighbours we had the Rochdale Canal Society and the Transport Appreciation Society. The site was poor for all three societies; we had to pay for the privilege too. Many thanks to Dave Ritchie for lending the tent.

Mossley Gala on August 28th was a disaster for us! A blustery wind prevented us from assembling the stand in our allocated place. When weighted down, panels blew out and a piece of the framework snapped. We were then offered a porchway but half-way through setting up there the Rose Queen organisers arrived. There was a melee of flowers, plastic bits of stand, sea scouts, photographs, Rose Queen Attendants, canal souvenirs, ladies insisting, 'You can't put that there!', and Stuart Wilson and I with heads in hands. It looked like rain too.

We tired again, but without success and eventually went home.

Diggle Fete, however, was wonderful. The sun shone, sales were good, and there was much interest shown by visitors to the stand including Oldham's deputy mayor and his wife.

We now need to take the stand to as many events along the canal as possible. If you know of anywhere we could go (?!) please ring Stuart Wilson - 061-969-3888 or anyone on the committee.  
Peter Freeman.

PS: Marsden Festival was a success despite rain. We've sold right out of Standedge Rock.

DIARY

- October 2/3 Peak Forest Working Party  
Cromford Canal. Contact Pete  
Stockdale, 061-485-2247
- October 15th PRESS DATE FOR PENNINE LINK 13.
- October 23/24 PFCS Working Party - Thames &  
Severn Canal. Contact Pete Stockdale
- October 27 Joint meeting with PFCS & Rochdale CS  
at Oldham Community Centre. David  
Hutchings talk on Upper Avon.  
\*\*please notecorrected date\*\*
- November 20/21 McPFCS woking party - Falkirk on  
Forth & Clyde Canal. Contact  
Jimmy Mc Stockdale.
- November 21 HCS treasure hunt in Slaithwaite area.  
starts 10am. or meet for drink at  
Tollemache Arms on A635, Mossley
- December 10th Christmas social 'do'. Ashton/Staly-  
bridge area. Contact Pete Freeman.

The opinions expressed in Pennine Link are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Society.

# we need <sup>more</sup> members....

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

|               |           |        |                              |
|---------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------|
| Membership... | Junior    | ... .. | 50p                          |
|               | Full      | ... .. | £1.50                        |
|               | Family    | ... .. | £ 2.50                       |
|               | Corporate | ... .. | £ 7.50 (minimum)             |
|               | Associate | ... .. | £ 5.00 (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