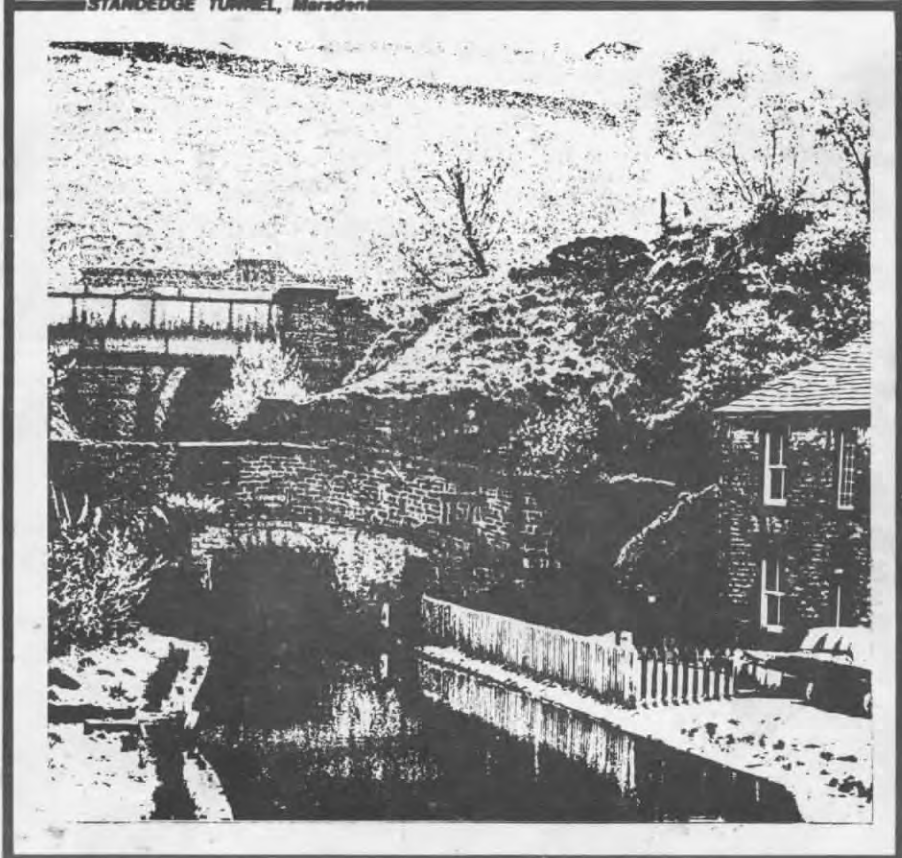


# pennine link

The Journal of the  
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

STANDEGE TUNNEL, Marsden



Officers and Committee

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P E N N I N E   L I N K

THE JOURNAL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

Number 15

March 1977

Editor .....David Bullock  
Typist.....Helen Bullock  
Printing/Distribution.Derek Walker

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BY WAY OF EDITORIAL

A collection of Pennine Link editions going back to the first in June 1974 was at first almost the only material inherited by the new Editor. Reading then suggested that a few notes on the history of the HCS as revealed in these journals might interest readers.

Number 1 - June 1974

Society formed on 19 April 1974. Eleven committee members elected, only two remain (Messrs Maynard and Dewey). Priestley in 1831 on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal was reproduced. He said the boats were hauled manually through Standedge Tunnel in 1hour 20 minutes. 2.33 miles per hour. Some going!

NUMBER 2 - August 1974

100 members, including one from Canada. Four reasons put forward for restoration (a) to accommodate pleasure boats crowding other waterways (b) because of the fame of the canal, highest level, longest tunnel (c) to provide short-cut from Yorkshire to Midland canals (d) being narrow uses less water than other trans-pennine canals. A working party on the Broad Canal was to be organised. A badge was available ("please add 3½p for postage" - that takes us back in history!)

NUMBER 3 - November 1974

Kirkless Council joined as Corporate members. Unique aqueduct at Stalybridge noted. A poem

printed from a Mr. Wain of Leicester. Working party on the Broad Canal still awaited. (a BWB "about-turn" blamed). BWB Castleford controlled the Broad, BWB Wigan the Narrow. Castleford meets Wigan at Huddersfield Polytechnic (commentator Eddie Waring).

NUMBER 4 - March 1975

"Things have been very quiet recently". - the groundwork was in progress. Brian Beagley (our Vice-Chairman) described a journey by boat in 1960 through Standedge Tunnel when steam trains were using the adjacent tunnel, a fascinating article well worth reprinting sometime. The Turnbridge had disappeared, fortunately only for repairs.

NUMBER 5 - June 1975

Membership 160. Queries raised - should PTCS and HCS merge? - should HCS acquire a boat? Kirklees gave the impression they wanted the canal improved but were short of money. The Turnbridge had returned, BWB were congratulated on their restoration work. Feasibility study being printed.

NUMBER 6 - August 1975

Familiar Pennine Link format emerged complete with the rather muddy picture of Marsden tunnel end. Feasibility study now on sale. Splendid story of our worthy chairman standing in the Peak Forest Canal removing a pair of trousers from a boat propeller shaft. Standedge Rock (edible) to be sold at York National Rally. A completely blank page headed "Notes" was included (a do-it-yourself journal?).

NUMBER 7 - October 1975

A young man called Mark had navigated the Narrow Canal on the way to the York Rally in an unpowered inflatable boat, helped by some HCS members (round or through Standedge Tunnel was unclear). A slide lecture on the "Colne Valley Floor" (!) was promised.

NUMBER 8 - December 1975

A surveying party from HCS saw an otter in the canal in the heart of industrial Huddersfield. 200 members now. Greater Manchester Council

adopted a policy of non-encroachment. IWMC visited canal to report and complimented HCS on feasibility study - "a professional document". BWB seemed firmly against navigation of Stand-edge Tunnel. One correspondent mentioned walking through the disused railway tunnels.

NUMBER 9 - March 1976

Walking the disused railway tunnels was firmly outlawed. Projects suggested (a) to ensure repair of listed warehouse at Aspley. (b) to survey Stalybridge (c) working parties (d) provide a slipway for trail boats. IWMC had reported three conclusions (a) stop anything contrary to restoration (b) any repairs done should aid restoration (c) long term plans should be made for a regional park and local recreation.

NUMBER 10 - May 1976

Reprint of Feasibility study due. Greater Manchester, Tameside, Oldham and Kirklees had adopted non-encroachment policies - not all watertight. West Yorkshire working on it. Report on first Narrow Canal working party - a "gardening" effort above Slaithwaite - between 30 and 50 people. First mention of the Bates planning application.

NUMBER 11 - July 1976

Bates application approved for four storey building on canal. A joint working party of BWB and local authorities formed to consider future amenity and recreational development of the canal (HCS not invited). Repair work promised on the tunnel.

NUMBER 12 - September 1976

Chairman gave details of his correspondence with councillors regarding Bates application - excuse was an over-riding regard for industrial development - fully aware of canal's potential. Danger to cottages and tunnel end at Marsden noted. Standedge Rock was sold out.

NUMBER 13 - November 1976

Conservation area suggestion for tunnel end at

Marsden under consideration. The idea of a navigable culvert under Bates first put forward. A letter from Sir Frank Price printed with a lovely misprint "voluntary help". A meeting with BVB officers promised.

A rather longer editorial than I had anticipated but hopefully it offers perspective on the current position and history of the Society.

I would like to end with a personal comment directed to those members whose subscription renewals are awaited (see Valerie Dewey's comment on page 13). In November 1976, as a newish member I wrote to Pennine Link expressing my unhappiness about HCS affairs. I was one member who could easily have dropped out. However I did not. Having volunteered as editor I have met committee members and I have seen their efforts to revitalise the Society. Enthusiastic new committee members have been recruited. Pennine Link is, I hope, more informative. Every opportunity to put the Society's case is energetically pursued. The enthusiasm and optimism is impressive. So, please, do not feel you are leaving a sinking ship. You are leaving a vessel rapidly gathering steam to depart.

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#### H.C.S. PUBLICATIONS

The Huddersfield Warrow Canal - a unique waterway. - survey of feasibility and desirability of restoration - published April 1975. price 62 pence (including postage) from Stewart Wilson.

A New Canal for Huddersfield.

alternative for restoration in Huddersfield - published December 1976 - price 25p (or by post five 6½p stamps) from Bob Dewey.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the third annual general meeting of the Huddersfield Canal Society will take place on April 5th 1977 at 8.0p.m. at the Albert Hotel, 38, Victoria Lane, Huddersfield. Victoria Lane runs alongside the Library.

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting.
3. Report of the Chairman.
4. Report of the Treasurer.
5. Election of Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
8 members of the committee
6. To consider an amendment to the rules whereby the number of absences from meetings of the committee by members shall be limited.
7. To consider a report on the desirability of the Society engaging the services of Wells Finance Co for the purposes of organising fund raising for the restoration of the canal.
8. Any other business.

Signed

Robert A. Dewey  
(Hon. Sec)

N.B. Nominations for officers and members of the committee should be made to me in writing at any time prior to the election. Any member wishing to be considered for nomination should approach an existing member of the Society.

For guidance the members of the present committee are shown overleaf together with their attendance of the total possible meetings. As indicated, certain committee members have

been co-opted on to the committee since the last A.S.M.

Chairman:	John Maynard	7/9
Vice Chairman:	Brian Beagley	2/9
Secretary:	Robert Dewey	9/9
	Valerie Dewey	8/9
	David Finnis	6/9
	Derck Walker	3/9
Ø	David Bullock	1/1
Ø	Peter Freeman	8/9
Ø	Stewart Wilson	6/7
Ø	Leslie Winnard	1/1

Ø co-opted member.

All are willing to stand for re-election.

### MONTHLY REPORTS

Committee - 19 January - Marsden.

7 members present - 1 apology.

Letter received from Calder Navigation Society asking for HCS plans for Broad Canal. Reply that work is still intended and our interest remains.

Wells Fund Raising Company Ltd. had offered professional fund raising services. It was agreed to proceed to a discussion with their managing director.

Success of display on piazza at Huddersfield led to agreement to acquire a caravan for display purpose.

Plans and objects of working parties discussed particularly as to merits of either major efforts (including use of plant) or "gardening" type work.

West side members - 7 February - Mossley

Discussion of working party proposed for 22nd May to tie in with ITV "Reports Action" programme on the previous Sunday. A large attendance in prospect.



Extremely helpful discussion with 3 delegates from Oldham and District Anglers Association. We have a lot in common in wanting to clear rubbish and weeds.

Proposed working party will be between Royal George and Scout Tunnel with joint supervision by HCS and anglers. B/B permission awaited.

~~14 members present.~~ East side members - 8 February - Slaithwaite Rota of members arranged to man stand at West Yorkshire Transport Circle exhibition at Huddersfield 12-13 February.

Publicity on Slaithwaite Anglers' letter seen as unfortunate but noted that work complained of was done back in April 1976 and that Huddersfield Examiner had carried a letter in support of HCS from certain anglers.

Report given of a useful and friendly meeting with a Director of Harold H. Haigh & Son Ltd of Longroyd Bridge.

Reported that Phase I of the new Bates building is to start in 8 or 12 weeks and finish by January 1978 and Phase II is not yet scheduled. Discussions with the firm had proved fruitless.

Committee - 15 February - Diggle

3 members present.

It was noted that B/B had stated they were to repair Marsden tunnel and cottages but not to habitable standard.

Oxfam in Huddersfield had objected to Eldon application and had indicated they would wish to use canal commercially from their canal-side waste depot.

Further correspondence with Slaithwaite Anglers and further press publicity - differences not resolved - our offer to discuss remains.

Meeting with Wells Fund Raising Company arranged for 3 March.

Noted that HCS members had discussed canal on radio. Radio Leeds (Bob Dewey, John Maynard)

and Radio Manchester (Bob Dewey, Peter Freeman).

Many suggestions by Sales Officer discussed. Further discussions on working parties - agreed that major efforts (with plant) are not yet feasible - might soon be.

#### SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL

According to the Guardian on 5 February 1977, the Prince of Wales commented on the Queen's Silver Jubilee appeal. This will be a fund "for young people" and he is hoping for between £5 and £10 millions. "Young people would be encouraged to put forward constructive projects on which money could be spent". He would be "very keen on ideas which might better the environment" but adding rather lamely (according to the report) "alternatively money could be available to buy rescue equipment for beaches". One wonders whether the rescue of heronlet canals would be seen by the appeal organisers as bettering the environment. Is a boatless canal seen as environmentally better than a navigable one with all those noisy "diesel-fume" boats? A more pertinent question is at what age does one cease to be a "young person"? Perhaps we should ask all those of our members under 25 years of age to identify themselves, and encourage them as a formal group to put in an application to improve the Huddersfield Canal in some way. Or is the Waterways Recovery Group an under 25 gathering? Just think what they could do with, say £25,000 of materials for use on the canal. It is all a bit depressing, though, for those of us not only over 25 but over 40, and equally enthusiastic.

D.F.B.

## BWB AND HORSES AND TOWPATHS

A note in the New Statesman, of all places, indicates that BWB will in future "refuse to licence boats towed by horses". Such boats (or, rather horses) apparently damage the towpath and disturb walkers and anglers. How many members of the HCS have actually seen a horse-drawn boat in action, let alone been inconvenienced by one? To prevent what few there are seems a bureaucratic over-reaction to what is at worst the tiniest of inconveniences. Perhaps BWB is anticipating that increasing oil prices will drive all boaters to horse power with a resultant almighty tangle of towropes. Of course, the Board might seek to be excused the proper maintenance of towpaths if there was not a single horse on them. To my mind the tow path is an asset at least as important, if not more important, than the actual canal. It gives pleasure more regularly to more people than the water itself. We should be campaigning as much on behalf of walkers as boaters.

D.T.B.

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## NEW DISPLAY VAN

The success of our exhibition and canvass of the public in the central piazza at Huddersfield in December 1976 led to the committee resolving to acquire a caravan to act as a mobile exhibition. Various caravan distributors were approached regarding a suitable vehicle. We are pleased to report that Messrs Goodalls Caravans of Crosland Hill have offered a 16 foot caravan on permanent loan to the HCS together with storage facilities if required. The Society would like to express its grateful thanks for this generous offer.

The caravan is now being renovated and fitted

out to provide an attractive display both inside and out. Any members able to assist should contact Derek Walker.

Once fitted out, the caravan can be towed to any site or event in the area of the canal and, indeed, further afield. The existing portable stands are also now released for use elsewhere - we can cover two events on one day. Members' suggestions (to Derek Walker) for possible venues for both caravan and stand would be welcome and also offers to man any exhibition site.

D.A.W.

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#### STALYBRIDGE REPORT - PROGRESS

After many previous promises, the HCS report on its proposals for the eliminated Stalybridge section is now being prepared. Following our initial survey some time ago (to include in the original Feasibility Study), we have received a request from Tameside Planning Department for up-to-date and more complete proposals. The first new survey took place on 22 January 1977 and it is hoped to have a report available in March. This will be given appropriate publicity in the area, perhaps with an exhibition.

The report will have a similar format to the recent Huddersfield report and will cost 25 pence if purchased directly. Orders can be accepted by post - please send five 6½ pence stamps and then we can use them to send out Pennine Link. The Huddersfield report can also be purchased for five 6½ pence stamps (orders to Bob Dewey or Derek Walker)

Every member should have both reports (and a Feasibility Study).

D.A.W.

## HUDDERSFIELD CANAL FESTIVAL 77

To remind you - the dates - 24th & 25th September 1977. Latest news is that the Polytechnic have given agreement in principle to the use of their site. There will be further discussions to sort out details.

It is believed that Waterways Recovery Group (NW) have accepted the challenge to restore Lock 1E to working condition over the period of the Festival. To mark the occasion I have suggested to HCS that in future this lock should be known as "Jubilee Lock". I, and I am sure many others, look forward to being able once again to pass a boat through a working lock on the Narrow Canal. Further details of this important event will be given in further editions of Pennine Link.

D.M. Walker  
Chairman, Canal Festival.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the last Pennine Link.

267 Martin Curren, [REDACTED]

268 J.A. Lockwood, [REDACTED]

269 Jeffery Winnard, [REDACTED]

270 Richard Pearson, [REDACTED]

271 Cherry McVeery, [REDACTED]

272 Patricia Turner, [REDACTED]

273 Mr & Mrs M. Lodge, [REDACTED]

274 Rodney Manfield, [REDACTED]

~~STANDER TUNNEL~~

REUBEN DIXLES  
FAIRY GROTTO  
TRIPS 50P



275 Julian Hunt, [REDACTED]

276 Joseph Voonens [REDACTED]

277 Robin Thornber, [REDACTED]

278 David Selgwick, [REDACTED]

279 Mr & Mrs Booth, Anne & Joan, [REDACTED]

280 Jennifer Carey, [REDACTED]

The committee look forward to meeting local members at the east and west open meetings. May I point out to new members that these meetings are open to everyone and are the main methods of implementing society policy. If you want to get involved in the campaign come along.

I have a disturbing piece of news to impart. Despite the impressive list of new members, total membership has not increased, as just as many people have not renewed their subscription. If you have received a renewal notice with this issue of Pennine Link and do not intend to renew - please let us know why.

Valerie Dewey.

DIGGLE COLUMN

The Editor,  
Pennine Link.

Standedge Tunnel,  
Harsden. 12.2.77.

Dear Sir,

May I say how nice it was to view your display this morning in Huddersfield.

Could you please tell me the precise length of Standedge Tunnel as I am a bit confused over your lengths displayed.

The length of the tunnel quoted on the photograph of the Eastern Portal is 5698 yards, it is shorter on the map at 5456 yards and even shorter in the feasibility study and leaflets at 5415 yards.

Thank you, Yours faithfully, Confuscious Diggle.

Not only did our latest contributor to the liveliest correspondence (the only correspondence) in Pennine Link call in at Huddersfield he (she or it) also nipped down from Standedge to Slaithwaite to post his letter. Our committee has a good measuring tape. Any volunteer Diggles to do a bit of measuring?

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Dudley Canal Talk

On March 23 at 7.45 at Oldham Community Centre Mr. V. Smallshire will be talking about Dudley Tunnel and Canal. The problems of re-opening the Dudley tunnel were probably very similar to the difficulties HCS face in achieving navigation through Standedge. It will be interesting to hear how the Dudley re-opening was achieved. (Oldham Community Centre is in the centre of Oldham on Union St. near Greaves St)

### Dudley Tunnel Trip

On Whit Sunday, May 29, in conjunction with the PFCS we are running a trip to the Dudley Tunnel and places of interest around Birmingham. The Dudley tunnel is at present the longest navigable canal tunnel (but wait till we reopen Standedge!) with caverns and canyon-like basins hewn out of the solid rock. The trip is undertaken in an unusual electrically powered boat, though you can try logging if you wish. Our coach will start from Huddersfield, travelling via Slaithwaite, Marsden, Uppermill, Mossley, Ashton and Manchester. At 3.0p.m. we will travel by boat through the tunnel, rejoining the coach at about 5.15.p.m. Pick up points may vary from along the route shown if there is sufficient demand.

Tickets £3 (£2 if 16 years or under) from Peter Freeman. Please state:- 1) where you wish to meet the coach on the route shown,



2) if you would prefer the coach to meet you elsewhere. Stamped addressed envelope please! Tickets and final details will not be sent out until May.

BWB Area Engineer's Talk

Mr. John Freeman, the Area Engineer of BWB at Wigan, has agreed to talk to a joint meeting of HCS and the PFCS at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday 27th April 1977 at the Oldham Community Centre (see above for directions).

Mr. Freeman controls the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and his talk promises to be one of the most important events in the Society's calendar.

Peter Freeman.

WORKING PARTIES

Huddersfield 23/24 April

Meet at Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield at 10.0. a.m. each day. It is hoped that this will be a tidying operation, perhaps on the nearby lock 4B and up the canal towards the Colne Aqueduct. This is a most interesting part of the canal and it is hoped many members will attend.

Provisional notice - Mossley 29 May

We have been approached by a Granada TV researcher regarding an appeal on the national "Reports Action" programme. The idea is that on Sunday an appeal will be broadcast for volunteers to clean up canals in England, Scotland and Wales on the following Sunday. People contact Granada who send out lists of working parties. We are making plans (in conjunction with the Tame Valley Warden, Anglers and the Civic Trust) to set up a large working party at Mossley on the set date. Provisionally May 29. BWB (and Union) approval awaited. Watch "Reports Action" and Pennine Link for news.

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DIARY

- 10 March East Side Members Meeting  
8.00pm. Olive Branch public house  
between Slaithwaite & Marsden on A62
- 14 March West Side Members Meeting  
8.0p.m. Tollenache Arms on Mossley/  
Greenfield Road.
- 16 March Committee Meeting
- 17 March 7.30 p.m. Railway Inn by top lock  
at Marsden
- 23 March Talk - Dudley Canal & Tunnel by Mr.  
V.Smallshire 7.45pm. Oldham  
Community Centre.
- 5 April Annual General Meeting.  
see notice on page 5.
- 11 April West Side Members Meeting  
8.0pm. Tollenache Arms on Mossley/  
Greenfield road
- 23 April) Working Party, Huddersfield.
- 24 April) see details on page 15.
- 27 April Talk - Mr. J. Freeman - Area  
Engineer BWB Wigan. 7.45pm. Oldham  
Community Centre.
- 28 April Talk - Peter White (BWB) on "There's  
more to canals than appears on the  
surface" Yorkshire Landscape  
Architects - Victoria Hotel, Leeds.
- 22 May Working Party, Mossley (provisional)
- 29 May Dudley Canal Trip.  
see details on page 14
- 15 June Talk - Frances Pratt (BWB)  
Details in next Pennine Link.
- 24/25 Huddersfield Canal Festival 77
- September

7.30  
ves.  
Huddersfield  
link  
link

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

The Editor would be pleased  
to receive letters, comments  
or news items. His address  
and telephone number are on  
the inside cover.

# 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