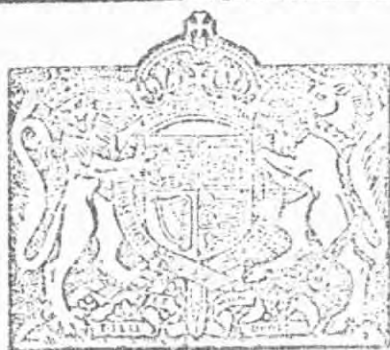


pennine link

The Journal of the
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

No. 18 Sept 1977



CHAPTER ii.

An Act to authorise the closing for navigation of canals to provide for the transfer of part of the Huddersfield Canals to the Company of Proprietors of the Calder and Hebble Navigation and for other purposes.

[21st December 1944.]

And whereas it is expedient that the Company should be released from their obligations to maintain the recited canals as navigations to the extent and in the manner in this Act provided :

And whereas there is no traffic on the remaining part of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and it is expedient that the Company should be released from their obligations to maintain the same as a navigation :

HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Chairman: John K. Maynard, 29 Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham.
Meltham 850575.

Vice Chairman: Brian Beagley, c/o U.M.I.S.T., Manchester.

Secretary (General) : 3 Pump Row, High Flatts, Huddersfield.
(Membership): High Flatts 596.

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** The opinions expressed in Pennine Link are not
necessarily those of the Editor or of the
Huddersfield Canal Society.**

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Number 18

September 1977.

Editor.....Robert A. Dewey
Printing & Distribution.....Derek A. Walker
Typist.....Christine Janion

Editorial - "How I fought the fight all by myself"...
.... or 'Two tons onto one set of shoulders
won't go.'

I have been increasingly concerned with the enthusiasm of the present committee - concerned that in some ways the committee is becoming too enthusiastic. Delegation is something which seems to have bypassed us (I include myself in this criticism) and as anyone who has studied management will know, without delegation all sorts of problems grow up.

In a voluntary group, there are inevitably other pressures on the officers. Most have full time jobs - I sometimes get letters which imply that I'm full time secretary.

Some members of the Society are happy to take a passive role - that's fine by me. Some I feel sure may want to take a more active role. If the Society has more help, it can get further faster. We could well use an archivist, a publications officer, an exhibitions officer.....

Please if you'd like to try - or if you feel you'd like to comment on the Society's progress contact a committee member or turn up at a sub committee. R.A.D.

P.S. Please read page 3 now and act on it!

Chairman's Remarks

So we must say goodbye to our fourth editor. As you will have appreciated from the July issue of Pennine Link David Bullock has had to resign as editor - this was due to the difficulty of attending meetings while residing in Sheffield. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for the hard work and effort he put in to the job of editor for the short time he held the position. The committee has accepted (or did we twist her arm) Mrs. Diane Charlesworth's offer to take on the job with assistance from the rest of the committee. But due to holidays this issue is mainly the work of our overworked secretary Bob.

The Festival is nearly on us and as you will see on page 4 we need your help. Even if you cannot spare the time to help and do not live locally this is an opportunity to have a day out and meet other members. (NB a trip is being run by bus to visit the tunnel. ED) If you do manage to visit us please let your presence be known to a member of the committee; we would like to meet you.

As you will note from page 3 we have planning problems again! The one thing we learned from previous Bates & Eldon Combing Co. battles was that a vital thing to have is a large number of individual objections so it is up to you - please write and object at once our one strength is our numbers and YOU count.

Reports west.....

West side meeting - August 15

A very informal meeting with two members calling in. An illustrated map of the canal was suggested and we intend to follow this up. Although there was little to discuss, we are busy with the Festival and the Stalybridge report. PF.

Reports east.....

East side meeting - 4 July.

Only four members turned up, so we rowed from Marsden Station to Standedge... and got wet (well I did) RAD.

BATES...BATES...BATES...

ARE AT IT AGAIN....

Following our defeat by Bates in July 1976 nothing happened on the site, despite the fact that planning permission had been granted.

Well, we kept our fingers crossed, 'perhaps it was all a try on and they'll not build'. We thought we'd achieved a victory as recently Bates bought another mill adjacent to their premises (but away from the canal) and obtained approval for re-development there.

Then came the blow. THEY'VE PUT A NEW APPLICATION IN. This application is for amendments to the original approval for building over the canal. In short, the amendment is to reduce the building over the canal from 3 to 1 storey. This naturally still affects the canal but it is clear that we stand a better chance of getting this refused in the light of the Eldon Combing Co's refusal. The only snag is that the 1976 approval remains valid for 5 years from 2-7-76. Even if we get the present application refused they could build on the basis of the previous scheme.

WE MUST THEREFORE OBJECT....NOW.

If we can get the same number of objections as we did to the Eldon application we could win. If we get more we stand a better chance. Will YOU - YES YOU write now. The future of the canal is up to you. If you write you'll have your letter shown to the committee and you'll be told the decision.

WRITE NOW, PLEASE. You could mention the Eldon decision as setting a precedent but I hope that you will tell the committee in your own words why you want the canal saved.

Letters to: Director of Technical Services.

Attention Mr. Sizer

Civic Centre, Huddersfield.

For new members: Bates own the short stretch of canal just above lock 2E in Huddersfield. A temporary building was erected there some years ago. Last year Eldons (the next company along) had permission refused for building on canal.

THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL FESTIVAL 1977

September 24 & 25th are not far away now - this is the last chance the Society has to contact you.

There is still a desperate need for boat entries to prove to the people of the area that its more than a handful who want the canal restored. Invitations are particularly extended to those of you with trailed boats. These are to be launched onto the Polytechnic stretch of the canal which has not seen any boats since 1963. The water's clean and deep. In addition, the working party repairing the first lock of the Narrow Canal hope to have it working by the end of the weekend. We'll need a boat to test it. Will that honour go to your boat? Prizes are available for the trail boat coming the furthest distance from home; for the boat coming the furthest distance by water and for the largest club entry.

Entries to Douglas Barlow: 314 Wood Lane, Rothwell, Leeds.
'phone Leeds 825225.

The rest of the festival will include entertainments, shows, displays and exhibitions. Any Societies, Companies etc. wishing to attend should contact Elliot Mossley Langcliffe Villa Road, Bingley. 'phone Bingley 2032.

For the rest of you - a list of jobs was contained in the last issue of Pennine Link. Can you help? We'll always be able to use an extra pair of hands.

Of course you'll be most welcome to come purely as a visitor. Admission by programme only 10p. I look forward to seeing you.

P.S. Have you returned your raffle tickets yet??
Many thanks to those who have and those who sent donations in lieu.

PPS. We need fire buckets and suitable containers for use as ash trays. Clean 1 gallon paint tins might be suitable for the latter. Offers to Bob Dewey please.
Also has anyone contacts with a Plant Hire Firm who could lend us a 6" pump, a barrow hoist, wheelbarrows, etc?

Northern Ring of Canals

In February 1977, the Greater Manchester County Council announced that they were undertaking a study of the Rochdale and Huddersfield Narrow Canals presumably to see which should be restored if either.

The Society replied setting out the view that both canals should be restored in the long term.

A further draft was received in July. Despite our previous comments it still talks of the northern ring as the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and the return circuit via the Rochdale or the Huddersfield Narrow.

They recommended that the committees:

1. Accept that the completion of the Northern Ring of canals to through navigation is neither necessary nor possible in the foreseeable future.
4. Resolve to continue to protect the (Huddersfield Narrow) canal by encouraging schemes for its restoration which promote navigational and other recreational uses.
5. Future developments alongside the canals should respect the recreational aims and objectives set out in this report.

The Society has questioned the first conclusion and the idea that it has to be one or the other canal (i.e. Rochdale or Huddersfield).

We await further developments.

****Don't forget the Festival.**

On Friday evening and Saturday evening MIKRON THEATRE will be performing on the rally site. Please come and see their portrayal of Canal life. (Mikron are a group of strolling players who travel the country presenting canal-side plays almost every night of the summer).

6.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to welcome the following new members:

- 306 Robert & Carole Hindley, [REDACTED]
- 307 Roger Bedson, [REDACTED]
- 308 Alan & Diane Tacey, Anna & Richard, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 309 Paul & Vivienne Rigby, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 310 John M. Eaton, [REDACTED]
- 311 Sid Metcalfe, [REDACTED]
- 312 C.D.L. Cockerill, [REDACTED]
- 313 Harry Crouch, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 314 Frederick Dixon, [REDACTED]
- 315 Arthur & Marion Davenport, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 316 Denby May, [REDACTED]
- 317 J.H. Edwards, [REDACTED]
- 318 David Milsom, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 319 Cyril & Audrey Atkinson, Sara & Gillian, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 320 Andrew Green, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 321 Douglas Barlow, [REDACTED] eds.

If a new member lives near you, how about calling round and sharing your enthusiasm?

Valerie Dewey.

PS Despite a continual influx of new members, the actual total doesn't seem to increase. It is most discouraging particularly when we don't know why people are dropping out. If you are dissatisfied with the Society, there is only one way we'll find out - through YOU. Tell us, we might be pleased to change our ways.

FUND RAISING

A fund raising sub-committee has been set up under the leadership of David Finnis our treasurer. If you have any ideas please get in touch with him.

Paul Rigby, a member from Bristol, has suggested an idea used by the Kennet & Avon Trust:

"I would like to commend to you a fund raising activity which has recently been an invaluable source of income. I refer to the collection and sale of scrap metals. In our case, we were able to advertise on Radio Bristol for the public to donate any unwanted or broken domestic appliances such as radio sets, television sets, gas cookers (not refrigerators or storage heaters) car batteries etc. These were collected by myself and carefully dismantled and the various metals segregated and sold at a local scrap yard. No special tools are required apart from those present in any DIY enthusiasts toolbox, and all that is needed is a little determination and time. In this way we have raised in excess of £120 in six months."

Surely this is something which members further afield might like to tackle. Alternatively, could you organise collection of something else? coupons, stamps, etc? Are there other members in your area who could join with YOU??

+ * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * +

TOW PATH WALKS

As part of the Adult Education programme for the Colne Valley, the Society is joining with the Adult Education Centre in the organisation of three towpath walks in October. We urgently need someone who knows something about natural history to help with guiding the walkers. The canal history will be covered by Bob Dewey (unless anyone else volunteers). Walk dates: October 8, 15 and 22nd - Broad Canal, Narrow canal Slaithwaite to Huddersfield, Marsden - Huddersfield. Details from Milnsbridge Adult Centre, New Street, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield. 'phone 654688.

NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....NEWSLINK....NEWS

....After much searching, old photos of the canal are starting to come to light. We now have pictures taken in 1960's of the west side showing many bridges since removed. You'd never recognise Uppermill! The prize is a picture of a horse boat in Wade Lock Uppermill.....

....The old notice board at Uppermill was recently removed - allegedly by BWB despite our request that it be given to us. We are following this up....

....Work in the tunnel seems to have ceased. It is understood that the falls have been cleared - by spreading the material? - and steel shoring inserted. Sadly it is clear that this is not in any way comparable to the work needed to permit a trip boat...

....A number of LMS Stop Planks have been discovered being used as markers round the edge of a car park in Diggle. The Society hopes to approach the owners....

....A discussion with Jarratts Timber Merchants in Huddersfield reveals that there used to be a dry dock on their premises. It could easily still be intact. Perhaps one day we'd be allowed to excavate it...

....Talking of old photos, the Huddersfield Examiner 1978 Calendar has photos of then and now includes a picture of the centre of Slaithwaite and the canal....

....Rolt's latest book 'Landscape with Canals' includes his description of the last trip through Standedge and along the Colne Valley. Well worth reading....

....The Stalybridge Study is well on the way now (at last). The North West Water Authority have agreed to meet us about the possibility of navigation on the River Tame round Stalybridge....

....In discussion with a gentleman at a festival recently attended, we learnt how they removed the gates on the east side. It apparently involved a boat, sheer legs and much juggling! It took a day for each lock. Photos of this are being sought....

....During the week beginning Sept. 5th the Society's caravan will be positioned on the Piazza in Huddersfield and will be manned by staff of the Adult Education Centre....

....Tow path walks are being organised in conjunction with the Adult Education week. Details will be found elsewhere in this issue....

....The Society has made a response to the Greater Manchester Structure Plan proposals. The plan is however very general in its concepts and no proposals affect our canal directly. It was suggested that the plan should declare the river valleys (incl. the Tame Valley) as areas for environmental improvement. We await the draft plan in due course....

....Cover Illustrations: Last issue we saw the title of the Act of Parliament which started it all. It's a thick and complicated document. This month we see the Act which could have finished it all. The dreaded 1944 Act which spelt death to so many canals. How things changed in that 150 year period....

....Lock name research - so far the four names given in the Saddleworth local history trail are the only ones we know. Member Dave Goodwin wonders if the canal company discouraged names or whether the OS surveyor was showing his individuality. Even the earliest maps number the locks outside the Saddleworth area. Do you know any lock names?....

....Back Numbers of Pennine Link. Copies of edition numbers 2, 10 and 15 are available from the secretary on receipt of a suitable SAE....

GAS AT UPPERMILL

....Not being the report of a meeting near Manchester but a sort of apology....

Some months ago it was reported to me that someone (yes, the great 'someone') was building a hut by the lock at Uppermill. On inspection this proved to be an innocuous stone built but behind the wall away from the canal and the towpath. So nothing further was said. Sadly it transpired that the hut was being built by the gas board and we now have 4 gas mains crossing the capped lock chamber. They are buried at present, but when the lock is restored they'll have to be diverted - not a cheap operation.

What a tragedy no one told us before this was done - a small diversion would have saved thousands of pounds in years to come.

Anyone working for (or with contacts in) the statutory undertakings (gas, electricity, water, GPO) is asked to look into/enquire about future plans. It could save a fortune later.

Huddersfield Narrow Canal Weekend

The West Riding Branch of the IWA has organised a canal weekend for October 15/16th.

"In conjunction with YHA a weekend centred on Marsden Youth Hostel. On Saturday night there will be a slide show on the HNC at the hostel starting at 8 pm. On Sunday morning there will be a conducted walk from Standedge Tunnel to Huddersfield starting at 10 am. Accommodation available at the hostel for Saturday night:

age 5 - 15 46p + membership fee of 75p p.a.

age 16- 20 60p + membership fee of £1-40 p.a.

over 20 70p + membership fee of £2-00 p.a.

supper can be provided at 7 pm for 74p. Breakfast 60p. Kitchen facilities also available.

Hostel bookings to Richard Bell, 1 Binn Road, Marsden.

General enquiries to Clive Parker, 12 Greenfields Drive, Harrogate. 'phone 887852.

Following a letter from the Secretary published in the Huddersfield Examiner a number of enquiries about the Society were received. One was from Clifford Boothroyd of Golcar;

"I was very interested to read your comments re the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. I am sure that my father was the last man to take a cargo boat through Standedge tunnel. We carried nitre cake from a chemical firm Browns at Savile town near Dewsbury and deliver it at Mossley I think it was the gas works. By the way if you walked on this nitre cake the soles would drop off your boots. The boat was named Maid of the Mist. When we entered the tunnel we used to have a bag of straw to our backs and when we came back we used short boat hooks and walk down the boat pushing our way through. We carried an old coat in some parts the water used to pour down and you would have been wet through, also we used to get plenty of smoke etc. from the railway tunnel. Sometimes we used to get stuck, something would have fallen from the roof. Then some co. ment would come and clear it away. I have no idea how they heard about us.

I often walk down the canal bank from Golcar it is quite near. I think the length man from Huddersfield to Marsden would turn in his grave if he saw the canal in its present state.

I wish you well with your project.

* * * * *

Amateur Photographers!

The Society has a caravan and a mobile stand - both need photographs to illustrate the message we are trying to put across. We have managed to borrow an enlarger and have sufficient equipment to produce black and white enlargements. It appears however that the cost of colour prints would not be greatly more and would be well worth the extra. The snag is the cost of the filters and processing drum. Can anyone help? Offers to Bob Dewey, Peter Freeman or Derek Walker.

Alec B. Feldman, a member from Ireland has sent us two very interesting publications by the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland. Both books are clearly and attractively produced in a layout not unlike Nicholson's guides.

The Guide to the Barrow describes this navigation from its junction with the Grand Canal at Lowtown for about 70 miles to St. Mullins where the navigation becomes tidal. Interesting features are a bridge dated 1788 on one side and 1799 on the other; a former river crossing where boats locked down into a river and then out again.

The Guide to the Grand Canal describes the 82 miles of canal from Dublin to the River Shannon near Banagher. Much of this canal appears to cross peat bog, one section taking 10 years to construct then suffering 4 major breaches. Both canals take craft of up to 13 feet beam and there are hire bases in the area. One useful piece of advice is "If you raise the bridge, take care to warn trains" .. splash."

Mr. Feldman and his colleagues of the IIWA are interested to hear about canals outside Ireland. Anyone wanting to compare notes or requiring further information can contact him at 4, Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

* * * * *

Helpful Officials

Whilst local authorities are often criticised, and to our Society persuading them to restore the canal seems like trying to divert a juggernaut lorry with a bow and arrow certain officials are helpful. Tameside council officials have been particularly co-operative in the past and we recently contacted the North West Water Authority and their reply was most helpful.

.....

Please don't forget that you'll be most welcome at the east and west side meetings. They are organised for your benefit.

Barlaston
Stoke On Trent
16.7.77

Dear Editor,

I would like the opportunity to reply to comments on my recent letter to Pennine Link.

Contrary to Mr. Bullock's suggestions I have every sympathy for the position in which BWB finds itself and fully endorse everything he says about enthusiasm of the staff. I also believe that once BWB makes up its mind to tackle anything it does an excellent job.

Although critical of BWB policy towards the Huddersfield Narrow my letter cannot fairly be said to detract from any of these sentiments.

Yours sincerely,
R.S. Wilkinson.

Western Portal
Standedge Tunnel
Diggle
Tameside
8th July 1977.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to "HCS Sales" on the back page of the July edition of 'Pennine Link'.

I enclose £1 for "A girl in a cornfield" and await directions of how to get her.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours hoping
R. Andy Diggle.

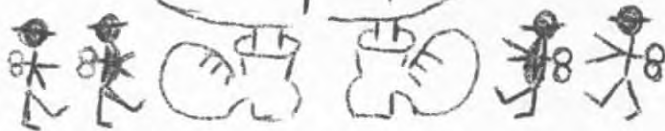
+ Diggle is in Oldham District - Ed.

NB. If Mr. Diggle will contact the Sales Officer and fix up a meeting perhaps delivery can be arranged.

FRED DIGGLE
FOR BARGAINS

FOR SALE
MODEL CANAL
ENTHUSIASTS
50P

SPECIAL OFFER
BOB DEWEYS
ONLY
40P



D*I*A*R*Y

- 5th September East Side Sub Committee at 4 Horseshoes
Inn, Market Street, Milnsbridge.
- 23rd September Preparation of rally site.
- 24/25 September HUDDERSFIELD CANAL FESTIVAL Aspley.=
- 28th September IWA (West Riding) Films George & Dragon,
on waterways. Apperley Bridge
Nr. Bradford.
- 28th September 7.45 Tim Noakes talks on Oldham**
Waterways Recovery Group.
- 5th October 8.00 East Side Meeting. The Globe,
Slaithwaite.
- 8th October 11.00 am. Towpath walk start Cooper
Bridge =
- 10th October 8.00 West Side Meeting Tollemache Arms,
Uppermill.
- 15th October 11.00 Towpath walk start Slaithwaite =
- 15/16 October IWA/YHA Weekend (see page 10) =
- 22nd October 11.00 Towpath walk start Standedge =
- 26th October 7.45 Brian Lamb talks on Peak Forest
Canal Society Oldham **
- 4th November 8.00 East Side Meeting The Globe,
Slaithwaite.
- 23rd November 7.45 Frances Pratt (BWB) talks on canal
architecture Oldham**
- 29th November 7.45 IWA (W. Riding) Peter Smith Guide HQ,
on Sheff & Sth Yks. Cookridge St.
Leeds.
- 25th January 7.45 Canal Films Oldham**
- 22nd February 7.45 Bob Dewey talks on Oldham**
Hudds. Narrow Canal.
- 22nd March 7.45 P. Whitehead on Birmingham Oldham**
Canal Navigations.

HCS sales.

The following items are available for sale through the Society and any purchases made will help the funds of the Society directly.

BOOKS (various titles available on application)

MAPS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Empire's map of Inland Waterways of E & W..... | 67p |
| Bartholomews | 77p |
| Stanfords | 92p |

TEA-TOWELS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Waterway map | 97p |
| "Arthur" (canal horse) | 97p |
| "Girl in Cornfield" | 97p |

PENS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ball Pen (inscribed Huddersfield | 22p |
| Nail Pen (Canal Society. | 22p |

BADGES

| | |
|--|-----|
| "Huddersfield Canal Society" | 17p |
| "Archimedes Diggle" (picture of) | 17p |
| "Napoleon Diggle" " | 17p |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Cuddly Diggle | | 92p |
| Solid Brass Plates | | |
| "Huddersfield Narrow Canal" | | £3.80 |
| | | incl P&P £4.50 |

*CHEEK, AS IF WE'RE MISSELL.. HIS..
WHATEVER YOU SAID
a Diggle*

All prices include postage & packing.
Orders to: Stewart Wilson, Sales Officer.
24, Abbotsford Grove, Timmerley.
Altrincham, Cheshire. 061-969-3883.