

pennine link

The Journal of the
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

Issue No. 21

March 1978

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
ASHTON TOWN
HALL
7TH APRIL



HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

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** The opinions expressed in Pennine Link are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Huddersfield Canal Society.**

PENNINE LINK

THE JOURNAL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

number 21

March 1978

Editor: Mrs Diane Charlesworth

Typing: Mrs Ivy Lodge

Duplicating: David Sumner

Collating and Distributing: East Side Members

EDITORIAL - I have produced this issue of Pennine Link early, owing to the impending birth of my second child. For the same reason it is quite possible that the next issue may be a little late. If this proves to be so, please accept my apologies in advance.

Please see the notice given by our secretary, Bob Dewey regarding the Annual General Meeting in April. I hope as many of you as possible will attend, as the Society has made such a lot of progress during the last year. However, I feel I must add that the Society does urgently require more active help from local members. The Committee is badly under strength and the West Side particularly urgently needs more active local members, although we would really appreciate anyone from either side who feels they could offer help. If any of you feel you would like to help but feel worried about committing yourselves and would like to know more about what is involved, please telephone, write or call to see any committee member or myself.

I am starting a small nature series in this issue, (see the piece on the Mallard Duck), but require further information on any subject which could follow under that heading, particularly types of fish in the canal. I should still like to include a crossword: can anyone help? If so, please telephone, write or call on me.

Diane Charlesworth

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As you already know our AGM is on the 7 April at Ashton Town Hall, so this will be the last Pennine Link that you will be receiving before this event.

I hope that as many of you will do your best to come along to the meeting as possible. This is your opportunity to hear what we have been doing during the year and to question the committee on the way that they have been running your society.

Since, as I have already informed the committee, I will not be standing for election as chairman this year you will have to find someone else to fill the post. Have you any ideas? I would like to take this opportunity to point out that this decision has been taken not due to any disagreement or dispute but because I have held the post since the founding of the society and so I think, a) I deserve a break, and b) the society would benefit from a change. I feel that any organisation can get into a rut after a number of years with the same chairman and the longer he stays the harder it gets to make a change. As a society I think we have come a long way since that first meeting at the Zetland Hotel in 1974. We have made our presence felt, and are now taken seriously, by all the local authorities who are beginning to realise that they have a canal that will not go away if it is ignored and something must be done about it - and something is beginning to be done on both sides of and under the Pennines.

I would end by thanking you all for your support over the last three years. I will still be around as I am willing to stand for the committee. Hope to see many of you at the AGM, but to those who live too far away, sorry you will not be able to make it.

THOUGHT

Each member could try and recruit one new member.

RESUME OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

13 December 1977 at Diggle Hotel, Diggle

Discussions: Job creation - see greater detail elsewhere p.7
Wells progress and committee's feelings
Publicity - all aspects: Clodagh Brown;
Saddleworth Historical Society - Wool Road
warehouse; Rule 5.

Reports: Job creation - John Miller, Kirklees Planning Officer -
improvements;
Clodagh Brown presented preliminary research and ideas;
Treasurer - accounts and other financial matters;
Stalybridge Report ready - launched at Stalybridge
17th December 1978

Correspondence: from - Sir George Kenyon
Kirklees
Mr Kay, Tameside Planning

to - Mr Kay, Tameside Planning,
Sutton College of Arts

Action to be taken: All possible help to Kirklees job creation
scheme;
Transfer deposit account to Building Society
and current account to Co-operative Bank;
write further details re Wool Road Warehouse;
further separate meeting to be arranged
with Clodagh Brown.

17 January 1978 at The Railway Inn, Marsden

Discussions: Wells progress - not so good as hoped;
Stalybridge Report - doing well - congratulations!
to West Side Committee members;
Annual General Meeting - committee under strength;
complementary mailing list updated.

Reports: Treasurer; Sea cadets - Aspley Warehouse;
Stalybridge progress.

Correspondence: from - West Yorkshire Probation Service;
Greater Manchester Council;
Frank Bennett; WIWA (WR)
replies to questionnaires; M. Main;
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council;
IWA Manchester; The Polytechnic, Hudds.

to - Saddleworth Historical Society;
Frank Bennett - Pennine Radio;
Sutton College; NWWA (rivers);
West Yorkshire Planning Authority;
Lancaster Canal Trust.

Action to be taken: Progression of transference of accounts;
each member of committee to provide details
of expenditure and income monthly;
to write to Wells for clarification of
position;
extra meeting with Clodagh Brown on 27.1.78;
liaison with Stalybridge library re exhibition;
exhibition;
write article for IWA Waterways;
" " " Rochdale Canal Society
rally brochure;
Tameside Planning Committee to agree on
policy and protection of line of river
route;
nominations for AGM required;
liaison re sales;
circulation of Kirklees Planning Report.

EAST SIDE AND WEST SIDE MEETINGS

East and West Side meetings are held each month, usually in a pub. Come along for a pint! Meetings are generally informal and are set up for members to meet committee members, as well as each other. You would be most welcome at the next meeting details of which are to be found on the Diary page.

West Side - held at Tollemache Arms, Mossley 19 December

Discussed the Stalybridge Report and the success with our publicity display in Stalybridge. Several people had found

our Radio Manchester interview interesting. Arthur Hornsby donated paper to the Society - thank you Arthur. Members had an interesting chat with the Valley Warden for Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal area. One young lady in the pub, who we had never seen before went selling the Stalybridge Report to customers - must be something to do with David Sumner's charm!

Peter Freeman

East Side Meeting held at the Royal Oak, Chapel Hill, Huddersfield
4 January 1978

This meeting was almost entirely given over to the showing of cinefilm by John Maynard. His subjects were of course about or connected with canals including our Huddersfield Narrow; but one in particular was most interesting: it was the pictorial tale of how 2 Diggles got from Meltham to Tunnel End - quite a hazardous journey!

Diane Charlesworth

The Royal Hotel, Scar Lane, Milnsbridge, 8 February 1978

There were two main topics for discussion:-

1. A copy of the West Yorkshire Structure Plan was viewed. We were mainly concerned with the section referring to recreational amenities and the canal. I am sure the Society and West Yorkshire County Council would welcome any comments you may have to put forward on the Structure Plan. There is a Structure Plan Exhibition Bus on tour throughout West Yorkshire, to which members of the general public are invited to take a look
2. It was suggested that an appeal fund should be set up to raise money for the restoration of particular stretches of canal. The committee has been asked for comments and approval. If this goes ahead the Society will require the help of someone connected with the printing trade to produce publicity posters for the appeal.

Ian M. Stott

SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS - Summer Season

Those offering to man stands will be approached by the committee to assist.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to welcome the following new members:-

369 Edmund and Stella Foster, [REDACTED]
Stalybridge

370 Dennis Tomkinson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

371 Mrs E. Gate, [REDACTED]

372 Graham Maskell, [REDACTED]

373 Ian Robinson, [REDACTED]

374 Colin Steeples, [REDACTED]
Newsome, Huddersfield

375 David Hewitt, [REDACTED]

376 Allan Pollitt, [REDACTED]
Stalybridge

377 Brian and Jean Green, [REDACTED]

378 Jack Hopwood, [REDACTED]

379 Richard Munt, [REDACTED]

It is gratifying to note that the Stalybridge report has resulted in an influx of new members from Stalybridge - we must be convincing!

Valerie Dewey.

STOPPAGE - Huddersfield Broad - No. 1 Lock
6th March to 10th March
Reason: new top gates.

KIRKLEES RECREATIONAL SURVEY ON THE HUDDERSFIELD NARROW

Kirklees decided to adopt an overall plan and obtain a public access agreement to the towpath from BWB. Grant Aid was to be applied for to the Manpower Services Commission under the Job Creation Scheme. Also another application for grant was to be made to the Countryside Commission.

A survey was carried out along the canal and proposals made. Discussions have been and are being held with all the various bodies mentioned. Owing to the canal being a 'remainder water way' very little money has been spent on maintenance. The report describes the general state of the canal, (of which we are well aware) but then goes on to say that even so it is an area of considerable natural beauty, well used by many people; but there are still those who have used it as a rubbish tip. The report feels that in order to stop this misuse its many recommendations should be adopted.

An access agreement is vital before much can be achieved. Kirklees would be responsible for the top 6 inches of towpath, boundary walls, fences, seats and other provisions. An evaluation has been made of all necessary work. The Job Creation Scheme should cover all the vital work necessary to the towpath. Further work would be the responsibility of Kirklees M.C.

It is wished to integrate local footpath links.

Several sites along the canal may also qualify for derelict land reclamation grant. The County Council may also be able to grant aid, e.g. possibly for the dredging of certain sections of canal, subject to agreement with BWB.

Kirklees have been in touch with local societies (including us) concerning this report. They hope to involve voluntary societies in work after formulating the necessary plan with BWB.

Kirklees would welcome further ideas and proposals.

The report expresses the wish that local industry would tidy up their sector of canal especially where industrial waste is evident.

It is hoped to produce publicity leaflets on various subjects, e.g. natural history and possibly establish a study centre. Also it is hoped an historical/archeological trail may be developed linking local hamlets and villages.

Colne Valley Urban District Council
Development and Town Planning Committee 21.7.66

Acquisition of canal

Following a discussion on this matter, it was

- ' RESOLVED - That the British Inland Waterways Authority be asked upon what terms and conditions they would be willing for the Council to acquire the whole of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal within the Urban District.

Acquisition of Huddersfield Narrow Canal

The Clerk submitted a letter from the British Waterways Board stating that in view of certain proposed sales on the above waterway and having in mind the Scammonden Reservoir Scheme, the Board is not anxious to proceed with the sale of any particular section until completion of the reservoir.

- ' RESOLVED - That the Council negotiate for the acquisition of the stretch of the above canal from the lock at the bottom of Bridge Street, for a distance of 286 yards to the next lock in an easterly direction.

Bob Dewey.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Huddersfield Canal Society will be held on Friday, April 7, 1978 at Ashton Town Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne

to transact the following business:-

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of third annual general meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Report of the Chairman
5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer
6. Election of officers and committee (see below)
7. Members' comments
8. Any other business

Nominations are required for the following posts:-

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Honorary Treasurer

Honorary Secretary

Committee of 8 members

Nominations may be made at any time up to the time of the election, but should preferably be made to the Honorary Secretary in advance.

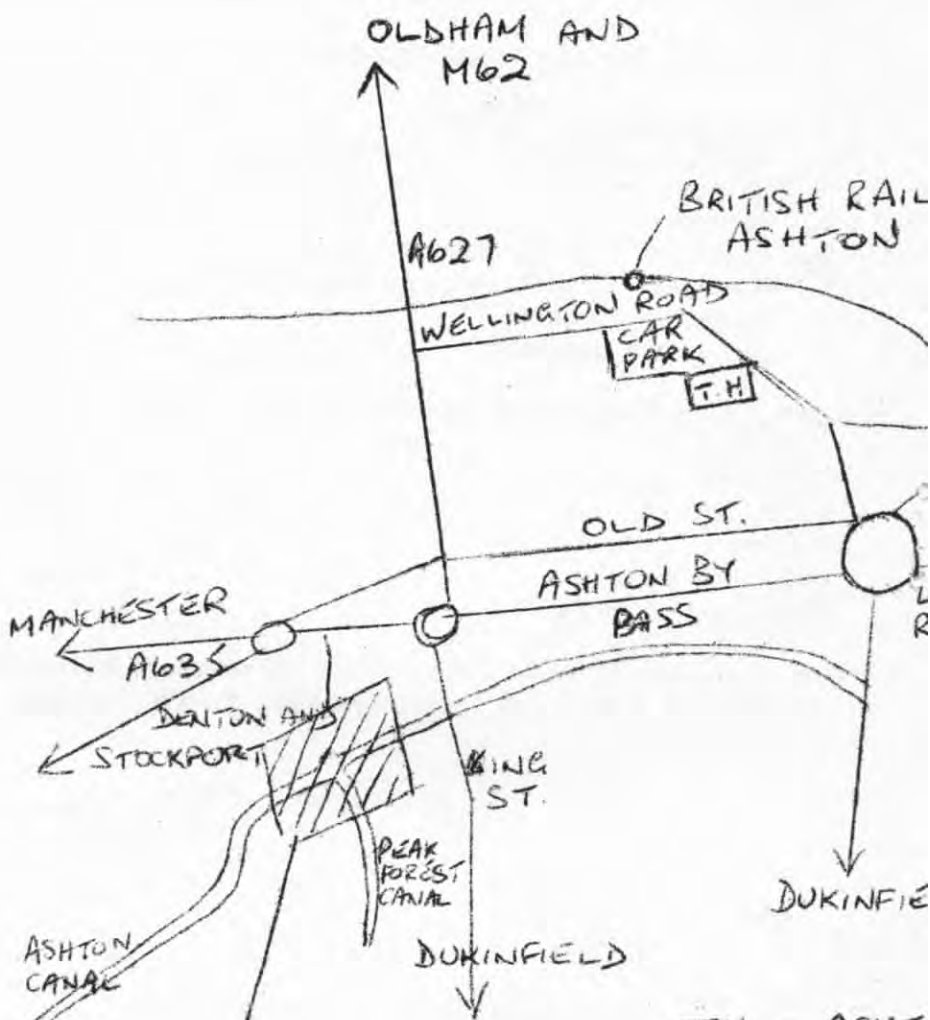
Signed: Robert Dewey,
Hon Secretary,
March 1978.

See map of Ashton overleaf

Correction

Page 13 of January 1978 Pennine Link should read - a 40-seater tripboat should be operating between Fairfield and Marple.

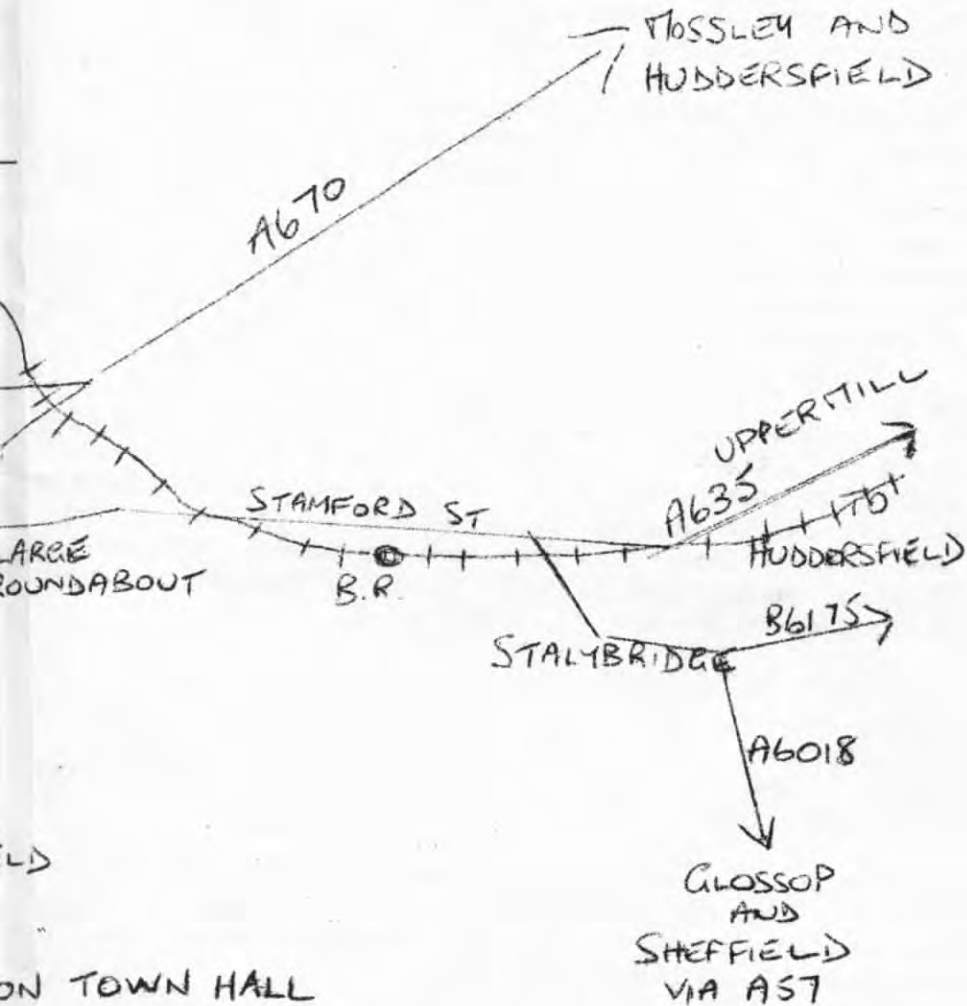
ASHTON-U-L



SITE OF TAMESIDE
CANALS FESTIVAL 1978

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(100 METRE) SJ 938992

DAVID SUMNER.

THROUGH STALYBRIDGE BY BOAT
Background to the Report

Last December we published 'Through Stalybridge by Boat' describing how the canal could be restored through the town where it has been culverted for 1000 metres.

The Report was originally proposed in 1974 to follow the feasibility study, but committee time was diverted to fighting off planning applications for blocking the canal at Huddersfield. In December 1976 'A New Canal for Huddersfield' was published. Our Chairman was heard to remark that the Stalybridge Report was taking so long that we would only just have it published in time for the re-opening of the canal!

Early in 1977 we began a detailed look at Stalybridge. Many times we walked the old canal line. Depressingly, there was little trace of the canal left. Buildings and a car park covered the route; bridges and locks had gone. We examined the land to the north, and to the south. To the south the land rises and there are many buildings. To the north the land falls to the River Tame which winds through the built-up town centre.

Eventually, we devised a new line which would take a rather tortuous course through the town, cutting across the precinct car park. This still left a section at Castle Street, where a tunnel would be needed or buildings would have to be demolished.

Because of the difficult situation in the town centre, we decided to investigate the possibility of by-passing the culverted section by locking into the River Tame. This idea had initially not been favoured because 1) locking in to the river would empty canal water into the river at two points; 2) the river is too shallow for navigation; and 3) we were more knowledgeable about canals than rivers.

We then wrote to the Rivers's Division of the North-west Water Authority, who agreed to consider any detailed proposals.

It seemed fairly easy to lock down into the river above the culvert, but downstream how did canal boats get back up to the canal again without draining a section of the canal? Finding a solution involved much frustrating walking, and surveying. Surveying benchmarks, (little arrowheads chipped into the stonework of buildings) are very elusive in Stalybridge. In some places we could not even find the buildings, never mind the arrows! Balancing on stones in the river whilst trying to hold an extended surveying staff vertically gives much entertainment to spectators.

Eventually, we found that if a channel was cut from the river at a certain point it could eventually rejoin the canal on the level. The existing piped section of canal could still feed water to the canal below the navigable river section. More survey work indicated possible lock sites along the river.

By this time the summer of 1977 was over. A meeting was arranged with officials of BWB, Tameside Metropolitan Council, The River Authority, and IWA, and their comments invited on our draft report. The report was then amended, an artist recruited, a photograph taken for the cover design, maps drawn and stencils prepared. A publication date was fixed. An exhibition was set up for our caravan and permission obtained for parking it in Stalybridge centre. Newspapers, radio, television, Councils, Councillors, MPs and other interested organisations were sent copies and information. Radio Manchester interviewed us. Newsagents were supplied with copies for sale.

Helpfully, the River Authority made a survey of the river available, and we have now submitted more detailed proposals for consideration. For February 9, a 3-week exhibition was arranged for Stalybridge Library. In February and March Committees of Tameside Council were being asked to consider our proposals. We attended meetings with Greater Manchester Council officials regarding the overall canal policy for the area.

Follow up

There was much support in Stalybridge when we took the caravan into the town centre. The Highways Department most helpfully coned off an area for us. Our radio interview had been well received, and the response from local people who visited us was

impressive. There is now a strong feeling that the canal should never have been blocked. Several older people reminisced about the canal, one lady telling us about a boat trip from Trinity Street, Stalybridge to Marple. People told us about the goods that were carried, and about the old wharves; and one man brought us an interesting 1896 map of the canal.

Sales of our Stalybridge Report were higher than expected. Several youngsters cycled along to volunteer to dig out the canal. Shops and pubs we visited were very interested - offering our report for sale or displaying our posters. In one shop, however, the newsagent was at first hesitant to take copies of the report, until a customer walked in and bought a copy from the sheaf our committee member was holding. The newsagent very quickly took some for display.

Peter Freeman

"Through Stalybridge by Boat" costs 40p (including postage and packing) from Peter Freeman.

Urgently wanted - active members for the West Side. Please contact any West Side Committee member.

Stalybridge Exhibition

Our 3 week exhibition was our best designed yet. Many thanks to our 'design consultant' Clodagh Brown; also to Ron Buckley for his model narrowboat.

Tameside Canals Festival 29/30 July 1978

People are still needed to help at the festival. Please contact Tony Shilladay, Wayfarer, Narrowboats, Welbeck Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Kossley Distict Plan

On 31 January we were invited to a meeting with Tameside Planners and Micklehurst residents for discussions on the

Mossley District Plan. The meeting was very interesting covering various aspects of Mossley's future. There was a strong feeling evident that the canal was a wasted asset. The Council proposes planning exhibitions for the area.

Peter Freeman

'Polar Bear Suit Stolen'

Vandals attacked our caravan again. Despite peeling back the edge of the door like a sardine can, it did not give way. So they pulled a window away from its fasteners. Cash drawers (empty) were damaged and a Diggle suit worn at carnivals was stolen. The local newspaper reported 'Polar bear suit stolen from Doctor's caravan at hospital! One or two Oldham folk might well be wondering why their Doctors are prancing around in polar bear suits!'

Wayfarer Narrow Boats temporarily housed the caravan, and later member Leon Howard found us a space at Mossley. We are most grateful to Tony Shilladay and Leon.

Postscript: the other day we were reading the funny newspaper cuttings page in "Punch", and came across 'Polar bear suit stolen'

Parking space is still urgently required however, for the caravan. Can anyone help? If so, please contact any committee member.

Working Party

There should be a (hopefully) joint working party (or as WRG say "a big dig") to complete restoration of Lock 1E and its immediate area. Offers of help have already been received for which I am eternally grateful, but I would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to help out on the weekend, which will be on Friday 23 (evening); Saturday 24 (all day); and Sunday 25 (all day) of June 1978.

If you have a barbecue set-up and know how to use it, please give me a ring and we can sort something out regarding food, for the workers, because they'll need it after a hard day's work, even if it is only 'bangers and beans'.

Ian M. Stott,
W.P.O.

SERIAL

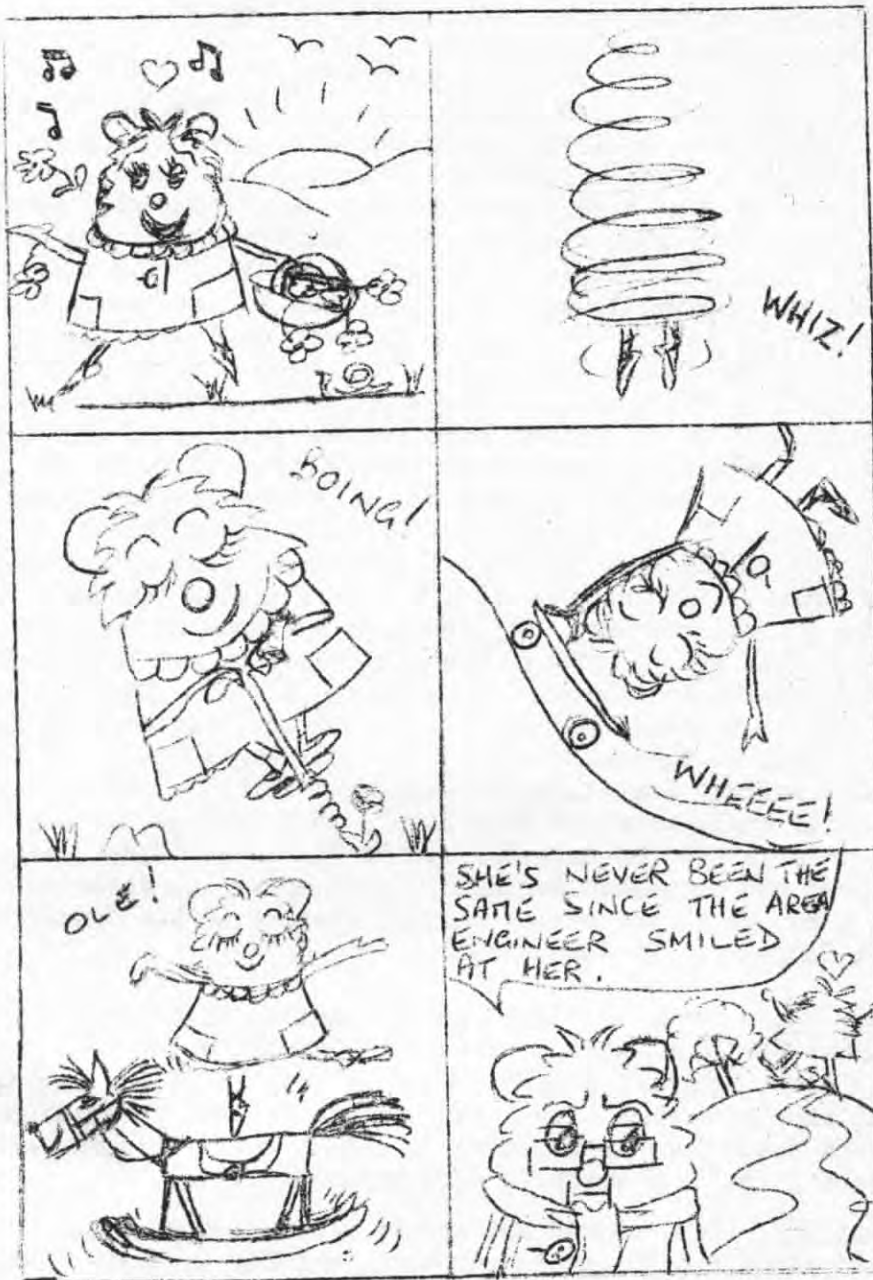
Huddersfield Narrow Canal 1792 to Present Day
 compiled by Diane Charlesworth

Although the canal up to Marsden was open by 1796 and to Wool Road, Greenfield, by 1798, the Standedge tunnel connecting the two sections between Marsden and Uppermill was not opened until 1811. During that time, goods terminated at Uppermill and Marsden and were then transported by packhorse and cart over the pennines: this proved to be very expensive. The wharves at Marsden and Uppermill were kept very busy and it became a matter of urgency to finish the digging of the connecting tunnel. The survey for the tunnel had in fact been made and the proposals sanctioned by the House of Commons in 1794. However, another Act was required in 1800 to sanction the raising of more money by various means, as funds were insufficient to cover the extra heavy costs of cutting through the millstone grit. Yet another Act was required and passed in 1804. The tunnel was to be 3 miles, 171 yards long (but later lengthened) and wide enough to allow boats 7 feet wide by 70 feet long to pass through. It was a colossal undertaking. All the work was done by hand, using pick, shovel and gunpowder, hence it was slow and laborious, and not surprising to find that 11 men were killed. Large areas of rock had to be disintegrated so that it could be carried out in small loads to the two exits. Much rock was tipped near the present railway station at Marsden, and later, a row of houses was built on it known as "The Tips". Not many people realise that this is not the original lie of the land. John Booth, the engineer who succeeded Benjamin Outram after his death in 1805, gave a report to the annual general meeting of the Huddersfield Canal Company on 26 June, 1806.

' West End - Since the last general meeting of 27 June, the tunnel has been carried forward 339 yards, which is $6\frac{1}{2}$ yards per week, near one hundred yards of which will want arching, and has taken much timber and time to secure, the rest is good sound shale that is expected to stand, when finished, without arching, part of which is much watered

' East End - Two hundred and twenty yards have been opened, which is 4 yards and 10 inches per week, chiefly in hard stone..... the medium of this year's work is 10 yards and 28 inches per week.....

This report coupled with the previous information throws light on the difficulties experienced.



LETTERS *****

I was extremely pleased to receive two letters, stamps and a completed questionnaire from Mrs Margaret Sinfield. Mrs Sinfield like many of you was unable to give practical help due to distance; but the fact that she wrote was help in itself. I cannot stress this too much: a letter from those of you who feel frustrated and want to do something but are prevented from doing so by distance or any other reason, would be gratefully received. Extracts from Mrs Sinfield's letters are included below:

The Teachers House, The Green,
Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent

Dear Diane,

Belatedly, I return my questionnaire. At first there seemed no point in sending it as I seem able to offer no practical help at all. However, the very fact of returning it proves that I do read my Pennine Link. I congratulate you on the varied contents of Pennine Link; I think you have it so well balanced that there is something for everyone. The magazine is absolutely vital to a society whose members are so far flung Of course the Huddersfield Narrow will be re-opened, it's just a question of when.

..... If I can find a profitable home for the posters I will, otherwise I'll do what I did last year, and cruise hundreds of miles (I hope) with the information stuck on Bridget's windows.

To me, as a non-local member, the most vital part of Pennine Link is the information of committee goings on, the more the better. I enclose more stamps.....

Just a thought but I presume that a questionnaire goes to each new member on joining.

Margaret Sinfield.

Re questionnaires: We did run out, but have now had more duplicated, so that each new member may receive one.

The next letter comes from 'down-under'. Has anyone any clues, we are intrigued?

The Diggle Homestead,
Whyalla, South Australia

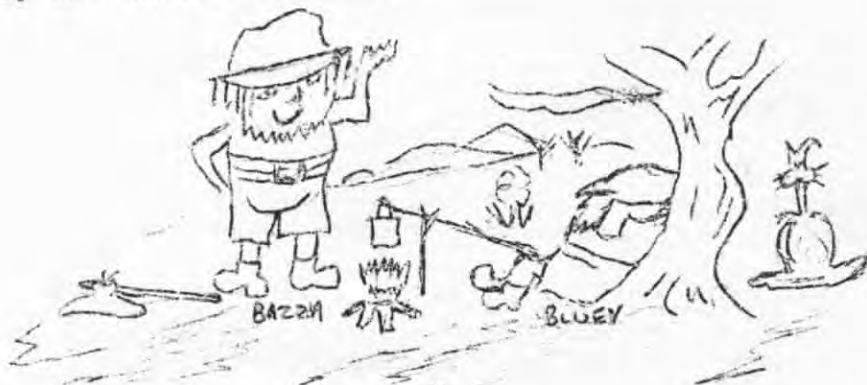
G. Day Mr Ian Scott,

Only this morning the old clobber Bazza Diggle said it was high time I got out the old ballpoint pen and got off a letter to Pennine Diggles to let them know how we are getting on in old Aussie land, since we arrived here nine months ago with a young pomme couple. The jumbo jet trip was just out of this world mate! But this Australia, well clobber, it's just beaut. I mean the Indians have beaten us at cricket again, and it ain't rained for an age, the vedgies are looking real drab but it's real good weather for the old Bar BQ.

Bazza had an attack of the chinders the other day and he was real crook, he reckons it was something he ate, but I reckon it was too many coldies. My b..... oath but Bazza likes the Aussie beer, not to mention the Shieler's beauty. Bazza looks better today, so I drew him and me in the Mulaa with the old billy boiling up a storm, so I thought I would include the drawing to let you know how we was going on. I hope you'll let Napoleon, Archimedes, McTavish, Patrick and Siraped know we are OK and sends them our best. She'll be right mate!
All the best with the Pennine Link.

Luv, Bazza and Bluey Diggle

Carry on Huddersfield Canal.



D*I*A*R*Y

- 27.2.78 West Side Meeting
- 8.3.78 8.00 pm East Side Meeting, The Railway Inn, Marsden.
- 22.3.78 7.45 pm HCS & PFS - P. Whitehead on Birmingham Canal
Navigation, Oldham Community Centre,
Union Street, Oldham.
- 27.3.78 8.00 pm West Side Meeting, Old Hunters Tavern,
Acres Lane, Stalybridge.

Easter - March 25/26/27 1978

Ind Coope Weekend (visiting Huddersfield
Narrow Canal on Easter Monday).

- 7.4.78 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting, Ashton Town Hall -
see details elsewhere in Pennine Link.
- 12.4.78 8.00 pm East Side Meeting - The Star, Manchester Road,
Slaithwaite,
- 17.4.78 8.00pm West Side Meeting, Old Hunters Tavern,
Acres Lane, Stalybridge.
- 26.4.78 7.45 pm Joint Meeting with Peak Forest CS,
Oldham Community Centre, Union Street.
- 24.4.78 & 25.4.78 Working Party Lock 1E - see further details
elsewhere in Pennine Link.
- 30.5.78 8.00 pm West Side Meeting, Tollemache Arms, Mossley.

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

| | |
|---|----------|
| Imrays 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

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Bolt Pen (inscribed Huddersfield) | 22p |
| Nail Pen (inscribed Canal Society) | 22p |

BADGES

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