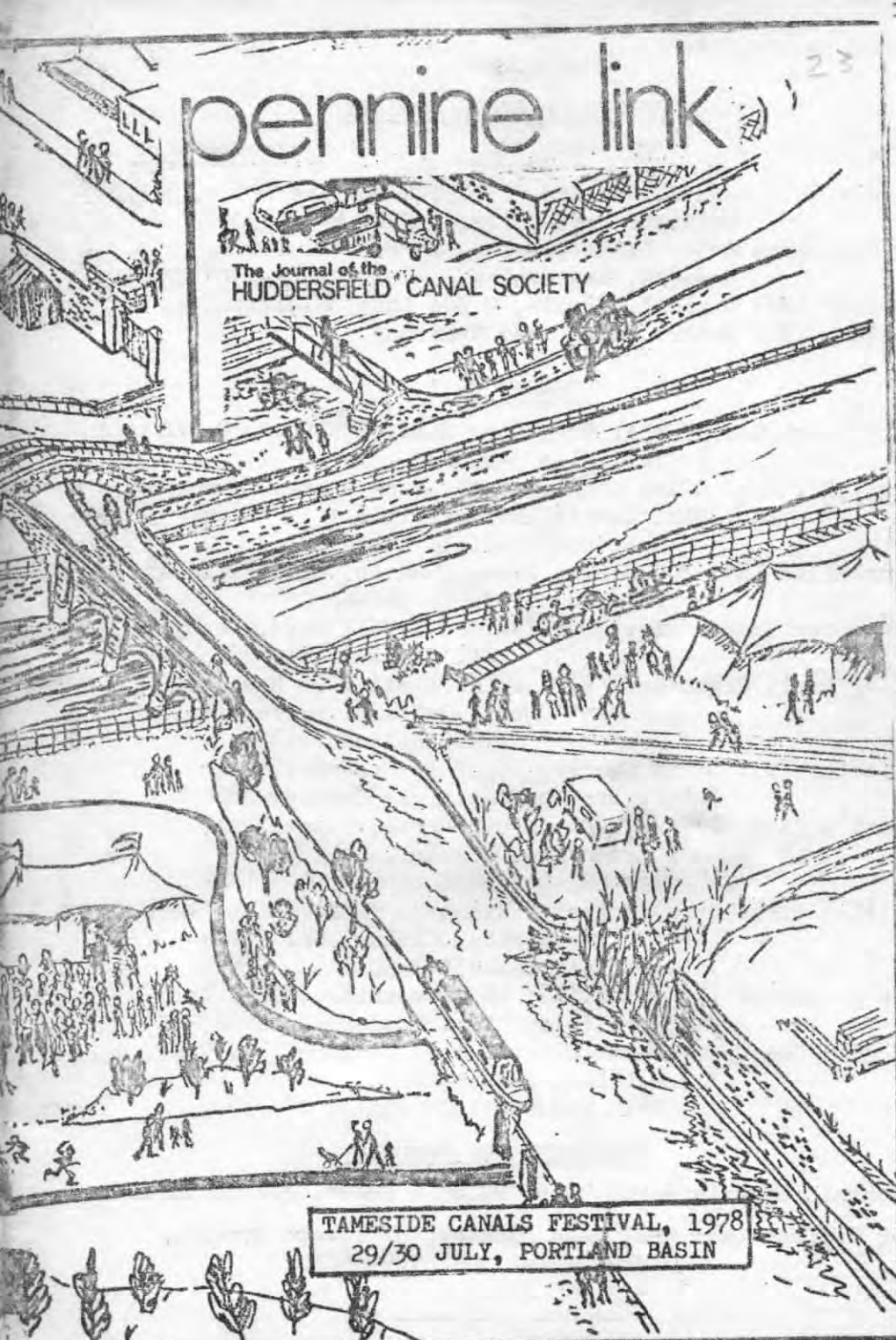


# pennine link

23

The Journal of the  
HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY



TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL, 1978  
29/30 JULY, PORTLAND BASIN

## Huddersfield Canal Society

W = West

### OFFICERS

E = East

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-

PENNINE LINKTHE JOURNAL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY

Number 23

July, 1978.

Editor: Mrs. Diane Charlesworth.  
 Typing: Mrs. Molly Parker  
 Duplicating: Mr. David Sumner  
 Collating and  
 Distribution: East Side Members.

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EDITORIAL - I would like to thank everyone who contributes to Pennine Link. Most of the Committee Members manage to produce something. It all adds up to a healthy journal which includes plenty of news and information concerning the Society. I would be only too pleased to receive news from other Members of the Society connected with either the Huddersfield Narrow or the Huddersfield Broad Canals.

If any of you ever hear reminiscences concerning the Canals, particularly any older people who can remember working boats, please write them down and send them to me. In this way we can put down on record what otherwise may be lost.

A neighbour of mine can remember when as a boy he was taken on narrow boats to Slaithwaite, to the Corn Mill there. That particular Mill is now used for dyeing cloth.

Diane Charlesworth  
(Editor)

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TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL - ASHTON-U-LYNE.  
29/30th July, 1978

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

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

Promises, promises! (See my remarks in the March issue of P.L.). I am still with you as you found out in the May issue.

Since the A.G.M. your new Committee has been hard at work; I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members of the Committee, they are working very hard already and justifying the confidence you had in electing them.

Our most important forthcoming event is the TAMESIDE FESTIVAL on 29th and 30th July, 1978. It is most important that this event is well supported so please come along on at least one day, if not both. The Festival Committee need as much help as they can get so please let Peter Freeman know if you can lend a hand, even if it is only for an hour or two. Help on the Friday before and the Monday after would be particularly appreciated.

The Kirklees Job Creation Scheme is well under way and we have been asked - together with other local organisations - to help with working parties; this is still under negotiation, so more news later.

Work continues on Standedge Tunnel and I have written to B.W.B. for permission to navigate it (the queue forms on the left!)

Correspondence is still in progress with West Yorkshire C.C. regarding Wakefield Road Bridge, but it is slow going.

On the other side of the Pennines the follow up of our report "Through Stalybridge by Boat" is proceeding with the local authorities, who have received it very well and are looking into it very seriously, and in great detail.

Congratulations to our Editor, Diane, on the birth of her younger son, Lee, now the youngest member of the Huddersfield Canal Society.

Congratulations also to Derek Walker on his promotion and hence his move to Birmingham. We are indeed sorry to lose him, but would like to thank him for all the work he has done on behalf of the Society.

Finally, we need more members - can you help?

If you could get one member to join and everyone else does the same we would double our membership. Don't leave it to the other chap, he is leaving it to you.

See you at the Festival.

John K. Maynard  
(Chairman)

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### IMPORTANT

Bob and Val Dewey are moving within the next two months to Holmfirth. Until further notice will you please address all correspondence to them c/o The Chairman, John K. Maynard, (address inside front cover). This will help to save delay in the post. Thank you.

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### ILLUSTRATED TALKER AVAILABLE

Why not have an illustrated talk about the Huddersfield Canals? Every organisation should have one. Contact Bob Dewey for details.

### JOSHER FOR SALE

Bob Dewey's boat "Erik" is for sale. It's a 43 feet iron/wood shortened joshier narrow boat with cabin and fittings, all stern gear, but no engine.

Basically sound but needs attention. Any offer considered as expanding family makes boating difficult.

### MIKRON HAVE MOVED

The Mikron Theatre Group have come to the Huddersfield Narrow! From 1st November, 1978, their mail should be sent to Sarah Lucas, 31, Warehouse Hill, Marsden.

Welcome!

RESUMÉ OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS20th April, 1978, at Old Hunters Inn, Stalybridge.Discussions and Reports:

Derek Walker co-opted on to Committee.  
 Treasurer's report on financial situation and other related matters.  
 Allocation of jobs - Jean Buckley as Sales Officer.  
 Possibility of Standedge Tunnel Trust.

Correspondence to:

Calder Cruises, Aspley - welcoming to Huddersfield Canal and informing re Society.  
 West Yorkshire - questions/objections to Chapel Hill Road widening.  
 K.M.C. - comments on recreational policy document.  
 Sir George Kenyon - Tame Valley Advisory Committee.  
 West Yorks. - comments on draft Structure plan.  
 D. Bullock - thanks for extracts from Frankel Report.  
 K.M.C. - objection to Eldons Application.  
 David Hutchings - re costing methods on Avon restoration.

Correspondence from:

K.M.C. Planning - re job creation and working parties.  
 N.C.B. - re loan pumps for working party.  
 Waterways Research Centre - re photos of Canal and article.  
 Fameside M.B. planning - further information re Northend Planning Application.  
 G.M.C. - Copy draft Structure Plan for comments.  
 P. Danniell - thanks for leisure learning weekend guides.

Action to be taken: To investigate possibility of becoming Charity (DF/LW)  
 Tax liability to be investigated (DF/LW)  
 Transfer more money into deposit account (DF)  
 Sound out Area Engineer re Standedge Tunnel Trust.



Action to be taken: (Continued)

Working Party to assess requirements for improvement to displays.  
 Production of set of 100 Slides for talks.  
 Decoration of 'Shoulder of Mutton' Pub.  
 Slaithwaite-look into by East Side.  
 Further studies re Mossley and Slaithwaite to be produced.  
 Press release to be issued updating various Council's policies (L.W.)  
 To write to Kirklees welcoming job creation.  
 To attempt costings of restoration for G.M.C.  
 Tame Valley Officers Working Party.

23rd May, 1978 'Bank Stone' Lingards Road, Slaithwaite.Correspondence from:

Kirklees M.C. - Invitation to joint Meeting re canal working parties.  
 Yorkshire Council for Environment - invitation to meeting and seminar.  
 Assoc. for Industrial Archeology-Bulletin including article re H.N.C. & H.C.S.  
 Waterways Research Centre - request for further information re Canal.  
 Kirklees M.C. - decision re Eldon Planning application.  
 Calder Cruisers (Aspley) - Membership application and re discount to Members.  
 Tameside Planning - re Northend Planning Application.  
 G.M.C. Minutes of Tame Valley Officers Working Party, 19th April, 1978.  
 W. Yorks - re Road improvements, Chapel Hill, Longroyd Bridge.  
 B.W.B. Castleford - re H.B.O.  
 Offer of loan of slide copier.

Correspondence to:

Tameside Planning - plan and section of proposed Northend cut.  
 Waterways Research Centre - information on photos., and on Canal.  
 B.B.C., T.V. - re Mr. Diggle - 'Pickersgill People'.

Discussions and Reports:

Future policy of Society and its development.  
 Possibility of future Standedge Tunnel Trips - B.W.B.  
 Joint working party on Golcar Pound (see elsewhere  
 in P.L.)  
 Draft of Slaithwaite study.  
 Tow path guide idea.  
 Various types of stand available for purchase.

Action to be taken:

Sub committee to look into advantages and disadvantages  
 of setting up Tunnel trust - also investigate forming of  
 society into limited liability trust.  
 Costing and feasibility of tow path guide to be further  
 investigated.  
 All Committee Members to submit their personal view as  
 to future development of Society.  
 To seek reciprocal membership with Calder Navigation  
 Society.  
 To aim for two portable stands and display in caravan.  
 Try to obtain additional stand cheaply or free.  
 Second set of display material to be produced.  
 Decoration - Shoulder of Mutton, Slaithwaite - to be  
 dealt with by East Side sub-committee.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL?

Derek Walker, who moves to Birmingham in August, will be  
 having a stand on behalf of the Society at the I.W.A.  
 National Rally, 26/27th August. Please call and see him.  
 He is interested in forming a Birmingham Branch of H.C.S.  
 to assist with publicity and fund raising. The I.W.A.  
 Rally provides a good starting point.



B.W.B. Press Release .....

"The extended closure of both Toddbrook and Coombes Reservoirs, which feed the Peak Forest Canal, has given rise to fears about the water supply on the Canal and the "Cheshire Ring" during the coming Summer. The Board have been able to arrange temporary alternative supplies with the result that it is expected that there should be enough water available for normal cruising requirements, assuming that the weather is not abnormally dry".

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TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL, 29/30TH JULY.

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THANK YOU

Many thanks to Adam Pleasance, the Huddersfield Polytechnic's new Press and Information Officer for crediting us with helping to clean up the waterways around the Polytechnic.

(Huddersfield Examiner-30th May, 1978)

ELDONS

The Company have told the Yorkshire Post (but apparently not Kirklees Planning Department) that they are going to appeal against the latest planning refusal. If they do appeal a public enquiry will be necessary and those who wrote objecting will be given the opportunity to appear - or can ask the Society's Officers to appear on their behalf.

More details when known.

TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL - 29/30th July, 1978PORTLAND BASIN - ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

The Festival is the Society's big event for 1978, and will focus the public's attention on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, particularly in the Tameside area.

The Festival is being organised by the Society in association with Peak Forest Canal Society and Inland Waterways Association. A valuable contribution is being made by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) who are providing the beer tent. CAMRA hope to have seven different real ales on sale, a chance any seasoned beer drinker (or even novice!) should not miss.

Many events have been arranged for the weekend and will include Brass Bands, Morris Dancers, Horse-drawn Boat Trips, Miniature Railway, Electrically Powered Boats, Vintage Vehicle Display and Radio Controlled Model Boats. There will also be displays, trade stands, side shows and craft stalls. Entertainment for children is arranged including donkey rides, round-a-bouts and an inflatable "fun castle".

The site of Portland Basin will be packed with boats, many from far afield. There will be competitions between boats, including a boat tug-of-war.

On the Saturday evening there is to be a barbeque and entertainments, with the CAMRA beer tent remaining open all evening. Presidents of the Festival are Sir George and Lady Kenyon. Patrons are the two local M.P.'s, Robert Sheldon and Tom Pendry. Their support for the Canals is greatly appreciated by the Festival Committee.

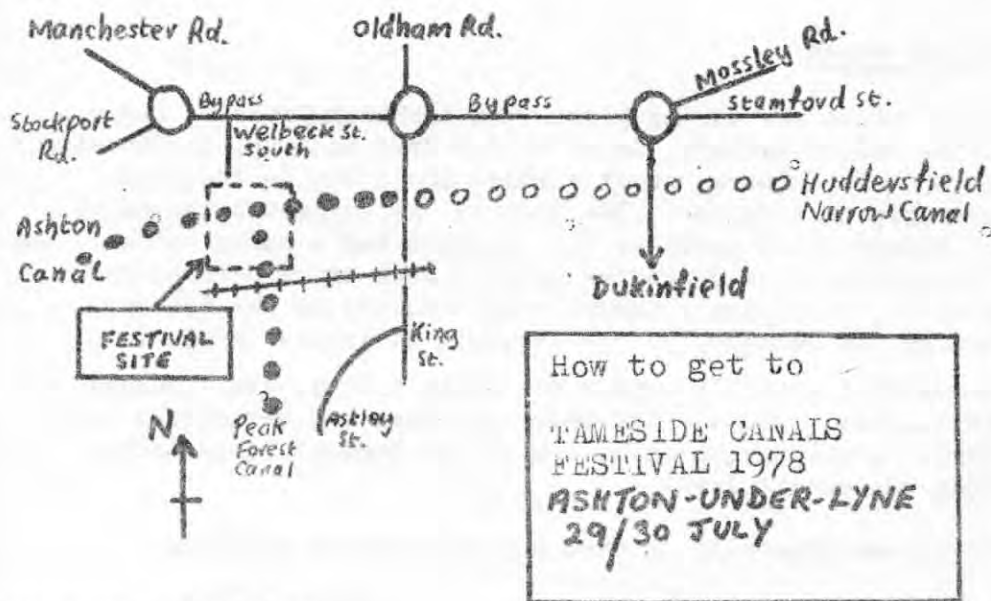
On the Sunday afternoon the draw for the raffle will take place. So make sure your counterfoils have been sent in. However, there is still time to obtain more tickets from Les Winnard if you wish to increase your chances of winning a holiday for four on a narrowboat.

If you are free on the week-end of July 29/30, come down to Portland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

If you would like to help before, during or after the Festival please contact Peter Freeman, or simply report to our caravan at the site, days or evenings, Thursday, 27th July to Monday, 1st August.

The Society will also require help with its sales stand during the week-end. Please contact Jean Buckley with any offers of help.

Les Winnard.



#### NORTHERND, STALYBRIDGE.

We have not yet been informed officially as to the result of the planning application referred to in the circular letter of 30th March, 1978. The application for an industrial estate includes the land earmarked in "Through Stalybridge by Boat", for the two new locks joining the river and canal to the east of Stalybridge.

The Committee considered the application at the end of May, but deferred it for site meeting. The local authority officers apparently recommended approval!

We have written to each councillor on the planning committee sending a copy of the report.

I hope that this will help win our case, it is only a few months since they resolved to protect the route (and the links to the Canal) from development.

Following on the above story, Les Winnard issued a press release, to the effect that the Society was not against Industrial Development, but merely wished to have the necessary strip of land reserved for the Canal.

**LATE NEWS: OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. BUT IT SHOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE TO OBJECT TO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO BLOCK THE LINE.**  
SEE NEXT ISSUE. Robert Dewey

Golcar Pound

Discussions are taking place with Kirklees Council, B.W.B., Colne Valley Society, Colne Valley Tree Society, Slaithwaite Anglers and others, about a large scale dig on the Canal, probably next Spring. The Society has suggested the pound at Golcar which includes the aqueduct and a swing bridge. The idea would be to drain the pound a week or so before, and possibly by laying a narrow gauge railway on the tow path, dredge the section, by the strength of various arms, (and shovels); possibly repair the swing bridge, stop the aqueduct leak; remove a low level gas pipe and ultimately construct a slipway on this, one of the largest pounds other than the summit level.

More news hopefully as time and discussions progress.

Robert Dewey

WATERWAYS PRESS RELEASE - 6th June, 1978.

Freedom of the towing paths

"There is an ever growing demand by the general public to walk the canal towing paths and the Board have decided to remove present restrictions.....

Public rights of way exist over some of the Board's towing paths. For access to others, members of the public have hitherto been required to obtain a permit from the Board. This requirement has now been dropped and permits are no longer necessary. Organisers of events such as "sponsored walks" are advised to inform the Board of their plans. This will enable the Board to give information as to conditions on the ground and will avoid conflict with other users..... The Board hope to persuade more local authorities to enter into agreements for public access to the towing paths and to provide other amenities such as seats, lifebuoys and interpretative notices.

..... The Board hope that the grants now available from the Countryside Commission for the development of Recreation Footpaths will encourage local authorities to co-operate with the Board in improving the towing paths and making them generally attractive for the public to enjoy."

Calder Cruisers, Aspley Wharf, Huddersfield

Telephone: Huddersfield 36646 (evenings)

(See last issue - Pennine Link)

Offers a discount to Members (but must have been a member  
of H.C.S. for at least three  
months before qualifying).

15% off all out of season bookings. Also

15% off weekend bookings.

For further details contact David Lambert at the above address.

#### MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to welcome the following new members to  
the Society:

- 405 Mrs. Marjorie Croasdale, [REDACTED]  
406 John and A. Clegg, [REDACTED]  
Saddleworth, Oldham.  
407 Francis and Leila Bradley, [REDACTED]  
Road, Manchester.  
408 Mick Clarkson, [REDACTED]  
409 Allan Marshall, [REDACTED]  
410 David Lambert, [REDACTED]  
Huddersfield.  
411 A.K. Robinson, [REDACTED]  
412 David H. Brown, [REDACTED]  
413 Herbert. L. Blackburn, [REDACTED]  
414 Richard Ryder, [REDACTED]  
415 Andrew Ryder, [REDACTED]  
416 Trevor Freeman, [REDACTED]  
417 Chris. and Annette Hague, [REDACTED]

It is pleasing to note that most of these members have come  
through local effects such as the caravan displays. We hope  
to see the near-by members at the West and East Side Meetings.

Valerie Dewey

IND COOP WEEKEND

On Easter Monday, John Maynard and Peter Freeman joined a party of about 35 people to act as guides on a leisure learning holiday organised by British Waterways Board and Ind Coop. At Sowerby Bridge the rain poured down, but as the day progressed the weather became gorgeous. The coach followed the line of the Rochdale Canal over the summit to Rochdale, and a stop was made to look at the restoration work done under a Job Creation Scheme.

From Ashton-under-Lyne the coach began its return journey over the Pennines along the route of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Points of interest were Whitelands 'Tunnel', restoration proposals for Stalybridge, and Scout Tunnel. At Mossley, Saddleworth Morris Men performed the traditional Easter Pace Egg Play. After climbing above Mossley for a view of the Tame Valley, the coach travelled via Woolroad to Diggle. Les Winnard and David Summer manned our publicity caravan here, and the party inspected the tunnels, the Diggle Hotel, and had lunch.

A visit to Marsden depot, the Tunnel End and the Colne Valley followed. At Huddersfield the coach travelled over the Turn Bridge with virtually no clearance at the sides of the coach and our two committee members praying that it wouldn't collapse!

For information on leisure learning weekends contact Phillip Daniell, Resources Development, B.W.B., Melbury House, LONDON. NW1 6JX.

Peter Freeman





BOAT LANE

As a result of our letters:and telephone conversations I met Jean Tennant and her companions one murky Saturday afternoon. Jean, by a stroke of luck had made contact with a Miss Dawson of Diggle, who agreed to act as our guide, as she was able to remember the days of horse drawn narrow boats and part of the route taken by the horses over the moors, between Marsden and Diggle.

We set off from the Diggle Hotel and walked up 'Boat Lane'. At first this was clearly defined and easy to follow, and we still managed to get through the part where one of the farmers had tipped a lot of rubbish in an effort to stop persons, such as us, using the old route; but then, without Miss Dawson, we would have been unable to brace the route as it becomes more difficult to follow. We continued on up the Moor to Standedge; on the way we crossed over a simple little bridge made by two long lumps of stone laid across a small stream. At Standedge we came out by a reservoir. The route continued over the ridge of the cutting (at this point merging with the Pennine Way) until it joined into what used to be the second turnpike road which continues around Redbrook reservoir and eventually joins into Mount Road almost opposite Old Mount Road.

Unfortunately, Miss Dawson did not know the route down into Marsden, so we continued down to Tunnel End by car and urged on by Jean, she and I went to some houses nearby to see what information we could glean. Third time lucky, we were told that Ainsley Lane was in fact 'Boat Lane', however, it is only a short Lane and when it joins Manchester Road, we found we were again stuck. It is possible that the route continued sharply up the hill side, but this is conjecture. We hope to find an elderly person(s) who can actually remember, and be fit enough to walk with us on the route, as Miss Dawson did. (Many thanks Miss Dawson, we are indebted to you).

Since then I met an old gentleman, who unfortunately was lame, but was able to pass on a little information; he agrees with Ainsley Lane being 'Boat Lane' and told me it depended which way the wind was blowing as to which route the horses took, and indicated that one of the routes went up the (now) Manchester Road to Standedge, and thence to Diggle.

At some later date I hope to find the time to go investigating again, so that we will then be able to piece together the whole route.

Diane Charlesworth

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FOURTH REPORT OF  
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES.

- " 1. (a) The Government should announce immediate acceptance of the findings of the Fraenkel Report;
  - (b) The Government should publicly undertake to finance from the Exchequer the maintenance backlog identified in the Fraenkel Report over the next twelve to fifteen years on the scale indicated in the Report.
  - (c) The British Waterways Board should plan their maintenance programme on this basis; and
  - (d) Any further expenditure on maintenance of the Waterways in accordance with the Transport Act. 1968 which cannot be met by the British Waterways Board from their resources should continue to be paid for by grants from the Exchequer.
2. The Government should devise a standard technique and standard criteria for the appraisal of all forms of transport investment including waterways.
  3. The Government should henceforth compile statistics relating to Inland Waterways on the basis of the submission made by the Inland Waterways Association.
  4. The Government should announce immediate approval of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Improvement scheme, and should apply forthwith to the E.E.C. for a grant from the Regional Development Fund.
  5. The Government should immediately announce its intention to abandon its proposals to merge the British Waterways Board into a National Water Authority.
  6. The Government should table amendments to remove the British Waterways Board from the provisions of the Scotland and Wales B.T.U.'s.
  7. Ministerial responsibility for the British Waterways Board should be transferred from the Department of the Environment to the Department of Transport."

SALES

Our new Sales Officer is Mrs. Jean Buckley. We would like to remind you all to contact her, should you wish to buy anything from the Society or have any queries regarding anything connected with sales. (See front cover for address) If you want any type of canal ware she has offered to try to obtain it.

I understand that Jean and another Member, Audrie Kinnear, went to Hyde Market (10.6.78) selling things for the H.C.S. What a splendid idea, I hope it went well.

Editor

EAST AND WEST SIDE MEETINGS/SUB COMMITTEE

We recently had some adverse comments about the conduct of the east side sub-committee, it was suggested that the meeting was rather nebulous and lacked coherence.

I wondered afterwards whether the members:

- (1) Know what the meetings are for
- (2) Think they are a good idea
- (3) Would want to change them or abolish them.

The original aim of the meeting was to relieve the main committee of items of purely local significance which could be better dealt with locally. An example is attendance at fetes, shows and the like, and organisation of a duty rota. It was hoped that these groups would attract members who did not wish to commit themselves to a committee post but who wished to help. The aim, also, was to keep the members better in touch with the committee decisions and other members, and to keep the committee better in touch with the members. In addition, the Meetings can and have been used to show slides of the Canal, and to talk about all aspects of our mutual interest.

We would be quite happy to alter the meetings to suit, but we won't know unless you tell us. Perhaps some of you might care to spend a few minutes telling us why you want the Canal saved, or your particular sphere of interest, there are many areas where I for one would like to know more.

Please come to the Meetings, if you can; they are meant to be informal - come and go as you wish - but let your views be known.

Robert Dewey

Recently, Trevor Ellis wrote to the Assistant Area Engineer at Castleford to give them a reminder about the Huddersfield Broad:

"I am writing to thank you for the work done on the H.B.C. However, the fact that such work was necessary tends to confirm the criticism made in my letter of 7.9.1977. May I say that I look forward to the day when this Canal is no longer regarded with disfavour by the boat hirer - some of the debris on the bed (drums etc., particularly the large section of pipe adjacent to Colnebridge Road) may have much to do with this. I hope that you will soon be able to proceed with improvements to the remaining locks particularly the by-washes mentioned in your letter of 13.9.1977."

The reply to this letter was from a Mrs. Batten, for and on behalf of P. J. Barnes the Area Engineer.

"Thank you for your kind remarks, it is always encouraging for us to receive the odd bouquet between the missiles!

The policy is to make improvements to cruising waterways both for cruising and for general amenity. Financial restrictions don't allow us to progress as we would wish, however, recent comments in support of the Board's case for improved funding are encouraging."

I take this to mean that although B.W.B. would like to, no further work will be done on the Broad at the moment, unless more money becomes available.

Editor

Thanks for the return of completed questionnaires:

A. K. Robinson of Dewsbury  
Trevor Freeman of Stockport.

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WANTED..... Cars with Tow Ball - 27th July/1st August.

Contact Peter Freeman

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I.W.A. - Press Release

Thirty five year old Peter Whatman, a professional diver from Liverpool, is to make an attempt on the world underground swimming record this Summer.... He will attempt to swim through the three miles long Standedge Tunnel..... The world underground swimming record at the moment stands at 1.9 miles through the Dudley Tunnel in Worcestershire, and is held by David Stanley Gale.

B.W.B. have banned the attempt.

But according to Peter Whatman the attempt will still take place. "I am determined to go ahead", he said. "The Waterways Board say that the Tunnel is dangerous, but I will be supported by a fully kitted-up diver, a medical advisor, an independent observer (for the Guinness Book of Records) and an experienced boatman." .....

"If I do the swim no-one else can beat me, can they? All they can do is equalise my record. I am going through with this swim come what may, in June".

Whilst the society takes an interest in what goes on, ideas such as these are not to be encouraged. The only benefit that could arise is the attraction of publicity to the state of the Tunnel and the need for more money from outside, to supplement B.W.B.'s resources.

Robert Dewey

Since the above, B.W.B. have issued a statement to the effect that if Peter Whatman goes ahead he will definitely be prosecuted. Work seems to have been carried out to make the Tunnel gates more secure. A spokesman for Peter Whatman said that he did not think prosecution would deter him.

Editor

LATE NEWS: IWALK

Our IWALK held on 17th June, 1978, raised £1,500 with 220 Walkers. Further details in next Pennine Link.



SERIAL (Continued)

Huddersfield Narrow Canal, 1972, to present day compiled by Diane Charlesworth.

The first boat through the Tunnel was on the 10th December, 1810; and on the 4th April, 1811, the Tunnel was officially opened. At Diggle, a large party comprising of the Committee, proprietors, and other interested people, about 500 in all, boarded narrow boats, on one of which was a band playing "Rule Britannia"! Cheered on by 10,000 spectators, they sailed through the tunnel, and behind sailed several other boats laden with goods. The work was inspected on the way through the Tunnel, and the Committee were highly satisfied. They were greeted at Marsden by another large crowd and the party then carried on to Huddersfield and the George Inn., where they had dinner.

The Tunnel is arched with bricks at each end, but inside, in places where the rock is solid, it has been left in its natural state, and looks like large caverns! In between, the Tunnel is brick-lined, or alternatively arches of brick and rock (soldier arches) are to be seen. When the narrow boats were hauled by horses, they were propelled through the Tunnel by 'legging' if the boats were full, or sometimes by punting if the boats were empty. In places where the Tunnel was too cavernous for legging, boats either moved forward under their own momentum, or were punted.

Expert 'leggers' could do the trip in one hour and twenty minutes, and for this the men were paid 1s.6d. (presumably this would be an empty boat, as over three hours has also been quoted). The horses were then led over the Pennines to meet the boats at the other end of the Tunnel. (See article on Boat Lane, page. 17 in this issue).

In places the Standedge Canal Tunnel was 220 yards below the earth's surface. It was 7 feet wide and the depth of water was 8 feet, and it was 9 feet from the water surface to the arch. However, due to rock crumbling and accumulation 5 feet was left between the water and the roof. In the weaker sections the Tunnel was faced with stone and later, brick. Every 50 yards were metal plates in the roof stating distances; the first was at Diggle, and the last, 109 was at Marsden. There were passing places (wides) in the Tunnel; They were Brun Clough (30), White Horse (42), Judy (55), and Red Brook (61). Benjamin Outram, the Engineer up to 1805, was



succeeded by a Mr. Clowes and Mr. John Booth. The cost of the Tunnel was £123,803, (this being one of the figures mentioned); and the total cost of the whole Canal was £300,000. An interesting note is that this Tunnel saved the future railway company £100,000 on construction costs when building their first Tunnel.

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### TUNNEL END, MARSDEN

On the railway side of the white footbridge where the slope goes down towards the tunnel is a wooden boarded area which looks like a horizontal doorway. An old map shows this as "turbine" - can anyone illucidate?

Robert Dewey

\*\*\*\*\*

George Spark was killed in the construction of the tunnel by an explosion. With a name like that.....

\*\*\*\*\*

### TUNNEL PRINT

On the last cover of Pennine Link was a picture of Standedge Tunnel. Copies of the original full-size print are available and are far better quality than we could reproduce on our cover picture. Postage and packing is a problem, as tubes or large envelopes are expensive. If you can send the packing plus £1.25 to John Maynard, we'll do the rest.

\*\*\*\*\*

TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL  
29th/30th July, 1978

\*\*\*\*\*

NATURE SERIES:Kestrel.

Although the Kestrel is not particularly associated with Canals, it is the one bird of prey which is most likely to be seen above the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

The Kestrel has a distinctive hovering flight, as it hovers above a spot keeping a sharp look out for its prey, mainly mice and voles and the occasional small bird.

The Kestrel's habitat ranges from urban areas to remote moorland and is one of the few birds to benefit from the motorway. The wide grass verges of the motorways have proved to be ideal homes for mice and voles and ~~thaw~~ the Kestrel has moved in to take advantage of this feast.

The Kestrel lays its 3-5 eggs some time at the end of April, or beginning of May, and the young will be flying some two months afterwards.

The adult birds have pointed wings and long tails, the male having a blue-grey head, rump and tail, also has a black band at the end, the females tail is similar but barred.

Les Winnard

SHOULDER OF MUTTON (Continued)

For the story so far see page 23 of our last issue.

We visited the pub on 11th May, and now have some better ideas of what's required.

One little alcove is just crying out to be decorated like a narrow boat cabin. It's just the right height and width. We would welcome volunteers, e.g. painters and handymen.

D I A R Y

1. 7.78 \* Slaithwaite Carnival.  
1. 7.78 \* Exhibition - Hartshead Field Centre-1 week  
2. 7.78 \* Pennine Show, Harden Moss, Near Holmfirth.  
4. 7.78 8.00 p.m. - West Side Meeting - Old Hunters Inn, Acres Lane, Stalybridge.  
9. 7.78(a) I.W.A. Picnic Stroll-2.30 p.m. Leeds/Liverpool Canal, Roberts Park, Saltai-e (Nr. Salts Mill)  
15. 7.78 \* Tame Valley Exhibition - Sea Cadets Hdqtrs.- 1 week Lower Wharf Street, Ashton-u-Lyne.  
16. 7.78 \* Alexandra Park, Oldham (Oldham Lions) - 1 day  
16. 7.78 \* + Working Party, Summit Level, Rochdale Canal, Warlock Lock, near main Todmorden-Littleborough Rd.  
20. 7.78 East Meeting - The Railway Inn, Marsden.  
23. 7.78(a) I.W.A. Picnic Stroll, Howsham Lock, River Derwent 12 noon.  
29. 7.78 ) \* TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL, Portland Basin,  
30. 7.78 :) Ashton-under-Lyne.  
8. 8.78 8.00 p.m. - East Side Meeting, Commercial Inn, Slaithwaite.  
8. 8.78 8.00 p.m. - West Side Meeting, Tollemache Arms, Mossley.  
13. 8.78 \*+ Pocklington Canal. Working Party.  
19. 8.78) \* Oldham Show, Alexandra Park.  
20. 8.78)  
26. 8.78) \* I.W.A. National Rally, Birmingham.  
27. 8.78)  
3. 9.78 \* Adult Education Piazza, Huddersfield - 1 week.  
10. 9.78 Trip across Morecambe Bay (combined Northern Waterways) - Further details - David D. Higgins, 72, Street Lane, Roundhey, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Tel: Leeds - 663628  
12. 9.78 West Side Meeting, Old Hunters Inn, Stalybridge.  
16. 9.78 )  
17. 9.78)) + Howshams, Yorkshire, Derwent, Working Party.  
7.10.78 )  
8.10.78 ) + Montgomery Canal. Working Party.

(A) Contact Patsy Hutchinson - Leeds 671323

\* H.C.S. Caravan or Display

+ Contact David Carpenter of I.W.A.

Bradford 677307.

