

HUDDERSFIELD
CANAL
SOCIETY

PENNINE LINK

No 40

May 1981



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman	Dr. Chris Farrar	'Stillwaters' Wall Royd, Denby Dale, Hudds. 862329
Vice Chairman & Uppermill Project	David Sumner	54, High Lea Road, New Mills Stockport. 061-456-5666
General Secretary & Campaign	Robert Dewey	28, Cinderhills Road, Holmfirth. Holmfirth 5022
Treasurer	Les Winnard	3, Fearnlea Ave., Chadderton, Oldham 061-633-2690
Company Secretary	John Fryer	122, Leymoor Road, Longwood Hudds. 45311
Sales Officer	Jean Buckley (Mrs)	37, Edward Street, Oldham, 061-624-4881
Exhibitions	Colin Chadwick	14, Simmondley New Road, Glossop Glossop 64031
Publicity	David Finnis	7, Ned Lane, Slaithwaite Hudds.
Editor	Sue Gibson (Mrs)	Northcote House, Nields Road Slaithwaite, Hudds. 844596
Publications	Graham Maskell	19, Quick View, Mossley, Mossley. 3992.
Boat	John Maynard	29, Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham. Hudds 850575
Cottages	Trevor Ellis	20, Batley Ave., Marsh Hudds. Hudds. 34666

NON-COUNCIL OFFICERS.

Membership Secretary	Valerie Dewey	28, Cinderhills Road, Holmfirth. Holmfirth 5022
West Side Secretary	Laurence Sullivan	24, Church Street, Stalybridge. 061-303-7785
East Side Chairman	Brian Badminton	16, Spinkfield Road, Birkby Hudds. 45779
West Side Chairman	Colin Chadwick	14, Simmondley New Road, Glossop. Glossop 64031

.....

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Front Cover: Photo taken at Dungebooth Lock, Uppermill on
April 4th showing the start of restoration.

PENNINE LINK

THE JOURNAL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY LTD.

No.40

EDITOR AND TYPIST : SUE GIBSON

MAY 1981.

CONTENTS

Chairman's Remarks	Page	2
Boat Report	No.	3
Uppermill Restoration		4
Access Agreement		6
Trip to Boat Museum		7
Proposed N.F.C.S.		9
Mikron Message		10
Results-Treasure Hunt		15
Broad Canal Trip		16
Towpath Walk		17
Crossword		18
Resume of Council Mtgs.		20
List of new members		21
Diary		Back Cover

editorial

I do hope the restoration is to be a success. Despite a large number of people knowing about it I must say I was both surprised and disappointed when I arrived for a hard days' work on the Sunday before Easter when only two other people turned up! We had had a large amount of publicity (some adverse) and when people walked up from the Museum to see what was going on and saw three of us working there (two of us women) they must have thought it an unachievable task!

To add insult to injury, a photographer from the Daily Telegraph arrived at lunch time and luckily for us, just presumed the rest of the workers had taken their lunch break and had adjourned to the pub!

Please give your full support. Your Society needs you, now more than ever before. If a rota system was worked out I'm sure it would only mean putting in an odd day or two a month, which I'm sure you can all spare. Remember....restoring the Huddersfield Narrow Canal has come at last.

By the way Di Charlesworth gave birth to her third son on Friday 13th March, (who has been named Ross).

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chris Farrar

I find myself sitting beside the Grand Union Canal in the heart of the Warwickshire countryside writing these notes - my last Chairman's Remarks. By the side of the lock is a canal society sticker proclaiming the fact that the Hudds. Canal is a unique waterway and this immediately begs the question as to why it is unique. What is different from this particular canal with its regular procession of boats, its neat and regular locks, its smooth and efficient paddle gear, its broad deep pounds and its piled and concreted banks? In fact these are the vital differences! On the Huddersfield there are no boats with the exception of Stan and the odd canoe, the locks are built from the local stone almost sculptured from the hillside in places, crowded in by the mills in others. I am sure they were never smooth and easy to operate - the trans-Pennine passage via the Huddersfield Narrow would always have been a slogat one side, through the tunnel and down the other. The canal lives up to its name, narrow it certainly is, in places one wonders how boats passed but it is a natural part of the Tame and Colne Valleys. It is features such as these which make it unique - there is no other canal like it in the world - not the Rochdale nor the Leeds Liverpool (though they have individual claims) - and therefore it is a canal which must be saved and restored.

I have been most fortunate in my 2 years of office as Chairman in seeing the beginnings of physical progress towards eventual restoration - the start of work on the Uppermill Project, the purchase and commisioning of a boat, progress on Tunnel End Cottages. I have been even more fortunate in the support I have received from my colleagues on the Council of Management and my friends in the Society and for all that help I am most grateful. It goes almost without saying that my very best wishes go to the Society for the future and in particular to David Sumner who will succeed me as Chairman. I am confident that he will see the Society continue from strength to strength.

.....
 Chris Farrar has taken up a new appointment in Chertsey, Surrey which will necessitate a move of home and also his resignation from the Council of Management of HCS Ltd. There are rumours once he is settled that an active Thames Valley group may be developed.

Very best wishes to Chris and his wife and family, many thanks for everything you have done for the Society over the last 2 years.



John Maynard

The last two months can be summed up in one word - Creosote. Work continued at a slow rate for the first month but accelerated rapidly as the dead line of the restoration date at Uppermill approached.

The rudder - straightened - was received from Crowther Marine followed by the new prop shaft, a gleaming polished propeller and a new bearing.

Work proceeded on rebuilding the stern and fitting the seats. All the woodwork was re-creosoted and more bitumen paint added to the metal work. With the receipt of the motor with a V pulley fitted a mounting could be designed and fitted the next weekend (March 21st) ready for launching at Uppermill.

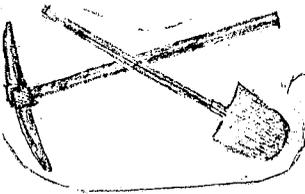
Meanwhile the decorations had been touched up and 'STAN NO.1' painted on both cabin sides, a great improvement on last years black transfers. Due to the last minute rush the final electric connections were made after the launch. Some teething troubles were experienced but the new 2:1 V belt drive seems to be a success. The stability is improved but the load must be restricted to a maximum of 10 including crew.

The VIP's were transported from Uppermill to Dungebooth Lock on April 4th. Yes, I know they went aground but this was due to WRG dropping the stop planks, not Stan's fault! Some trouble was experienced in the afternoon due to the sticking contactor which was cured by removing it from circuit. (For the technical the motor is now switched D.O.L. to 24 volts instead of 12).

The trips at Uppermill will be run up to Easter and will be 40p a head adult 20p per child and always prove very popular. Many thanks to all the people who rallied round and helped even if at the last moment. We still require help in moving the boat throughout the summer, to other sites and boat trips etc.- In particular the weekend 15th and 16th of August at Marsden during the I.W.A. National Rally taking place at Leeds.

PRESS BOOKS:

Anyone with press cuttings about our canal or Society please send to Jean Wrigley, 13, Ambleside, Stalybridge for inserting in the press books.



UPPERMILL

David Sumner

EXPLORATION AT DUNGEBOOTH LOCK.

On Saturday April 4th after a trip on 'Stan' from the Museum basin in Uppermill, TV personality Anthony Burton ceremoniously began breaking open the concrete capping on Dungebooth Lock.

This was the culmination of months of effort to begin physical 'restoration' of the Huddersfield Narrow which 'verbally' commenced November 1979 with local consultation meetings chaired by Peter Freeman.

A joint feasibility study was produced by the Society and Saddleworth Historical Society which outlines the plan to link the Wool Road Warehouse (now almost completely restored) to the newly extended Museum at the old Wharfe in Uppermill village. The scheme is a test case.

Two locks need restoring with new gates and a 100 metre infilled section requires re-excavating. BWB cleared the use of volunteer labour on the canal and we began the negotiations with their engineers and estates departments to fix a date for digging to commence.

April 4th was chosen as the start date. As all members will know, this date is significant. On April 4th 1794 the Act of Parliament was passed authorising the canal. Then on April 4th 1811 the canal was open to through navigation. Will the whole canal be re-opened to through navigation on April 4th 1991 or 2001?

The weekend of April 4th/5th was historic. Waterways Recovery Group turned up in force. New plant was hired for the occasion and work began. By 11.30am when the official opening was scheduled, one third of the 9" thick concrete capping was removed and the bywash in operation. By Sunday evening the lock capping had been two thirds removed and stop planks inserted. The fore bay was almost wholly cleared of dry stone walling and the relief pipe opened.

The operation was not without some problems as on Saturday afternoon a sudden flood into the workings because of incorrectly seated stop planks, drained the pound above. If we could have reduced the flow from Standedge on Friday we may have been able to prevent the top pound from emptying - although reasonably deep pools were left. By Sunday lunch the stop planks were finally seated and the by wash was fully operational.

At the end of operations two stop planks were removed and the lock chamber was reflooded. The site was left safe and tidy to the satisfaction of BWB and the Historical Society.

The following weekend was organised entirely by HCS and Laurence Sullivan led a worthy bunch and improved the by wash channel to enable it to take water without eroding the banks.

THE FUTURE

We shall continue to work every weekend! We need YOU to come along and help. We have undertaken to excavate the lock by the end of June and restore it with gates by the end of the year. It is our first restoration project. We must demonstrate to BWB, the Local Authorities and the people of Saddleworth that we can carry out our intentions. We are going to purchase our own plant to enable us to work efficiently. We need YOU to come along at weekends and help.

**WE
NEED
YOU**



All interested parties should contact either:
Graham Maskell.....Mossley 3992
Laurence Sullivan.....061-303-7785
David Sumner.....New Mills 45485

Those people who cannot physically help should send donations please to the Society Treasurer Les Winnard, Westminster Bank Ltd., Uppermill Branch (Code No-01-08-99) for the credit of 'Huddersfield Canal Society Ltd - Uppermill Project' Account No.84219262 or hand to any HCS Council Member.

KIRKLEES PREPARE TO SIGN ACCESS AGREEMENT

It is hoped during the next few weeks that Kirklees Council will be signing the Access Agreement, for the towpath alongside the Huddersfield Narrow Canal as far as Standedge Tunnel. Kirklees' expenditure for the towpath for this year (1981-2) on capital and maintenance will be £5,000.

A meeting held on the 16th March by Kirklees was attended by representatives of the Huddersfield Canal Society Ltd., BWB, Pennine Heritage, Colne Valley Society, West Yorkshire Council and the Countryside Commission.

It was agreed by all present at the meeting that the Huddersfield Narrow Canal is a valuable asset to the area and is capable of taking increased public access and recreation.

Kirklees Council has for many years been trying to improve the recreational use of the canal. Negotiations for an Access Agreement have taken place to give the public the right of way to walk along the towpath and several projects have been promoted to improve either the towpath or clear rubbish from the canal.

Also at the meeting a member of Kirklees' Technical Services Department briefly went through the proposals prepared by them for car parking, picnic area sites, and associated landscape works. One of the areas which will particularly affect the Society in the near future is that at Tunnel End. It is proposed here that a picnic site, with possibly a back-packer camp site, play area, and landscaped area be made. It will also bring lots more people in cars - the West Yorkshire County Council agreed to investigate access to Tunnel End including junction improvements to improve the access.

The next meeting is to be before the end of May so next issue I shall hope to have further news!

.....

PRESS DATE15th JUNE

All articles and letters etc, for inclusion in July's Pennine Link must be received by 15th June please.

TRIP TO ELLESMERE PORT BOAT MUSEUM

On Saturday 30th May we are having a coach trip to the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. The coach will be a 53 seater so there should be plenty of room for members and families but please let me know (well in advance if possible) if you would like to come, before I throw the bookings open to the public at large. The coach will leave about 10.30am to arrive at the Museum about 12.30pm. allowing time to stop at various pick-up points en route.

On arrival at the Museum we shall eat a packed lunch and then have time to look round before taking a booked trip on the horse-drawn narrow boat. Following this, Mikron, the local-based canal theatre company are performing 'I'd go back tomorrow'. After the show we shall then have a guided tour of the Museum and be back onto the coach at 5.00pm when the Museum closes and hopefully be back home between 6.30pm - 7.00pm depending on the drop-off points.

A little now about the Museum. It was opened in 1976 in the old canal docks at the junction of the Shropshire Union and the Manchester Ship Canal, so will obviously be a good vantage point to compare the exhibits of the Museum to the large modern shipping vessels using the Ship Canal.

The Museum has a large number of historic canal boats including a 1912 tunnel tug, a collection of icebreakers, and a steam driven pump engine. One of the icebreakers in the collection has come from the Marsden BWB depot - removed on 24th March, now repainted and repaired and back in the water. There is also an exhibition in the Toll House illustrating the developments of the canals, the craft and the life of the people who lived and worked on them.

I'm sure that this will be a very enjoyable day out, and I for one am looking forward to going. For more details please telephone me (Sue) on Huddersfield 844596 or Jean Wrigley on 061-303-9027.

Remember please book early.

.....

HELP NEEDED FOR NATIONAL RALLY .. Peter Fryer Tel: Keighley 604046

Still urgently needed for the National Rally taking place in Leeds in August help and assistance for the weekend.

TAMESIDE FESTIVAL - HELP REQUIRED

Can anyone help out on the Tameside Festival weekend 25/26th July? If you can offer any help please contact Tricia Callaghan, 63 Grey St., Stalybridge..061-338-4277.

.....

EIGHTH

SPONSORED TOWPATH WALK.....SEPTEMBER 6th. Hazel Maskell

The walk is to be organised along the same lines as the successful IWA walk which was held in 1978. Half of the money raised from sponsors will be used by the Huddersfield Canal Society for restoration projects. Walkers can choose whether the other half should go to the society or to an organisation of their choice.

The local route, of just under eight miles, from Mottram Road, Stalybridge to Diggle, provides an easy, almost level walk which is suitable for family groups and can be completed in two to three hours.

We hope to encourage local residents associations, schools, and maybe even councillors and M.P.'s to join us. Anyone will be welcome.

You may think it is a little early to start planning for September but we're giving you plenty of notice so that you can make sure that you are available and fighting fit. We want to make lots of money and we need your help. More details will appear in the next Pennine Link.

UPPERMILL PROJECT

Les Winnard

Donations have been received from the following people with grateful thanks (in no particular order)

K. Brookes	Dr. Squires
P. Spence	J.D. & S.M. Cooke
M. Fellows	J.M. Lewis
R. Dewey	L.A. Wood
J. Maynard	L.W. Winnard
D. Sumner	R.S. Wilkinson

and Calder Cruisers Ltd. who donated the use of two boats for the Broad Canal Trip on the 14th March. The proceeds have been paid into the restoration account.

It is hoped that more people will want to contribute to the restoration and any donation, large or small, can be given to any Council member or sent to the Treasurer.

PRESS DATE : JULY ISSUE

The last date for articles for July Pennine Link is the 15th June. Anyone with a letter or article may if they so wish pass same over the telephone to the Editor. Hudds.844596 or Northcote House, Nields Road, Slaithwaite.

PROPOSED NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CANAL SOCIETIES. R. Dewey

As reported in last Pennine Link, Chris Farrar and I went to a meeting organised by Lancaster Canal Trust and Staffs. and Worcs. Canal Society to discuss the possibility of the formation of a Federation. This meeting took place on 7th March at Wolverhampton Polytechnic and was chaired by Alan Smith a member of IWAAC and Chairman of Staffs. and Worcs. Canal Society. He stated that the meeting was purely exploratory to consider the suggestion of a national voice for independant canal societies.

John Gavan of Lancaster Canal Trust saw the Federation as stepping into the vacuum caused by (his view) the inevitable demise of IWAAC. He emphasised that he was not proposing an alternative to IWA and pointed out that IWA had written supporting the idea. He saw the Federation as being able to command attention from BWB when they were considering proposals affecting (for example) rights of navigation. BWB currently consult Association of Pleasure Craft Operators (APCO), Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs (AWCC), IWA and IWAAC.

Robert Edwards of Staffs and Worcs. Canal Society did not consider the demise of IWAAC essential before NFCS could be formed; apart from this he shared Lancaster Canal Trust's view. Most of the representatives of the groups - 15 groups attended - spoke and made comments both for and against the proposal but was clear that the proposal was sufficiently vague to preclude proper discussion. We had no aims and objectives, constitution, financial arrangements to consider.

After long discussions, revolving around financing and organising rather than the need or aims of NFCS it was proposed that a steering committee be formed to consider the formation of a National Federation of Voluntary Waterway Organisations and that when the proposals are complete they should be circulated to all interested parties then there should be a further meeting to consider the steering committee's proposals. This was agreed unanimously.

The steering committee selected:

Robert Edwards	Staffs & Worcs Canal Society
Martin Mitchell	Grantham and Trent and Mersey.
David Boaker	Stroudwater Thames & Severn
Alan Eaves	Staffs. & Wocs.
John Gavan	Lancaster Canal Trust
Representative	Wey and Arun Canal Trust

We await developments, the General Secretary will be pleased to receive comments from members.

MIKRON

MESSAGE

MIKE LUCAS

First the Good News. On the 28th March over £400 was raised towards the restoration of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Now the Bad News - it could so easily have been £2,000. Why? Because the £400 was raised with only about twenty people taking part in a Sponsored Pub Crawl. How much more would have been raised if there had been fifty or even a hundred?

Over 180 Sponsorship Forms were handed out but, on the day, where was everybody - and more particularly where were HCS members? Of the twenty or so people walking only half were HCS members (and only two members of the Council). Three of the HCS members were from Mikron who provided seven walkers altogether. We had to alter our rehearsal schedules so that we could take part. One local from the Railway at Marsden, one of the ten pubs on the walk in and around Marsden, personally raised £37 by walking. She's not a member of the Society but she felt she agreed with the aims of the Society sufficiently to help.

David Finnis, who organised the walk raised nearly £70 ! Where were the rest of you? Where were the Council members? Some of them were moving the trip boat, Stan, to Uppermill. Why? Isn't that bad organisation? Where were some of the fifty who went on the boat trip down the Broad - an enjoyable day but it raised only £25 for the Society. Where were some of the sixty people who came to listen to Sarah and myself at the Four Horseshoes?

If people had stirred their stumps and gone out and gathered sponsorship, then they would have had to suffer the awful agony of walking a few miles on an ideal Spring day in beautiful Pennine countryside, with the added labour of calling in at ten wayside hostelrys for refreshment !

A festival takes a year to organise, a sponsored walk a few weeks. Yet the money-raising potential is enormous. However you can't have them every month or even every six months, so, when they happen, they must be properly supported.

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Please forward your ads with remittance (payable to Huddersfield Canal Society) for 1 or 6 issues to the Editor (address - front cover).

HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
1ST AUGUST, 1980 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1980

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>SALES</u>			557
<u>LESS COST OF SALES</u>			
Opening Stock		600	
<u>Add: Purchases</u>		420	
		<hr/>	
		1,020	
<u>Less: Closing Stock</u>		700	320
		<hr/>	
<u>GROSS PROFIT</u>			237
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>			
Subscriptions			330
Donations			50
Interest on deposit account			49
Profit on disposal of fixed assets			15
			<hr/>
			681
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>			
Pennine Link	187		
<u>Less: Income from advertisements</u>	20	167	
		<hr/>	
Printing, stationery and postages		105	
Donations		10	
Insurances		10	
Publicity costs		38	
Depreciation		89	
Audit and accountancy		92	
Sundry expenses		29	
Formation expenses		179	
Boat expenses:			
Boat insurance	7		
Boat depreciation	44		
Repairs	36		
Trailer hire	21		
		<hr/>	
		108	
<u>Less: Income from boat trips</u>	71	37	756
		<hr/>	
<u>(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</u>			<u>£(75)</u>

HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1980

	<u>1980</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>ASSETS EMPLOYED:</u>		
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		788
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Stock	900	
Canal festivals loans	280	
Debtors and prepayments	124	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,232	
	<u>2,536</u>	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Creditors and accrued expenses	127	
	<u>127</u>	
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		2,409
		<u>£3,197</u>
		<u><u>£3,197</u></u>
<u>FINANCED BY:</u>		
Capital fund		3,072
Reserves		125
		<u>£3,197</u>
		<u><u>£3,197</u></u>

The accounts which are reproduced in Pennine Link are only a summary of the audited accounts. A copy of the full accounts will be sent on request, please send a large S.A.E. to the Treasurer.

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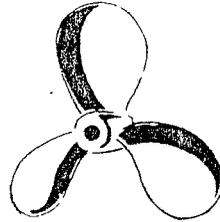
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PARKING NEXT TO MUSEUM

ELEVEN

£400 is a good effort for the numbers involved but it just isn't enough. Restoration on the Huddersfield Narrow has started. It's all for real. We need money and lots of it if we're going to be taken seriously as a Society.

What a stirring sight it was on Saturday April 4th (coincidentally exactly the same day as the first boats sailed through Standedge Tunnel 170 years before) to see the Navvies (represented by Waterways Recovery Group, North West, and some HCS members) at work on Dungebooth Lock in Uppermill. To watch one of those dreadful concrete caps slowly (very slowly) being removed and the rubble being manhandled away, seemed to mark the end of a sad era for the Huddersfield Narrow and the beginning of a splendid, new, exciting one.

Over the coming weeks there will, hopefully, be many working parties. Please watch out for news of these and please get out there and help.

One final sobering thought - the work which took place on that first restoration weekend cost £200 !

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mikron for the help and support they have given the Society and hope they have a successful 1981 tour.

Just to end on a humorous note: On Sunday April 5th I was to be seen dashing about sticking 'Restore Huddersfield Canal' badges on people who were coming up to inspect the work at the lock, handing out 'Pennine Links' and membership forms etc. Three boys or should I say youths, came up to get one of everything I had to give out and they took a 'Mikron Tour for 1981' - one youth looked through it, turned to me and said "Mikron - I've seen them in the pub up the road, they were doing a play about Rats"

WORKING PARTIES

Laurence Sullivan

If you are coming to any future working parties please come suitably dressed i.e. good boots/wellies, overalls, gloves, and a safety helmet if you can get one. If you can borrow any useful tools i.e. spades, buckets, pickaxes, sledgehammers, wheelbarrows etc. then please bring them too. Working parties start at 10.00am. We expect further visits from WRG in future but as we are in the public eye we must have some work going on every weekend. Many thanks to those who have helped so far.

TUNNEL END

On 31st March, 1981, Kirklees Council designated Tunnel End a Conservation Area. This means that planning permission is needed to demolish any building or to fell or lop any trees.

Volunteers working on or near the cottages please note!

.....
HUDDERSFIELD BROAD CANAL CERTIFICATE

Once again a certificate is available for anyone navigating the length of the Huddersfield Broad Canal. The certificates are offered in the hope that it will be an added incentive for anyone contemplating navigating this waterway.

Those wishing to claim a certificate should send proof of the achievement together with a SAE to Trevor Ellis, 20, Batley Ave., Marsh, Huddersfield, who will if required supply further details. His telephone No. is 34666.

It is hoped that there will be plenty of claimants for these certificates especially as this years Inland Waterways National Rally is to be held in Leeds this August.

.....

There will be no prize offered for anyone who spotted the mistake on the March Pennine Link's cover! The map showed "A6052 encroaches on site of canal" WRONG - the A670 encroaches, the A6052 crosses on its original bridge!

.....

DEATH OF ROBERT AICKMAN.

Robert Aickman founder of the Inland Waterways Association died on 26th February in a London hospital. His death will be a sad loss to the waterways community as he has for many years fought to preserve and revitalise the inland waterways of Britain. In 1948 Robert Aickman, Elizabeth Jane Howard, the Rolts and the Sutherlands made what was to be the last journey along the whole length of the Huddersfield Narrow aboard 'Ailsa Craig'.....

PLANNING APPLICATION - T.S.LAWTON & SONS

The canal was once again threatened with infilling by a car park at T.S.Lawton & Sons, Chapel Hill, Huddersfield. The Society has over the past few weeks handed out many forms asking for letters of objection to be sent to Kirklees Council. This obviously has worked! The application has now been withdrawn!

Message from the East Side Chairman Brian Badminton

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our members who supported the East side meetings during the last winter. Our guest speakers must have been left with the impression of a well supported society as an average attendance of fifty was achieved at each of these meetings, and due to good forward advertising we attracted people who perhaps would not normally come to canal meetings.

Because of the success of these events I have organised guest speakers at regular intervals throughout 1981 and I cordially invite all members to attend and make them enjoyable and successful events. See Diary for details.

If anyone has any suggestions for future talks I would be pleased to hear from them. Meanwhile I look forward to seeing lots of new and 'old' faces in the coming months.

SARAH - ONE OF THE NAVVIES.

Sarah Wilson

On Sunday morning I slowly woke up over my first cup of tea wondering what I had let myself in for. This was my one day off and here I was on my way to Uppermill to spend the day digging out a lock!

However, by 6.00 the same evening I was very glad that I hadn't sloped off back to bed with the thought that there would always be another weekend.

I've always enjoyed getting dirty and had ample opportunity on Sunday, standing up to my knees in mud and sand clearing out a lock chamber. Before I started working with the Mikron Theatre Co. I was not aware of the existance of the Hudds. Narrow Canal. I am thankful to Mikron for introducing me to this and many other canals.

I can only say that I have discovered working parties can be great fun. As a woman I am not just expected to make tea and sandwiches, I have the choice to do whatever takes my fancy. I hope that many other females will feel able to join in the physical work necessary to restore the canal. At the end of the weekend or even one days dig you can turn round and see what has been achieved. There is a job for everyone though you don't have to jump in at the deep end. Why not come down to Uppermill one weekend and see for yourself?

.....

TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL 1981

Colin Chadwick

The plans for the Tameside Canals Festival are now at an advanced stage. Once again there is going to be a championship line-up of canoeists involved in a knock-out competition in Portland Basin on the Sunday. Many of the competitors from this country and the continent will have been competing at the world canoeing championships at Lake Bala, North Wales up until the previous day.

Camra are once again running the what is now world famous beer tent. They plan to have a selection of at least 12 real ales many of them this time from breweries not normally selling in the north west.

If anyone wishes to become involved in the Festival preparations please contact Laurence Sullivan or Peter Freeman ...061-303-7785 and Heywood 64468.

Extra Raffle Tickets for sale are available from Margaret Sumner ..Mossley 6561. The success of this Festival will enable us to make even further strides on the restoration front.

HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY - SHEFFIELD BRANCH Joyce Calverley

On the 19th March 15 members of the Society met at the White Lion in Sheffield for the first meeting of the Sheffield Branch. Bob Dewey and Dave Finnis came from Huddersfield to show us slides of the canal. Due to a shortage of time very little was decided but the next meeting was arranged and will again be at the White Lion on 23rd April.

We hope to have our own social and fund raising events, starting with a towpath walk in the near future.

Anyone interested in attending future meeting or requiring further information should contact either myself or Phil at 25, Wulfvic Road, Eckington, Sheffield..Chesterfield 432140.

PROTEST GATHERING OVER BLISWORTH TUNNEL.

The Northampton Branch of IWA has organised for May 23-25th a protest gathering at Stoke Bruerne top lock, over the closure of Blisworth Tunnel. Blisworth on the Grand Union Canal is expected not to be opened until sometime in 1982. BWB has expressed regret and sadness that the tunnel cannot be open but as usual this is put down to a lack of money.

FIFTEEN

HCS TREASURE HUNT...SUNDAY 8th MARCH

Simon Taylor
Organiser.

Sunday March 8th saw the first of the hopefully annual Treasure Hunts. If you did not enter you missed a treat, if you did, it wasn't my idea in the first place.

The weather was well up to HCS standard and nine cars braved the elements in order to try and win the staggeringly beautiful trophy.

The route took 28 unknowing, unwilling and after the event slightly unfriendly victims from Leeds Road, Huddersfield through Aspley, Longroyd Bridge, Milnsbridge, Slaithwaite, Pole Moor and eventually Marsden.

As is usual with these events in my experience anyway, the chatting and general exchange of answers to clues was probably even more fun than the rally itself - assuming that to be possible of course.

Your own, your very own beloved Editor of Plink (Editors Note: I think he means me..) and her accrued family (accrued being all one word) came a commendable LAST with 17% although several hundred points out of ten for the best car.

Curiously enough the winning car set off last, by about 20 minutes, came in second and was in the worst condition. The car being the ex-works (SLM) Citroen Dyane 6 skilfully piloted by the Milsom troupe.

The trophy now is either giving the Milsom mantlepiece an auspicious appearance or their dog a hard time, and as an extra bonus (I was going to use the word incentive but I'm a lousy liar) they will/must/ought to organise next years rally. No prizes for guessing who will NOT be winning next years.

Incidentally, I believe there is no truth in the rumour that PRB 2000 team were sponsored by a company who make hair colour restorer in Greece.

Hope we do better next time Sue.

ENTRANT	POS	PTS	- Out of 98.	POS	PTS
Milsom Troupe	1	58	Brookes Twins	7	26
Dewey Entourage	2	50	Ex Works Team		
Equipe Badminton	3	43	Collier	8	25
Finnis & Ann Other	4	39	Gibsons	9	17
PRB 2000	5	31			
Team Crosland	6	27			

SIXTEEN

BROAD CANAL TRIP..... SATURDAY 14th MARCH. Brian Badminton

Being a canal Society one expects to have to deal with water but it has a habit of not conforming to expectations as will be apparent later. So it was in pouring rain that approx. 50 members and guests assembled at Aspley Wharfe at 9.30am on Sat. 14th March ready to embark on a trip down the Hudds. Broad Canal to Brighouse. Our party included a late arrival in the form of member Brian Lawton complete in GPO uniform and mailbag, who jumped aboard as we were leaving. He said he had just finished his round but could this be a secret plan by the GPO to speed the mail by using canals (after all it could prove quicker despite stoppages).

After passing Turnbridge, holding up traffic whilst the road lifted and four boats sailed underneath we experienced the one and only mishap of the day. The leading boat crewed by members of a theatre company thoughtfully cleared the channel for the following boats by collecting round the propellor a large amount of rubbish, plastic bag, tennis net, brick etc., which meant that rather than hold the other boats up, they had to be paired-up with the second boat. We continued on our way whilst the crew of the first boat continued their weed-hatch worshipping (this was probably the first time a pair of narrow-boats had been down the canal doubled for years).

We reached Lock 1 with no further mishaps and to our surprise found the river level normal and continued up the Calder and Hebble Navigation to Brighouse (propellor cleared by this time).

Time only permitted us a short stay at Brighouse before we had to set off for home and the return trip was made without incident in mainly dry weather, arriving back at Aspley just as darkness was falling. We had therefore successfully completed a round trip of four narrow-boats (kindly loaned by Calder Cruisers Ltd) and fifty people, and despite the wet weather everybody had had a good day out.

The trip also raised £25 which we donated to the Upper mill restoration fund and if anyone would like to suggest that we have another trip later this year I would be delighted to arrange it with of course Calder Cruisers consent, perhaps starting at Brighouse and going to Sowerby Bridge and back.

P.S..... Would the owner of the yellow anorak found on board one of the boats after the trip please like to contact me.....

SEVENTEEN

TOWPATH WALK....SUNDAY 15th MARCH.

Colin Chadwick

Weatherwise the weekend didn't hold many promises for walking. The boat trip down the Broad the day before enjoyed an excellent turnout but as Brian Badminton said to me "it rained once, and that was all day". Anyhow the Sunday started well and stayed fine all day.

About 25 of us left Marsden Tunnel End just after 10.00am heading for Slaithwaite. This stretch between Marsden and Slaithwaite is exceedingly attractive and it must be high on our priority list for a restoration scheme in the not too distant future. Sunday boat trips from Slaithwaite to Wool Road, Uppermill would be booked up months in advance.

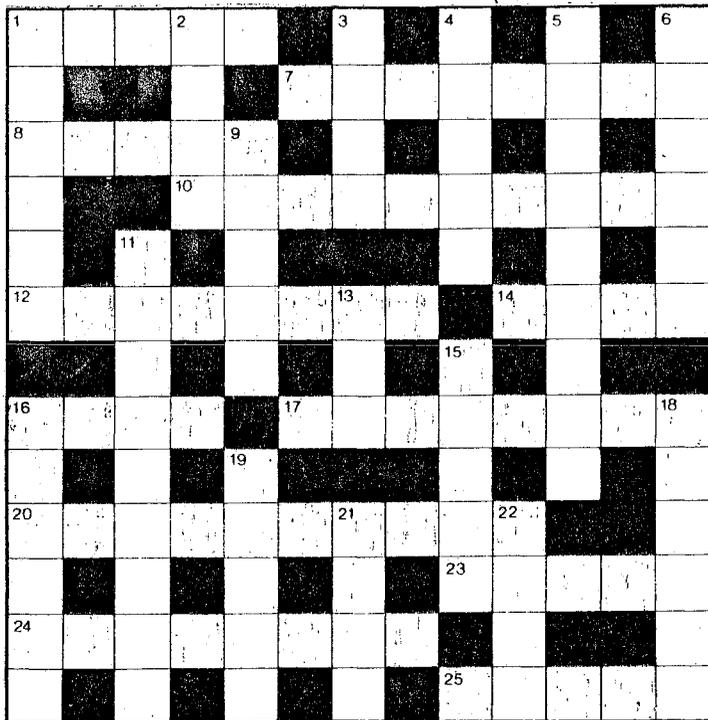
The walking pace was quite brisk and the conversation full of plans and ideas for the coming season which promises to be a very hectic one for the Society. Shortly after opening time we arrived at the Swan in Slaithwaite. We seem to have latched onto the perfect formulae for these towpath walks, two hours walking, two hours having lunch and beverage and two hours walking back.

Our appetites for the Pie, Peas and Chips was strong and our thirsts were quite healthy also. Some late night revellers from the Lucas household joined us for lunch having driven down from Marsden by car no less. Shortly before closing time and suitably replete we began the return journey, perhaps not as briskly - it is up hill - but nevertheless very buoyant. A good ration of fresh air at weekends seems to prop you up for the rest of the week. We arrived back at Marsden Tunnel End at about 4.00pm. having thoroughly enjoyed our day out.

The next towpath walk is arranged for Saturday 2nd May starting from Portland Basin, Ashton-under-Lyne at 10.00am. Why don't you join us?

THE SPONSORED PUB CRAWL on 28th March raised over £400 for the Uppermill Project. People who took part were: David Finnis, Keith Gibson, Sue Gibson, Sarah Wilson, Mike Lucas, Mark Strickson, Thea Bennett, Sarah Lucas, Sue Prickett, Ray Carpenter, Janet Eastwood, Brian Eastwood, Janet Hay, Ruth Gilbert, Chris Pickles, John Burland, Stella Neal, Chris Kelly, Geoff Wheat, Diane Tatlow, Jeff Thompson, John Turner, Colin and Suzanne Atkinson. Many thanks to all who took part!

CROSSWORD

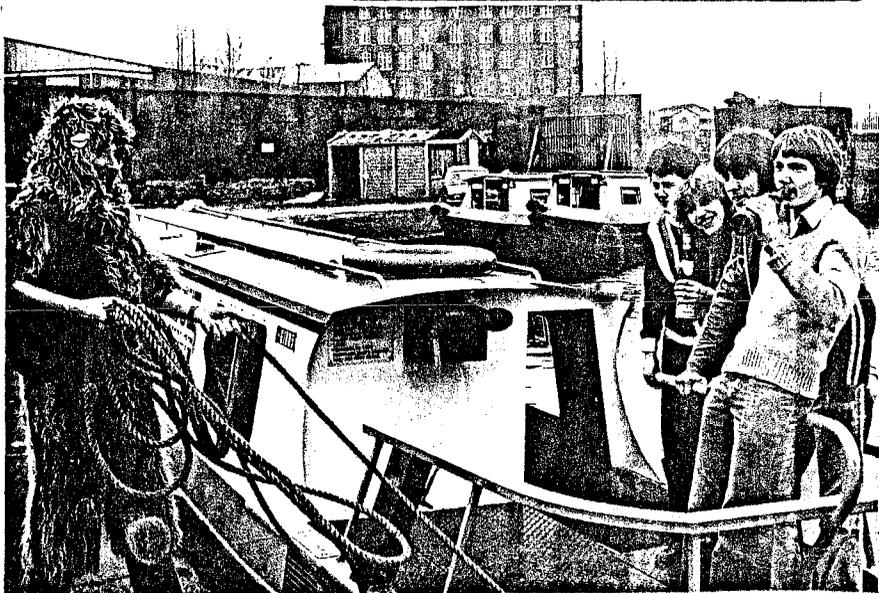
CLUES ACROSS

1. One May well leave boats here (5) 7. Canal Walkways (8)
 8. Too Many Locks etc. are - (5)
 10. Takes some of this to get one's boat to its best (4,6)
 12. One needs to be something of this on a 'powered' boat (8)
 14. Blemish (4) 16. Good time to start a trip (4)
 17. Goes Back (8) 20. They go on canals too (10)
 23. You need thick ones under the wellies (5)
 24. Lengthened (8) 25. Vessel (5)

CLUES DOWN

1. Boatman (6) 2. Spots for a quaff and a yarn after tying up (4) 3. Vessel (4) 4. 'Galley slave' may need it (5)
 5. From one lock to another (9) 6. She presents a TV show (6)
 9. Money is soon - (5) 11. Make things worse (9)
 13. Time for 2 Down (3) 15. Not canal hazards (5)
 16 + 19. Two rivers joined by an east west canal (6 + 5)
 18. About the time of 13 down (6) 21. Water Grass (4)
 22. Canal Trip maybe (4)

The Solution to this crossword will appear in the July issue.
 Kindly sent in by Mr. J. Grosland of Birkby. Many thanks!

PRIZEWINNER 1980.CANAL HOLIDAY ON RUSSWELL VIII

The Photo shows TCF Raffle Winner Richard Longley (right of photo) along with friends—from left, Michelle Castle, Janet Scott, Colin Smethurst. The holiday began on April 4th and seeing them off on their way (Buzby) Diggle alias Pete Freeman.

SALES LISTOrders to : JEAN BUCKLEY

HCS Logo Sweatshirts	£7 + 50p p&p
'Tich' Bodicea & Napoleon Diggle	
T Shirts 20" - 30"	£1.95
32" - 40"	£2.50 plus 25p p&p
Diggle Badges	40p
Wide selection of hand-painted canalware.	
<u>BOOKS AND MAPS ETC</u>	
Various coloured postcards	7p
History of the HNC	30p
Filled 't top wi' rubble (Mossley Report)	75p
The HNC (Green Report)	50p
Ladybird Book on Canals	40p
Back Door Britain by Anthony Burton	£1.25
Good Beer Guide (CAMRA - Real Ale)	£1.00
Pennine Link	2nd class postage
The Rochdale Canal	75p
Nicholsons Guides	£1.00
Stamfords Map	£1.25
Imrays Map	85p
Saddleworth Maps 1&2	90p
Cheshire Ring Map	80p

TWENTY

RESUME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4th MARCH, 1981
AT THE TOLLEMACHE ARMS, MOSSLEY.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Suggestion that watchdogs E/W be appointed to look out for developments affecting the canal.

SALES OFFICERS REPORT :

Postcards to be produced.

UPPERMILL PROJECT:

Final clearance for April 4th needed from London - BWB.
Planning Application for car park/picnic area at Woolroad received by Oldham MB includes footpath across blockage - objection sent.

TUNNEL END COTTAGES:

Cottages Sub-committee to meet soon.
Kirklees Council agreed to buy old sidings opposite, also agreed to sign access agreement for towpath.

TREASURERS REPORT: Noted

CORRESPONDENCE: Dealt with

PUBLICATION OFFICERS REPORT:

Towpath Guide 64 pages A5 size, launch at Tameside Festival.

BOAT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Assistance needed 14th & 21st March. Launch Boat on 28th.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Agreed to attend the Mayor's Parade.

RESUME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st APRIL, 1981 AT
THE GREAT WESTERN, MARSDEN.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Lawton's planning application - letters of objection.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chris Farrar to resign end May due to new job. Proposed David Sumner should be appointed.

UPPERMILL PROJECT:

Publicity arrangements discussed.

COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT:

AGM arrangements OK. Accounts and reports circulated.

Proposed and agreed that reports and accounts be approved subject to approval at AGM.

BOAT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Boat launched 28th March. New charges 40p adult 20p child.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Attended meeting of Nat. Fed. of Canal Societies-report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT : Noted

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Formation of Sheffield Branch. Meeting was well attended.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to welcome the following new members:

- 699 Derek R. Holland, [REDACTED]
- 700 Anthony P. [REDACTED]
- 701 Laurence Shaw, [REDACTED]
- 702 David R. Hodgson, [REDACTED]
- 703 Gerald, Denise & Stefan Edinburgh, [REDACTED]
- 704 Angela & Roger Glister, [REDACTED]
- 705 Mrs. Jean Griffiths, [REDACTED]
- 706 Sue E. Day, [REDACTED]
- 707 Mark A. Stiles, [REDACTED]
- 708 Michael G. Miller, [REDACTED]
- 709 Tameside Local Studies Library, [REDACTED]
- 710 Miss Mary & Miss Margaret Freeman, [REDACTED]
- 711 Peter S. Stiles, [REDACTED]
- 712 Melvyn, Ann, Matthew & Ruth Taylor, [REDACTED]
- 713 Mr. & Mrs. D. George & Ian, [REDACTED]
- 714 Michael Collier, [REDACTED]

In the past year (from April 1980) we have welcomed 90 new members to the Society. The total number of members currently stands at 459.

Is anyone aware of the new addresses of the following members who have moved without telling us, Graeme Kilner, William Pearson and Alan Brook.

Val Dewey
Membership Secretary.

RAFFLE RESULTS - 1980.

TAMESIDE FESTIVAL

One or two members have mentioned that they didn't see a list of Raffle Results for Tameside Festival last year; here for you now are the winning numbers:

- 07296 05958 08153 00874 09195 02217 07424 04408
- 17828 08616 04848

.....

DIARY

- 1st May IWA Manchester. 'Huddersfield Canal'
by Robin Witter. Rusholme Conservative Club
- 2nd May 10.00am. Towpath Walk from Portland Basin, Ashton.
- 2nd May Saddleworth Beer Festival...CAMRA
- 5th May 8.00pm. Talk on restoration progress at Colne
Valley Society Meeting by R. Dewey at
Slaithwaite Town Hall.
- 7th May 8.00pm. E. Meeting including members slide show
Commercial Hotel, Slaithwaite.
Meeting @ 7 for short towpath walk.
- 10th May IWA/RCS Dinghy Rally, Slattocks, Middleton
Manchester.
- 13th May 8.00pm. W. Meeting at Old Hunters Tavern, Acres
Lane, Stalybridge.
- 16th May Mayor's Parade, Huddersfield Town Centre.
- 23/25th May Federation of Bridgewater Cruising Club
Rally.
- 27th May 8.00pm PFCS/HCS Joint Meeting. Oldham Community
Centre.
- 30th May Trip to Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.
For details and bookings phone Sue Gibson
Hudds. 844596 or Jean Wrigley
- 4th June 8.00pm E. Meeting at Albion, Longroyd Bridge.
Meeting at 7pm for short towpath walk.
- 10th June 8.00pm. W. Meeting at Tollemache Arms, Mossley.
- 15th June PRESS DATE FOR PENNINE LINK
- 2nd July 8.00pm. E. Meeting at Four Horseshoes, Milnsbridge
'Continental Waterways' by Fred Andrews.
Meeting at 7pm for short towpath walk.
- 8th July W. Meeting. Station Hotel, Ashton-u-Lyne.
- 25th/26th July Tameside Canals Festival.
- 15th/16th August IWA National Rally, Dock Street, Leeds.
- 6th Sept. Sponsored Towpath Walk.

EDITOR: The Editor holds the right to edit or withhold articles
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