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MEMBERS

PENNINE LINK

No.54

November/December 1983

Marsden Tunnel End Cottages



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Cover: shows view along towpath towards the Tunnel End Cottages at the official opening.

Photo: Ian Mitchell

THE JOURNAL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY LTD.

Council Members/Non-Council Members inside front cover
 Editorial 1
 Chairman's Remarks 2
 Uppermill Progress Report/M.E.P. joins HCS 3
 Boats 4
 Toepath '83 5
 HCS Flag Day/Social at Tunnel End/Cottage Crafts 6
 Obstructions to Navigation 7/8
 HCS on the 'Box' again/Appeal to all pub-goers 8
 Restoration Round-Up 10/11
 Tunnel End Cottages 12
 Tunnel End Festival 13
 Tunnel End Souvenirs/Lucky Programme Draw 14
 Grand Diggle Draw 15
 Letters 16/17/18
 Crossword 19
 Canal Map 20
 Angela's Diggle Family/Items for Auction 21
 HCS 'Promotions Group'/HCS at 'National' in Wigan 23
 Sales List 25
 Classified Ads/Membership Comp./Press Cuttings/
 Deeds of Covenant/Advertising Rates/Press Date/Stamp Collection 27
 Membership 28/inside back cover
 Diary back cover

editorial

What a year 1983 has been for the Society. Dungebooth and Lime Kiln Locks restored and fitted with lock gates, the opening of our Exhibition Centre at Tunnel End, the recent acquisition of a full-length trip boat, and things coming together very well on the restoration front. Let's hope we see as much progress in 1984! May I offer too a big welcome to all our new members — many joining after having read the article in *Waterways World* (September issue).

For anyone who took part in Toepath '83, the sponsorship money was due in by the end of October so if you haven't already sent yours please ensure you do so as quickly as possible so they can wind up Toepath '83 and start preparing for Toepath '84!

Finally may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 1984.

Sue Gibson

Last month Mr John Freeman, Area Engineer (BWB, Wigan), retired after a lifetime on the waterways. John has been a good friend and an inspiration to the Society. One of his great achievements was the upgrading of a doomed commercial canal, the Leeds and Liverpool, to a magnificent leisure waterway. In the past few years he has been beavering away at persuading people of the importance of the Huddersfield Narrow, and particularly Standedge Tunnel, to the waterway network. He has retired before the mighty tunnel has re-opened but not before a part of the Huddersfield Narrow has been restored to navigation.

This year's National Rally in Wigan — now seeing extensive waterway re-development — was a fitting climax to John's career. We hope to see John, and his successor, Stuart Sim, in the bow of the first public trip through Standedge and look forward to meeting him at Uppermill next Spring when we shall open our two locks to celebrate the start of our restoration projects. Good luck, John, and best wishes from us all.

It is fitting that, in the last month of John Freeman's official career in the waterways, all five riparian councils should be included in discussions on various restoration proposals for our canal. Unfortunately, we could not celebrate the lock re-opening last month but we can look forward now to proposals on canal schemes in Tameside, Oldham and Kirklees, including the two Metropolitan County Councils which have shown a very important lead on their respective sides of the hill.

The restoration at Uppermill would not have been possible without the support of Greater Manchester Council, and Tunnel End Cottages — the highest waterways museum and countryside ranger centre in the UK — have been restored and were re-opened by West Yorkshire County Council in September.

The Marsden-Slaithwaite scheme now has the BWB seal of approval and detailed consultations between the relevant authorities are continuing. Over in the West, the Tameside Canals Development Association has been formed. This body, chaired by Councillor Frank Ruffley of Tameside MBC, is proposing canal improvement and restoration works in Tameside following a document written by Peter Freeman and Keith Gibson. Your council will keep you informed of developments.

Next year we propose an ambitious programme of festivals and mini-festivals along our cut. The aim is to involve more members and the local populus. Our first 'joint' event is this year on 26th November at Uppermill when the Society combines with the Saddleworth Parish Council for a money-raising Auction and Cheese and Wine Party (see details elsewhere). If we are to restore other sections of the canal, we must have more local support. Please come along to our open meetings or write, telephone or call on your council for information.

Happy Christmas to you all.

David M. Sumner
Chairman

Our second lock-gate hanging exercise took place as planned on August 11/12th without too many hitches. For this we have to thank B.W.B. Marsden Yard staff for 'turning' off the water (they replaced the drain cover in the aqueduct at the same time) and this made the operation a lot easier.

Both locks are holding water well considering they have been 'empty' for so long. A minor leak occurred in Dungebooth lock chamber wall which caused some subsidence, and once again B.W.B. staff assisted us, and plugged the leak.

Painting of the balance beams and paddle gear has begun and, weather permitting, will be completed soon.

No trial boating through Lime Kiln lock has taken place as yet (someone decided that Stan ought to be taken to Marsden for Tunnel End Festival first) but our work punt has been used in the chamber as a work platform for pointing. As soon as Stan re-appears, a trial run along the whole section will be arranged.

We have one more working party arranged before Christmas, this being **Nov 26/27th**, all are welcome. Please let me know if you will be coming.

Graham Maskell

Rt. Hon. Mrs Barbara Castle, M.E.P. joins the HCS Campaign to restore the Canal

Whilst at the Society's annual Tameside Canals Festival the Rt. Hon. Mrs Barbara Castle, M.E.P. was so impressed with our campaign to restore the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, she's now a member of the Society.

Asked why, Mrs Castle says "I have joined the Huddersfield Canal Society because it is doing just what as Minister of Transport I wanted canal lovers to do — organise themselves into voluntary societies to defend and promote the development of our inland waterways for leisure purposes. I know how much pleasure people can get from cruising in narrow boats along our canals where the banks and hedges can offer so much beauty and quietness even in industrial areas. As Minister of Transport back in 1968 I had the satisfaction of getting my government to agree to keep open some 1,400 miles of waterways for pleasure cruising which no longer had any commercial use, but which had such an important part to play in enriching our leisure. Public money is always limited and we cannot leave everything to the government. So, if canal users want to preserve and improve the waterways or to open up new stretches for our delight, they must pitch in and help. This is what the HCS is doing in co-operating with enlightened local authorities to restore canalside architecture, and the canals themselves. That is why I want hundreds of people to rush to join. Don't say "If only....." Say "Together we will"

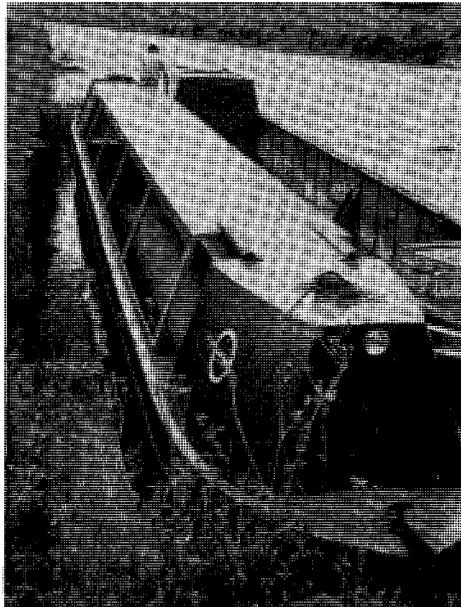
Stan was moved to Marsden in time to take part in the Marsden Festival and in spite of the rain and a rather poorly engine managed to run a number of trips. One of these was to ferry some ladies dressed in period costume to the American Civil War; see details of the Festival and all will be made clear! She is now moored outside the cottages at Tunnel End.

At last it can be revealed what has been happening regarding the long promised full length trip boat. Mr Hugh Wainwright of Unicon Marine has purchased a trip boat from the Coombe Hill Canal Trust — advertised in the April '83 issue of *Waterways World*. Negotiations have been going on since then and details could not be announced which might prejudice these.

The boat is a double ended iron narrow boat with steel roof and open sides and seats 48. It is powered by a BMC diesel through a Gill jet unit enabling it to travel backwards as well as forwards with equal ease; this is essential for running trips at Uppermill until the filled-in section is cleared and we have access to the winding hole at Woolroad.

She is now at Whaley Bridge being refurbished and modified. When this work has been completed she will be moved to Uppermill and leased to the Society by Unicon. This arrangement has saved the Society having to find the capital sum for the purchase of a boat when our finances are stretched to the limit — if not beyond — with our restoration schemes. Our very sincere thanks are extended to Mr Wainwright and Unicon Marine for this generous assistance. It is now up to us to justify this confidence in the Society by making the trips attractive enough to the public to make them pay.

John Maynard



The great God of the weather hasn't been smiling on H.C.S. too much this year, with the spectacular storm at T.C.F. and the torrential rain at Tunnel End Festival. However the sacrifice of numerous pints of Tetleys at the Packhorse, Slaithwaite, on Saturday evening seemed to cheer up the weather God and by the morning it was perfect; not too cold — not too hot and above all dry.

The day started with the frantic efforts to get things ready for the hordes of walkers. The official opening went off smoothly, the guests were whisked away to take a look at the Tunnel End cottages and the progress at Uppermill. Then the nitty-gritty of organising upwards of 350 people walking up and down the route began.

The four checkpoints were kept very busy, all sold out of refreshments 'PANIC'; luckily there are plenty of pubs en route (the number of walkers seen wobbling about confirmed this)! The canoeists had it brought home to them how many locks there are on the Huddersfield Narrow, with one or two of them collapsing in a heap part way.

The promotion for the walk seemed to have worked and people came from as far away as Bridlington, Selby, Wolverhampton and Walsall. Some of the individual amounts raised were quite phenomenal, a certain D. Finnis (who?) raised over £80 alone. Clubs and groups also did well, with Pennine singers canoeing in fancy dress, raising well into 3 figures; as did the Mikron Theatre Company who seemed to have gone slightly "Over the Top" in the 'Shoulder' at lunchtime. The many dogs walking seemed to raise amazing amounts too, perhaps they should have done it twice, after all they've twice as many toes haven't they?

It's a little early just yet to work out the exact statistics of the walk, but it seems that about 325 people officially walked (many were using 1 sponsorship form between 2 or more walkers — giving us a false impression of the numbers) somewhere just short of £4,000 was raised, about 2/3 of which should go to H.C.S.

We cannot thank all you walkers enough for all the trouble taken. After all without you Toepath wouldn't exist, so now to next year, same route same time — I even heard a rumour that 'West side' may be organising one as well — competition eh?

Ian Mitchell



Photo shows from left to right Mr and Mrs Sykes, Ken Goodwin (The chairman of IWA), Ctr. Garth Pratt, Ctr B. Murphy (Deputy Mayor of Kirklees), County Ctr R. Mitchell, and in his canal costume Brian Badminton (Toepath '83 chairman)
photo: R. Carter

December 3rd 1983 sees the first ever HCS Flag Day. It is to take place in Huddersfield town centre and to make the day a success we need lots of volunteers to assist in collecting donations and giving out stickers.

We also hope to have the HCS Sales Stand and Caravan in the town centre as well so there is bound to be plenty for all to do.

Do you use any suitable tins or containers which could easily be converted to use as a donation box? Tins such as the powdered milk tins with the plastic tops etc. are ideal. If you do have any spare would you please contact one of the council members or anyone who regularly attends meetings as we will need as many donation tins/boxes as possible. Or if you are planning a visit to Tunnel End Cottages take them with you and leave them with the assistant behind our sales counter.

If you can help on December 3rd please volunteer NOW. Please ring me on Huddersfield 846087.

Social at Tunnel End Cottages on Friday 9th December 1983

As we are sharing Tunnel End Cottages with West Yorkshire's Countryside Ranger Service we jointly thought it time that volunteers from both organisations had a 'get together' to know why we are at Tunnel End.

We are therefore, having an evening social in the cottages on Friday 9th December when we hope we will become more acquainted with each others operations. The final arrangements have still to be planned but if you have any reasonable ideas for the event please let me know and I will see if they can be incorporated into the plans. Suggestions so far besides general socialising include a quiz and slide shows about each others activities.

If you intend coming along please let me know and don't forget to bring a 'Bottle' of something suitable to drink.

cottage crafts

Buy your Christmas presents at Tunnel End Cottages on 11th December 1983

Following on from our social at Tunnel End on the 9th December we are staging a small craft in the Cottages on Sunday 11th December. An ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas presents.

We intend inviting various craft people to come along and display their wares, put on displays and exhibitions and have already received confirmation from Roy Waring the canal ware painter from Leigh, who you may have seen if you attended Tunnel End Festival.

David L. Finnis

The supply of water to a canal is a constant problem and a cause of concern when the supply ceases or when flooding occurs or when the weather causes the navigation to be frozen or the canal physically obstructed.

One of the worst remembered was the Black Flood, so called from the colour of the water that devastated Marsden after Black Moss Reservoir (a canal feeder with a capacity of almost 68 million gallons) burst its banks at 1 a.m. on 29th November 1810. Huge quantities of peat were washed down the moors and property on 28 acres of land were swept away. The body of a Marsden woman was later found at Paddock, while a pig was washed down to Aspley where it was recovered from the water and returned to its owner. The 'Gentlemans Magazine' for December 1810, p.582, makes grim reading of how Joseph Schofield at work in the uncompleted Standedge tunnel returned from work to discover his wife and four children had perished and of his cottage, which stood at Bank Bottom, only the hearthstone remained.

The state of mistrust towards all reservoirs was not helped by this and other disasters — Blacksike 1821; Bilberry 1852 and Bradfield 1864. At many times Tunnel End, March Haigh and Slaithwaite reservoirs have been the source of great anxiety, a situation aggravated in 1864 after a mill chimney at Royal George, Greenfield, expertly pronounced safe, collapsed shortly afterwards.

Heavy rainfall caused the canal to overflow after adjoining rivers had burst their banks, being particularly serious in 1834, 1856, 1861 and 1866 and in 1872 when Sparth reservoir overflowed into the canal which in turn ran into the River Colne near Lingards, also overflowing near Spring Mill and again at Longroyd Silk Mills, while at Greenfield the canal and the River Tame became one in many places after the latter overflowed. At Royal George the contents of the Canal warehouse were badly damaged. At the west end of Scout tunnel a breach in the canal bank extended 30 yards while the canal was flooded by the river in many places down to Ashton; for the latter place this was a repetition of 1866 when all canal traffic stopped for several days.

An unusual flood took place in 1877 after two men recovering a sunken boat from the pound above Morley Lane omitted to open the cloughs of lock 10 and its bywash when the canal was drained. Nearby property became awash including the cellar of the Four Horse-Shoes Inn. In 1904 a cloudburst caused huge torrents of water to run down Golcar Brook blocking the canal with hundreds of tons of top soil.

Obstruction by drought has been even more frequent. A reduced income in 1835 was attributed to this cause. In 1849 traffic stopped for 8 days, in 1852 for 35 days, 1854 for 23 days, in 1866 for 66 days, in 1869 for 70 days, in 1870 for 41 days while in 1874 the Huddersfield Canal stopped for 46 days although the Ramsden Canal (Broad) remained open for vessels whose draught did not exceed 3' -6". In 1884 the drought ran from June to November, in 1887 for 33 days and in 1901 the closure was from September to November.

Freezing weather caused a seven week stoppage in 1838 when £70/3/3d was incurred on ice breaking. Navigation was stopped for an unspecified period in 1878/9 after a twelve week record freeze up which ended in early

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February 1879. Standedge Tunnel has been obstructed by reason of its condition for 86 days in 1857 and three periods in 1869, first when the Nelson steamer 'Lively Kitten' sank in deep water and its crew were in the water for a considerable time in pitch darkness, one man holding onto its chimney, while another escaped through it. Upon recovery the tunnel closed for repairs only for a boat owned by the M.S. & L. Railway leased to John Higginbottom of Marple being struck by a rock weighing three tons crashing into it causing it to sink 300 yards from the Marsden end — this had been loosened by blasting in the new railway tunnel; furthermore in February 1870 a fall of rock and shale at Hell Kettle caused the Nelson fleet to be blockaded and a fall of rock near No.7 heading near Diggle occurred next day reducing the depth of water from 6' -7' to only 18".

The Ramsden Canal was completely blocked in February 1866 after two arches of Whittacre Mill viaduct, newly completed and whose staging had been removed prematurely, collapsed. Under the superintendance of Edward Greenwood the canal was cleared by a vast army of men and navigation restored that night. A more unusual flood occurred in August 1955 when chemical waste tipped on land at Deighton caught fire causing molten residue to run down the Cinderfield Dyke and completely blocked the canal near Bradley Viaduct where it remained until dredged in early 1961 when 37 — thirty ton boat loads were carried to Battyford and a large quantity also dumped to a depth of three feet on the towpath near Bradley.

The potential for serious flooding today is man-made and lies with sections that have been culverted, as exemplified in July 1973 at Stoney Battery where a culvert erected in place of Mark Bottoms Mill Bridge became blocked with rubbish. After a day of heavy rain the water level rose by 6 feet and adjoining industrial property threatened. The Fire brigade stood by and only at the last moment was the obstruction cleared. A question that exercises the mind is who would have borne, or disclaimed responsibility for any claim made had any damage been caused.

Neil Fraser

hcs on the 'box' (again)

Members living in the Yorkshire area may have seen County Councillor John Sully and myself on BBC after Tunnel End Festival in September. For those who visited the Festival you will remember seeing Yorkshire TV cameras there for most of the weekend. They were filming David Sumner for a special programme about the canal to go out in the next series of Country Calendar due to be screened in January. We hope to have more details for the next Pennine Link.

appeal to all pub goers

You may have noticed that many pubs now dispense their spirits from one gallon bottles. These bottles, when empty make superb donation bottles. We are trying to collect as many empty (full ones would do as well) bottles as possible so that we can make them in to donation bottles for the benefit of HCS. If you know a friendly landlord who would like to put one on his/her bar please let us know.

David L. Finnis

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Don't be impatient! Although no restoration work has started on the canal other than our own volunteer scheme in Uppermill we are progressing fairly rapidly towards other projects commencing, provided no major unforeseen problems arise.

Our Local Authorities have, it seems, accepted the benefits restoration will bring, especially the environmental advantages and the likely boost to the local economy and creation of jobs. They are working hard to obtain all the necessary agreements, approvals and financial arrangements sorted out on the various schemes.

Tameside Canals Development Association

To start with the big new news! The Tameside Canals Development Association has been formed. It comprises of Tameside Councillors and Officers, representatives of the Huddersfield & Peak Forest Canal Societies and of other organisations who have interests in the canals of Tameside. The Association's aims are:

“To promote the restoration of the canals and their environs in Tameside for the benefit of the Community”.

The Association will act as a focal point for all developments concerning the canal in Tameside. It is chaired by Councillor Frank Ruffley.

As a first step the Association has asked Tameside Council to act as Managing Agent for a Manpower Services Commission Community Programme scheme to carry out works on and around the canals of Tameside (i.e. the Peak Forest & Ashton Canals, as well as the Huddersfield Narrow).

We have submitted a report, similar in content to the ones we produced for the Marsden-Slaithwaite & Ashton-Stalybridge schemes, for the Association setting out how we believe this scheme could carry out restoration work on the Huddersfield Narrow, especially through Mossley. At present only a few copies have been made for the Association, Tameside Council British Waterways Board etc. Whether we will be able to print copies for sale later is not yet decided.

Ashton-Stalybridge

This project to restore the canal from Portland Basin, Ashton to the infilled section in Stalybridge had been discussed for some time with the Local Authorities before we jointly produced a report on the scheme with Waterway Recovery Group at the beginning of this year. Greater Manchester Council are now progressing towards actually starting work as quickly as their discussions with interested parties will allow.

Oldham

Oldham and Rochdale Councils have been appointed as “Operation Groundwork” authorities. This is an experimental scheme set up by the Department of the Environment following earlier experiments in St. Helens to invest in environmental improvement. The two Councils have a joint budget of £600,000 in the first year. We hope we can persuade Oldham Council of the benefits of canal restoration, and that they should invest a part of this budget on restoration works on the Huddersfield Narrow.

Marsden-Slaithwaite

Discussions between Kirklees and West Yorkshire Councils, the Waterways Board, and ourselves continue about this project to restore the canal between Tunnel End, Marsden and Slaithwaite by means of a Manpower Services Commission Community Programme scheme. These negotiations have been protracted in respect of the provision of Lock Gates by the proposed MSC scheme. Kirklees have now, however, received approval from the British Waterways Board for the lock gates to be manufactured locally using MSC labour. The Waterways Board have agreed to second a Section Inspector for short periods to ensure proper supervision of the standard of work.

The Manpower Services Commission have approved in principle the scheme to employ 150 people on this stretch of canal as submitted to them by Kirklees. Kirklees are also co-ordinating the views of their own and West Yorkshire's legal departments on the Draft Maintenance Agreement between the Councils and the Waterways Board. There are still several legal issues to resolve. The British Waterways Board hope to gain the approval of their Unions to the use of MSC labour on this scheme soon.

Other Projects

Discussions are continuing about the project to restore the canal through the first two locks by the Polytechnic in Huddersfield. The small group of Society members looking into another volunteer project to follow Uppermill is still continuing it's work. Also we are now represented on a working party set up by Tameside Council to consider how the canal could be restored through Stalybridge.

As I said in the last issue, if we continue to make the progress we are doing, with help from our friends in the Local Authorities and the Waterways Board, we will see the Huddersfield Narrow restored to it's former glory much sooner than we thought possible several years ago. Provided we don't run into any unexpected snags. Keep your fingers crossed!

Keith Gibson

GRAND AUCTION CHEESE & WINE EVENING

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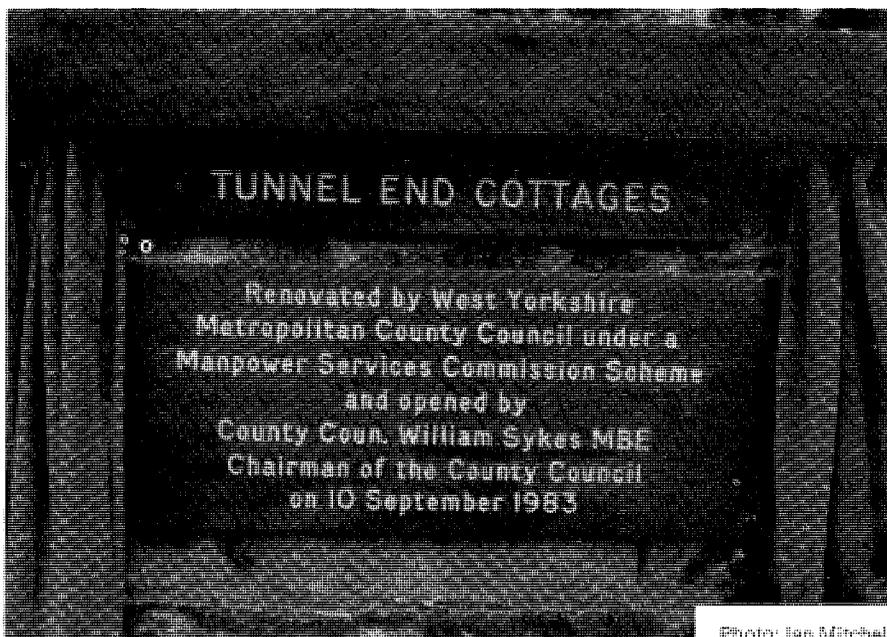
Proceeds in aid of the
Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council's Charity
and the
Huddersfield Canal Society

The official opening of Tunnel End Cottages took place as the centrepiece of Tunnel End Festival on 10/9/83. As you may recall, the weather was particularly bad on the Saturday, but a large contingent of councillors and officers from West Yorkshire and Kirklees Councils, BWB representatives (including Board member Mr Peter Lisle) and invited guests from other bodies such as MSC, attended. The opening ceremony was performed by the Chairman of West Yorkshire, County Councillor W. Sykes.

The cottages are now functioning as a Society exhibition centre and a base for the West Yorkshire Countryside Rangers. Sue McBride has provided us with an excellent display for the main room, which is as far as our budget will extend at present. I am sure that anyone who has seen the finished product will join me in thanking her for her efforts. (Incidentally, I still don't know how to take my elevation to the status of canal carrier!) The exhibition is still incomplete, lacking the planned series of explanatory leaflets and urgently needing to be sealed against damage. These must be priorities when money becomes available, though there remains ample scope for expansion and we would still like to give more of a local flavour if we can get such items.

Currently we are open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. in line with the Rangers as the building is still not strictly ours until the MSC scheme winds up and we sign our lease. Please come along if you have not already been, and if you have already been — why not spare one day every 2-3 months to man the sales counter — go on, give me a ring on Huddersfield 34666!

Trevor Ellis



The Festival went ahead on 10th and 11th September, but our traditional luck with the weather deserted us. Saturday was badly affected, and with it the opening of the cottages and although Sunday was better, there is no doubt that the attendance over the weekend was considerably down on what could have been expected.

My impression after the event is that Tunnel End could provide a very good site for a small festival, given better weather and a solution to the parking problem. Whether it is in fact used again must depend on the availability of certain areas of land in the vicinity.

Thanks must go to all who attended or assisted in any way, but particularly the American Civil War group for giving us their display free and to Stuart Moreton & Co. for the Saturday night barbecue.

Although the weather guaranteed that we will not gain financially, I think that the event will prove to be a success from the viewpoint of relations with West Yorkshire County Council, BWB and other organisations and from the publicity angle. Hopefully by next year Tunnel End will be the gateway to a length of restored canal and we may even be able to look forward to a re-opened Standedge Tunnel!

Trevor Ellis



David Sumner — the HCS Chairman — seen speaking and not singing in the rain at the official opening of Tunnel End Cottages, left to right: Chairman of WYMCC County Clr. W. Sykes, Mayor of Kirklees Clr. A. Ramsden, Job Creation Scheme Supervisor, responsible for the Tunnel End Scheme Kevin McKenna. Photo: Robert Carter

For those who didn't attend the Tunnel End Festival or who have not yet been to see our exhibition there are still a few souvenirs available. Breakables such as mugs and plates would probably be best purchased when you visit, but one item that can be posted is a booklet. Entitled 'Tunnel End, Marsden', this booklet contains articles about the canal, the tunnels, the local countryside, the Ranger Service, plus much more. It is excellently produced and only costs 50p (plus 25p for post and packing). Send your orders (with cheques) now to Sales Officer, Jean Buckley, 37 Edward Street, Oldham.



Photo shows Sue McBride with the plate for Tunnel End Cottages she designed. There are a few still available, £5 from Tunnel End or contact the Sales Officer.

Photo: Robert Carter

LUCKY PROGRAMME DRAW — Winning Number is 935

At the recent Tunnel End Festival a lucky programme draw was made by Society Chairman, David M. Sumner, and the lucky number drawn was 935.

The holder of the programme bearing this number has won a weekends canal holiday, donated by Robinson Canal Cruisers of Dewsbury and we would like the lucky winner to make him/herself known by going to Tunnel End any weekend between 11-5 with the winning programme.

Alternatively if they are unable to travel to Tunnel End we would be grateful if they could contact the Publicity Officer, David L. Finnis, on Huddersfield 846087.

GRAND DIGGLE DANCE



featuring

The Rose Tree Ceilidh Band

+

Pie & Peas Supper

+

Clog Dancing

+

“Special Entertainments”

(by celebrated HCS artistes)

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER

8 p.m. at the Friezland Hall, Greenfield

Tickets £2.50 all inclusive from:

Jean Wrigley (061-303 9027)

or

Jean Buckley (061-624 4881)

Dear Madam Editor,

As the member who won the £5 prize for joining the Society at the Tameside Canals Festival, might I thank Sheffield branch for helping to reduce my overdraft! Until I read the article in the last edition of Pennine Link, I had no idea what I had done to deserve the windfall. TCF was the first time I had been to a canal festival and I was assured by your chairman that it was obligatory to sample each and every one of the items provided for tasting in the CAMRA tent. Having diligently followed his advice (and example), I had only the haziest recollection of joining the Society. Perhaps siting the membership tent next to the bar entrance next year might increase the membership even further!

Having established my credentials as the newest new recruit, may I crave your indulgence for some criticisms? The first is measurement. When Mr Outram surveyed the line for this canal, the measurements must have been in feet, inches and very probably, chains. However, your Toepath '83 Walk was calculated in the very foreign kilometres and as I am over 21, I don't understand them. (I wonder how many other people were similarly non-plussed?) However, my dog, who is younger and more virile than I, got himself sponsored and insisted that I walk with him to get his card stamped at the various points. Both of us very soon realised that 20 kilometres is farther than we normally walk on a Sunday morning! On the same theme, in the sayings of the chairman printed in the September/October Pennine Link, there is again the use of these strange measures. Would you please tell Mr Sumner that neither Blind Jack Metcalfe of Knaresborough nor I could locate a turnpike road with metric directions!

On a more serious note, may I ask why the restoration of the canal is being done from the middle outwards? I would have thought that it would be logical to restore from Ashton (or Huddersfield) upwards as funds and labour become available. This would mean that every new part open is an extension of the existing canal network. It also has the added attraction (at the Ashton end) of letting the indigenous inhabitants of Tameside see how their 50p's collected at TCF are being spent. The projects at Uppermill and Marsden were both well worth doing and have obviously added enormously to the attraction and the facilities of those areas but can I raise the spectre of the Dorset and Somerset Canal that started building in 1796 in the middle. It never reached either end and never carried traffic. Today it is all but forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

G. Brian Minor

45 Gorton St, Peel Green, Eccles

EDITOR'S NOTE

Although to some extent I have to agree with you about the good old feet and inches I must admit we're rather proud of our Society chairman (who is himself a few years past his 21st birthday) yet obviously capable of using and understanding these new fangled metric measurements.

To the question of where restoration on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal would begin I now quote from a report produced by the Society back in 1979 entitled 'The Canal in Uppermill — Action — for Restoration'.

"To illustrate that restoration is not just an 'enthusiasts pipe dream' we have chosen a section of canal between Wade Lock (21W) Uppermill, and the A670 Woolroad crossing below lock No.24W. This is a distance of around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile (1200 metres).

This section has been chosen for two principle reasons. Firstly, it will have a useful function on its own when restored — it is not merely 'just another section' of canal. In its short length it passes privately owned and newly extended Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery, the Tame Valley Warden centre and the Wool Road Warehouse — a building of some historical merit and one which is being refurbished and restored by the Saddleworth Historical Society as an exhibition centre and store. The canal passes under the Saddleworth viaduct carrying the main Huddersfield—Manchester Railway across the Tame Valley at high level and at the same time itself crosses the river on a massive stone aqueduct. The differing civil engineering approaches of the canal and railway engineers to the river crossing are interesting as indicative of the progress made in the short span of 50 years. In addition the section contains two locks, and three overbridges and thus in a short length exhibits many features typical of traditional narrow canals.

The second reason for the choice of this section is that it contains examples of cascaded locks, a filled in section of canal, and the general need for dredging and minor repairs to banks, towpath walls etc. If these problems can be overcome here, there seems no good reason to doubt that the entire canal could be restored in the course of time".

As we have many schemes for restoration 'in hand' at the moment I can assure you The Huddersfield Narrow will not remain detached for too long. For an up-to-date Restoration Progress Report maybe you'd like to turn to page 10.

Dear Editor,

What possible benefit to HCS was there in the publication of the article "And if the Earth had piles would they be in Stalybridge?" and its subsequent coverage in the local newspaper? As far as I can see, it not only annoyed members from Stalybridge and further afield but also the local Civic Society, whose members include local councillors. I always believed that the aim of HCS was the eventual re-opening of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. The aforementioned article can have done nothing but harm.

PENNINE LINK

Perhaps it was just coincidence that the Stalybridge Advertiser reproduced parts of Mr Greenway's article one week and then in the next issue carried a report that hopes of restoring the canal through the town have been jeopardised by granting planning permission for building on the canal line.

As for Mr Greenway's comments on the Tameside Canals Festival — before making sarcastic remarks and criticisms Mr Greenway should pull his finger out and offer some constructive help in organising a festival the size of Tameside. He can have my job as Trade Stands Officer anytime.

Yours faithfully,
Jean Wrigley

44 Stamford St, Millbrook, Stalybridge

EDITOR'S NOTE

To publish or NOT to publish. I decided to publish John Greenway's article in the last issue knowing John was quoting from another magazine, namely 'Wey-South'. Its editor, freely admits to enjoying reactions to his editorials, and, who in his most recent bulletin once again brings up the subject of John and Stalybridge.

We know what a delightful place Stalybridge is. If YOU don't, next time your in the area don't just pass it by. Pop in and see what you've been missing!

WHY NOT CRUISE WITH.....

THE PENNINE LINE

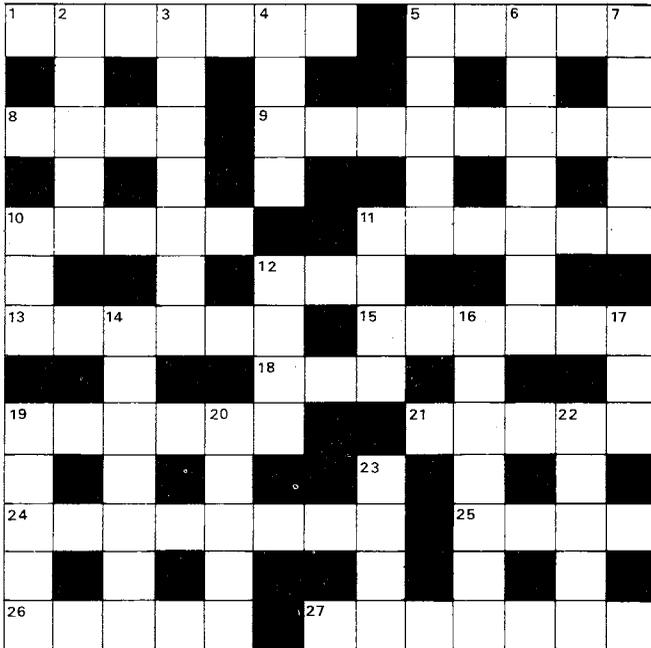
*... and explore the Yorkshire Dales
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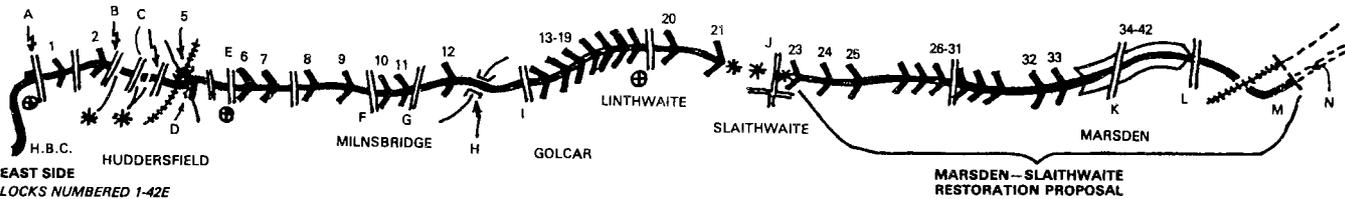
ACROSS

- 1 Lock sluices (7)
- 5 Dark fur (5)
- 8 Not 'for' (4)
- 9 With 24 across a recent event (8 & 8)
- 10 Canvas shelters (5)
- 11 Reflecting light (6)
- 12 Neckwear (3)
- 13 Dealer (6)
- 15 In being (6)
- 18 Tune (3)
- 19 Night sky maybe (6)
- 21 Herbage (5)
- 24 See 9 across (8)
- 25 Type of lighting (4)
- 26 Roof apex (5)
- 27 Collisions (7)

DOWN

- 2 Girls name (5)
- 3 Floated aimlessly (7)
- 4 Consumes (4)
- 5 Guide the boat (5)
- 6 For under or over (7)
- 7 9 & 24 across is this (5)
- 10 Wee dram this (3)
- 11 More likely pints (4)
- 12 Salver (4)
- 14 Accumulated (7)
- 16 Wight man etc (7)
- 17 Firm (3)
- 19 Not as risky (5)
- 20 European river (5)
- 22 Rope loop (5)
- 23 Insulting remark (4)

Crossword kindly sent in by Mr James Crosland.



EAST SIDE
LOCKS NUMBERED 1-42E

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal — built 1793—1811. Engineer: B. Outram. Closed: 1944. Last recorded passage across Summit: 1948. Restoration began 1981. Length: 19⁷/₈ miles. Summit pound: 645 ft. above sea level through Standedge Tunnel — 3 miles 418 yards long.

- H.B.C..... Huddersfield Broad Canal
- A.C..... Ashton Canal
- A..... Wakefield Road
- B..... Queen Street South
- C..... Manchester Road
- D..... Paddock Foot Aqueduct
- E..... Stoney Battery
- F..... Market Street

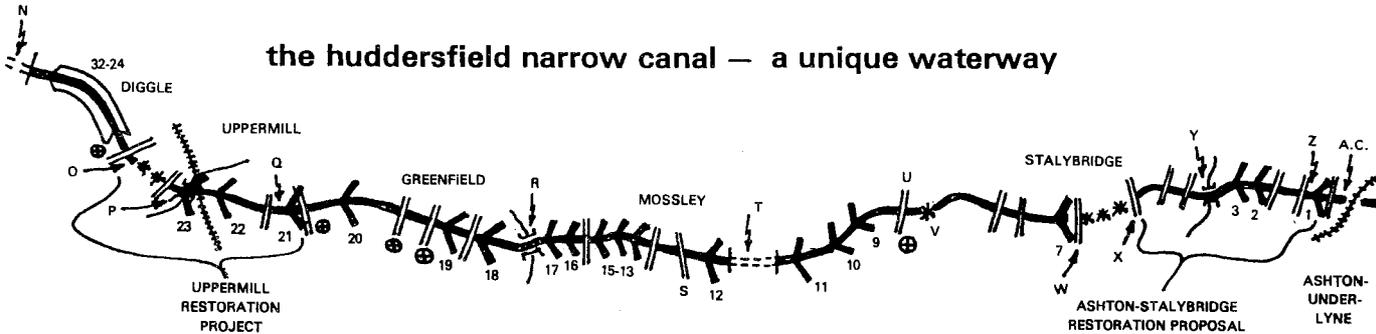
- G..... Morley Lane
- H..... Golcar Aqueduct
- I..... Golcar Swing Bridge
- J..... Britannia Road
- K..... Warehouse Hill
- L..... Station Road
- M..... Tunnel End Cottages
- N..... Standedge Tunnel
- O..... Wool Road Warehouse and Brownhill Visitor Centre
- P..... Saddleworth Aqueduct (old Sag)
- Q..... Uppermill Museum

- R..... Royal George Aqueduct
- S..... Egmont Street
- T..... Scout Tunnel
- U..... Grove Road
- V..... Hartshead Power Station
- W..... Mottram Road
- X..... Bayley Street
- Y..... Stalybridge Aqueduct
- Z..... Whitelands "Tunnel"
- *..... Infilled sections
- +..... Culverted or lowered bridges

MARSDEN—SLAITHWAITE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

PENNINE LINK

the huddersfield narrow canal — a unique waterway



WEST SIDE
LOCKS NUMBERED 1-32W

UPPERMILL RESTORATION PROJECT

ASHTON-STALYBRIDGE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

"I've made some Diggles for you" said Angela Holdsworth modestly. 'Some' turned out to be 99. Angela, who's an old hand at Diggle making, dresses them up with smart little outfits thereby always brightening up the HCS sales stand during the showers and thunderstorms etc. Seriously though, very many thanks for them, both to you and all the other Diggle makers around. (For anyone who doesn't know, Diggles are the furry friends of the Society who reside in Standedge Tunnel).



Photo shows Angela and her friends.

Photo: Mark Stiles

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE AUCTION

We're desperately needing items suitable for auctioning. This is taking place at the Uppermill Museum on 26th November.

If you have the odd mink coat you've outgrown (or you're fed up with), or you've the odd Rembrandt you're fed up of dusting, or any old white elephant you'd like to get rid of maybe you'd be kind enough to consider your friendly Canal Society. Jean Buckley is waiting now with bated breath at the end of her phone so please don't disappoint her if you have anything you no longer cherish she may be very glad of it!

FRANK BENNETT

T.ENG, M.I.E.C.

**MARINE ENGINEER
AND SURVEYOR**

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Cheshire SK16 5JF**

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of tastes by using various methods
of cooking.

PAINTINGS

**Including Numerous Canal
Scenes by James Crosland
Visit the Spend and Save
Gallery**

**Byram Street Left Below
The Princess Cinema
Huddersfield**

(Opposite New Monday Market)

You may recall reading in a previous issue of Pennine Link about our intention to form a 'Promotions Group' to formulate all the ideas of HCS promotions.

A meeting of the group has taken place and although there was a small turnout in numbers there were plenty of ideas put forward. One of which was to see if we could plan future events far enough in advance to give us chance to organise suitable HCS promotion around them.

The next evening there was a Policy meeting to discuss HCS Festivals and the general feeling at that meeting was to move away from large scale events such as Tameside Festival to smaller or 'mini-festival' such as at Mossley and Tunnel End.

This idea has now been ratified by your 'Council' who have put together the following list of suggested events for 1984:

April — Diggle Canal Festival; May — Huddersfield Canal Festival;
June — Tunnel End Festival; July — Ashton Canal Festival;
August — Mossley Canal Festival; September — Uppermill Canal Festival;
October — Toepath '84.

Of course, our next step is to find sufficient volunteers to organise these events and if YOU would like to help please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or any member of the 'Council'.

By agreeing to this plan we feel that we can co-ordinate our promotion around these events and organise talks, exhibitions, leaflets drops, pubcrawls and a range of other activities prior to each event. We may have convinced the waterways press and boating fraternity that the Huddersfield can be restored but we still have to convince the residents in both the Colne and Tame Valleys that their canal has to be restored and that through restoration there will be many benefits for them and the area they live and work in. If you would like to help please contact:

David L. Finnis on Hudds 846087

hcs at the 'national' in wigan

On behalf of 'Council' may I thank all members who attended the 'National' to run our sales and exhibition stands. Once again I am sure that no one left the site without knowing about our campaign to restore the Huddersfield as there were stickers everywhere and our banner, all fifteen foot of it, was probably in the most prominent position on the festival site, hanging above the entrance to the main exhibition hall.

All those who will be available for next year's event at Hawkesbury Junction please let us know early so we can organise our 'plan of campaign'. See you then, if not before.

David L. Finnis

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Uppermill

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Tea rooms every day 10.00am-5.30pm Restaurant—
BISTRO NIGHTS + Weekly special £5.50 for two people +
Tuesday-Saturday 6.30pm-10.30pm
Sunday lunches and weekend grills
Next to Saddleworth Museum and car park!

JOIN NOW

Your support is needed now. The more members we have, the more effective is our voice. Help to re-open the Huddersfield Narrow with your pen, your spade, your moral support or in any other way you have to offer.

To: The Membership Secretary, Huddersfield Canal Society, 38 Paris Road, Scholes, Holmfirth. Telephone' Holmfirth (048 489) 5022

I/We wish to join the Huddersfield Canal Society.

Name/s

Address

Postcode Telephone:

Occupation

Amount enclosed £ Cheque/PO/Cash

I heard about the Society from

MEMBERSHIP RATES

- Family membership £2.50. Junior (under 18) £1.00
- Associate £5.00 (voluntary societies)
- Corporate £10.00 (minimum) Life £50.00

Members receive free copies of 'Pennine Link', the society's bi-monthly magazine.



ORDERS TO SALES OFFICER: Mrs JEAN BUCKLEY

HCS logo Sweatshirts (Red) (small, medium, large)	£8.95	50p p& p
HCS logo sweatshirts (Navy) sm, med, large	8.95	50p p& p
HCS logo sweatshirts (Navy) XL	9.25	50p p& p
Lovely Shetland Wool Sweaters with HCS motif — various colours — please write or phone for details	£15.00	
Ladies HCS T-shirts (round or vee neck) pastel colours	£3.25	25p p& p
TCF White T-shirts (small, medium and large)	£2.75	25p p& p
'I've Been on Stan' Badges	30p	S.A.E.
Pennine Link	25p	+ 2nd class postage
Tunnel End postcards	10 for £1.00	inc. p& p
Various coloured postcards	9p each	S.A.E.
HCS Ties — Maroon, Brown and Blue	£2.95	25p p& p
HCS Brass Plaques	£7.25	£1.00 p& p
HCS Badges	20p	& 2nd class stamp
T-Towels (Reproduction of old Standedge Tunnel poster	£1.75	& 25p p& p

BOOKS AND MAPS

Filled t' top wi' rubble (Mossley Report)	75p	15p p& p
The Rochdale Canal	95p	15p p& p
Nicholson's Guides (latest editions)	£4.95	25p p& p
Yorkshire Waterways	£1.60	25p p& p
Lancashire Waterways	£1.75	25p p& p
Birds of Hedgerows...Mountains...		
Inland Water and Gardens each	85p	15p p& p
Wild Flowers of Waterways	85p	15p p& p
Ladybird Book of Canals	50p	15p p& p
The Ashton Canal	90p	15p p& p
Huddersfield Canals Towpath Guide	£2.50	40p p& p
HCS Christmas Cards - few still available	10 for £1.20	20p p& p



T-TOWELS

Reproduction of old Standedge Tunnel Poster

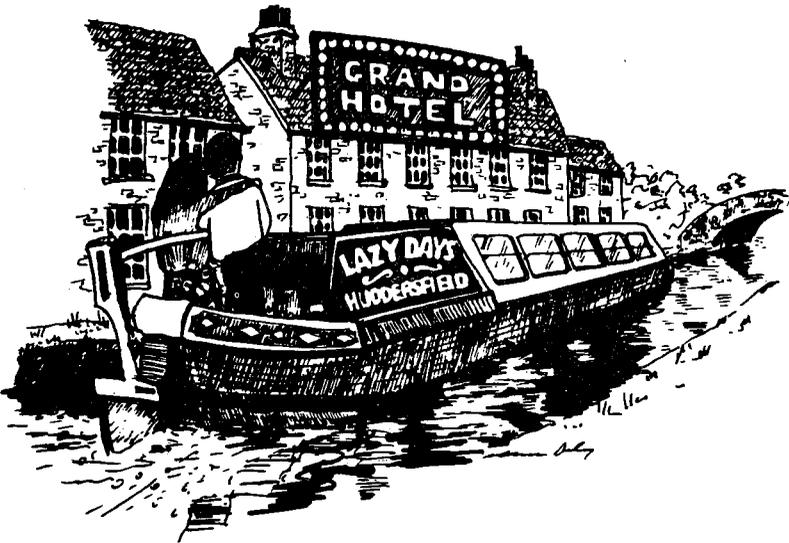
The ideal present for Christmas!

Colour: Sepia on Cream background.

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*Carefree comfortable canalling
at its enjoyable best*

The Witters of Chester support restoration of the Huddersfield Canal — and would like all Diggles to know that at their canalside factories they make very good canoes, paddles, helmets and trailer towing brackets.

membership competition

Again there is a chance to take part in the membership competition. All you have to do is enrol a new member to the Society and on the form where it says 'I heard about the Society from...' they must fill in your name to be eligible to enter the competition. Please remember the membership is now £2.50 both for an individual or a family membership. The lucky winner receives £5. This issue's lucky winners are Wendy and Brian Grant.

press cuttings

If you see anything mentioning the Huddersfield Canal or the Society in newspapers, magazines, etc., please could you cut out and send to David Finnis, 12 Chapel Hill, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, who is now the HCS Press Cuttings Officer.

deeds of covenant

If you wish to help the Society further by paying your subscription under a deed of covenant then please write to or phone me for details.

Sue Bradbury, Treasurer

pennine link advertising rates

	per issue	6 issues
¼ page	£2.00	£10.00
½ page	£3.50	£17.50
Full page	£6.50	£32.50

Classified ads 5p per word

Box No. 50p

press date

Articles for inclusion in the January/February issue of Pennine Link must be received no later than the 1st December.

stamp collection

Once again many thanks for the stamps. Stamps this time have come in from Angela Holdsworth, Graham Maskell, Mrs Stiles, Bob Dewey, James Crosland, Yorkshire Bank, and Dave Bennett. Brian Grant has now taken over officially as the stamp officer and his address is on the inside front cover. Many thanks for the support and hope you'll continue to collect them.

Sue Gibson

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- 1048 Peter Bennett, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1049 Michael J. Harry, [REDACTED]
- 1050 Malcolm B. Thorpe, [REDACTED]
- 1051 William Walker, [REDACTED]
- 1052 Patrick Breslin, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1053 Tony Doyle, [REDACTED]
- 1054 Mrs Eileen Brooks, [REDACTED]
- 1055 Martin Dyson and Ruth Woodhouse, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1056 Paul Byrne, [REDACTED]
- 1057 Tony Duce, [REDACTED]
- 1058 Martin and Bobbie Stimson and Family, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1059 James B. Enright, [REDACTED]
- 1060 Jacqueline and Davidson Garrod, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1061 Mrs Barbara Castle, M.E.P., [REDACTED]
- 1062 Malcolm Fraser-Smith, [REDACTED]
- 1063 R. Cullen, [REDACTED]
- 1064 A. McKittrick, [REDACTED]
- 1065 David Patrick Smith, [REDACTED]
- 1066 Mr Cartwright, [REDACTED]
- 1067 Peter and Sylvia Ruffley, [REDACTED]
- 1068 Pat and Peter O'Hare, [REDACTED]
- 1069 Linda and Kenneth Oldham, [REDACTED]
- 1070 George B. Minor, [REDACTED]
- 1071 George E. Craven, [REDACTED]
- 1072 John and Betty Goldsmith, [REDACTED]
- 1073 Robert A. Moore, [REDACTED]
- 1074 Colin G. Bates, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1075 Mr N. Stephens, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1076 Miss Nicola F. Poulter, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1077 T. Reginald Parrish, [REDACTED]
- 1078 Nick Catford, [REDACTED]
- 1079 Kay Lisa Horner, [REDACTED]
- 1080 Diana Grudgings, [REDACTED]
- 1081 Mr and Mrs Keith Horsfall, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 1082 Thomas W. Cadden, [REDACTED]
- 1083 K. Blagbrough, [REDACTED]
- 1084 A. Spielvogel, [REDACTED]
- 1085 N. F. Reynolds, [REDACTED]

PENNINE LINK

- 1086 Michael J. Lloyd, [REDACTED]
1087 John S. Vincent and Family, [REDACTED]
1088 D. O'Connor, [REDACTED]
1089 Mr and Mrs Whitwam and Family, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1090 Kate and John Dobson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1091 Alan Cummings, [REDACTED]
1092 David Middleton, [REDACTED]
1093 Perry P. Westlake, [REDACTED]
1094 Roger Perkins, [REDACTED]
1095 C. T. J. Merrett, [REDACTED]
1096 Alan Robinson, [REDACTED]
1097 A. F. Dukes, [REDACTED]
1098 Kenneth F. Bacon, [REDACTED]
1099 Kenneth and Elizabeth Parish, [REDACTED]
1100 Mrs Fiona T. Elliot, [REDACTED]
1100a Mrs Freisan Cow (see last Pennine Link)
1101 T.J. & L.K. Lloyd, [REDACTED]
1102 Caroline Lockley, [REDACTED]
1103 David M. Gibson, [REDACTED]
1104 Norman L. Atkinson, [REDACTED]
1105 Anthony S. Levy, [REDACTED]
1106 Peter Wood, [REDACTED]
1107 Miss Margaret Cooke, [REDACTED]
1108 Andrew E. Collier, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1109 Daniel John Millington, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1110 Harold Nield, [REDACTED]
1111 D. C. Lamb, [REDACTED]
1112 Jacqueline Trotter, [REDACTED]
1113 Dr and Mrs A.R. Harrison, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1114 Mrs Pamela Mitchell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1115 Tom and Audrey Rigg, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1116 Ron and Linda Griffiths, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1117 Mr P. S. Jobin, [REDACTED]
1118 Elvyn Shaw, [REDACTED]
1119 Karen E. Jefferies, [REDACTED]

Val Dewey — Membership Secretary

- 23rd Nov. 8 pm Sheffield Meeting at the Grapes, Trippet Lane, Sheffield.
- 24th Nov. 8 pm Illustrated talk on the Trans-Siberian Railway by Norman Greenfield at the Cross Keys, Uppermill.
- 26/27th Nov. Weekend Working Party at Uppermill. For further details contact Graham Maskell on Mossley 3992.
- 26th Nov. 7.30pm Auction, Cheese and Wine Evening at the Uppermill Museum, Uppermill. Tickets available from Jean Buckley on 061-624 4881 priced £1.50p inclusive.
- 1st Dec. 8 pm Social Meeting at the Railway, Marsden.
- 3rd Dec. HCS Flag Day in centre of Huddersfield.
- 3rd Dec. 8 pm Grand Diggle Dance featuring the Rose Tree Ceilidh Band at the Friezland Hall, Greenfield. Tickets available from Jean Wrigley on 061-624 9027 priced £2.50 inclusive of pie and pea supper.
- 9th Dec. 8 pm Joint HCS/West Yorks. Countryside Rangers Social Evening at Tunnel End Cottages. For further details contact David Finnis on Huddersfield 846087.
- 11th Dec. 10.30 a.m. Tame Valley Countryside Warden Service Guided Walk from Brownhill Visitor Centre, Dobcross across Boat Lane to Tunnel End Cottages at Marsden. Please bring packed lunch, weatherwear and sound footwear. approx. finish 3.30 p.m.
- 11th Dec. Cottage Craft Fair at the Tunnel End Cottages.
- 14th Dec. 8 pm Social Meeting at the Diggle Hotel, Diggle.
- 5th Jan. 8 pm Illustrated talk on the Rochdale Canal by Brian Holden
1984 at the Commercial Hotel, Slaithwaite.

EDITOR. The editor holds the right to edit or withhold articles and letters or to retain them for publication at a later date.

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The Diggles © Huddersfield Canal Society Ltd 1983

