



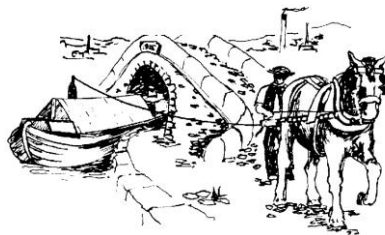
# HORSES AT WORK AT STANDEDGE IN 1811 & THE HORSEBOATING SOCIETY

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

12-3pm

## MEET A PACK HORSE, WAGON HORSE, AND BOAT HORSE

Up to 1810, boats had no tunnel yet to use, so their cargoes were unloaded, and packhorses and wagon horses took the loads overland, over the top of Standedge, over the Pennine ridge. Below these horses at work, the tunnel was being dug out, being worked from several shafts simultaneously. In Dec 1810, the first boat went through. On 4<sup>th</sup> April 1811, the tunnel was officially opened amidst great celebration.



What's happening in 2011? The Horseboating Society has made its annual return to journey on the Huddersfield Narrow, legging Standedge Tunnel. This is Britain's longest canal tunnel at 3¼ miles long. So that is exciting enough, but now take note.

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the Horseboating Society recreated the opening day of 1811 by legging not one, but three, boats through the tunnel while the boat horse walked over the tunnel top accompanied by members of the public following the boat horse route.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the tradition of parading a working horse on the May Holiday will be followed. After a long Pennine winter, a horse will nearly be in its sleek summer coat. At Standedge Visitor Centre at Tunnel End, visitors will be able to see how a horse was harnessed and worked as a packhorse, wagon horse, or boat horse and how horses were cared for to do this necessary work.

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Website for horseboating journey details and itineraries: [www.horseboating.org.uk](http://www.horseboating.org.uk)  
Crew and leggers are always needed and welcomed by the Horseboating Society.