

HORSES AT WORK AT STANDEDGE IN 1810 & THE HORSEBOATING SOCIETY LEGGING EVENT

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

So just what was actually happening at Standedge in 1810, two hundred years ago? Boats had no tunnel yet to use, so their cargoes were unloaded, and packhorses and wagon horses took the loads overland, right over the top of Standedge, over the Pennine ridge. Below these horses at work, the tunnel was still being dug out, being worked from several shafts simultaneously. In Dec 1810, the first boat went through.



What's happening in 2010? The Horseboating Society is making its annual return 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.

The boat will be legged through the tunnel on April 25 then it will return on May 3 from Tunnel End to Diggle on Bank Holiday Monday. On that day, 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 Tunnel End, visitors will be able to see how a horse was worked as a packhorse, waggon horse, or boat horse before the tunnel opened for use in 1811. A 4 mile guided walk will follow the boathorse over Standedge, to Diggle, then the boat will be horsedrawn to Uppermill.



11 am-1 pm MEET A PACK HORSE, WAGGON HORSE, AND BOAT HORSE
1pm BOAT LEGGED THROUGH TUNNEL. GUIDED WALK WITH HORSE.

Crew and leggers are always needed and welcomed by the Horseboating Society.

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[Website for horseboating journey details and itinerary: www.horseboating.org.uk](http://www.horseboating.org.uk)