



PRICELESS day out . . . Sue Day with Paul Atterbury after arriving at Diggle

Roadshow expert discovers our 'priceless' tunnel

by **KEN BENNETT**

"ANTIQUES Roadshow" expert Paul Atterbury made his first trip through Britain's longest underground waterway tunnel and declared: "It's priceless."

Paul, vice-president of the Waterways Trust, was taking part in a Teddy Bear's Picnic event at the tunnel which links the Huddersfield Narrow canal from Marsden to Diggle.

After helping leg the narrowboat Maria on a 2hr 40min journey underground, he said it was amazing experience.

"It is something I have always wanted to do," said Paul, from

Dorset. "I can now check it off my tick list.

"It really is a tremendous experience — the tunnel is an absolute legend."

He was taking part in the event organised by the Stanedge Tunnel and Visitor Centre in partnership with the Horseboating Society.

And Paul, an historian, met Ronnie Barnes, aged 90, the last legger of Stanedge Tunnel before its closure in the 1940s.

While the team was travelling underground, enthusiasts joined Bilbo Baggins, the tow horse, on a four-mile guided walk over the hills to meet the boat at Diggle.

James Dean, visitor services manager said: "It's been a fantastic family day out.

"Lots of children brought their teddy bears along to join in the fun."

Sue Day, chairman of the Horseboating Society, remarked: "It's been a huge success. Paul and all the team really enjoyed themselves — and the teddy bears had a marvellous picnic too."

Here comes the Summer University!

by **USMA RAJA**

£20,000 grant will help ensure project's success

OLDHAM'S ground-breaking Summer University 2009 has been awarded £20,000 to help run a series of exciting activities for young people.

The cash for the event, organised by New Deal for Communities, comes from the Government Office North-West and an additional £5,000 has been received from the Respect Our Communities fund.

The Summer University, which will take place at a number of venues in Hathershaw and Pitton Hill and the wider Medlock

Vale ward, is the first to take place outside London.

It runs as a pilot scheme between July 27 and August 29.

The Respect our Communities fund donation was given thanks to the hard work and determination of local residents who are fundraising to make the event a success.

This money will go towards the arts and crafts sessions.

The Summer University

will give young people aged eight to 19 years the chance to try something new for free.

Some of the events on offer will include a wide range of sports including martial arts, rugby, and cricket, also a Ready Steady Cook style competition.

Others include photography or learning important life skills such as first aid or driving theory.

Some of the other Summer University's high-



SNOWBOARDING . . . one of the many exciting activities on offer at the Summer University

lights include snowboarding at Ski Rossendale, camping, a big pre-launch party on June 12 and a big celebration event to mark the end of the ambitious project.

Anne Fleming, capacity building co-ordinator and organiser of the Summer University said: "It is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to try something new and exciting.

"The fundraising success we've had so far has been brilliant and we hope this will be the first of many more Summer Universities in Oldham."

Pride in Oldham Awards 2009

NOMINATION FORM



Person/ Group nominated

Contact number (if known)

Job title/place of work/school

Reason for nomination

Nominated by

Contact number

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