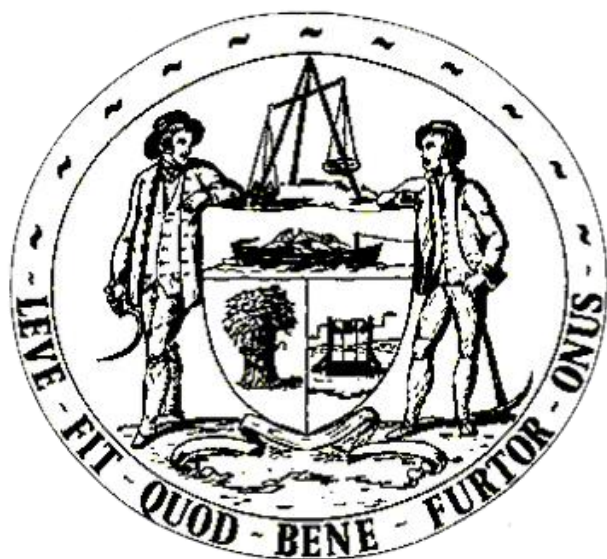


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



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Autumn 2019

The Sleaford Navigation Trust: -

... is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No. 3294818)

...has a Registered Office at Island House, Moor Road, Chesham. HP5 1WA.

...is registered as a Charity (No. 1060234)

...has a web page: www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

...is on facebook: Sleaford Navigation Trust

...is on Twitter: @SleafordNavigationTrust

Aims & Objectives

The Trust aims to stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Sleas, or the Sleaford Navigation. It aims to restore, improve, maintain and conserve the waterway in order to make it fully navigable. Furthermore it means to restore associated buildings and structures and to promote the use of the Sleaford Navigation by all appropriate kinds of waterborne traffic. In addition it wishes to promote the use of towpaths and adjoining footpaths for recreational activities.

Newsletters

To request an email version contact:

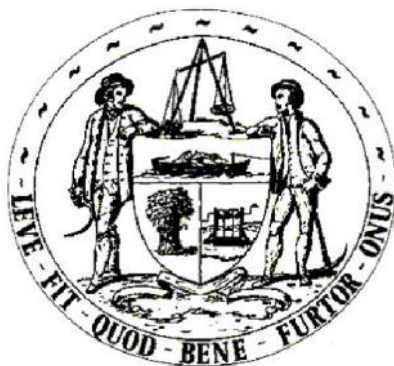
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Articles and opinions in this newsletter are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily reflect SNT policy or the opinion of the editor

Our thanks to Westgate Print of Sleaford for their help with printing

Editorial

It's hard to believe that earlier this year we had some of the hottest days of the year, we were lucky enough to be on the River Avon at the time where it was a pleasure to be surrounded by water and we saw lots of enthusiastic wild water swimmers enjoying the river's cooling effects. Today we are also surrounded by water but it's falling from the sky and puddling on the roads and fields across the country.

We hope you've had a good summer and are not suffering too badly from all this extra water.

It's been a busy year for the SNT team as you'll see from the items in the newsletter - steps towards full restoration!

Because of the change in next year's May Bank Holiday, the 2020 year's Boat gathering will take place over the weekend of 8th May, more details next time.

Debbie Scott, Editor

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Work at South Kyme in April to create the wheelchair access and landscaping.

Thanks to Mel for the photographs, to South Kyme Parish Councillors for their support and to all the volunteers who helped on the day with labour and equipment!



Photos by Mel Sowerby



John and Elsie Coy

On July 5th, Steve and I, together with Pat Taylor, represented the Trust on the sad occasion of the funeral of Elsie and John Coy in South Kyme. The committee had been shocked to hear that they had both been involved in a fatal accident on their way home from holiday.

Both were long term friends of SNT. On the occasion of the 200th Anniversary Rally in 1994, Elsie dressed in traditional boatwoman's costume and walked along the bank to encourage sponsorship of plastic ducks for the race she had instigated. Indeed, the last time I saw John and Elsie was at the door of the Coronation Hall during the weekend of the Boat Gathering when I bought a duck for that year's race. She organised the annual scarecrow competition and there was always an entry sitting outside their house. For several years she gave me the job of judging the competition. I always suspected it was so that I could be held responsible, in absentia, for an unpopular decision!

So much a part of village life were John and Elsie that, irrationally, even at the funeral church service I found myself looking round for them in the congregation. It was no surprise that the number of people attending was so great that the service had to be relayed outside to the people sitting on rows of chairs there.

It goes without saying that they personally, and their contribution to the village, will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences go to Steve and the rest of their family.

Chris Hayes

Editor's note: as we went to press we heard that John and Elsie had been given a special award in the North Kesteven Community Champions event, posthumously. The citation read: 'Through a tragic road accident in May, South Kyme lost two much-loved and valued members of their community who together contributed so much in so many ways'

Work on the Winding Hole at South Kyme in progress...



Photos by Steve Hayes

A Turn for the Better

The “Destination South Kyme” project, completed last year and funded by Kestevens LEADER, was for the installation of two landing stages together with information boards about the history and significance of the navigation. The focus was to encourage more boats to visit the village, promote rural tourism in the area and direct people to other related places of interest such as Navigation House and Cogglesford Mill in Sleaford.

However, it was always accepted that, in order to encourage an increased number of visitor boats to the village, the Trust would have to provide the opportunity for them to turn. This is not to discourage boats from travelling to the current head of navigation at Cobblers Lock but to accept that, for some, the restricted air draft at Ferry Farm Bridge, or problems with weed, could mean a long reverse back to Taylors Lock. Fear of that prospect might well deter weekend visitors to the navigation. For this reason, part of the “Destination South Kyme” project was the construction of a separately funded winding hole or turning point above the village.

The design incorporates fish refuge and spawning areas and the Trust is very grateful for help from the Environment Agency in the design and funding for these. None of this would have been achieved without the co-operation and support of the landowner to whom thanks are also due. Much appreciated financial assistance has come from individual donors, the East Anglian Waterways Association and the Inland Waterways Association.

It was great to see an impressive digger on site and preliminary excavation taking place at the end of May. After that work was completed, coir roll and matting were installed by volunteers drawn from Sleaford Navigation Trust and the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust to provide the necessary environmental mitigation and enhancement.

Just to prove the justification of the works, if justification were needed, SNT volunteers on site on the second day of initial construction were somewhat surprised when a 50' narrowboat, Bob, appeared on the scene having come up from South Kyme. The crew were delighted to see the winding hole taking shape and

decided to give it a try. With a bit of help from the digger driver who obligingly dug out a foot or two more, the boat was able to turn and the crew were therefore the first boaters to enjoy the benefit of the winding hole. Naturally the Trust hopes they are the first of many and that the increased use of the navigation helps to make the case for further restoration into Sleaford. Now completed, the winding hole will accommodate boats of up to 72' the maximum length of boats on the inland waterways system.

Over the Summer, observers in the village have indeed reported a significant increase in the number of boats visiting the moorings.



Photos by Steve Hayes



Heckington Show 2019

“Rain, rain, go away...”

The weather in July was beautiful, days were full of sunshine, skies were blue. Until, that is, the weekend of Heckington Show, August 27th and 28th. Last year, the show was hit by a virtual hurricane and organisers must have felt that this time they were due for good weather. Sadly, that was not to be the case. Heavy rain soon made negotiating the exhibitors' car park an interesting experience and, before long, the walkway areas between exhibits and marquees had a layer of slick, slippery mud.

The rain continued and, by Sunday, the organisers had been forced to cancel some of the events and cordon off one area of the showground. Stalwarts still visited, wearing their wellies, but, inevitably the number of people attending the show was a fraction of what it would have been had the weather been better. So much work goes into the organisation of the show that the attendance must have been a bitter disappointment for everyone concerned.



I understand that, in spite of everything, the Madness tribute band and fireworks on Saturday evening were still brilliant!

Photos by Chris Hayes



The Trust stand was in the Heritage tent as usual and, in spite of the circumstances, was visited by a large number of people.

All were interested in and supportive of the Trust and there were many enquiries about walking, boating and canoeing the Slea. There was particular interest in Destination South Kyme and the newly completed winding hole with lots of people saying that they had seen the moorings in the village and been impressed to see visiting boats on them. It's always good to be able to talk to people with local knowledge and gratifying to recognise how much support there is for the restoration.

Steve made about forty dragonflies over the weekend with excited children and some older creative visitors. Strictly for the over 18s, we repeated the gin raffle that Sue Sowerby had introduced the previous year. A series of ribbons were clustered on the neck of the bottle but only one was firmly attached. The trick was to identify which one! To our surprise, the winner turned out to be our Engineer, Dave Pullen!

It was good to see boats in South Kyme this summer...

Photo by Chris Hayes



Photo by Chris Hayes



...and Steve was busy fixing the ladder to the landing stage below Taylors Lock

NCCD Refurbishment

The Trust was given the opportunity to comment on the proposals before they were put to the Sleaford Regeneration Group and were happy to give our support to the plans.



An NKDC press release explains further:

Refurbishment of the National Centre of Craft and Design will secure jobs and enhance space for artists

Plans have been drawn up for a £1.2 million refurbishment of the National Centre of Craft and Design in Sleaford which will create an enhanced modernised space for artists and also secure the commitment to the town from major employer MRI Software.

HOME > YOUR COUNCIL > COUNCIL NEWS
> REFURBISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE
OF CRAFT AND DESIGN WILL SECURE JOBS AND
ENHANCE SPACE FOR ARTISTS

Refurbishment of the National Centre of Craft and Design will secure jobs and enhance space for artists

Date Published: 24 July 2019

Plans have been drawn up for a £1.2 million
refurbishment of the National Centre of Craft and
Design in Sleaford which will create an enhanced

Under the scheme, the top two floors of the building will be occupied by MRI which will move from its existing premises in

Westgate. All the existing features of the NCCD will be retained by the addition of a 200 square metre ground floor extension.

Subject to planning permission being granted, work is expected to begin early next year and the project has excited Council Leader Cllr Richard Wright.

“The work will help us to attract even more visitors to Sleaford by broadening the variety of arts and entertainment on offer and we will also create a local hub whilst still maintaining and developing the Centre’s national significance. There will also be much needed conferencing facilities.

“As a Council we are committed to championing the arts, something we have done for more than a quarter of a century.

“I am also pleased that the work will provide a new home for MRI Software which currently employs more than 60 people in the town,” said Cllr Wright.

The plans for the scheme were drawn up after a month long public consultation designed to find out what residents and visitors wanted from the NCCD. The process engaged with more than 600 individuals and groups and confirmed not only high levels of local engagement in the Centre but also highlighted a number of development areas.

Cllr Lindsey Cawrey, Executive Board Member with special responsibility for leisure, said she was delighted by the level of engagement in the consultation.

“Our survey was available online and on paper with copies available from the NCCD, the district and town council offices and a range of visitor venues.

“The survey was promoted across the Council’s social media accounts as well as through a range of partner sites and it was emailed to a wide network of artists, creative groups, clubs, businesses and organisations locally and nationally.

“We also asked people for their thoughts at lots of locations in the district including Ruskington and Metherringham libraries, the Heckington windmill and tea room, the Sleaford Leisure Centre, One NK, and the Whisby Natural World Centre. It was a lot of work, but it really paid off in getting a clearer understanding of what people like and hope for in the Centre,” said Cllr Cawrey. Making use of the feedback, concept plans have been drawn up which show the development of a ground floor gallery, an artist workshop, a children’s zone and a performing arts studio. The food and drinks offer will also be significantly improved by a large indoor bistro and an outdoor seating area taking in views of the River Slea.

MRI Software acquired long term Sleaford employers Qube Global Software in October 2017, an organisation that had operated in the town since 1982. The company is also excited about the plans. Regional MRI Software Marketing Director James Lavery, who manages a team based out of the Sleaford office said: “Our Sleaford team is a key part of international operations and will continue to play a major role delivering property software to

businesses all over the world.

“Our move to this new facility demonstrates our commitment to the town, to the county and to the talent that emerges in the region including that from the University of Lincoln. We’re proud of our company’s roots in Sleaford and are looking forward to being part of an important creative hub for the area.”

In April this year LK2 Architects were awarded the contract to deliver architectural services. Paul Starbuck, Director at LK2 said: “We are delighted to build on our excellent working relationship with North Kesteven District Council to deliver an innovative and exciting design for this nationally significant building. We are looking forward to delivering a creative design which is befitting of the use and function of the NCCD.”

Fame at last...

It was good to see our old friend, Dumper, having fun starring on the small screen recently in the hands of Matt Baker, whose crew were recording footage for an episode of Countryfile. Thanks to Rod Auton of the Chesterfield Canal Trust for sharing the photo.



Cogglesford Watermill

Anyone visiting the watermill in the last couple of years will have noticed that the waterwheel itself has been out of action, sadly with broken and missing paddles.

Although the milling machinery can be powered by electricity, as it is at the moment, NKDC having had the foresight to install an electric motor during the original restoration in the 1990s, it's not quite the same as having the wheel itself turning.

Following a media campaign earlier this year which included a very early morning interview at the watermill with Harry, a Radio Lincolnshire presenter, we managed to find several people interested in helping with the repairs and some companies came to look at the work needed.

Budgets being what they are, officers at NKDC, the owner of the watermill, are now putting in an application for Heritage Lottery funding to complete the repairs to the wheel and upgrade the interpretation in and around the building including some interactive pieces which we hope will be enormously useful especially for school visits and our other young, and not so young, visitors.

Emma Clark at NKDC is leading on the application and has already thanked the Trust for its letter of support but she would still appreciate any other messages of support. If you've visited Cogglesford and seen the wheel operating and would like to see it again, or just believe the wheel should be restored, please let Emma know on emma_clark@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

The watermill will be open throughout the winter at weekends, 12-4 each day, re-opening during the week as well from 1st April 2020 and we'll be milling on the second Sundays of November, December and March. We look forward to seeing you.

Debbie and Dawn
Cogglesford Watermill Assistants
cogglesfordwatermill@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Mel Sowerby and Dave Collin transforming the lock at Cogglesford July 2019,



The undergrowth was threatening to overtake the lock!

SNTs Monthly Work Parties continue, please contact Mel (see back page) for details

In addition the River Slea Cleanup group will be back in action on 10th November and 14th December, catch them on facebook, River Slea Cleanup





Sleaford's Water Fountain

For years many people of Sleaford have walked or driven past the Market Place without even noticing the lovely little structure on the corner opposite Barclays Bank, which, although listed, had looked somewhat forlorn and forgotten for a long time. The Civic Trust spotted an opportunity which links closely with current thinking on plastic waste and with National Lottery Heritage backing, the fountain is now back in action and was officially re-opened by Frederick Hervey, the 8th Marquess of Bristol, in October



The Grade II listed fountain was built in 1874, but it dropped out of use in 1927 when mains water supplies arrived in town.

Vice chair of the town's Civic Trust, David Marriage, said turning it back on would help cut waste and help the environment.

Reusable bottles will also be issued to children as part of the project.



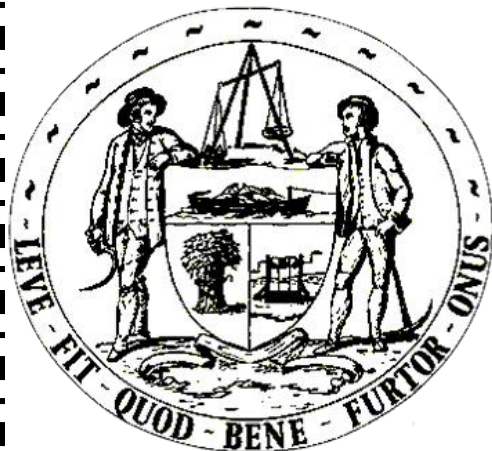
"One of the main objectives of the project was to get across to the children in the schools that you can't just have a plastic bottle and throw it away," Mr Marriage said.

"It is fantastic that the fountain can now help us improve the health of the environment by reducing plastic usage."

Several outlets in Sleaford, including Navigation House and Cogglesford Watermill, sell reusable water bottles that are ideal for filling up at the fountain.

Photos: supplied NKDC/BBC/Twitter/Civic Trust

Membership : If you are thinking of joining please do get in touch or pick up a membership application form from events or at Navigation House or Cogglesford Watermill in Sleaford. If you are already a member and would like to upgrade to paying by Standing Order please contact Jenny Osborne on 01526 832256. The saving in postage for reminders and trips to the bank will be much appreciated by the Trust and helpers.



The Tillergraph, Towpath Talk and the Canal Boating Times are all available free of charge from Navigation House (and other reputable waterside locations), please do drop in and pick up a copy.

As from 1st November, Navigation House and Cogglesford Watermill are back to winter opening times so 12-4 every Saturday and Sunday until 1st April.

Cogglesford Watermill will be milling on the second Sunday of each month through to December and then again in March

A growing stock of postcards, gifts and books is available to buy at both venues as well as delicious Dennett's Ice Cream. Hot drinks are sold at Cogglesford Watermill. Pop in and choose from our new selection of Christmas Gift ideas. Sleaford Navigation Trust items are also on sale at Navigation House

Towpath Talk is also available at the Hume Arms, South Kyme see www.south-kyme.co.uk/the_hume.html

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Membership

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, Lincoln, LN4 4DS Tel: 01526 832256
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SNT Work Parties go on throughout the year, usually on the second Sunday of the month. Contact Mel Sowerby (01522 856810 or sowerbys@ntlworld.com) for details of upcoming dates

Sleaford Navigation Trust is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP)



All SNT members are automatically SSP members, and are welcome to join in any of the SSP events, which are all held at the David Williams Pavilion, Sleaford Rugby Club, Ruskington Road, Sleaford.