

# *Sleaford Navigation Trust*



**Spring 2025**

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## The Sleaford Navigation Trust: -

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

...has a Registered Office c/o The Inland Waterways Association, Unit 16B, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham HP5 2PX.

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

...has a website: [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

...is on facebook: Sleaford Navigation Trust

...is on X (Twitter): @SleafordNavigationTrust

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## Aims & Objectives

The Trust aims to stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Slea, 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.

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## Newsletters

To request an email version or contribute articles or photographs please contact:

[editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

9 Forum Way,  
Sleaford NG34 7FF

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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

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

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## Editorial

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

Small steps in the right direction are being made with the trip boat, hopefully an announcement about the maiden voyage will be forthcoming shortly.

In the meantime, we have lots of opportunities to catch up at shows during the summer, as well as at our AGM, to be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 25th June. All welcome.

Hope to see you there

Debbie Scott, Editor

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Signing up to receive this newsletter by email means that you would receive it in full colour and the photographs work much better that way. Active hyperlinks will also take you directly to more information. Contact [editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

## **Farewells**

We were very sorry to receive news as we went to press in April of the deaths of Lionel Rudkin and Ada Trethewey, both of whom had been great supporters of the Society and the Trust for many years.

Lionel was one of the early members of the Society and served as Honorary Engineer through several of the society's projects.

Ada held a myriad of positions in local government in Sleaford, serving on both the Town Council and the District Council, and worked tirelessly with community organisations including Sleaford & District Civic Trust and Sleaford in Bloom, frequently opening her own garden to the public in aid of good causes. One of her favourite projects was Rauceby Banks, in memory of her late husband David, which saw the celebration of the section of the river upstream of the town including a length running alongside her beloved garden.

Our condolences to both families.

## **We are delighted to welcome New Members:**

David Jacobs

Stephen Flannery

Gavin Warwick

Neil Fryer

Ian Sesnan

# **Sleaford Navigation Trust**

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting 2025**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will be held at Sleaford Town Council Offices, Navigation Yard, Sleaford, on Wednesday 25th June, 2025, starting at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of transacting the business detailed below.

To receive apologies for absence.

To approve the Minutes for the previous year's AGM.

To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.

Election of Directors. Chris Hayes and Rob Saul are due to retire by rotation.

To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting, there will be a presentation by Mark Bamford on the Bass Maltings.

## **Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May, 2024**

Apologies: Becca Pitcaithly, Dave & Penny Carnell, Rob Saul, Mel & Sue Sowerby

Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Becky Franks, seconded by Debbie Scott.

Directors' Report: It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Chris Hayes summarised the contents and noted it as being the twenty-seventh annual report.

Its reception was proposed by David Marriage, seconded by Faith

Hopkins.

Thanks were extended to all committee members, members and volunteers for the work that they carried out on behalf of the Trust.

Accounts and Auditors' Report: The accounts and report were communicated to the meeting. Their reception was proposed by Jenny Osborne, seconded by Chris Hayes.

The appointment of Amanda Jay of Sleaford as the Company's Auditor and the authorisation of the Directors to fix her remuneration was proposed by Becky Franks, seconded by Chris Hayes. Gavin & Debbie Scott declared an interest and abstained.

Election of Directors: The following Directors stood for re-election, Steve Hayes and Sue Sowerby. Becky Franks had decided to stand down as a Director. Both were duly elected unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Chris Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2024.

She thanked Becky Franks for all her work as Treasurer and her continuing liaison work with the new Treasurer, Will Pickworth, who was welcomed to the team.

There was no further news as yet regarding the works at Haverholme by-wash and lock.

She gave an update on the trip boat project and reported that overall, the public response to the idea had been very positive. On February 24th Steve had been to speak to the Sleaford Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club at The Barge & Bottle about the project and the volunteering opportunities it afforded. Several people expressed interest in both fitting out and crewing the boat. There had been a slight change of plan since the original idea was put forward in that it was now the plan to fit out the boat in the water at the landing stage near the Hub. There had been a further visit to HD Narrowboats to discuss further details of the build which had actually started on May 10th. Some discussion on the choice of name for the boat followed with suggestions including, William Jessop, Joseph Banks and Benjamin Handley.

There had been a meeting at NKDC on March 5th to discuss planning requirements for the additional landing stage at Cogglesford and Kevan Ray has been progressing the necessary studies. Kevan made a presentation about the boat at a Shared Prosperity meeting on April 18th and confirmed the grants of £50K for the boat and £80K for dredging and clearing the top pound. There was a lot of interest and positive response in the meeting to the ideas. SNT was to commission the dredging and Dave Pullen was working on this. It was planned to complete the work and install the landing stage in the Autumn.

She closed the meeting by again thanking everyone for all their support and hard work.

## **Directors' Report December 2024**

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST— A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No. 1060234 Registered Office: Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

This is the twenty-eighth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2024. The company was incorporated on 19th December, 1996 and its full name is the Sleaford Navigation Trust. The governing documents of the Trust are the memorandum and articles of association which have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the Trust during the year to 31st December 2024 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)

David Carnell

Stephen Hayes (Secretary)

Penny Carnell

Debbie Scott

Will Pickworth (Treasurer)

Susan Sowerby

Robin Saul

Melvyn Sowerby

No director may remain in office for more than three years without seeking re-election.

The Trust's registered office is Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH.

The main Agents of the Trust are:

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 2 Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7BL

Auditors: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, Lincoln, LN4 4DS

## **Objectives, Organisation and Activities**

The Company was established to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Sleaford Navigation or Kyme Eau and to promote the restoration and preservation of the waterway for navigation and other purposes.

## **The Trust**

is organised and controlled by its Directors who provide their services on a volunteer basis as members of the Executive Board which meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, to formulate and implement strategy and to review progress. There are no paid or seconded staff.

is a corporate member of the Inland Waterways Association which shares certain objectives with the Trust and provides help and support nationally and locally to all organisations engaged in waterway restoration.

is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership.

produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.

has a website [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk), a Facebook page and an X (Twitter) account.



## **Review of Progress and Achievements**

During the year, the Trust has continued the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years.

Executive Board meetings were occasionally conducted by Zoom but were predominantly face-to-face gatherings.

### **Representatives of the Trust attended:**

A Witham Catchment Partnership summit meeting in Lincoln.

Meetings of the South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.

A meeting of the Slea Flood Resilience Project.

The unveiling of the Sleaford Arboretum Mosaic.

Sleaford Civic Trust Blue Plaque Launch.

Heritage Culture Forum meetings in Sleaford.

Meetings at NKDC in connection with the UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

Several visits to HD Narrowboats in relation to the building of the trip boat shell.

A meeting with Town Council representatives in connection with the mooring of the trip boat.

The Mayor of Sleaford's Civic Service and Reception.

Meetings regarding the RiverLight Festival in Sleaford.

Representatives of the Trust also manned a stall at the event which was held in June.

A drop-in meeting in South Kyme concerning a proposed reservoir in South Lincolnshire.

A meeting of the Sleaford Veterans Breakfast Club to explain the volunteer opportunities related to the trip boat.

A display at the Library about the Trust.

A stand at the Classic Car & Motor Cycle Show in Sleaford.

Heckington Show with a display in the Heritage Marquee.

Sleaford Christmas Market with a display in Navigation House.

The Trust has also responded to the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation.

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock and Sleaford where vegetation along the path by the river was cut back.

The trip boat, Benjamin Handley, was launched on August 13th and additional work parties relating to the fit out of the trip boat took place in Sleaford.

The Handley Cup was moved to the Sleaford Museum where it was to be displayed until April 2025 before being relocated in Navigation House.

The Trust continued to be part of the NKDC Good Cause Lottery receiving funds from the sale of tickets.

The connection with Grantham Anglers Fly-fishing Section (GAFFS) continued.

## **Review of Financial Activities and Affairs**

The resources available are considered adequate to enable the Trust to continue its work effectively at this stage of the restoration programme. The Trust's assets are adequate to fulfil all its obligations and there are no commitments which are required to be disclosed in this report or the notes to the accounts. The Trust is registered for VAT.

For and on behalf of the  
Executive Board

Steve Hayes,

Director & Secretary



## Reports from Work Parties

November 2024 saw Mel's group carrying out work alongside the Slea between the Leisure Centre and Cogglesford where a number of trees had been damaged by recent storms and overgrown vegetation on the banks needed attention.



*Photos by Mel Sowerby*



In March 2025, the Work Party dealt with overhanging branches between the Leisure Centre and the Lifting Bridge which were potentially causing



problems for the users of the footpath and also would be an impediment for the trip boat's journeys. Copping stones were retrieved from the river as well as a large tree stump found in the middle of the river.



*Photos by Mel Sowerby*



In April it was the turn of Taylors Lock to be tidied up. Rob and Luke trialled a suction pump to use at other locations for the removal



of silt. Trees were also removed using a combination of a steel winch and straps. Many thanks

to all who helped. Painting of the pontoon girders was completed using long handled rollers. Reeds were removed from the lock and the lock itself was tested ready for visiting boaters.



## Preparing for the trip boat...

Local residents will be aware that over the last few years the reeds in the river have flourished, to the extent that they were nearly blocking the river at a couple of points. As well as potentially restricting the passage of the trip boat, they were also clogging the water flow and trapping litter, so as part of the UK Shared Prosperity project we were able to engage contractors to do some reed-cutting. In February, they brought in an amphibious vehicle



which made short work of cutting the reeds back and making the river look as though someone cared. Great caution was exercised in the area where the swans have been nesting so that the site was left undisturbed and

the swans duly returned a few weeks later, even using some of the cuttings to refurbish the nest. *Photos by D Scott and D Pullen*



nest. More extensive reed removal is planned eventually but the same consideration will be given to the wildlife.

## Towpath repairs



**Before....**

**...and after**

Further work happening this spring included upgrade works by Lincolnshire County Council contractors to the path eastwards from Cogglesford linking up with the path across from the river southwards across the Hoplands to join Boston Road by the Police Station. This path is well used, not least by families walking to the William Alvey school, and the work is much appreciated.

*Photos by D Scott*







## Benjamin Handley

Work has been progressing steadily with the electrics now nearly complete for the heating system, thanks to Nige, while Steve and Jerry have been taking sheets of plywood, measuring many times before cutting them to fit around the windows and doors so the inside lining out is now definitely taking shape.

Rob has created a splendid

set of temporary steps to make access into the boat much easier, especially when carrying the seats down.

The planned start at Easter has sadly been delayed, the wheels of planning permissions and EA permits have been turning exceedingly slowly, but we were delighted to hear that NKDC granted planning permission for the landing stage at







Cogglesford in March, which is a definite step in the right direction.

*Photos by Steve Hayes*

## **Volunteers' catch up**

Because of the various delays in the project, we invited volunteers for a catch-up session at the Town Hall on 24th February to bring people up to date. We had no idea how many would turn up – in the end 11 people did, joining Chris, Steve, Debbie and Engineer David P, so it was, we thought, a worthwhile effort and it was great for people who had been working on different things at different



stages to actually meet up. Chris was able to explain that preparations to start operating the trip boat had been held up by various delays to the de-silting plans and the permissions for the construction of the landing stage at Cogglesford, but the internal fit-out of the boat was going well, thanks to Steve and his volunteer team who had recently completed the flooring and were now working on the wall linings and installing the heater. Ballasting and installation of the seats were on the fitout agenda.

Sadly even then it was looking increasingly unlikely that trips would be starting by Easter as originally planned.

The two-day training for skippers and crews had also been delayed by not being able to use Benjamin Handley for the training sessions, but the Chesterfield Canal Trust has helpfully offered their trip boat for this purpose. This will involve mid-week sessions over at Ranby as their boat is busy with trips at the weekend. Volunteers for the training were confirmed and dates would be set shortly. The Chesterfield people will also be delivering First Aid Training for SNT crews. Operating procedures and risk assessments would be created for the boat.

Chris also explained further the different volunteer roles we were looking to fill. As well as skippers and crew on the boat, there will be land-based opportunities – raising and lowering the bridge, for example, as well as the usual work party tasks of dealing with vegetation, etc.

On that subject, David announced that the reed removal operation was scheduled to start the following day after some delay and indeed the work did happen and has made the river look much more cared for. However, the reeds were only cut down at this stage so there is further work to do to ensure they don't grow back too quickly. He also confirmed that he would be taking delivery of the materials to create the landing stage later that week.

He added that, after much discussion, LCC had confirmed that it

does own the lifting bridge and will continue to take responsibility for its maintenance and bi-annual testing. Staff at the EA have recognised the Slea as a Salmonid River, i.e., one that could support fish, such as trout, of the salmon family. This has implications for the granting of flood risk permits and affects the seasons during which de-silting work can be done, as salmonoid fish spawn between October and March. He added that when allowed, the work would start at Cogglesford and move upstream to allow the fish to find refuge beyond the top pound. To further complicate matters, if the dredgings were taken to Kirkby on Bain, as originally planned, a Water Disposal Licence would be required whereas moving the silt to the banks would not.

Progress continues, slowly but hopefully steadily...

## **Skipper Training update**

It is a requirement of operating a trip boat that a suitably qualified person has to be in charge. A number of organisations provide training courses but the Trust has chosen to go with the NCBA, National Community Boat Association, of which it is now a member.

Initially, as reported above, we had hoped that training would take place in Sleaford but delays over channel clearance have meant this has not been possible. Our good friends in Chesterfield Canal Trust have stepped in to help out and have allowed us to use one of their trip boats for training.

This meant that Steve Hayes and Dave Pullen were able to travel to Chesterfield on April 4<sup>th</sup> to complete the first day of a two-day course as skippers. Both are experienced boaters but, nevertheless, found the day interesting and informative.

Benjamin Handley will not be passing through any locks yet but the training required skippers to be aware of the procedures through

locks and tunnels. Dave and Steve were made aware of the correct hand signals to give to give to crew who were operating the paddles at the lock. The paddles allow water to fill or empty the lock and need to be worked correctly to ensure safe passage of the boat. In the case of an emergency, they need to be closed with some speed. Both trainees were quite amused that there was a correct signal to use under these circumstances. Should such incidents have occurred in their own boating experience, the crew would have been alerted to the problem by loud, potentially expletive-laden, shouting and a variety of gestures!

Joking apart, the training is a serious part of the safe operation of the trip boat and we hope will be extended to many more volunteers shortly. Thank you again to the Chesterfield Canal Trust and to Paul Unwin for the training.

## Promotional Activities

In addition to the work on the boat, Trust members have been out and about promoting the work of the Trust and the volunteering opportunities available.

Steve and Chris have given talks to local organisations such as the NK Seniors and Sleaford Museum Trust and are already booked for talks to the Sleaford Ladies Probus Club in July and the Sutton

on Trent Local History Group in September.

In October we were offered the chance to have a stand in Sleaford Library as part of the Green Library project.



*Photo by D Scott*

# Saturday 19 / 2 / 94 Souths' trip South Kyme to Chapel Hill

Departed 9.30. Lizzy and Paul dropped off at South Kyme. I drove up to Chapel Hill then walked back along the Sleas. I met the others and we carried the boat round Bottom Lock. I then took over from John Speck with the youngsters. On the final reach before Chapel Hill just the two in the boat. I joined them near the bridge and we ended at the Wilham. Toilets and sweets at Chapel Hill before getting home for 1.30. The weather had been kind. A couple of days later it was windy.



While we were in the library we met up with John Parry who, with his family, successfully launched a home-built boat on the Sleas.

John kindly shared his record of a trip they made between South Kyme and Chapel Hill in 1994.

The boat's cunning design allowed it to be moved by hand on land, wheelbarrow-style, using the oars as the handles.

Hours of fun!

We also had a stand in Navigation House at the Sleaford Christmas Market in December.



*Images supplied*



Easy fundraising is exactly that! When shopping on any and many online shopping sites an automatic % donation of your total spend will be made to your nominated charity or cause, at no additional cost to you. Purchases such as insurance, holidays and cars are all included along with entertainment, eating out and all the well known shopping sites.

Your usual internet browser can be easily set up to alert you that a donation is available when you are on any of the brands sites that are part of Easy fundraising.

If you load the app onto your mobile phone or tablet and go to the retailer's site via the app the donation is activated for you.

The link for Easy Fundraising is [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sleafordnt/?from404=1](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sleafordnt/?from404=1) or search in your app store to upload to your phone.

Thank you and good luck!!

## Fundraising

Do you know how simple and easy fundraising for the Sleaford Navigation Trust can be?

In 2022 alone we received over £500 from a combination of NKDC lottery players and Easy Fundraising contributions.



NKDC runs a community lottery where 60p from every £1 ticket goes to a local good cause or charity of your choice.

The lottery is run every week on a Saturday evening where the top prize is a fantastic £25,000!!

The link for joining up and being in with a chance of a prize whilst supporting the Trust is:

[www.nklottery.co.uk/support/sleaford-navigation-trust](http://www.nklottery.co.uk/support/sleaford-navigation-trust)

## **Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan completed its Regulation 14 consultation in February. Over 300 individual comments are now being considered for inclusion in the next version to be put before the Regulation 16 consultation and the independent inspector.

Thanks from the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee to everyone who took the opportunity to respond.



### **The Handley Cup**

In April 2025, the Handley Cup's tour of Sleaford came to an end with its return to Navigation House, where it can now be seen alongside other Sleaford Navigation memorabilia and a vast amount of information on the history of the Navigation and its impact on the town.

For readers new to the Trust, the Handley Cup was presented to Benjamin Handley by the Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation Company in 1794 in recognition of his support in establishing the Navigation . The cup disappeared for many years and resurfaced in South Africa before being returned to Sleaford and presented to the Sleaford Navigation Society in 1995. More information can be found in the SNT newsletter number 62 in the archives on our website.



# RIVERSIDE GUARDIANS



Navigation  
House

The Riverside Guardians of Navigation House are young member of the public who help clean up Sleaford and local areas, making a real impact to our community. Help us set a good example to others and learn about recycling and keeping our surroundings litter free. \*Parental/Guardian supervision required. Check out our website for more information!

## Benefits:

- ✓ Borrow litter picking equipment
- ✓ Help improve the environment
- ✓ Build community pride
- ✓ Physical activity and getting outdoors
- ✓ Certificate of completion

## Every 1st Sunday of the Month

10:00am - 14:00pm



Navigation House,  
Navigation Wharf, CARRE  
Street, Sleaford  
NG34 7TW

01529 305904

[www.heartofflincs.com](http://www.heartofflincs.com)

@navigationhouse



## Dates for your diary:

The SNT ducks will be taking to the water in a race as part of the events in South Kyme on Saturday 4th May.

The Trust will be represented at Sleaford RiverLight on Sunday 15th June and Saturday 21st June, please call in and see us on Eastgate Green next to the Hub, in Sleaford. For more details about the event please see the [website https://hub-sleaford.org.uk/riverlight](https://hub-sleaford.org.uk/riverlight)



We are also having a stand at Heckington Show 26th and 27th July <https://www.heckingtonshow.org.uk/>



And to round up the summer, we will be at the Sleaford Classic Car and Motorcycle Show on the Boston Road Recreation Ground in Sleaford on Saturday 6th September <https://www.sccms.co.uk/>

## Useful websites:

Sleaford Navigation Trust	<a href="http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk">www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk</a>
Navigation House	<a href="http://www.navigationhouse.co.uk">www.navigationhouse.co.uk</a>
Cogglesford Watermill	<a href="http://www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk">www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk</a>
TourismNK	<a href="http://www.heartoflincs.com">www.heartoflincs.com</a>
Sleaford Town Council	<a href="http://www.sleaford.gov.uk">www.sleaford.gov.uk</a>
North Kesteven District Council	<a href="http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk">www.n-kesteven.gov.uk</a>
Lincolnshire County Council	<a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>
Inland Waterways Association	<a href="http://www.waterways.org.uk">www.waterways.org.uk</a>
Canal & River Trust	<a href="http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk">www.canalrivertrust.org.uk</a>
Environment Agency	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Blue Green Corridor	<a href="http://www.withamsleablebluegreencorridor.co.uk">www.withamsleablebluegreencorridor.co.uk</a>
East Mercia Rivers Trust	<a href="http://www.eastmercia.org">www.eastmercia.org</a>
Sleaford Museum	<a href="http://www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk">www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk</a>
Sleaford & District Civic Trust	<a href="http://www.sleafordcivictrust.co.uk">www.sleafordcivictrust.co.uk</a>

Also follow us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sleaford-Navigation-Trust-632143133547859>

And X (Twitter)

@SleafordNavigationTrust

The River Slea Clean Up volunteers continue their work parties - for more details of the events please see their facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/)

## **Membership Subscriptions - Action Required Please**

A reminder please, that the subscriptions are now as follows.

**Individual (£10), Senior Citizen (£8), Under 18 (£8)**

**Family (£15), Life (£120), Corporate (£20 min)**

Please update your standing orders accordingly, if you haven't already done so. Many thanks to those who already have.

The membership application form with the latest information about subscriptions is also [available on our website](#) for potential members.

A selection of plaques is now available to order online through our website [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

## **Places to Visit**

### **Navigation House NG34 7TW**

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

### **Cogglesford Watermill NG34 7EQ**

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm  
and regular Milling Days on the second Sunday of each month  
See [www.heartoflincs.com](http://www.heartoflincs.com) for more details and up to date information on events, etc.

### **Sleaford Museum, Southgate NG34 7RQ**

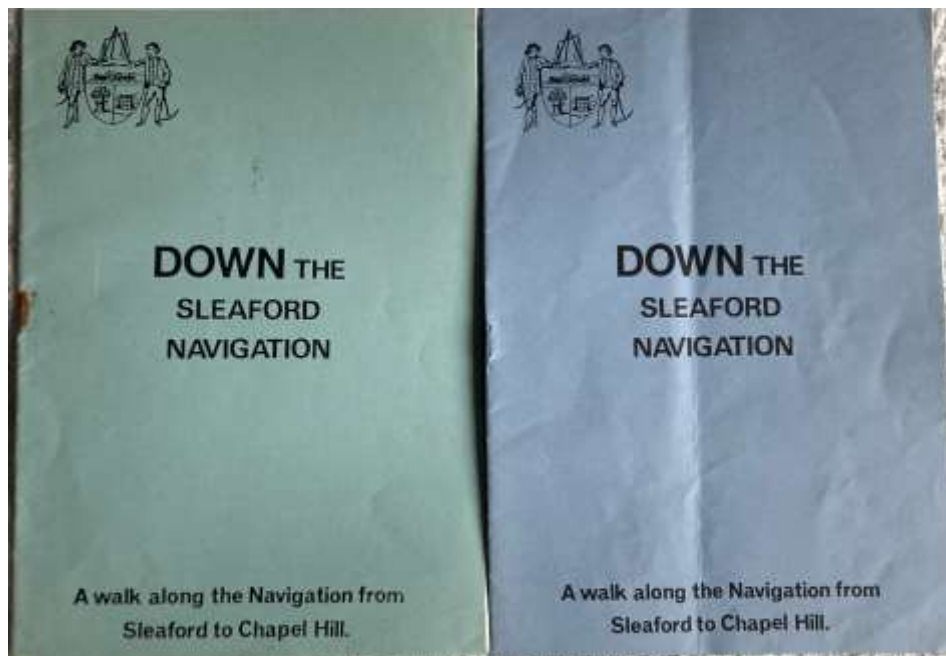
Monday 12.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Wednesday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm,  
Friday 10.00 am – 12.30pm, Saturday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

## A message from Bill

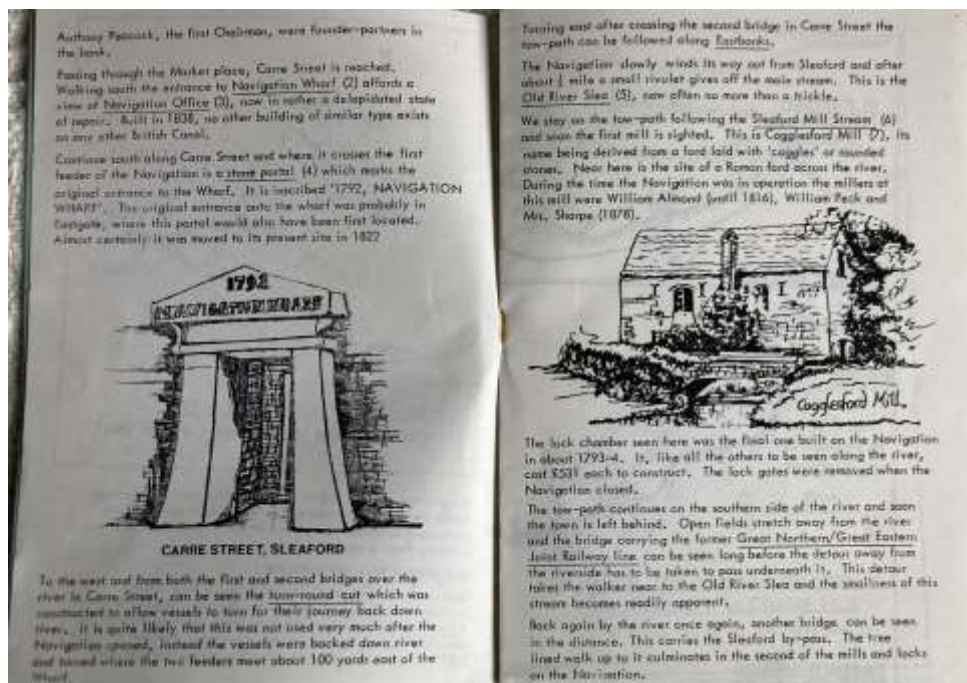
Just as we thought we had done the final proofing of this newsletter, we received an email from Bill Hunt, one of the Society's co-founders. As regular readers will know, Bill has been an avid researcher into the history of the Sleaford Navigation, amongst other things, and has written a number of theses on the subject. We have previously mentioned that these are available online through the [Open University online library](#), search for 376042\_Vol1.pdf 376042\_Vol2.pdf, 376042\_Vol3.pdf or 27777440.pdf

Bill's message says

'I was reading through the Trust's online archive of past newsletters when one article, and a subsequent response, caught my eye. (Issue nos. 16 & 17, of April and July 2004) concerning a pamphlet produced by the Sleaford Navigation Society entitled, *'Down The Sleaford Navigation'*. Perhaps I can add some details about it.



In the early months of the Society's existence we, the Committee, realised that in order to spread the message of restoration, publicity would be essential. The *Down The Sleaford Navigation* pamphlet was part of this campaign and was a project for which I took the responsibility. Thus, in the autumn of 1977, I went on foot along the length of the navigation, checking the nature of the towpath for walkers and taking photographs of the locks, mill and other buildings and structures along the way from Sleaford to Chapel Hill. It was based on these notes and images that I wrote the pamphlet that was subsequently printed. The images that accompany the text were drawn by my wife, Caroline, a professional artist.



At that time we, the Committee, were looking to having a major presence at the forthcoming Heckington Show in 1978 and so we produced other publicity material in addition to the pamphlet – ball-point pens, notelets and pin badges, examples of which may survive in Sleaford and the surrounding area.

The pamphlet was, I seem to remember, charged for at only a nominal sum in order to spread the restoration message and demand was so high that we sold out the first printing quite quickly. A second was produced using a different colour paper for the title page. Unfortunately, I cannot remember whether it was the blue or the green cover which was the first printing and which was the second!

The illustrations produced in the pamphlet gave my wife an idea for another publicity and fund-raising project and this was agreed to by the Committee. This was for a series of 14 original watercolour paintings of views of the Slea based on the photographs that I took when I walked the navigation. We obtained a partner for the location of the sale of the pictures in Lloyds Bank in Northgate, Sleaford, this being the former building of Benjamin Handley's bank. As far as I know, all 14 of the paintings were sold – both my wife and I would like to know what happened to them and where they are now. The newspaper image to the right is from the *Sleaford Standard*

I hope that this account has afforded some insight into the origins of this pamphlet. I enclose some photographs that you might find useful as illustration should you wish to include this in your newsletter.

I also noted that you included in your newsletter some personal statements by, for example, Chris Hayes, as to how they came to be involved in canals and restoration. If you think it may be of interest, I would be only too happy to supply the same as to the origins of the original Society and how it was through a series of lucky chances and coincidences that it was ever formed and the navigation restoration project happened. It could so easily have not.

Best wishes,  
Bill Hunt (Co-founder, Sleaford Navigation Society)'

*Dear Bill*

*Thank you for this, and yes please, we would love to hear more about your early days with the Society! Editor*





VISITORS to Sleaford's Lloyds Bank this week may wonder if they have wandered into an art gallery. On display are 14 original watercolours of the Sleaford River.

Mrs. Carol Hunt, of 9 Arundel Crescent, Boston, is the artist, and a member of

the Sleaford Navigation Society. She will give half the money from the paintings to the Sleaford Navigation Fund. They range in price from £6 to £25 and are on display until tomorrow.

Anyone wishing to buy pictures should put his name

on a list in the bank, and Mrs. Hunt has said she would get in touch.

Pictured with some of the paintings are Mr. Martin Chapman, left, president of Sleaford Navigation Society, and Mr. John Clements, sub-manager of the bank.

JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 1978

## Committee Contacts

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Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director	Rob Saul

Honorary Engineer	David Pullen 43 Howell Road, Heckington NG34 9RX Tel 07766 714650 / 01529 460547 engineer@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
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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, East Road, Sleaford.

