

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*

Directors' Annual Report, December 2024

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. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 03294818, the Trust is also a registered charity No. 1060234. 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 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, Billinghay, 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 and a Facebook page.

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.
- Meetings related to Sleaford Town Council Neighbourhood Plan.
- 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.

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