

Sleaford Navigation Trust

68th
edition

Newsletter
Spring 2026

Digital



Who are we?

The Sleaford Navigation Trust is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No. 3294818) and is a registered as a Charity (No. 1060234).

We have a Registered Office c/o Sleaford Town Hall, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincs, England, NG34 7TW

Find us at www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk or on Facebook 'Sleaford Navigation Trust'

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

We welcome contributions of articles or photographs, although we reserve the right to edit if necessary.

Would you like a digital copy of this newsletter with active hyperlinks to take you directly to more information? For either of the above, please email editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Welcome to this new look newsletter!

We are very excited to have found Lucy Hubbert who is making her way in the world of graphic design. Lucy has very kindly agreed to bring our design and presentation right up to date and we hope you will find this issue even more interesting and readable than ever. Please do let us have your thoughts on the new style.

As well as Bill Hunt's regular contribution, this edition also sees memories shared by Arthur Higgs, former Chairman of NKDC.

And don't forget our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2nd June, 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, with a talk by Charlie Brown on his aeronautical exploits and a chance to explore NB Benjamin Handley before the meeting.

Debbie Scott
Editor

Contents	Page
Events 2026	4
Tree works along the riverbank	4
Hooray and up she rises!	5
A bit from Bill	7
Thank you, from Pete & Ali	10
Memories of Sleaford and beyond	12
Notice of SNT AGM 2026	15
Minutes of SNT AGM 2025	16
Directors' report	18
Dave & Penny Carnell, thank you!	22
Fundraising	23
Contacts	24
Useful links	25

Events 2026

The Trust will be taking stands at Sleaford Classic Car & Motorcycle Show Saturday 5th September 2026

<https://www.sccms.co.uk/>

And Sleaford Christmas Market Sunday 29th November 2026

<https://www.sleaford.gov.uk/sleaford-christmas-market>

We hope to see you there!

Tree works along the riverbank

We had been advised that one of the trees near the Nettles in Sleaford had developed issues with some branches, leaving them at risk of falling. With the support of the IWA WRG Forestry Team, we were at last able to get this put right in January this year. The team arrived with a self-propelled cherry picker and all the necessary tools to make light work of the job. Huge thanks to everyone involved.



Hooray and up she rises!

The mechanism to operate the lift bridge in Sleaford is a windlass, the same as is used to raise and lower the paddles on a lock gate. The handle on the windlass has to be rotated clockwise to raise the bridge and anti-clockwise to lower it again. It's fair to say that this is a pretty strenuous task and we have been aware that, when the trip boat is in operation, it will need to be repeated several times a day. While some may see this as a viable alternative to going to the gym, others could well find it rather too taxing for them.



Trust volunteers have been considering various ways to make the operation easier and were gifted a battery operated wheel gun, the type used in garages to take wheel nuts off cars, with the thought that it could be used instead of a manual windlass.

Unfortunately, the socket connection proved difficult so Gavin Scott made a bespoke connector. Sadly, the idea was still not the solution we needed as the operation was too slow to be useful.



Back to the drawing board and Gavin designed and made a windlass with a very long throw. These are sometimes used in lock operation where greater force is needed but the elongation of the SNT windlass far exceeds those in normal usage. There is usually a limit to the amount of clearance available near a lock beam and there can be knuckle damage if the space is too small but there is no such problem in the bridge operation.

The day came for a trial run with the hope that this time the problem would be solved. Our grandsons were staying with us during the school holiday and wanted to see what happened. Not content with being a spectator, John, aged ten, wanted to have a go. Now he is a strong boy for his age but it was fantastic to see him raise the bridge to its full height and lower it again without any assistance or hesitation! Problem solved! Thanks and congratulations to Gavin for his initiative and expertise. His idea will certainly be appreciated by those operating the bridge in the future. Congratulations too to John, the youngest Trust member to lift the bridge to full height!

Chris Hayes



A bit from Bill

If you remember, in the last newsletter we left Bill pondering on the difficulties of being awarded a General Degree, please read on to find out what happened next.

Bill picks up the story, 'This left me with a dilemma as I saw an honours degree as vital to my career progression into, hopefully, teaching in a higher education institution. Again, with a family and a full-time occupation, what I chose would need to be part-time. So, I would try to mitigate not having a dissertation element with the first degree and see if I could undertake a research degree without it, applying with the Cert.Ed. and the B.Sc. (Econ) as evidence of what I was capable of as a part-time student. But, where to do this? The nearest degree-awarding university seemed to be the place to start and this meant Nottingham University. I sent an enquiry to the university about research degrees in the Spring 1974 and received a reply from the Humanities department soon after, inviting me for an interview.

The meeting at Nottingham went well and I was offered a place but the Cert. Ed. proved insufficient to equate to a dissertation. In its place I was required to prove my ability for selfdirected study by writing and having published a piece of work, either in Geography or History, as I had an 'A' level qualification in each and was teaching them to the same level. Armed with that knowledge I set about selecting a topic for this work.

Having moved into Lincolnshire and the Sleaford district I wanted to acquire an understanding of the area's geography and history so the next few weeks were spent reading all I could about the town and surrounding area's geography and history. However, it soon became clear to me that to write anything new about the geography of the place would involve a great deal of research and be very time-consuming, what with a new home, new job and new child – perhaps the history approach would be more fruitful. I had been interested in railways from the time I was at St Clement Danes Grammar School in London where the Geography Room overlooked the Old Oak Common engine sheds of the Western Region of BR,

where the trains were prepared before going into Paddington Station. So, I read as much as I could about the railways of Sleaford and the GNR and LNER in general but I could not identify an area where I would be able to make an original contribution to historical knowledge. Then, I read about the Sleaford Navigation – or rather, I did not. Enquiries at Sleaford Library, then located at Westholme House, off Westgate, revealed that there seemed to be little written about it. I could not find a general history of it and even the main texts about regional canals, such as *Canal of Eastern England*, Charles Hadfield, pub. David & Charles (D&C), 1966, or *Lost Canals of England and Wales*, Rex Russell, D&C, 1971, were lacking a comprehensive historical account. I realised that one did not exist! Upon making further enquiries of the librarian, I was told that I was not the first to set off down this research pathway but nothing had ever come of it as there was one source that had never been found. The Sleaford Navigation was a public company and would have been required to keep records, most important of which were the minute books of the company meetings and the financial accounts. Any investigation of the company's history would be a non-starter without these. It seemed extremely likely that these records had been lost at some time between the winding-up of the company in 1878 and my enquiry almost a century later and, if that was the case, I would have to think of something else to write a publishable article about. However, I thought that I would look at a couple of other possible sources before I re-thought the chosen subject.

The Lincolnshire Archive Office, then at the Castle in Lincoln, was contacted, but no records were deposited there, and then I had the first of the lucky events that came about during this investigation. I knew that navigation and canal companies at that time, as with all companies today, had to have legal representation and so I decided to enquire of the solicitor companies in the town that would have been in existence when the navigation company was formed, that is, in the 1790s. When we bought our house at Leasingham our vendor used the local firm of Peake, Snow and Jeudwine, then located in Sleaford market place, so, not knowing anything about their origins, on the offchance I went into their office and asked about Navigation records. To my great surprise I seemed to have been successful at this first attempt. Yes, said my solicitor-contact there, Mr. N.H. Power, his company had been the navigation's

solicitors and, a second surprise, he said that he thought that they had the company books in their back storeroom and would I like to go and look? I could not believe my luck !

The sight that met me was surprising. The storeroom was a white-painted brick room filled with scores of black, metal, solicitors' boxes, arranged in disorganised piles. It would probably not be allowed today, due to confidentiality rules, but I was offered the opportunity to look through this mass of boxes to see if the navigation records were amongst them. I remember being eager to start at once but it was late in the afternoon so it was the following day when I went back to the storeroom and began sifting through the contents. I remember the disappointment when I examined the last box – no company books!

This suggested solicitor source seemed to prove to be a dead-end, but then I had another stroke of luck. As I was saying goodbye and thanking the solicitor for allowing me to look through the collection of boxes, he remarked that some time he seemed to recollect that the navigation box may have been passed on to the Sleaford Public Health Department, but for what reason he could not recall.

At that time Sleaford Public Health Department was located in Westgate and a short walk to there from the Peake, Snow and Jeudwine Market Place offices led me to a meeting with Tom Dagwell, a local public health inspector. Upon my asking about the solicitor's box, he replied that he knew about it, that it had been in a cupboard in his office 'for ages' and, for safe keeping, he had taken it to his home at Holdingham, a small village north of Sleaford and less than a mile from my home. He invited me to view the items and a meeting was arranged. Within a few days I was standing before the black box and Mr. Dagwell opened it. Inside were the four minute books of the Committee of Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation, together with the accounts. In addition, there was the brass company seal with wooden handle attached, the whole being about the size of a postal cancellation handstamp. From the beginning of the search until that moment, about ten days had elapsed.'

Watch out for the next newsletter and the next instalment in Bill's History of the Sleaford Navigation.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you, thank you, thank you from Pete & Alli.

The following is an account of a journey up the Slea undertaken last July. It was sent as an email thanking Mel Sowerby for coming to their rescue. They have given permission for it to be included in the newsletter.

“On Saturday we left Dogdyke and the River Witham behind, for what we thought would be a short adventure onto another new waterway for us, the Sleaford Navigation which is known locally as the Kyme Eau. We cruised seven miles, going through some flood gates and one guillotine lock before passing through South Kyme village (just as the Lancaster Bomber we’d seen on Friday flew over us!), on our way to Cobblers Lock which is the current limit of navigation. This lock happens to be one of 68 ‘Silver Propeller’ locations, promoted by the Inland Waterways Association to encourage the exploration of far-flung, under-used reaches of the inland waterways network. The aim is to reach 20 and, after six years on the water, this was to be our 18th with the final two to hopefully be collected by the end of this year.

We made it under a very low road bridge with a few inches to spare, then battled through an ever-increasing carpet of blanket weed, until we came to a complete halt one mile short of the end goal of reaching the lock (which is also the only remaining winding hole to turn our boat around).

After several hours of trying to free ourselves, which included me getting in the river to help push the boat while Pete rocked the boat in vain, we had to admit defeat and ring the Sleaford Navigation Trust for help. This particular waterway has been restored by the Trust and does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Canal & River Trust, who we would usually seek assistance from. We thought about waiting until it rains to get floating again, but the forecast doesn’t look to be promising much rain anytime soon ... and if it did, we’d then be worried about whether we would make it back under the very low road bridge. We got some helpful advice from David, the Trust’s Engineer, but after remaining stuck fast for two nights

we were extremely grateful to see Mel arrive yesterday to help us out. Mel is the Trust's Work Party Organiser, a fellow boater and now our hero too. First he tried to find a local farmer to give us a tractor pull, but they're all out in the fields bringing in their harvest while there's no rain. Mel ended up donning his waders and using a long-handled fork to free as much blanket weed as he could from under the port side of our boat, so we could get it rocking even more. He found the problem to be that our starboard was stuck on a concrete pipe, which wouldn't normally be an obstacle if the water level wasn't as low as it is right now. Mel then got on the bank and pulled us with a long rope, while I moved the bow back into the centre and Pete used the power of the engine to direct the stern towards Mel. This dislodged us from the pipe and we were finally free again, ready for the arduous two-miles in reverse towards the previous winding hole.

Mel stayed up on the bank and pulled us the whole way, while Pete tried to keep the boat as straight as possible (a challenge with the river bends, large trees, shallowness, blanket weed and the very low road bridge to get back under) and I used the barge pole to keep us away from the silted edges (aching biceps today!). Turning in the shallow winding hole was tricky, but we were eventually facing forwards again.

We saw loads of ducklings and the most fish swimming that we've ever seen (hundreds!), as we made our way back to South Kyme village, where Mel helped us get as close in on the visitor moorings as we could manage with the silt built up here too.

Mel, from the bottom of our hearts, you were a god-send and we couldn't have made it back here without you. Thank you so very much, you've proved once again that boaters really do stick together and help each other out. After putting a chicken in the oven to roast last night, it was absolute heaven to wander down to the Hume Arms and have a chat with the locals while enjoying a pre-dinner beer! Last night was the best solid night's sleep we've had for ages!!

We're looking forward to a more restful day today, with a gentle stroll around the village, before we return to the River Witham tomorrow."

Memories of Sleaford and beyond

Recently, Arthur Higgs, one of our very long-standing members, got in touch. Arthur says,

‘Reading the Autumn 2025 issue of the Sleaford Navigation Trust newsletter, it brought back many memories of my connection to Sleaford.

All my life I have lived in North Hykeham, which has changed from a village with a population of around 1500 during my schooldays to a town roughly the size of Sleaford at present. After passing the “11 plus” exam I was granted a place at Carre’s Grammar School in the late 1940s, which meant a daily journey to and from Sleaford with Moore’s bus company.

Each morning, we were dropped off at the school gates. In the afternoon we walked from school to the bus company depot in Jermyn St. A school friend and I walked down Southgate; we passed a bakery where, for a couple of pennies, we could buy a cream bun. This was a reduced price for late afternoon sales. Breaking it in two we had half each and several crumbs. We would stand and lean on the bridge over the River Sle, throw in the crumbs and watch the frenzied activity as the trout dashed for the crumbs. (And we kept Britain tidy!) I recall talking to the resident of a house on the riverside who told me that he had a trapdoor in his lounge floor and beneath was the Sle so he could catch a trout without leaving his house!

While at Carre’s I joined the debating society, which affected my life and connection to Sleaford many years later. When schooldays were over, I followed



Supplied: Arthur as Chairman of North Kesteven District Council at the time of the opening of Bottom Lock (now Taylors Lock).

many members of my family into retail trading. At one point my uncle asked me to join his family firm Higgs Bros. tobacconists. As the sole survivor with the family surname, he was keen for me to join. Shortly after joining the firm he asked me to join him on one of his regular trips to the branches in Louth and Sleaford. This reignited my interest in Sleaford and I stopped to see who was worthy of a statue in the main street, it was of course Mr Handley which at the time meant nothing to me.

Supplied: Arthur shown earlier this year in Sleaford.



After a while, I decided selling cigarettes and tobacco was not for me and I started my own retail business. Some time later, talking to a business friend in North Hykeham, I commented how sad it was that the only candidates for seats on the Parish Council were all tied to political parties.

The next day he called to see me, handed me a piece of paper and said "Sign here". After the election, the Lincolnshire Echo declared, "Arthur tops the poll in Hykeham." As the parish became a town, I became the first person born in the town to become Mayor.

My debating society days at Carre's came into use then and also when I was elected as an Independent to North Kesteven District Council. (My wife says it was nothing to do with debating, I am just argumentative!)

After being chairman of various committees, I became the first from North Hykeham to become Chairman of the Council. When applications for grants came in, I was pleased to support the

request from what was then the Sleaford Navigation Society. Later a link was made between the society and NKDC and as Chairman I was invited to the official reopening of Bottom Lock and a trip up to South Kyme on a narrowboat.

This lock was, much later, to be renamed Taylors Lock. Shortly after this, on a hot summer's day, BBC Radio Lincolnshire asked me to do an interview on a narrowboat leaving South Kyme towards the winding hole. While describing the pleasure of this trip along the Sleas I was pleased it was radio and not television because, as I continued to describe it, we became grounded on the bottom, the water level was so low in the hot summer weather.

Although now 88, and plagued by ill health, I miss the boat gatherings at South Kyme and the boating services in the Church there. I don't get out so much so a highlight for me is when my "snail mail" copy of the Sleaford Navigation Trust newsletter drops through my letterbox bringing back memories of my connection to Sleaford over many years.'

Thank you to Arthur for this, lovely to hear from you.



SNT: Notice of Annual General Meeting

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 Tuesday 2nd June, 2026, starting at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of transacting the business detailed below.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes for the previous year's AGM.
3. To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2025.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025.
5. To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.
6. Election of Directors. Melvin Sowerby and Will Pickworth are due to retire by rotation.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Before the meeting, from 6.45 p.m. onwards, there will be the opportunity to have a closer look inside the SNT trip boat, Benjamin Handley, which is moored near The Hub. Following the meeting, there will be a presentation by Charlie Brown on flying vintage WW2 warbirds.

Minutes of SNT AGM 2025

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25th June, 2025

Apologies: Becca Pitcaithly, Dave & Penny Carnell, Dave Burkitt, Christine Collard, David Marriage, Faith Hopkins.

Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Gavin Scott, 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-eighth annual report. Its reception was proposed by Rob Saul, seconded by Will Pickworth.

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: It was noted that the accounts were not fully prepared for the meeting because of the added complications that had been posed by the Trust's involvement in the UKSPF. Acceptance of the accounts at a later date was unanimously delegated to the Directors.

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 Mel Sowerby, seconded by Dave Pullen. Gavin & Debbie Scott declared an interest and abstained.

Election of Directors: The following Directors stood for re-election, Chris Hayes and Rob Saul. Both were duly elected unanimously.

Any Other Business:

- Chris Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2025.
- A variety of talks about the navigation have been given to local organisations.
- NK Heritage Strategy Meeting IBCC 29th January Meeting with Tony Mabbot & Michelle Tasker from NKDC on 26th February re. potential works at Haverholme.

- Meeting of South Kyme Working Group 18th March. (Ducks went there prior to their trip out on 4th May)
- Northern Canals Association Meeting, Langley Mill, 22nd March. Presentation given about the Trip Boat Project.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sleaford Museum Group 25th March
- Work parties took place at Taylors Lock 6th April, Sleaford (vegetation) 2nd March, Sleaford (ballast) 9th March. There have also been twelve separate work parties fitting out the trip boat.
- There were preliminary meetings regarding RiverLight and participation in the events on 15th and 21st June with a gazebo at Eastgate Green.
- UKSPF has finished with the last meeting that the Trust attended on 2nd April. There have been meetings with NKDC officers regarding the licensing of the trip boat and skippers. Catch up meeting with potential volunteers in Sleaford 24th February.
- Skipper training for the Trip Boat in Chesterfield for Steve & Dave P on 4th April and 1st May. Both now have a Certificate of Community Boat Management. Debbie and Gavin are next in line for training.
- There have been many meetings and consultations regarding the river channel clearance. Contractors removed some of the reeds in March but we were informed, rather unexpectedly, by the Environment Agency that, because the Slea at this point is a salmonid river, work on the river bed can only take place between June and September. We are still waiting for an exemption from them so that this can happen.
- We now have planning permission for the landing stage at Cogglesford subject to various conditions; soil investigation and boring to determine the siting of the piles, tree management and protection during and after the build and environmental enhancement in the form of coir roll installation opposite the site. Materials for the landing stage have been bought and are in storage ready for use.
- All these activities have involved many hours of volunteer time. A sincere thank you to all those involved. Particular mention to Dave P who has indicated that he wants to step down as Honorary Engineer at the end of the current trip boat project. We are all seriously indebted to him.

Directors' report

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818.

Registered Charity No. 1060234

Registered Office: c/o Sleaford Town Council, The Town Hall,
Quayside House, Navigation Yard, Sleaford, NG34 7TW

Directors' Annual Report, December 2025

This is the twenty-ninth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2025. 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 2025 were:

- Christine Hayes (Chairman)
- Stephen Hayes (Secretary)
- Debbie Scott
- Susan Sowerby
- Melvyn Sowerby
- David Carnell
- Penny Carnell
- Will Pickworth (Treasurer)
- Robin Saul

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

The Trust registered office is c/o Sleaford Town Council, The Town Hall, Quayside House, Navigation Yard, Sleaford NG34 7TW

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

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 National Community Boat Association.
- 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 either face-to-face or conducted by Zoom.

Representatives of the Trust attended:

- A talk about the navigation given to NK Seniors
- NK Heritage Strategy Meeting IBCC
- Catch up meeting with potential volunteers in Sleaford
- Meeting with Tony Mabbott & Michelle Tasker from NKDC re. potential works at Haverholme.
- Meetings of South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.
- Northern Canals Association Meeting, Langley Mill. Presentation given about the Trip Boat Project.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sleaford Museum Group UKSPF meeting
- Meeting with Mark Stuart & Neil Chadwick of NKDC regarding the licensing of the trip boat and skippers.
- Skipper training for the Trip Boat in Chesterfield
- Work parties at Taylors Lock and in Sleaford (vegetation). There have also been many separate work parties fitting out the trip boat.
- Preliminary meetings regarding RiverLight and participation in the event with a gazebo at Eastgate Green.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sleaford Ladies Probus Group
- Heckington Show with a display in the Heritage Marquee.
- A stand at the Classic Car & Motor Cycle Show in Sleaford.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sutton-on-Trent Local History Group
- Talk about the navigation given to Old Sleaford Heritage Group
- Talk about the navigation given to Rotary Club of Sleaford
- Sleaford Christmas Market with a display in the marquee

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

The Handley Cup was moved to Navigation House where it is displayed.

There have been many meetings and consultations regarding the river channel clearance. Contractors removed some of the reeds in March but the Trust was informed, rather unexpectedly, by the Environment Agency that, because the Slea at this point is a salmonid river, work on the river bed can only take place between June and September.

The Trust has planning permission for the landing stage at Cogglesford subject to various conditions; soil investigation and boring to determine the siting of the piles, tree management and protection during and after the build and environmental enhancement in the form of coir roll installation opposite the site. Materials for the landing stage have been bought and are in storage ready for use.

All these activities have involved many hours of volunteer time. A sincere thank you to all those involved. Particular mention is made of David Pullen who has indicated that he wants to step down as Honorary Engineer at the end of the current trip boat project.

Sincere thanks are also due to David and Penny Carnell who have made the decision to retire from being Directors of the Trust after many years of valued service.

Sleaford Navigation Trust is seriously indebted to all three of them.

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

Dave & Penny Carnell, thank you!

It's impossible to put in a few words the contribution Dave and Penny Carnell have made to waterway restoration nationally, locally and specifically to the Sleaford Navigation. After many years as directors of SNT, Dave and Penny made the decision to stand down last Autumn.

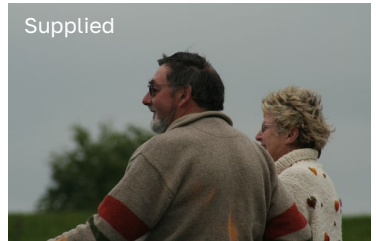
During that time Penny had acted as Treasurer and Dave, as Chairman of Lincolnshire Inland Waterways Association, had played an active part in advising and promoting the Trust. His involvement included putting forward the initial suggestions for the opening to navigation of Bottom Lock and a very hands-on approach to subsequent work parties.

With their narrowboat, Scrimmager, they attended IWA National Waterways Festivals, took part in campaign rallies on the Witham Navigable Drains and were integral to the Boat Gatherings in South Kyme. They were an important part of the team manning the Trust stands at boat festivals both local and national with Penny ready to share her considerable canal art painting skills with attendees.

There have been many laughs along the way although Dave may not thank me for reminding him of the time he was a bit too enthusiastic drying out his new jumper during a promotional boat trip to what became Black Sluice Lock. The voyage on IWA Jubilee was memorable for another reason too. It was only after we had set off from Grand Sluice in Boston that we realised the previous people on the boat had neglected to have the loo pumped out! Suffice it to say that this caused a few problems and a certain amount of hilarity! A day to remember! Steve said he was impressed by the speed the ladies on board climbed the vertical ladder to the loo when we got back to Grand Sluice!

There are many more stories and things to say thank you for. Dave and Penny, I am deeply grateful for all the time you have given, for your commitment, enthusiasm and company over the years. Sorry to see you go.

Chris Hayes



Fundraising

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

NKDC runs a community lottery where 50p 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!



So far this year, the lottery has brought in nearly £720 extra income for the Trust which is very much appreciated. 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

Thank you and good luck!



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 or search in your app store to upload to your phone.

Committee contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460 chair@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Secretary	Steve Hayes Contact as above and secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
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Director/ Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 07973 330765 editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Honorary Engineer	David Pullen 43 Howell Road, Heckington NG34 9RX Tel 07766 714650 / 01529 460547 engineer@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Newsletter Designer	Lucy Hubbert lucy@lollupdesign.com lucyhubbert14@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS Tel: 01526 832256

**Want to
get involved?**

See contact details above!

SNT Work Parties go on throughout the year, usually on the second Sunday of the month. Contact Mel Sowerby (above) for details of upcoming dates.

Useful links

Sleaford Navigation Trust www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Navigation House www.navigationhouse.co.uk

Cogglesford Watermill www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk

TourismNK www.heartoflincs.com

Sleaford Town Council www.sleaford.gov.uk

North Kesteven District Council www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Inland Waterways Association www.waterways.org.uk

Canal & River Trust www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Blue Green Corridor www.withamsleablegreencorridor.co.uk

East Mercia Rivers Trust www.eastmercia.org

Sleaford Museum www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk

Sleaford & District Civic Trust www.sleafordcivictrust.co.uk

Also follow us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Sleaford-Navigation-Trust-632143133547859>

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/



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.