

## SLEAFORD NAVIGATION SOCIETY

### NEWS SHEET AUTUMN 1987

#### Cobblers

Serious proposals are now being put forward for the restoration of Cobbler Lock near Anwick<sup>Anwick</sup>. A report has been prepared giving the background to the restoration and detailing out the costs. Copies of the report are going to the District and County Councils and the other organisations which supported us in the past, in the hope that we can raise the cash to cover the restoration of Cobbler Lock, starting in the Spring 1988. For those of you who have not yet seen the Lock (and it is well worth a walk down the tow path at the bottom of River Lane in Anwick towards South Kyme), the chamber is brick built and has obviously deteriorated since the navigation was closed. We believe that the Lock will require closing off and the coping stones and brickwork cut back to sound brickwork, then rebuilding. Talks are under way with the Anglian Water Authority regarding their requirements at and above the Lock. Once the funding has been secured we would hope that the Community Enterprise Agency will look at the project, although we have also been offered help by the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG). It may well be that we will use the WRG to strip back the Lock chamber and then ask CEA to put a team on to rebuild. The WRG will do their work over weekends using voluntary working parties and this maybe the opportunity you have been looking for to get your feet wet in some good slea mud. We understand working parties also need catering for and anybody with skills in that area would be very welcome. Perhaps anybody willing to assist would give their name to John Flint at the Simon de Kyme in South Kyme (see below). The cost of restoration of Cobblers Lock appears to be in the region of £27,000. This is modest when it is realised that the waterway will then extend past the village of Anwick and into Haverholme Park right up to the tail of Haverholme Lock. The cost includes that of dredging that upper pound and digging out the turning point at the tail of the next lock.

#### Bottom Lock

After the opening of the lock last November and the boat rally this year, we are now seeing a number of boats coming back into the village of South Kyme. The lock doors are still providing some problems as they will not open fully and the lock mechanism is difficult to operate, so a working party has been down at the lock to see if they can improve the situation. Anglian Water kindly let us use their RB22 crane to lift the gates out and work was done on the gates to get them to open more fully. The situation has improved, although they are still not prefect. We believe there maybe rubbish stuck in the mud behind the doors.



Although we copied the original winding mechanism we feel it is safer to operate the paddle gear from the lock side and are therefore looking at adding extension arms to the gear. This should give greater leverage and make operation of the lock gates safer.

### Dredging

The RB22 which was used at the Bottom Lock has been slowly working its way from Anwick down the navigation over the last weeks. Anglian Water have very kindly allowed this crane to be used at Cobbler Lock to put the old footbridge back in place, in order that the two workers from CEA could survey the lock area. Similarly some dredging has been done by the RB22 below Cobblers Lock, where the bypass weir flows back into the main channel. This area is the proposed site from a full length winding hole and it is hoped that the dredging work that has been carried out here, will enable longer craft to turn once the obstructions in the village have been removed.

### CEA Survey

Over the last few months, members of the Community Enterprise Agency have been carrying out a survey of the structures along the waterway in order to provide us with working drawings. All the locks have now been surveyed apart from the Holdingham Mill Lock. The Society are covering the out-of-pocket expenses including travelling costs for the survey.

### Footbridge and Pipe

Agreement has been reached to alter the footbridge in South Kyme and raise the pipe. The pipe, which carries an electricity supply will cost £1,377 to move, but the District Council has kindly offered to support us with the cost. The Electricity board will start the work to tie in with the lifting of the footbridge.

The County Council have been looking at the cost of lifting the footbridge in South Kyme which, although itself a simple operation, does effect the lie of the associated footpaths. It is believed that the cost for the bridge will be in the region of £2,500 - £3,000 and we are hoping that the County Council will be prepared to meet this cost, as a donation towards the restoration work in the South Kyme area. Work could start within a matter of weeks, once the funding has been sorted out.

### Winding Hole - South Kyme

The North Kesteven District Council has allocated £5,000 towards the cost of providing a winding hole near the village. Finding an appropriate site has been more difficult than anticipated. Unfortunately, the tenants on the land in the area of Kyme Tower and Church Corner is reluctant to let the winding hole be dug there. Our understanding is that he believes this will be an intrusion on his privacy. Somehow we can not get the point over that the last place we want boats to stop is near a winding hole and therefore by having a winding hole in that area it would in fact encourage boats to move away from his land.



Having said that, boaters like all other people are perfectly reasonable and would not normally trespass or invade someone else's privacy. There are one or two other sites that could be considered, but at least boats will soon be able to go up to Cobblers Lock and turn round there before coming back to moor in the village. Once again we are receiving considerable help from the officials of North Kesteven and District Council in trying to resolve this problem.

#### Social Evening - Monday 30th November

The Committee has decided to hold an informal social evening on the above date at the Simon de Kyme. During the evening the video will be shown of the opening of Bottom Lock and various scenes along the waterway. For those of you who missed the opening ceremony this will be a marvelous opportunity to see the events of that day and also other clips taken over several weekends. Signed copies of the video will be available for any member donating more than £5,000 to the Cobbler Lock account. The evening will start at 8 pm and members of the Committee will be available to answer questions on any aspect of society business. Do try and come along to this evening it will cost you nothing and I think you will find it very enjoyable. Bring a friend or friends.

#### Volunteers

As you will see from the above, there is, as always, a lot going on behind the scenes of the society. We are very keen to hear from members with various skills and especially with the chance of some working parties starting up, in the not too distant future, there are now some excellent opportunities for you to do your bit towards the restoration of the waterway. If you would like further information, do come to the social evening or get in touch with John Flint at the Simon Dekyme (0526 861004) who has kindly offered to act as a co-ordination point for the activities which are on the go.

#### Many Thanks

To Norman and Jenny Osborne for volunteering (?) to look after the three ton set of gates, which we recently bought from Anglian Water. No-if you do volunteers to help the society you will not receive a similar gift yourself. That's what you get for having a baby... some people get flowers others get lock gates.

#### Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Bob Morland on to the Committee. Bob is clerk to ~~Avon~~<sup>Avon</sup> District Council, who recently made a very generous donation of £50 to the society. Bob has some experience of restoration on the Kennet and Avon Canal in the south of the country, which is one of the major success stories of the waterways restoration movement.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 30th November.