



THE BURDEN WHAT IS RIGHTLY CARRIED
BECOMES LIGHT

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER - SPRING 1989

DO YOU DIG CANALS?

Well now is your chance. A work camp is being arranged to carry out restoration work at Cobblers Lock in September this year.

The camp is being organised by the Waterway Recovery Group, the restoration arm of the Inland Waterways Association. Volunteers book normally for one week and will be accommodated at Anwick Social Club. It is anticipated that the major part of the work will be stripping back the brickwork at Cobblers Lock and clearing out the lock chamber ready for rebuilding either later in the year or in the Spring of next year. A booklet giving details of our canal camp and indeed of the other camps which have been arranged across the country can be obtained from Bob or Pat Portlock, telephone Sleaford 302401.

Even if you cannot commit yourself to a full weeks work in September the society will need assistance at various time through the years to get the site ready and to continue the work once started. Initially we have to prepare the site area including the removal of undergrowth and building a lock up shed which can store the materials ready for the work to start.

We are not just looking for muscular volunteers. There is alot of detail involved in putting working parties together and anybody who can help with correspondence, poster sticking, catering, undergrowth bashing will be very welcome.

TURNING POINT - COBBLERS LOCK

Dredging has now been completed at the tail of Cobblers Lock hopefully allowing full length boats to turn at the outflow of the bypass weir. The channel has also been dredged up to the lock chamber, removing over 100 years of silt. The cost of this work was £2,000 and we are very grateful to Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council for contributing into the Cobblers Lock fund so that this work could be completed.

COBBLERS TO HAVERHOLME

Just before Christmas, a meeting was held with Anglian Water which was attending by the Inland Waterways Association, North Kesteven District Council and members of the Navigation Society. The object was to ascertain the problems involved in raising the water levels in the pound between Cobblers Lock and Harverholme in order that there could be one metre of water over the cill at Cobblers Lock. The bank height just above the lock are such that the increased water levels could result in sum flooding in extreme flood conditions. This condition only exists for a short length and it was agreed that a survey should be carried out to ascertain was options were available. Anglian Water could carry out the work on our behalf by the cost would be in the region of £9,000 this includes liaising with all the interested parties along that stretch of the waterway. At this stage, we feel this is rather alot to pay from our very limited resources and are looking to see whether we can obtain the same results by the use of volunteers.

WANTED - LOCK UP SHED

Waterways Recovery Group have asked that we provide some form of lock up shed to store equipment and tools etc on the Cobblers Lock site. If any member knows of such a beast or indeed of any tools which might be of use to us we would be grateful to hear from them. Please contact Bob Portlock.

DAM COBBLERS LOCK

In preparation for the works camp the Waterway Recovery Group made a visit to the site during the first weekend in February. They have now offered to come back in May and dam off the lock chamber in order that it will be ready for the work camp in September. They have considerable experience in this sort of job and will provide their own piling hammers and work barge if we cannot make arrangements locally. It has been suggested that a double row of piles should be set across the tail of the lock and the gap between them filled in with spoil from the dredging and rubble from the lock chamber in order that equipment can be safely carried across to the other side of the Lock. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in 2 consecutive weekends in May. The society will need to purchase the piling for this work and provide any equipment which WRG cannot provide and it is likely that this will cost in the region of £3,000.

WATER?

It is good to see the problem of lack of water in the river Sleaford being discussed in the local press (and Sunday Times). The society will be attending a meeting of interested parties on 23 February 1989.

SOCIAL EVENING - FRIDAY 7 APRIL 1989 - SLEAFORD RUGBY CLUB

Following the success of our last evening held at the club a further date has been booked. Because of the interest being shown in the workcamp we propose to use the evening to explain in greater detail what is involved with the restoration of Cobblers Lock and the type of work which the work camp will undertake. This will give you an ideal opportunity to ask as many questions as you like and to start to see how volunteer help can restore waterways. Do come along and bring your friends and relations. Please note we will try to have some fund raising event on the evening even if it is only a raffle. The reason for this is quite simply that we have to pay to hire the hall and obviously do not want to run the evening at a loss this depleting our funds. We know that raffles can be a bit of a pain but please bear with us. A buffet supper will be available.

TY DALBY - BOOK READING

Live Wire Promotions have arranged a performance reading by Ty Dalby of his story "My Pal Decker". The proceeds from the evening will go to the Navigation Society. Tickets are £1.50 from the "Wishing Well" in Sougate Precinct about 3 weeks before the performance which is on Friday, 12 May 1989 at 7.30 pm at the Nags Head Rooms. There is a limited number at the door but these evenings normally get booked early.

AGM - TUESDAY, 2 MAY 1989 - HUME ARMS, SOUTH KYME, 8.00 PM

Our AGM is nearing towards us. Please put the date in your diaries and come! New committee members will be very welcome. Contact Bob Portlock.

£750 - DONATION

The local branch of the Inland Waterways Association has given the society £750 which we will use to produce a fund raising booklet. Their continued financial and practical support is really appreciated. Have you thought of joining the IWA - ask Pat Taylor for details - Lincoln 790652.