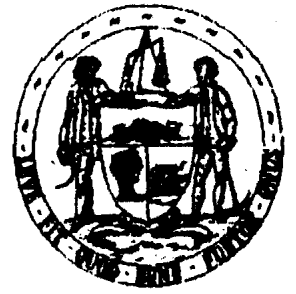




SLEAFORD NAVIGATION NEWS

SUMMER 1994



Well, what a weekend!

The Sleaford Navigation bi-centennial celebrations over the May Bank Holiday weekend were certainly events to be remember. The boats and caravans came, the sun shone, the crowds turned out, and the TV cameras and press recorded all the happenings. Our stall started to sell out of items by Sunday and, to our surprise, we actually sold more than at the National Rally at Peterborough!

The Mikron Theatre Group gave a marvellous performance of 'The Threads of Revolution' watched by an audience of over one hundred. For one of the cast, it was her first professional acting engagement. You could never have told, they were really excellent.

There was a variety of entertainment over the weekend, but the football had to be the ultimate. If you were looking for stamina, speed and style South Kyme was definitely not the place to be. The game ended in a resounding draw, thanks to the sportsmanship of South Kyme Football Club and the help of our two goalkeepers, the linesman and the referee!

The church service in South Kyme on the Sunday was delightful and the flowers were superb. Some of the arrangements were in the form of yachts, with white sails.

Martin Chapman met a colleague in Newark, a week later who commented it was one of the best rallies that he had ever

been to. Praise indeed. The reason why? The friendliness of the villagers.

The official party representing North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and IWA, carried out the ceremony of unveiling the commemorative arch and were then taken by boat to Bottom Lock. This proved very valuable as both councils had given money for the restoration but individual members had not all seen the current state of work. Many thanks to Wigford's crew for the endless cups of tea and cake.

Thanks too to those boats who took people for a trip up to Cobblers Lock over the weekend. There was greater demand than we could cope with, but clearly there is a limit to how many people can be accommodated on a private boat.

How soon will it be before some enterprising person starts a proper trip boat operating out of South Kyme?

The week finished with the service at St Deny's church in Sleaford followed by a reception in NKDC's council chamber. This evening provided a fitting close to the celebration in the company of friends and supporters, both old and new.

Presentation

The Society presented a "Money's Mill" picture to Councillor Mrs. Jean Morris as Chairman of NKDC to thank the District Council for all the support it had given leading up to Slea '94.

The council's input, highly active through the work of the Sleaford Navigation group committee, chaired by Mrs. K Midgeley, has been a major factor in the success of Slea '94.

Long-winded?

The question of winding holes (turning points) came up over the rally weekend.

The ideal would seem to be a widened area downstream of the main road bridge so that motor cruisers with too much air draft could turn comfortably.

Another winding hole could be upstream of the village so that full-length boats could turn above Kyme without having to go all the way up to Cobblers.

New Members, New Membership

One of the most welcome spin-offs of the rally was the new members who joined the Society. As well as showing the support the project has, members make a positive contribution to the work of the Society through their subscription. That helps to keep a regular supply of income coming through to cover our campaigning costs.

One additional stroke of luck was having Jean and Alan Oxborough 'volunteer' to take over membership. Well ...actually....they came to South Kyme to join the Society and asked to be referred to the membership secretary. With Bob and Portlock having to resign, we didn't have one sowell, it's logical really!!

Membership tends to have been static at around 120 but with the high profile achieved this year and a

membership team coming together we are in great hopes of seeing this number shoot up.

It has been suggested that new members be given an introductory pack providing them with a list of contacts plus a broad background to the formation of the Society. The membership form will ask for details of any special skills or knowledge so that we know the particular experience and interests of the new members.

New Committee Member

You will have noticed a new face on and around the waterway. Barbara Mackay was volunteered to us by Sleaford and District Chamber of Commerce as liaison with the Chamber.

We are encouraged by their interest and delighted to have Barbara with us. She can sell a mean raffle ticket as the rally at South Kyme demonstrated!

As attention turns towards the last five miles of the Navigation, it is right that we keep our campaign in front of the people and businesses in the Sleaford area.

An Eye to the Future

With Slea '94 behind us and the feasibility study imminent, it is necessary and healthy for the committee to consider its structure and way of working.

The idea of sharing the responsibilities of the various parts of the Society amongst the team was mentioned at the AGM and discussed at our first committee meeting.

It was agreed that three teams should be set up to run the main three elements of the Society's campaign namely Fundraising, Membership Services and Restoration/Engineering.

The three teams can push ahead with their particular responsibilities, reporting back to the main committee as necessary, but enabling work to proceed without lengthy committee meetings. (We currently meet at the Hayes' house and only get the hint to go when the children come down in their school uniform!)

Navigation Trust?

The Society is now actually considering altering its status to a more formal organisation, probably a company limited by guarantee. We have appointed Shakespeares of Birmingham, solicitors with a great deal of experience in waterway matters, to act for us.

Sleaford Carnival

The committee have decided to have a stall at the Sleaford Carnival for both the 9th and 10th of July but we will need help.

If you could help on the stall for a short period on either of the two days, please contact Chris Hayes on 0522 689460.

We shall have the use of the British Waterways tent, as at South Kyme, with the full range of goods and a raffle as a fund-raiser.

WRG Work Camp

The WRG have granted us, this year, a full week's work camp which will take place from 9th to the 16th of July.

Finding accommodation this year has been a little fraught with Anwick Social Club not being able to help us out this time. Sleaford Rugby Club, however, has stepped in and offered us their help, with Ruskington Scouts putting up the WRG people on the Saturday night when the Rugby Club is not available.

Navigation House

The subject of Navigation House seems to have come up for discussion once again in the Sleaford newspapers. This building is described by Charles Hadfield as being unique in the canal history of the UK. With the restoration of the navigation starting to gain such a high profile it would be such a shame if the the building were allowed to be lost at this stage. Navigation House, however, is not the oldest building on Navigation Wharf, that honour belongs to the large red brick 'Seed Warehouse'. It would be very nice to see the whole area sympathetically developed, I wonder if the time has come to push for such a scheme.

As a matter of interest, the Navigation archway on Carre Street is not in its original position. Also there was, at one time, a basin that extended off the navigation and ran parallel to the old warehouse.

Old Photographs.

We have recently discovered two more photographs of the Navigation, both, we think, were taken in the early 1900's and were taken at Haverholme. They can be seen at the stall at the Sleaford Carnival.

If any member knows anyone whose family has lived in the area for a

long time do ask if they have any old photographs of the Slea, possibly we could borrow them to copy.

The New Team Line-up.

At the last committee meeting the concern was expressed that now that society is growing the work load of the committee has also grown. To alleviate this it was decided to form smaller 'teams' that could report back to the main committee. For your information, and in the hope that you may wish to offer your services at some time in the future, we decided to give the names and phone numbers of those people on the various teams.

Engineering Team:

Mr D Pullen,	0673 862278
Mr L Rudkin,	0529 60111
Simon Bamford	
Mr N Evans.	0529 61049

Membership Services:

Mrs J Oxborrow.	0526 322216
Mrs P Taylor,	0522 790652
Mrs S Sowerby,	0522 793149
Mr S Hayes,	0522 6789460

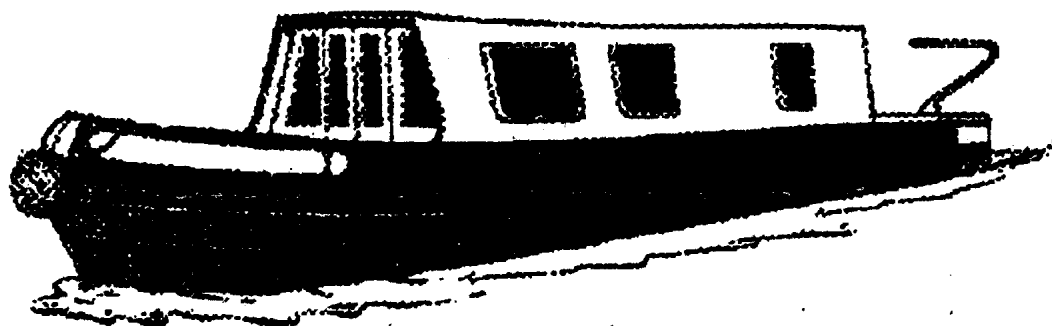
Publicity & Fundraising:

Mr M Chapman,	0522 812572
Mrs C A Hayes,	0522 689460
Mrs B Mackay,	0529 304355
Mr Higgs,	0522 681635

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