

# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION NEWS

1998, Issue 2

Winter 1998/99

## A Happy New Year from the new Chairman!

Chris Hayes writes:

1999 sees a change in leadership but not a change in direction for the Board of Directors of the Sleaford Navigation Trust.

As many of you will know, the Sleaford Navigation Society was highly unusual, if not unique, in that it had one chairman, Martin Chapman, for its entire duration. It was Martin who originally got together a group of individuals who were interested in working to preserve Navigation House and who shared the dream of a restored navigable waterway into Sleaford. He has continued to lead first the Society and then the Trust for twenty-two years. In that time eight miles of waterway have been restored, the profile of the Navigation has been raised and the way has been prepared for the future. It is impossible to express in a few words the contribution Martin has made to the whole project. His was the vision and on many occasions his has been the voice that has conveyed enthusiasm and encouraged support for the whole undertaking.

In November Martin gave formal notice that he no longer felt able to devote the necessary time to the role of Chairman. The nature of his business had changed and it was becoming increasingly difficult to attend meetings and fulfil the task as he would have liked. We are pleased that he still feels able to continue as a member of the Board of Directors and to represent the Trust in certain areas of operation. At the December meeting Martin was thanked by the Board of Directors for his twenty-two years of chairmanship and for that eight miles of waterway. He was presented with a framed map of the Navigation as a token in recognition of his work. I was elected by the Board of Directors as the new Chairman in November and feel honoured to carry on

the work of the Trust in restoring the Navigation into Sleaford. I am very conscious that in doing so I am supported by the other directors and by the skills they bring to the Trust. We are very much a group of people working together for a common aim.

For those who do not know me, I have been involved in the work of the Society and Trust since joining in 1991 and am married to the Secretary, Steve Hayes! We are both keen boaters and our narrowboat is called Kyme. At the time the shell was started we were both involved in planning the 1994 bi-centennial rally in South Kyme and discussions were often put off 'until after Kyme.' Somehow the name stuck and we were delighted to take an unfitted Kyme to the boat rally in Kyme in 1995. We have two children, both in the sixth form and both members of the Trust. My day time job is as a teacher at Branston Community College.

My vision of the future is to find the practical means and funding to realise that shared ambition of seeing a restored Slea and a celebration boat rally in Sleaford. This would be a means of focusing attention on the role Sleaford has to play as a tourist venue. The proximity of the head of navigation to the centre of the town means that the presence of boats has the power to attract people and trade to Sleaford. Not just boaters but visitors on foot, by bike or car, will enjoy a restored waterway and, hopefully, the town will enjoy the increased prosperity the Navigation will once more bring. The way forward is now to make sure that the appropriate studies and reports are in place for us to be able to access the funds to achieve our goal.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a happy new year and thanking you for your continued support.

# Fina Points

If any of you use Fina petrol you may well know about the 'Fina Points Promotion'. It is possible, when buying petrol, to get one point for every £6.00 of petrol that you buy. These points are collected on plastic credit cards that are obtainable on the counter in the petrol station. Even if you don't collect the points yourself they can be used by the Trust. If you send these cards to the Trust then we can put the points together onto one card and convert each lot of 25 points into a voucher. Each voucher will be worth £5.00 to the Trust. Every little helps and will be a welcome boost to our funds.

If you do manage to collect any points could you please send them to:- **Steve Hayes, 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 8TH.** I will then send off for the charity vouchers.

# News From Around The System

## About People

At the IWA's November meeting, **Richard Drake** was elected as National Chairman, following the retirement of **Audrey Smith**, who stood down from Council after the meeting. Richard has served as Deputy National Chairman for the past year and was previously Chairman of IWA's Western Region and of Chester & District Branch.

Our congratulations also go to **John Baylis**, who at the November Council meeting, was elected as Deputy National Chairman along with **Liz Payne**. John is Chairman of IWA's East Midlands Region and Chairman of Navigation, Technical & Amenity Committee, and well known to many members of Sleaford Navigation. Liz Payne is Chairman of IWA's Grand Junction Region.

## IWA Head Office Location and Postal Address

A reminder that IWA Head Office's new, easy to remember postal address is

P0 Box 114  
RICKMANSWORTH  
WD3 1ZY

## Ministerial Meeting

**Richard Drake**, IWA's new National Chairman, and **Neil Edwards**, met with **Alan Meale, MP**, the new Waterways Minister on November 19<sup>th</sup> along with representatives from the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs, National Association of Boat Owners, Residential Boat Owners Association and the Royal Yachting Association.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics concerning both British Waterways and Environment Agency waterways but key topics discussed included the future of British Waterways and funding the backlog of repair works for both navigation authorities. Long standing concerns such as navigable culverts for waterways under restoration were also considered, but the Minister blamed the Lichfield & Hatherton BNRR debacle entirely on the previous Conservative Government and insisted that nothing could now be done.

The Minister was at pains to offer assurance that our worst fears of franchising for BW should be discounted and the Government is now considering two options for BW's future - one being the BW 'Trust' idea favoured by BW management and the other being a Public Private sector partnership which would see some of BW's activities put out to tender with private sector contractors. An announcement on a final decision was promised before Christmas. This will be followed by a period of consultation.

## Nottingham Canal Museum

Following reorganisation within Nottingham City Council and discussions with British Waterways, it has become clear that any plans to re-open the Nottingham Canal Museum or turn it into a waterways visitor centre will not reach fruition. The displays at the museum are being dismantled and exhibits put into store or returned to their owners. The two restored historic Fellow Moreton & Clayton narrow boats owned by the Museum, 'Ferret' and 'Ilkeston' are to be sold.

## World Heritage Sites

Following its September Council Meeting, IWA sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (CMS) which suggested that all Britain's waterways should be considered for inclusion for World Heritage Site Status. The response received from the Minister's team dealing with World Heritage Site proposals included an offer to discuss IWA's submission.

At about the same time IWA became aware that both British Waterways and IWAAC had made submissions which broadly supported the spirit of IWA's original proposals. The BW proposal was to include the historic, integrated and navigable narrow canal network of England and Wales.

## **Sleaford Navigation (Sales) Ltd.**

This is the name we have given to the company recently set up to take over the trading activities of the Trust. For several years the Trust and the Society before it has sold T shirts, mugs, pencils and other promotional and fund-raising goods in an effort to spread the word and raise money at the same time. Unfortunately the Charity Commission does not approve of the Trust (because it is a charity) being involved in trade, hence the new company. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust and will donate all of its profits to the Trust.

Dave Turner

## **Making a Will**

Not a particularly cheerful subject I know but I am sure no one will object to a reminder that if you are planning to make or alter your will then please don't forget to include a donation to the Trust. Let me assure you that as a member you are much more valuable to the Trust, so whether you include us in your will or not, please go on living for a long while yet and continue your support!

Dave Turner

## **Rule Britannia...**

Some of us were saddened when the government announced the scrapping of the Royal Yacht, fortunately, the plans were changed and now she is moored in Edinburgh and is open to the public. I have always wanted to see Britannia and wonder whether other members feel the same way.

Now Edinburgh is a long way but it is only 3½hrs by train from Newark, and the train fare is a bargain £26 and Britannia will be a further £6.50.

I am prepared to organise the day's outing, booking the tickets for the train and Britannia (both must be booked in advance) if there is sufficient interest and suggest a date of **Saturday 17th April.**

If you are interested, please phone me, Isobel Turner, on 01636 708781 by **24th January 1999.**

## **Waterways & The Internet**

There have been many changes in the way that people can communicate and find information, and perhaps the newest of these is the Internet. A great many organisations, including the IWA and British Waterways, now have their own 'Web Site', or area where information about the organisation can be accessed.

It is now possible to find out information on BW stoppages and closures, get the latest news from IWA, announcements, and buy items from the IWA sales section.

IWA's web site and e-mail facilities have been recently been improved, with the web site being re-launched in mid November.

The web address is <http://waterways.org.uk/index.htm>

The e-mail address is [iwa@waterways.org.uk](mailto:iwa@waterways.org.uk)

It is possible for members to automatically receive the following:-

A monthly Head Office bulletin from the IWA.

To keep abreast of developments, receive urgent news, announcements and information.

There are also a great number of other sites on the Web that can be 'visited' or looked at by those people who are interested in waterways. Many of these sites are linked so that, for example, it is possible from the British Waterways to access many other sites that are concerned with the canals of Britain and the rest of the world.

Half of the fun on the Internet is exploring to find out just what is available! You can carry out a search for information, the results of which can be unexpected. I carried out a search on "canals", one of the results, "root canals", was very interesting but not really what I wanted!!

Here is a list of some of the sites, it is by no means comprehensive, but it should at least get you started.

British Waterways

<http://www.british-waterways.org/>

Georges' Canal Boating in the UK & Europe

<http://www.blacksheep.org/canals/>

Canal & Riverboat Magazine

<http://www.canalandriverboat.co.uk/>

Dave Barges Homepage

<http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/barge>

Most of these sites have 'links' to other sites and are well worth looking at.

I hope that Sleaford Navigation will soon have its own web site available, which we will shortly be working to create.

# IWAAC Report

Just after we sent out the summer newsletter The Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council published its report into Waterway Restoration Projects. As far as I am aware this is the first comprehensive examination of all UK waterway restoration projects setting out how far each project has progressed towards achieving its aims. Achievement is measured not in miles of canal and numbers of locks restored, but in the factors which IWAAC believes will influence major funding bodies.

IWAAC received much criticism even before publishing the report as it was believed by some that it would produce a list with drastic consequences for those lower placed projects seeking funding or other forms of assistance. In fact IWAAC has not produced a list but merely divided projects into three groups, those now ready for major funding, those expected to be ready in five years and those not expected to be ready for major funding for at least ten years. The Trust was pleased to be placed within the middle group thus achieving credit for the work already done and recognising that there is more to do.

The Trust is credited with achieving wide public support including that of all the Local Authorities involved. This is seen by IWAAC as the first big hurdle. Also of major importance the Engineering Feasibility Study undertaken by Binnie & Partners for the Society proves the feasibility of the overall project and puts into perspective the problems to be overcome. On the other side of the equation the need for an Environmental Impact Study - as requested by the Environment Agency - is one of the important jobs still to be done. Your directors recognise its importance and are endeavouring to find the best way to take this forward.

The IWAAC report appears to have been received very favourably by many of the major funding bodies that have supported canal restoration in the last few years. Sadly several of the most important, from our standpoint, have recently cut back on the level of funding made available for this type of work. The report is to be updated during the year 2000.

Dave Turner

# Day Star Theatre

During the last three Winters, usually in January, we have had Day Star Theatre to entertain us. This winter is no exception! Unfortunately the notice is a bit short as the performance will be on Saturday 9th January at 7.45 p.m., at the Solo Club in Sleaford.

This year's play is entitled 'Telford & Brindley together at Christmas'. It promises to be the usual the usual amusing and entertaining evening.

Admission for the evening is £3.00 for adults and £2.00 for children.

We hope to see you there on Saturday at what seems to be becoming a regular fixture on the calendar.

# Sleaford Sports Partnership

As many of you may know over the last year the Trust has become a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership.

Earlier this year some of our members entered a team in the Quiz Night that was held at the Rugby Club, and came a close second. It was a very enjoyable night!

On Saturday 13th February the Sports Partnership are holding a Race Night, which will be held in the Rugby Club. The first race will start at 7.45pm. Entrance is £3.00. If you wish to buy a horse, however, the cost is £5.00, this will entitle the owner to free admission for 2 people.

We hope that you will support this event and hope to see you there!

# Contact Address

If you wish to contact either the Chairman or Secretary or have any suggestions for social events, or otherwise:-

Steve & Chris Hayes

10 Chelmer Close

North Hykeham

Lincoln

LN6 8TH

Tel. 01522 689460

e-mail [steve@lovellschool.demon.uk](mailto:steve@lovellschool.demon.uk)