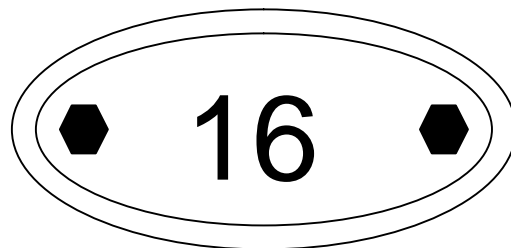
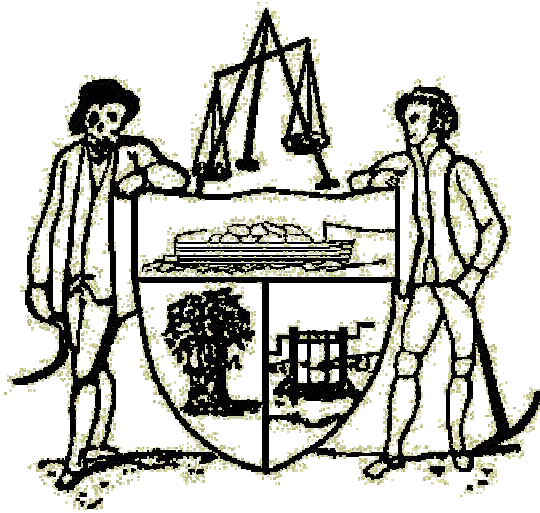


Sleaford Navigation Trust



January 2004

The Sleaford Navigation Trust

... is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No 3294818)

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... is registered as a Charity (No 1060234)

... has a web page: www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Aims & Objectives of SNT

The Trust aims to stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Slea, 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.

Articles and opinions in this newsletter are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily reflect SNT policy or the opinion of the Editor.

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of 2004 and a (belated) happy new year to all our readers, both old and new. I hope you find something of interest in the next few pages and that you find the time to offer support to the Trust in one form or another over the next few months.

Following a plea in a previous edition for any photos or articles for inclusion in your newsletter I was extremely grateful to receive two wonderful photos from one member showing Holdingham Mill as it used to be. It was very pleasing to have someone offer something for inclusion. Thank you for that, I only hope that others will follow suit now – all you new members out there will soon realise that this is a regular plea for you to put pen to paper. I am conscious that, once again, a lot of the articles seem to have my name at the bottom!

Other committed members of the Trust have been out over the past few months helping out at the monthly work parties, building up an appetite in preparation for the festive fayre. Those of you that now want to loose the result of that appetite should call our Work Party Organiser and meet up with them on site sometime! Unfortunately John has been a very busy man recently and has not been able to put pen to paper to give us the full details but Chris refers to one at Haverholme in her missive. They can be a lot of fun so please come along.

Enjoy your read and be in touch soon!!

Martin Noble

Sleaford Water Weekend 2004

Those of you that like to put things in your diary nice and early should note that the date for the Sleaford Water Weekend has been changed. To prevent a clash with the nearby Newark festival (10th-13th June) the town will now be focussing on the River Sleas over the weekend of 5th & 6th June 2004. This is contrary to the report that appeared in the last newsletter so please update any calendars that Santa may have brought you!!

For those of you who have not made it before you really should try and come along – you could even give a little support to the Trust by helping at the stall or with some of the other activities we will no doubt be involved with. Please give the Chairman a call if you would like to offer your services in any way.

Chairman's Report for January 2004

Chris Hayes

Meeting with Atkins

As you will already be aware, Atkins are the appointed consultants who have been completing an Implementation Study on the restoration of the Navigation, as part of the works funded by the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership. Dave Pullen, Dave Carnell and I met the representatives of Atkins together with Mary Powell of Lincolnshire Development and Nick Bromidge of the Environment Agency on November 27th in order to discuss preliminary findings.

Even taking into account that the figures presented were a 'worst case scenario' for the restoration, SNT were concerned by several of the calculations presented and were able to contribute several factors to significantly reduce costs. Figures have now been sent on to Atkins who should be representing costs shortly.

Patrick Moss of Atkins has particular expertise in Cost Benefit Analysis and it was very interesting to hear his projected figures for boat movement and the resulting economic benefits to the area. There is no doubt that while a restored Slea will benefit the Sleaford area, a restored Slea in conjunction with the proposed Witham Nene Link will be of greatly enhanced benefit to Lincolnshire Tourism overall.

Work Party

The Work Party at Haverholme Lock was well attended and split into two sections. One group dismantled and removed the barrow bridge across the lock. Incidentally this involved some quite impressive

Continued on Page 5

and agile balancing manoeuvres by certain work party members! The other group cleared much of the wood cut by BITM in the creation of the temporary pathway. The bonfire was much enjoyed by new members on the work party scene, George and Jo Cook from the Bahamas!

Sleaford Christmas Market

Thanks again to Pat Taylor who presented the smiling face of SNT at the market in Sleaford. This year she was ably assisted by her grandchildren Ellie and Edward Sowerby. It was good to meet so many people who wished SNT well in the work to restoration and who were delighted to hear of the progress of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership. Several people also sponsored a length of the Navigation while visiting the stall. (Sponsorship opportunities are incidentally still available! Contact me for more details.)

IWA Waterways Companion

At the end of the summer, I nominated Mary Powell for the IWA Waterways Companion Award. The award is made by the Inland Waterways Association to the local authority or local authority employee who has contributed the most during the year to waterway restoration. In my letter to the IWA putting Mary forward for the award I said:

'It has been Mary's vision and drive that has led the County Council to commit £9.7million to the Witham Nene Link and the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership. This wide-ranging group includes British Waterways, the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council as the three main partners. There are also some thirteen other partners including ourselves.

She has repeatedly pressed the case for the enhancement of Lincolnshire Waterways and prepared the bids for European match funding. This is the first time to my knowledge that the promotion and restoration of waterways has been put forward on a Countywide basis and on such a scale by a Local Authority.'

I am delighted to be able to report that Mary Powell was judged to be the winning candidate for the award and that there will be a formal presentation later in the New Year. Mary has indeed done an enormous amount to further the cause of waterway restoration in Lincolnshire and I am very pleased that this award has given us the opportunity to show our appreciation of her efforts. Congratulations Mary!

Finally, may I wish all members and readers a happy new year. Let us all hope that 2004 will bring us even closer to the boat rally in Sleaford which will mark the completed restoration!

Do you have access to the Internet?

If so then try logging on to the UK's first comprehensive on-line leisure guide to the waterways at www.waterscape.com . This is British Waterways latest way of attracting more users to the network of canals and rivers throughout the UK. It features online booking for boating holidays, full listings of all future 'water-orientated' events as well as details of walks and cycle routes along the waters edge. Once there you'll find other links to yet more sites and if you find one that you think other members would be interested in then please let me know so I can include details in future newsletters.

Martin Noble

Sponsor a yard!! The Trusts Appeal Gathers Momentum

You will have read in the last issue about the Trusts latest venture to raise both the profile of the Sleas and some funds to assist with the land purchase project. I believe the Chairman has been kept quite busy responding to all of you who have so kindly supported this venture - many of you to the tune of several yards!

I would hate to think of her sat there with nothing to do though so please don't stop sending in the sponsorship! I can see her now, pen poised over certificate, just waiting to fill your name in go on, post off that cheque today!

She has provided me with the list of names below, asking if I would pass on my thanks through the newsletter to those supporters who have sponsored a section of the Navigation between Carre Street and Cogglesford Lock.

Steve and Chris Hayes

Phyl Wedesch

Jan and Tony Burnip

David Tomlinson

Patrick Britton

Fiona Cobb

David and Penny Carnell

Brenda and Dave Anker

Nellie Hutchins

Richard Hackford

Ruth Tilney

Graeme Wade (Narrowboat Cygnus)

The East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd.

Colin and Sheila Pont

Tony and Di Hirst

Towpath Talk

Valerie Leverett Memorials

Martin Littler

Eileen Robson

Rodney Mills

Philip and Jean Waterhouse

Ross and Lyn Smythe

Richard Hackford

Margaret James

Martin Noble



Steve Hayes explains that the picture above shows the difficulty that boats had with the 'Bailey Bridge' above South Kyme before it was raised. Can anyone recognise the boats or the people involved? Or even date the picture given the old style bridge it shows?

Photographic Archive

The trusts secretary, Steve Hayes, has been compiling an archive of photographs of the Slea from when the original Society was formed up to date. Indeed he has quite a few early photos already. If anyone out there has any old photos that he could borrow, copy and then return please get in touch. It would be extremely helpful if you could provide him with any information you have to go with them – for example when it was taken and where (even if it may seem obvious!!) and perhaps even names of anyone who appears in the shot.

I should say at this point that one very kind reader has already sent me two photos of Holdingham Mill taken some years ago, one of which I have reproduced elsewhere in this edition, the other I am saving for a future issue. As a relative newcomer to the area I personally found it fascinating to see how things were in days gone-by (mind you I should add that I wasn't even a twinkle in my Dads' eye when those particular shots were taken!!)

Martin Noble

Tyre for Sale!

Dave Turner sent me the following e-mail:

“We have been given a tyre to sell for SNT and I wondered if it would be best to advertise it through the newsletter. It is a Nokia NRT radial tubeless 195/65 R14 unused ex spare wheel. It comes complete with wheel so the buyer will have to get it changed over to their own wheel. I can bring it over at the next work party or meeting if that is any help.”

Dave's contact details will be found inside the back cover. Please call him if the tyre is of interest to you.

Publicity, Publicity, Publicity!!! We can never get enough!!

The appeal I made in the last newsletter failed to elicit any response so I would like to reiterate it here once again. If you have just a few hours a month to spare and would be willing to assist the Committee in publicising our activities, our aims and our objectives then please do not hesitate to call the Chairman and see how you could help. It would not be an onerous task and need not even be particularly physical either, just a few phone calls or a touch of writing ... whatever you want it to be really, it could be developed into whatever role you wished. Even if you are not local that should not deter you from coming forward – please!! We need your support.

Martin Noble

Day-Star Theatre Company

The Day-Star Theatre Company will be appearing at St Denys' Church Room in Sleaford on Saturday 31st January presenting a waterways play entitled 'Another Fine Day'. For those of you who have not seen them before (and that includes myself and my partner!) they really should not be missed. Their reputation certainly precedes them and this promises to be yet another outstanding performance.

Included with this newsletter is a flier giving full details of how to obtain tickets so don't let the opportunity to be entertained and to meet a few fellow Trust members pass you by. Please pass on the flier to any of your friends who may also be interested, indeed if you have somewhere to display it so much the better!! Christine and I will certainly be there, as will many of the other Executive Committee members and we look forward to seeing you there too!!

Martin Noble

Trust Adopted by RAF Cottesmore!

You may remember the report in Issue 15 about the divers from RAF Cottesmore who had kindly offered to investigate the paddle gear problem at Bottom Lock for us. Well, they were so impressed by our willingness to let them jump in that they have officially 'adopted' Sleaford Navigation Trust as their pet project!

Not only does this give the RAF team of divers, both experts and novices alike, the opportunity to develop their skills in different conditions

Continued on Page 11

to those they normally find themselves in (the less-than-tropical waters off Scotland or the far-more-inviting waters surrounding Ascension Island) it also gives the Trust the opportunity to broaden our technical abilities with repairs and restoration work.

Further reports will follow on the progress we make with them at Bottom Lock repairing the broken paddle mechanism. Let's hope the water warms up a bit before they invite your Editor to join them!

Martin Noble

Sales Company News from Pat Taylor

Pats' exploits at the Sleaford Christmas market have already been retold by our Chairman so it only remains for me to pass on the thanks of both the Executive Committee and the ordinary membership to both her and Rodney for the outstanding work they have done this past year. It can be a cold and tiring job standing on a stall all day but they always manage to raise a smile – and a not an inconsiderable sum of money too for the Trust! Thank you both! Indeed thank you to all the other members who have helped out with the stall in any way, from erecting the framework to selling raffle tickets and explaining the role of the Trust to interested passers-by.

So that she can keep attracting people to the stall (and so Chris & Steve can then recruit them as members!) Pat has asked if anyone has any bric-a-brac they can spare? As I'm sure you are aware she sells this on the stall with the proceeds go into the Trusts' funds. So go on, have a look around now that you've cleared away the Christmas decorations and clear out a few of those old ornaments. In fact, take a close look at what Aunt Sally or Uncle John gave you for Christmas and perhaps you might be tempted to part with that too!! (I'd better apologise now to both Sally and John before they strike me off their list for next year.) Give Pat a call, I'm sure collection could be arranged at some time in the future. Please give generously to this worthy cause!

Martin Noble

Towpath Talk

A new publication has hit the streets, or should I say towpaths, recently aimed at everyone who uses these oft forgotten byways. It is a free - yes FREE!! - monthly independent newspaper distributed around the waterways of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It is aimed at a very wide audience and does not just concentrate on boaters.

Indeed the editorial in the introductory edition quite clearly addressed itself to walkers, fishermen, bird-watchers, naturalists, writers and so on. Not only that but the Editor backed his words up with articles aimed at all of those groups of people - can you see my little eyes turning green with envy??!! Come on all you potential contributors out there, start sending in those articles you were so keen to see in this, YOUR, newsletter (sorry, I'm going off on one again!!)

Back to Towpath Talk though the paper may be obtained from a number of local outlets in the Lincolnshire area, including the Barge & Bottle public house in Sleaford. Should you want further details you may contact the Editor of Towpath Talk on 01522 754396 or by e-mail at towpathtalk@aol.com.

I would certainly recommend you getting hold of a copy of this very forward thinking publication. I have to say I agree wholeheartedly with their approach - it is just such a stance that we at Sleaford Navigation aim to promote, we must appeal to anyone and everyone who has an interest in our waterway to join us in our endeavours.

Martin Noble

The '*Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership*' Newsletter

And here's another publication worth getting hold of the Waterways Partnership published their second newsletter in October last year. Outlining what the partnership is all about it gives updates on all of its main projects - and that includes us on the Lea! It is intended to produce three newsletters a year to keep the public apprised of what progress is being made. Should you wish to receive a personal copy send your name and address to Mary Powell, Lincolnshire Development, Waterside South, Lincoln, LN5 7JH or e-mail her at mary.powell@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Holdingham Mill

The photo below was very kindly sent to my by one of our members who tells me it was taken in the fifties. Showing Holdingham Mill, sometimes known as Bone Mill, it clearly shows the decaying roof of the wheel-house along with the engine house which, until the war, contained an engine to facilitate with the grinding when the water was low. Has anyone out there got any stories about this mill? Or pictures of similar structures along the Slea?



It may interest readers who do not live in the area, or even those that do but who have not visited this spot recently, to know that the current owner of the mill has recently spent much of his own time, and money, restoring the wheel house roof from this dilapidated state. As the property is in private hands it is good to know that yet another aspect of our heritage is being cared for.

Martin Noble

New Membership Leaflets

As our recruitment drive gathers pace for the year ahead you will be pleased to hear that we are in the process of producing a newer, brighter, more up-to-date leaflet with which to attract yet more members. This new production run will be sponsored by two local businesses as well as being supported by waterways bodies and is also set to achieve our biggest print run ever. I'm sure you will find copies of the leaflet included within a future newsletter – not just for you to stare at longingly, wishing you were beside the river rather than stuck behind your desk at work, but for you to pass on to a friend or neighbour who may like to share in your interest in the Slea. Please look out for them at future events and take a few away with you.

Martin Noble

Christmas at Cogglesford Mill by Martin Noble

The Friends of Cogglesford Mill (FoCM) held their annual Christmas event on 7 December and invited members of the public to step back in time with them to (re)discover a traditional Christmas. The Trust was there as well in the form of our display boards which apparently generated a lot of interest throughout the day. The feedback has been very positive for us the SNT, so much so that Steve Hayes is in the process of producing some up-to-date boards to leave there on a permanent basis.

Hopefully this will be a beneficial year for both FoCM and SNT as we can hopefully work closer together on a number of joint ventures; mutually supporting each other to bring life back to the waterway in more ways than one. They hope to take part in the *Greater Lincoln for Free Weekend* on 13/14 March when the mill will be working at various times throughout the day. So pop along and have a look for yourselves at what we both have to offer! As you may know the Mill actually sells a selection of the Trusts merchandise anyway so if you are ever stuck for a present bear us in mind!

Princess Anne opens The Hub

The townsfolk of Sleaford are getting more than their fair share of dignitaries visiting at the moment. As well as Prince Charles viewing the *Bass Maltings* as part of a potential project sponsored by the Prince's Trust we also had The Princess Royal in town. She officially open the recently refurbished former seed warehouse now known as The Hub. It's well worth a visit, if only for the wonderful views it affords of the River Slea and the surrounding town. It seems to be pulling in quite a few visitors which can only be good for the regeneration of the area, including our river.

Martin Noble

Apologies to Sleaford Sports Partnership from The Editor!!!

As the Editor of this newsletter it falls to me to check each copy for typeset errors as well as for accuracy and completeness – it didn't take long before I was caught out by both of these gremlins, and in the same issue too!!

I failed to make mention of one of the Sleaford Sports Partnership members events in the 'Dates for your Diary' section of Issue 15 – the Sleaford Rugby Club held a bonfire party in November that was open to all, but which failed to make its way onto your newsletter. I can only hope that the omission did not affect attendance too much, apologies to all concerned!

The second mistake also, unfortunately, concerned the SSP too – alongside their logo on the back cover I reiterated that Sleaford Navigation Trust was a member of the Sleaford Sports and then failed to notice the fact that the word *Partnership* had been cut off in its prime! That's what happens when you produce the magazine on one machine and print it out on another before taking it (belatedly) to the printers without proof-reading it properly!

Sincere apologies to Norman Osborne and his associates who kindly pointed out my mistake – and it was my mistake, nothing to do with Westgate Print who once again excelled themselves in turning out an excellent product in super-fast time.

Chris Hayes - a Personal Pen Picture

I come originally from Uppermill, on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, although I had little real awareness of Inland Waterways at the time. I can clearly remember as a very young child asking what the locks through the village were for. The answer that they were for boats to go through left me very perplexed as they had all been filled with concrete and I couldn't really understand how boats were going to get through! When we did get through on our boat in 2002 on our way to the IWA National in Huddersfield it was a very emotional experience and one I could never have imagined so many years ago.

I went on to York University, then in its infancy, to read English, tried to prolong the student life as long as possible with a Masters degree in Mediaeval Studies, and then went into teaching. It wasn't until much later when I had come to Lincoln, married and had two small children that I had close encounters with locks again! Steve describes our first narrowboat holiday in his profile (Editors note - see last issue for that one). What he doesn't say is that at the end of the first day, up to Hockley Heath from Wooton Wawen, not only would I have slept through an earthquake but I had definitely decided I wouldn't be doing this again! Camping was great, walking I enjoyed but boating...no thanks!

Continued on Page 17

Strange to relate, a few days later, with a bit more skill, coming down Lapworth in the early morning mist of a beautiful day, I was converted, so much so that we started looking for a boat to buy shortly afterwards.

Involvement with the Sleaford Navigation Society followed, as did membership of the IWA. We turned into those people who drive around the country peering over bridges, to the detriment of their driving, saying, "The ***** Canal must be near here!!" (Fill in the asterisks to suit location.) We both went on to the committee of the then Society and moved on in time to be Chairman and Secretary.

I feel very lucky to have the team I have in the Sleaford Navigation Trust. I am not an engineer, nor an accounting expert, but, in the words of the advert, "I know a man who is!" I believe we work well together because we recognise each other's expertise and have the best working relationship; one where we have a common purpose and ideal with sufficient autonomy to work unhindered. If we didn't have that mutual respect and a certain amount of humour, enthusiasm and achievement would be much less than it is.

The first signs of the soon-to-be erected sculpture did not impress too many people within Sleaford – and it's easy to see why from the photo below!!

Photo by Martin Noble



Modern Art Meets River Slea

The finished product actually won a few more friends once it was erected. The 'sail' can be viewed from many angles.

Photo by Martin Noble

For some months the topic of '*that sculpture*' has been keeping the people of Sleaford (and beyond!) busy writing to local papers, appealing to councillors and generally trying to come to terms with it! Well, whatever your personal thoughts are on it it looks as though it's here to stay, at least for the time being anyway. The main concern for the Trust was the actual positioning of it. It has been sited right on the apex of 'Turnaround Cut', meaning it will be almost impossible for boats to safely turn there when the Navigation fully re-opens. However, we have received assurances that the structure can, and will, be moved when the need arises – and that someone other than the Trust will have to foot the bill for doing so! So *love* it or *loathe* it you decide personally I was rather pleasantly surprised when I saw it in all its glory, and yes you can *just* see it from the Hub!

Martin Noble

Your Executive Committee

| | |
|--|--|
| Chairman | Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel 01522 689460 |
| Secretary | Steve Hayes Contact as above |
| Treasurer | David Turner Brownlow's House, Brownlow's Hill, Coddington, Newark, Notts NG24 2QA Tel 01636 708781 e-mail d-turner@totalise.co.uk |
| Engineer | David Pullen Brinkburn House, Church Street, Scothern, Lincoln LN2 2UA Tel 01673 862278 |
| Ordinary Member | Debbie Scott Tel 01529 305755 |
| Ordinary Member | Barbara Jones Tel 01529 303749 |
| Ordinary Member | Susan Sowerby Tel 01522 856810 |
| Chairman, Sleaford Navigation (Sales) Ltd | Pat Taylor Tel 01522 790652 |
| Lincolnshire IWA Nominee | David Carnell |
| Editor | Martin Noble 20 Curlew Way, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7UD Tel 01529 413135 Mobile 07799 000046 e-mail martin@noble6161.fsnet.co.uk |

Non Committee Contacts

| | |
|--|---|
| Membership Secretary | Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln LN4 4DS Tel 01526 832256 |
| Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP) Liaison | Norman Osborne Contact number as above |
| Work Party Organiser | John Jackson Tel 01529 410427 |

Dates for your diary...

The following activities are planned over the next few months so please make a note of them and endeavour to support your Trust in any way you can.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sat 31 st January 04 SNT Social Event | Day-Star Theatre Company present ' <i>Another Fine Day</i> ' at St Denys' Church Room, Sleaford starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 each including a drink. Please see flier inserted in this letter for further details. |
| Sun 1 st February SNT Work Party | Vegetation and debris clearance downstream of Cogglesford Lock. |
| Sat 7 th February SSP | Italian Food Night. 8pm at Sleaford Rugby Club. |
| Fri 20 th February IWA Lincs Branch | IWA AGM and 'Cathedral Cities Link' update. 8pm at St Mary-le-Wigford Church Hall, Lincoln. |
| Sun 7 th March SNT Work Party | Vegetation clearance around Haverholme Lock. |
| Sat/Sun 13/14 th March FoCM Open Day | <i>Greater Lincoln for Free</i> weekend. Cogglesford Mill will be open for milling demonstrations. |
| Fri 19 th March IWA Lincs Branch | Lincolnshire Waterways Strategy Update by Mary Powell, Lincs CC Tourism. 8pm at St Mary-le-Wigford Church Hall, Lincoln. |
| Sat 20 th March SSP | Horse Race Night. 8pm at Sleaford Rugby Club. |
| Sun 28 th March SNT Work Party | Note that this will be the April work party brought forward a week to tie in with the divers work at Bottom Lock. Please confirm this date with John Jackson prior to travelling. |
| Fri 15 th April IWA Lincs Branch | Further travels of "Leslie Ann", a video by Jeff & Veronica Strickland. 8pm at St Mary-le-Wigford Church Hall, Lincoln. |
| Sat 17 th April SSP | Quiz Night. 8pm at Sleaford Rugby Club. |

Sleaford Navigation Trust is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP).

All Sleaford Navigation Trust Members are welcome to join in any of the SSP events, which are all held at the David Williams Pavilion, Sleaford Rugby Club, Ruskington Road, Sleaford. Further details may be obtained from Norman on 01526 832256, or Barbara on 01529 303749

