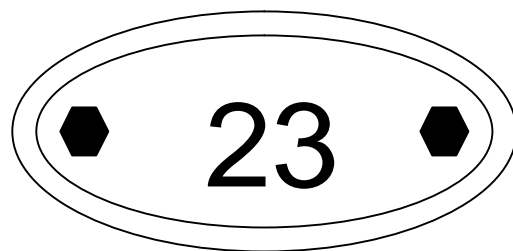
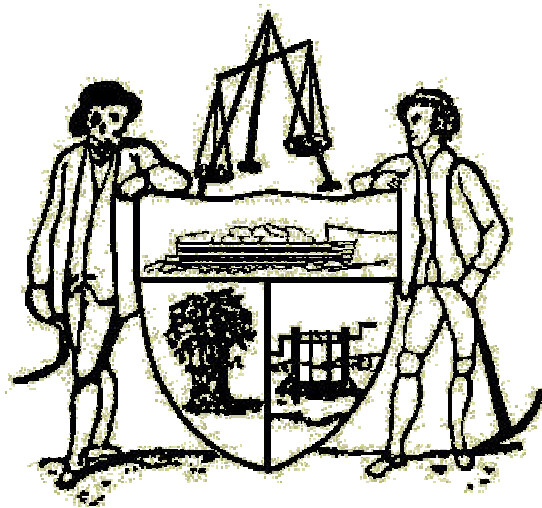


Sleaford Navigation Trust



October 2005

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 Sleas, 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

It's hard to believe that it's time to sit and pen a few lines again!! These past few months seem to have flown by in the Noble household even to the point where less than 5 weeks after producing the last newsletter I had completely forgotten that I had done so and was making panic e-mails and phone calls to all committee members asking for copy as I thought I had totally overlooked the publication date!! Can't believe I'm having senior moments at my age!!

Still at least I didn't miss the summer; I remember that nice few days we had very well indeed! Best not to mention summer actually as my wonderful partner Chris is still waiting for me to whisk her away to some exotic isle; unfortunately the only isle I'm likely to see for some time is the Isle of White as I set sail in HMS Illustrious to work with the Senior Service for a month or so. This will actually mean that I get to celebrate Trafalgar Day afloat, something that I know some of our boating members are planning to do too around the Brayford pool in Lincoln. Wonder who will get the largest rum-ration?!

This edition carries some great articles by a couple of our members. I hope that you enjoy them as much as I have when reading them. I also hope they might inspire you to send something in yourself, I'm not after any mammoth essays or anything, just a few lines about something that's important to you – memories, thoughts, concerns, observations, anything that you feel able to share with other readers. Thanks to Dave Turner, Dave Carnell and to Nigel Stennett-Cox for their contributions this month. And whilst on the subject of thanks I really should pass on my appreciation to both Norman and Penny Osborne – many of you will know Norman from his participation on the monthly working parties and from the photographs that he sends in on a regular basis; less public though is the unstinting support that the Trust gets from his better-half! Amongst many of her roles Penny acts as Membership Secretary and also produces the sticky address labels for me for the newsletters each quarter. As busy working farmers it's great to see the support they offer the Trust ... and I know the rest of the committee and members will want to join me in thanking them publicly. Keep up the good work guys; you're an inspiration to all of us!

It's a lovely autumnal evening as I sit typing this, just right for a walk along our favourite river, just right to get out and make use of the new stretch of path that the WRG helped to install below Cogglesford. This has already won much complimentary feedback from a number of individuals and local organisations. We really are indebted to WRG for their assistance and look forward to completing the remaining few yards in the coming month. Whilst you're there take a trip upriver to Navigation House too, it's proving very popular and that can only do our cause good too so get along and see for yourself. The Sleas is looking great at the moment!

Martin Noble

Chairman's Report for October 2005

Chris Hayes

The really big news in this report is the fact that we have gone through to the next round of the IWA Diamond Jubilee Award competition which is detailed in another article! Thanks really are due to Dave Carnell, Dave Pullen and Steve Hayes who are currently involved in producing the detailed proposal necessary for the next round. We all believe we have a good scheme as our entry and are doing our best to present it as effectively as we can.

Several members of the committee are also involved in the Lincolnshire Branch of the Inland Waterways Association and, in that capacity, we nominated Dave Carnell for the IWA Richard Bird Medal which is in recognition of meritorious service to the waterways. Anyone who knows Dave is fully aware of his breadth of knowledge and the extent of his commitment to waterway restoration. He has worked tirelessly for many years for the IWA at a local level and represented waterway interests at more meetings and workshops than he, or Penny, would probably care to remember! Dave will receive the Richard Bird Medal at the IWA AGM in Lichfield on October 1st and I am delighted to offer him hearty congratulations on behalf of Sleaford Navigation Trust. Well done Dave, an honour which is richly deserved.

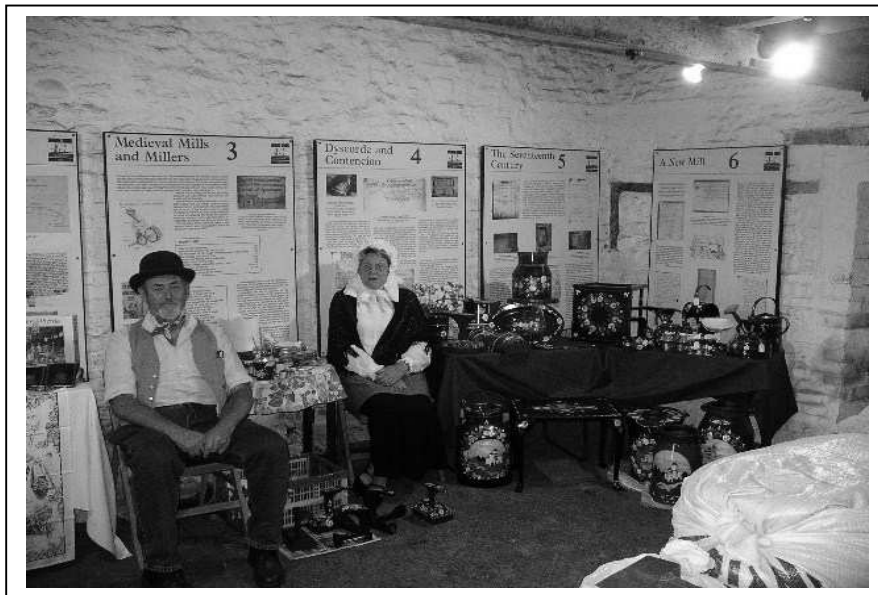
Christmas is coming!!

Now that summer has been and gone (did I miss it?) it's good to see the shops are stocking up on Christmas cards already! But it's not only the shops; our very own Treasurer has some lovely examples on offer from both the Historic Narrowboat Owners Club and from our compatriots over at the Cromford Canal.

Wintry water scenes always prove popular and it's easy to see why with these lovely examples. You'll find his details inside the back cover if you're looking for something just a little bit different and at a very reasonable cost too.

Heritage Day at Cogglesford Mill

National Heritage Day was on the theme of transport and Friends of Cogglesford Mill invited the SNT to join them for the milling and open day. Despite the bad weather on the Saturday much interest was expressed in the SNT sales stand and the colourful display of Barge Art, manned by Pat Taylor and Penny Carnell. We also enjoyed the scones made by the Friends using flour milled at Cogglesford.



Pat & Dave waiting for another round of scones!! Thanks must go to Penny for her wonderful display of canalware.

Photo supplied by Dave Carnell.

Inland Waterways Diamond Jubilee Award

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Inland Waterways Association and, in order to celebrate the event, it was decided to run a competition for canal societies and trusts, the prize being £100K to fund a restoration project. Needless to say, offers like that don't come round every day and so Sleaford Navigation Trust, together with 32 other groups, submitted a proposal for works. The initial proposals did not have to be made in great detail but there were various criteria to meet including the possible involvement of Waterway Recovery Group in the project.

Our scheme was for a winding hole and slipway at Riverside Green in Sleaford together with a lift bridge to replace the present pedestrian bridge at New Street. We had already made a presentation to Sleaford Town Council Strategy Committee and discussed the idea there. At a later full Council Meeting it was agreed that support was given for the idea although, obviously, plans and permissions would need to be finalised.

We were absolutely delighted to hear at the beginning of September that we had been successful in going forward from the initial group of 33 to the second round of 9 schemes! At this point though the real work began as we had to produce a much more detailed plan and estimate to go in by October 8th. It's been a case of out with the measuring tapes and clip board, back to the drawing board and then on to the phones! As I write this we are working hard to meet the deadline. It does mean a great deal to us though that our plans have stood against those of larger, more advanced, restorations and been selected in preference.

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We believe that the works would have immediate benefit in that they would open up the top pound for trail-boats and canoeists, provide a more pleasing and efficient bridge for pedestrians and wheelchair users as well as preparing the way for a restored navigation.

Keep your fingers crossed for us in the next round!

Chris Hayes

Trafalgar Weekend Celebrations 21 – 23 October 2005

Continuing with the nautical theme running through this publication I'm sure that I don't have to remind any of you sailors out there that this year celebrates the 200th anniversary of the victory at Trafalgar! I know that some of our narrowboat owners will be joining in with flotillas around the region and even your Editor is getting into the swing (or should that be swig?!) of it as he will be onboard HMS Illustrious over that weekend! I can feel a hangover coming on already!!

The press will no doubt be full of articles nearer the time and there are many events being planned around the country for that weekend. Meanwhile anyone with access to cyberspace might like to take a look at www.trafalgarweekend.co.uk and get a feel for what it's all about.

Editor

Sleaford Water Weekend 13th & 14th August 2005

by
Debbie Scott

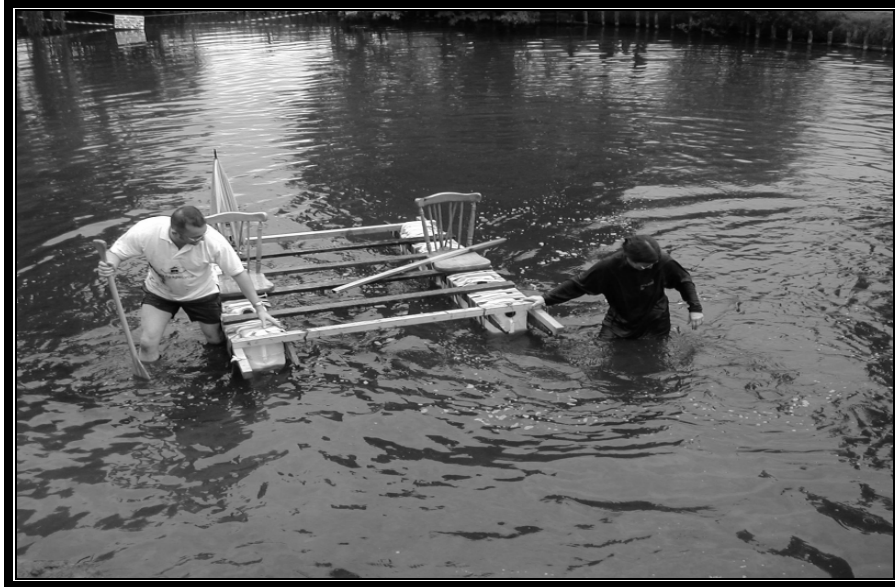
Sleaford Water Weekend 2005 lived up to its name, yet again, and was very wet for most people and even wetter for some. The rain started during the final organisers' meeting on the Thursday before the event and by Sunday morning nearly one and a half inches of England's finest August rain had hit the deck. Obviously the committee's fault for being worried about water levels!

With true perseverance, everything carried on almost as planned, stalls (including of course, Pat and Co on the Navigation stand), live music, duck races, raft races, canoes and a spectacular balloon launch all went ahead. The indoor craft fair attracted good crowds and visitor numbers at the Hub broke several records. Even the fairground on Eastgate Car Park enjoyed a small but steady flow of customers each time the weather seemed to brighten up.

Cogglesford Mill attracted visitors with its milling, cream teas, Mr Phillips' famous fairground organ and Jim Young from Music Plus with his bagpipes. Neighbouring businesses, especially Cogglesford Mill Cottage and the Barge and Bottle, joined in and other activities were organised by the Tourist Information Centre and Countryside NK. I wish I'd taken a picture of the brave hay-making person, working alone with his strimmer, on the damp and misty Sunday evening!

Two new sponsors this year, Darren and Pam Newton of MortgageForce and Mr Aziz of the India Garden, were invited to take part in the raft race - Mr Aziz declined but was nearly persuaded to enter next year until he saw what happened to Darren's raft. Now we're not too sure!!

Next year's Water Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of August 12th and 13th.



Our very own Debbie Scott, in a rather fetching black rubber suit, taking part in the annual raft race. Eventually finishing in second place, the Scott family once again proved their racing prowess doesn't just confine itself to four wheels and an engine!

Photo supplied by Debbie Scott



Cogglesford Mill attracted visitors with its milling demonstrations, cream teas, Mr Phillips' famous fairground organ and Jim Young from *Music Plus* with his bagpipes. Cogglesford Mill Restaurant, just out of the picture to the left, also joined in with the weekend's celebrations, as did the local hostelry The Barge and Bottle.

Photo supplied by Debbie Scott

Update on Droitwich Canals Trust

**By
Dave Turner**

For six years from 1976 I was Project Manager for the Droitwich Canals Trust Ltd overseeing the restoration of two canals that once connected Droitwich with the main canal system. For this reason I was particularly pleased to hear of the £3.5 million award from Advantage West Midland which together with the lottery and local government cash already pledged will enable this long running restoration to be completed.

Of the two Droitwich canals the first was a barge canal built by James Brindley westwards to the river Severn to enable salt to be shipped from the extensive works that once lined the banks of the river Salwarpe in the centre of the town. It was used by a distinctive breed of boat the so called 'wych barge' a smaller version of the standard 'up river' Severn trow, built to fit the 60' by 14' locks. One of the first canals of the industrial revolution the Droitwich was in the 1850's connected to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal east of the town by the Droitwich Junction Canal - one of the last canals to be constructed. Together, seven miles long, the two canals both came to be owned by the Sharpness New Docks Company along with the Worcs. & Birmingham and Gloucester & Sharpness canals.

Little used after the demise in the town of the salt industry both canals were legally abandoned in 1939 but under a clause in one of the original enabling acts both were transferred to Droitwich Borough Council. It was they who in the heady days prior to local government reorganisation in 1973 paid for a culvert to replace a failing railway bridge and leased the canals to the infant DCT.

My term of office followed that of Richard Pearson, the first manager.

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He had previously worked under David Hutchings on the Upper Avon Project so was no stranger to working in difficult conditions. The job for both of us entailed quite a bit of negotiation with riparian landowners to recover encroached land and the erection of stock proof fencing before work on the actual navigation could begin. My first job was to reprofile sections of the towing path in the Hill End and Ladywood cuttings to enable vehicular and machinery access alongside the waterway. Work on the canal was generally scheduled to fit in with volunteer or job creation scheme labour but I was to spend most of my time planning or meeting with landowners, Severn Trent Water Authority, and most importantly numerous officers of the local Authority.

Over the years practically all the work capable of being undertaken by volunteers has been done so the current £11 million scheme to complete the work concentrates on the major engineering works of tunnelling under the A449 trunk road, dealing with lock 6 where the land on both sides has been sold off and providing a diversionary route to replace a missing half mile section of the Junction canal.

With the work scheduled to minimise impact on wildlife it may take up to five years before the Droitwich canals are both fully open to boats. We congratulate our colleagues in DCT who have kept the restoration moving forward over 32 often difficult years and look forward to the time when we in SNT share their success.

.....
Welcome to our latest new members!!
.....

New members are Chris Taylor and Lynne Edwards. They came to work on the WRG camp on the footpath at Cogglesford. It was their first time on a WRG camp and they both enjoyed it. Chris found several fossils and a bone which has been confirmed as from a deer, while working on the footpath. They joined us when they helped on the Bailey bridge lift at South Kyme.

Membership Secretary

Navigation House

Some time ago I received a lovely letter from Martin Chapman, the Trust's founding Chairman, detailing some of the history of the both the Trust and the Slea. It struck me, as we were discussing the restoration of Navigation House at our AGM, that I recalled him indicating that this very project was one of the primary aims of the Trust when it was formed.

Re-reading his letter whilst searching for copy for this edition I came across the following paragraph "He (Bill Hunt) and I came together in 1976/77 when he was researching his degree work and I was looking into the state of the river, having recently returned to Sleaford. He had learnt that the Navigation House was under threat of demolition due to the proposed development of the Navigation Wharf site. He contacted me (I think the Library put him in touch) and I arranged some local meetings. Out of this came an awareness that there was sufficient interest to investigate the restoration of the Slea as well as the preservation of its buildings. As they say ... the rest is history."

And here we are, almost 30 years down the road and Navigation House has finally opened its doors to the public at last. I can only begin to imagine how Martin must have felt to see one of his life-long ambitions realised at last. It was great to hear that Bill Hunt had also been involved with the planning of the internal displays. Mike Oakenfall, the design consultant responsible for the interior works, had also employed a conservation artist from Boston, keeping a real local theme to the whole project. It took seven years from Mike being commissioned onto the project to its completion with a number of hold-ups arising from Lottery funding issues through to waiting for the authentic lime plaster to dry out sufficiently prior to opening!

Entry is free to all visitors so get yourself along and see what a wonderful job everyone involved has made of the restoration. Entry is controlled through the staff in the nearby Hub and it might be advisable to call the Sleaford Tourist Information Centre on 01529 414294 before making a long journey. Perhaps you might like to write and let us know what you think of it afterwards?!

Martin Noble

Tenancy of Cogglesford Mill

by

Nigel Stennett-Cox

For this month's short article, I'd like to appeal to anyone who may have knowledge of the past tenants of either Cogglesford Mill or the house, which is now of course the restaurant.

One summer's day in the early seventies my mother, a friend, and myself were standing on the bridge "putting the world to rights" when a car pulled up containing a couple in late middle age, accompanied by an elderly lady in at least her mid-seventies.

We fell to talking and the older lady explained that the younger couple were her child and their spouse, who had brought her to see the Mill and House for perhaps the last time because it meant so much to her. She went on to explain that her grandfather had been the, or perhaps I should say, a miller there in the latter part of the nineteenth century, had lived in the house, and brought up a number of children there.

It was a moving experience to listen to her, and to think that it had been so important for her to come especially just to see it. She and her companions had travelled, incidentally, from the Bourne area.

One piece of hard information which I distinctly recall her giving was that her grandfather's surname had been Barnatt. She emphasised the spelling, with an "a" rather than the usual "e" in the second syllable, and the double "t".

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In such histories of the Mill and House as I have seen, for instance in Simon Pawley's books of Sleaford, I have found no mention of a Mr. Barnatt.

It would probably take someone with sufficient curiosity and enthusiasm to study Parish records and the like, for more information.

However I would be most interested to learn more!

Nigel Stennett-Cox

Editors Note:

Nigel's contact details are given below so should you be able to help in anyway then please get in touch with him...

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E-mail: nigelstennettcox@f2s.com

News from www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

NEW WEBSITE UPLOADED 01/09/2005

After months of work and many trials and tribulations the new Sleaford Navigation website is finally working!!! Hopefully you like it and find it interesting. We have set up a Guest Book for people to sign and send us your comments on the new website. Apologies if this does not work first time, I am sure you can appreciate that we will have some teething problems.

Steve Hayes

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 Mobile 07799 000046 e-mail martin@noble06.wanadoo.co.uk

Non Committee Contacts

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Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP) Liaison	Norman Osborne Contact number as above
Work Party Organisers	John Jackson Tel 01529 410427 Mel Sowerby Tel 01522 856810

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.

Saturday 7 th & Sunday 8 th October SNT Work Party	A final push to get the footpath below Cogglesford finished following on from the fantastic work by WRG. Contact Mel Sowerby on 01522 856810 for further details.
Saturday 15 th October SSP Event	Quiz Night at the Sleaford Rugby Club. Go along and show them all just how brainy us SNTers are!!! There's even access to a pint or two!
Sunday 30 th October Halloween Event FoCM Event	Displays by the Lincoln Bat Group plus themed events and refreshments. Get those capes out and sharpen those fangs!!
Saturday 5 th November SSP Event	Bet you can't guess what event this is?! Hint: If your name is Guy and you like to dress-up it would be wise to steer clear!! Bonfire & fireworks to accompany the refreshments.
Sunday 13 th November SNT Work Party	Vegetation clearance at either Cogglesford or Cobblers ...contact Mel on 01522 856810 for further details.
Sunday 27 th November SNT Stall at Sleaford Christmas Market	Come along and support us at the Sleaford Christmas Market. It's always a lovely day out for the family and it's always great to see members at the stall (especially those who part with some of their hard-earned cash for Pat's goodies!)
Sunday 11 th December SNT Work Party	Once again more vegetation clearance at either Cogglesford or Cobblers (this time it will be the other one!!) ...contact Mel on 01522 856810 for further details.
Sunday 8 th January SNT Work Party	The first of 2006! This time with a provisional venue of Haverholme. Give Mel a call to find out where you can burn off those Xmas calories!!
Saturday 11 th February 06 SSP Event	Looking ahead to next year SSP have already started to fill up their social calendar. This time you are all invited to attend a horse racing night at the David Williams Pavilion.
Saturday 8 th April 06 SSP Event	Even further ahead make a note in your diaries to carry this one forward into next years when you get it – another quiz night to re-affirm just how well you did in the October round!

FoCM = Friends of Cogglesford Mill

SSP = Sleaford Sports Partnership

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

