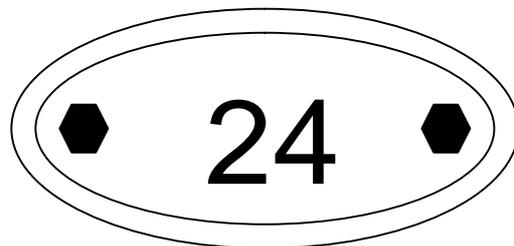
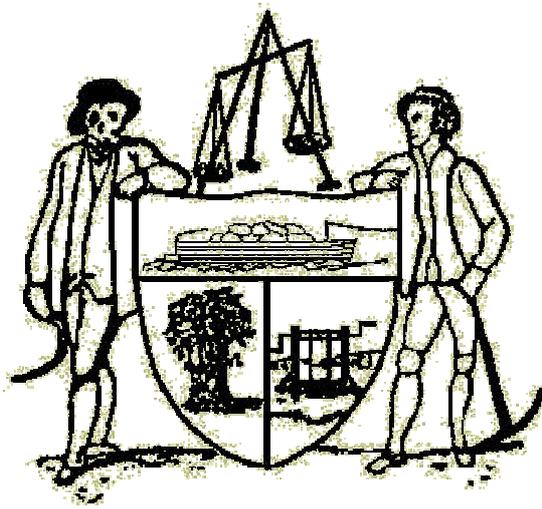


Sleaford Navigation Trust



January 2006

The Sleaford Navigation Trust

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

... has a Registered Office at 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 8TH

... 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

unfortunately the only isle I'm likely to see for some time is the Isle of White

on my appreciation to both Norman and Penny Osborne!

Nav house friends

Rubber suit!!!!!!!

Responses to nigel's plea???????

Busy events calendar

Hi Steve,

Membership form and cheque arrived today from Robert Mitchell, who came to the work party cleaning bricks on Sunday.

Address:- Reymerston,
Sweetlands Way,
Gosberton,
Spalding,
Lincs.
PE11 4HH

Tel: 01775 840135

E-mail: raymerston@aol.com

Occupation: **Construction Manager**

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 January 2006

Chris Hayes

A Happy New Year to all our readers!!

You will remember that in the last newsletter I wrote about our pride in getting through to the last round of the IWA Diamond Jubilee Award Competition and our hopes for success. Sadly, we had to concede victory to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust whose project was the completion of a length of waterway connecting into a new mooring area close to the site of this year's IWA Festival at Beale Park on the Thames.

WRG will now be involved in working on the site there together with the contractors employed on the project. Unfortunately this means too that we shall not be able to host a work camp for WRG this year. The time that we were offered was too late in the season for us to be able to take advantage of the generous offer of the Sports Partnership for accommodation in the Rugby Club. However we have started talking to WRG about a potential very exciting project for 2007!

Mary Powell of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership had agreed to help finance the work to replace the footbridge at Riverside Green by funding the rerouting of the services beneath the bridge. I am delighted to be able to say that Mary had been so impressed by the bid we prepared for the IWA Diamond Jubilee Award that she is now helping us to secure funding for the replacement of the bridge itself so that the scheme can go forward. Preliminary meetings have been held to discuss design details and the way to progress the project. It is very encouraging to feel that we have achieved success, although not in the way we first thought.

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Initially the focus will be the bridge but we are hoping that we will be able to work on the slipway and winding hole the following year – hence the early forward planning with WRG!

I had nominated Navigation House in Sleaford for one of the Waterways Renaissance Awards and on December 15th Steve and I, together with Geoff Wright, the NKDC Project Officer for the House, met with Alan Johnson, the judge for the second round of the competition. The category for which we have entered is Historic Environment and the criteria are given as:

“This award will be given to a project/scheme that demonstrates excellence in interpreting, restoring and conserving the character and local distinctiveness of inland waterways including, where appropriate, the integration of new elements in an historic context.”

Final judging will be later this month so, once again, it will be a case of keeping fingers crossed. The Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership has also been shortlisted for an award in another category so perhaps we need to keep toes crossed as well, if that's not too demanding!

Life seems to revolve around applications at the moment! We have another one in at the moment to Awards for All, part of the Lottery Funding. We have applied for funding for new display boards and for two new gazebos or folding tents which we can use to house display/sales material at events but which will also double as shelter for volunteers during work parties and camps. I've already asked you for crossed fingers and crossed toes so I don't feel I can ask for any more contortions! Let's just hope the application is successful!

Once again, all the very best wishes for the New Year and thank you for your continued support.

Work Party News
from
Mel Sowerby

At the end of October we managed to fit in a day at Bottom Lock to trim the lock island and have a general tidy up. The gates are padlocked back for the winter but the level of water due to lack of any rainfall would not pose a problem and with one of the sluices open the level is nearly a metre down on what it should be at this time of the year. This does have some advantages for restoration.

The October and November work parties saw the completion of the path at Cogglesford Mill as well as some clearance work at Haverholme lock. There are still some reeds to clear above the bywash as well as some small trees below the lock. Any bricks that are in the lock or near the entrance we are reclaiming to clean and re-use on the waterway in the Spring.

The December work party at Haverholme saw a start made on clearing trees below the lock and there is a large tree across the river that will be removed in January. It is hoped to have a large bonfire bash and remove most of the scrub that has been taken out over the last two years. Many hands will make light work of this and it will be a good opportunity to get some exercise and fresh air in the New Year

Norman Osborne has some photographs of the work on the path in October and at Haverholme in December. Hopefully these will find their way to our website.

Thanks to Chris and Steve for their help on this one and to all the other members who have helped over the year, too many to mention individually.

Have a good Christmas and New Year, Mel





The Big Freeze of 1962-3

by
Nigel Stennet-Cox

Following my last article on the 1976 drought and its effect on the Slea, I beg the forbearance of our readership with another set of personal reminiscences.

Most people will have at least read about the frosts, and subsequent flooding in this country in 1947 but the next exceptionally severe winter, occurring when myself and family were still living at Cogglesford Mill, was in 1963. Oddly enough though, through the fifties, as a small child, I seem to recall the river upstream of the mill freezing over more or less every winter sufficient to carry people who were bold enough to walk or skate on it. This may have only been for a day or two in a given winter.

In 1963 though, the surface froze with a depth of ice, itself covered by a layer of frozen snow particles, which may have been 7 or 8 centimetres thick. That is an estimate but suffice to say that a goodly number of people, mostly children, took to playing on the ice by making areas to slide on, and the like. At that time, I was 15 and mad on playing around with old cars and motorbikes. [Still am!]

I had a couple of old bikes which were rideable, these being, for those interested in such things, a 1951 98cc James Comet, and a 1937 500cc Rudge Special. Myself and two or three mates who must have been equally bone-headed, naturally thought it a good idea to experiment with riding these machines on the river.

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We would leave the mill yard, ride over the bridges and then just drive down the bank onto the ice from the path just up from the lock. We could get up to just beyond the swimming baths but past that the ice looked a bit more dodgy and had almost gone by the point where the river bifurcates. That was then the site of Holland's Garage.

Anyway, with caution not to accelerate, corner, or brake too hard, it was possible to get up to 20-30mph on the little James with surprising traction being afforded by the layer of frozen snow. Either one of two things prompted a definite trip on one's bum. One was any one of the above causing a break in grip because there was no recovery once you skidded. The other was hitting an area where other kids had made a slide by rubbing off the snow layer. The bike slid from under us with the inevitability of a blind drunk falling over for the umpteenth time whilst trying to stand up!

The Rudge showed much more promise; I hastily fitted a sidecar chassis to that! Three of we reprobates could then skid around with impunity. The most fun was to get up as much speed as possible, maybe 25mph, then turn the handlebars just before applying the back brake. The resultant pirouettes would have shamed Torvill and Dean.

We became so blasé that there was one occasion when the three of us were sitting on the outfit just up from the lock and in the middle, when two or three more lads just wandered over for a chat. We didn't realise that made one large motorcycle and sidecar plus about 6 of us all together until there was one big CRACK. Everyone scattered but someone had to go back for the bike. Yes, yours truly, of course.

No, we never did fall in and it was a lot of fun!!!

Waterway Recovery Group Summer Camp on the Slea

By

Lorraine Heyes

During a week in June, a team of Waterway Recovery Group volunteers sponsored by the LWP gathered on the banks of the River Slea at Cogglesford Mill. The job in hand was to construct a new surface for a section of footpath along the river. Up until then, the surface had been rough and uneven, discouraging users such as families with young children and wheelchair users. Mud was another problem following bad weather.

The working party consisted of joint leaders Nina Whiteman and Izzy Gascoigne, 13 volunteers who were there for a working holiday and 5 members of the Slea Navigation Trust who came and went during the week. After a hard day's slog, they returned to their lodgings in the Sleaford Rugby Club which, according to Izzy, a WRG veteran of 11 years is one of the best places they have ever bunked down! Usually they stay in village halls where the facilities are rather more basic.

A great deal of planning goes into setting up a WRG working holiday - from organising tools, equipment and accommodation to picking up volunteers travelling by public transport from the railway station, even down to ensuring that each group is supplied with a set of clean tea towels. Working holidays are held all around the country, and the River Slea was the first of the summer season's breaks.

The navvies of yesteryear had only picks, shovels and wheel barrows to move tons of earth, but today's lucky WRG volunteers can also call upon the aid of diggers, dumper trucks, road rollers and at the end of the day, a big skip to take it all away!

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New volunteers are taught how to use this equipment and tasks are rotated so everybody can have a go at a new skill.

Some of the volunteers on this break had been on a WRG working holiday before, some had come along for the first time wanting to try something different. Izzy's own interest stemmed from the childhood holidays she enjoyed with her family on a narrow boat. They come from far and wide, even from abroad, and all walks of life. This group includes James, a postman; Phil, a bus mechanic; Martyn, a gardener and Martin Ludgate, editor of WRGs magazine 'Navvies' doing his bit.

University students Susie and Laura's volunteer stint with WRG will count towards a Duke of Edinburgh gold award. They had never taken part in anything like this before and enjoyed the teamwork and camaraderie, as well as getting to see a different part of the country. Learning how to operate the dumper truck was a highlight of the experience for them, and it was a big incentive being able to see the immediate results of their hard work as the completed path has now made access easier for young and old along this pleasant stretch of river.

It wasn't all work though - a chance to relax and see the local area are an important part a WRG working break. A cinema trip, a leisurely river cruise and bowling were part of the entertainment on offer for these volunteers when tools were downed for the day.

If you would like to know more about working as a volunteer for WRG, take a look at their website www.wrg.org.uk or contact them by e mail at enquiries@wrg.org.uk or by phone 01923 711114.



Newsletter Editor Update

As you will have read elsewhere in the newsletter, the Editor, Martin Noble, has come to the decision that, unfortunately, pressures of work mean that he will no longer be able to carry on acting in that capacity although he will still be a Director of the Trust.

To thank Martin for his efforts is no mere form of words. He has brought a new perspective to the whole idea of communication with the membership and made us all think again. It's perhaps true in any situation that personal familiarity with an idea or a concept can lead to a complacent generalisation that everyone else shares the same knowledge. Martin has reminded all of us that not everyone knows what has happened in the past, is familiar with locations along the Slea or knows what we are trying to do. His approach has brought a freshness to the newsletter that we have all appreciated. I think it has also added significantly to the interest with which it has been received by the membership. His encouragement of Directors to write pen portraits for the newsletter means we have even been surprised in some cases by things we didn't know about our colleagues!

I should like to thank Martin not only within the Directors' meeting but through the pages of the newsletter for the firm but cheerful way in which he has reminded us of deadlines and for the professionalism with which he has acted as editor of the newsletter. We are very grateful for all he has done.

Chris Hayes

Editors Note: Thank you Chris for your kind words, was it not for the other pressures on me at the moment I would not be relinquishing my role as it has been an enjoyable and satisfying experience – hopefully others of you out there in our readership will be keen to experience it too so please get in touch with either Chris or myself for further details of how you can do your bit for the Trust!

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

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, Lincoln LN4 4DS Tel 01526 832256
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 11 th February SSP Event	Another highlight in the SSP social calendar – their ever-popular horse racing night at the David Williams Pavilion.
Sunday 12 th February SNT Work Party	Provisionally planned to take place at Cogglesford but please give Mel a call before setting out! You'll get him on 01522 856810.
11/12 th March Lincolnshire event	Greater Lincoln for Free Weekend – check local press for what is going on in your area, or maybe even venture a little further afield and sample parts of the County that you've not been to before!
Sunday 12 th March SNT Work Party	The first trip of the year to Cobblers? Once again please check with Mel just to make sure I've not sent you to the wrong lock!!
Saturday 8 th April 06 SSP Event	Time, once again, to dust off that grey matter and try your hand at the SSP quiz night; another chance to try the bar in the David Williams Pavilion at Sleaford!
Sunday 9 th April SNT Work Party	Bottom Lock (provisionally!) is due to get another visit from our volunteer work party, give Mel a call to see how you can help.
Sunday 16 th April Tastes of the Mill FoCM Event	Get down to Cogglesford Mill over Easter and give your taste buds a treat! More details in the press or from Sleaford Tourist Information Centre on (01529) 414294 or via E-mail: tic@n-kesteven.gov.uk
13/14 th May National Mills Weekend FoCM	Not just Cogglesford but many mills around the country will be hosting activities throughout the weekend so pop along a see what's going on – do it on Saturday then you can join the SNT work party on Sunday!!
Sunday 14 th May SNT Work Party	Possibly a joint work party with tasks split between both Cogglesford and Bottom Lock, Mel will confirm nearer the time!
27/28 th May SNT Boat Gathering	A chance for everyone to get together at South Kyme for the regular boat gathering – but don't worry if you haven't got a boat, you really are more than welcome to come along and get to know some of those members who have!! You might even get invited onboard - and if you do tell the Captain that you've come for your free cup of tea!! Don't be surprised if it comes with a membership form attached though!! Come along and enjoy the river with others who also care about it.
Sunday 28 th May Honey Day FoCM event	Bee-keeping demonstration and local guided walks are amongst the attractions planned to take place at Cogglesford Mill. Don't miss out on Ann's honey; its reputation is truly deserved!
12/13 th August Sleaford Water Weekend	There is a rumour that the annual event based on and around the Slea might well be in for a bit of a make-over this year so make sure you don't miss out, put it on the calendar right now!!! More details to follow; both here and in the local press. I'm sure Debbie and Barbara will be able to advise you of what is going on nearer the time and maybe even tell you how you can help out!!

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

