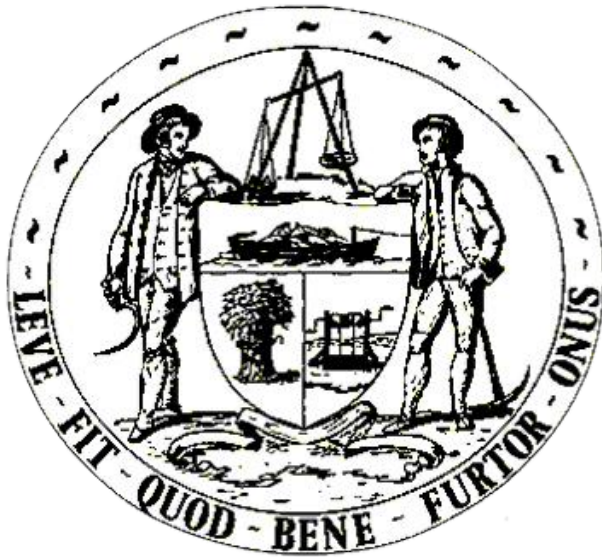


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



25

**July 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](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

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## Aims & Objectives

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.

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## Submissions

Please send all submissions to either: [norman.osborne@farming.co.uk](mailto:norman.osborne@farming.co.uk) or [david.osbonre1987@gmail.com](mailto:david.osbonre1987@gmail.com)

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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

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# Editorial

Firstly I would like to apologize for the slight lateness of this newsletter. As has been mentioned in previous newsletters the previous editor, Martin Noble, is busy preparing for life in civvy street, and so is unable to put the newsletter together for a while.

He has done an amazing job over the past 3 years of newsletters, and I wish him well. On to this month's newsletter, we have an article on the recent boat gathering at South Kyme, as well as the IWA boat, Jubilee and it's trip through Boston after the gathering.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and photos this month. This support is needed to keep the newsletter going, so if anyone has an article relating to the Sleas, or an interesting picture of the Sleas please submit it! It would be interesting to hear from some of the older members of the Trust about it's history, as well as that of the Sleas. Any Sleas or Navigation related articles should be sent to either [norman.osborne@farming.co.uk](mailto:norman.osborne@farming.co.uk) or [david.osborne1987@gmail.com](mailto:david.osborne1987@gmail.com), or alternatively see the contact details later on in the newsletter. If anyone has any other ideas for features to put in the newsletter please let me know.

I am also looking into the idea of producing an electronic version of this newsletter alongside the paper version. This would allow for the photos to be displayed in colour. If anyone would be interested in receiving an electronic copy as well as this paper version, please get in touch.

I hope I can maintain the same high standards as Martin has achieved in his newsletters.

*David Osborne*

# Chairman's Report for July 2006

**Chris Hayes**

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter about the Boat Gathering at South Kyme. It was good to be there again and to have such a warm welcome. At the moment we are certainly intending to have another gathering next year but probably at the earlier Bank Holiday in May. The IWA Trailboat Rally will be held on the Grantham Canal next year at the end of May and several people may well have commitments there.

Since the end of May we have been represented at the Lincoln Waterfront Festival where we shared our new big gazebo with Lincolnshire IWA. We had lots of interested visitors over the very hot weekend. Some of us took part in the narrowboat parade on Saturday afternoon which ended rather dramatically in a thunderstorm and deluge. The gazebos are waterproof!

We have now submitted an application to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.) for funds for the replacement bridge in Eastgate Car Park. This proved to be one of those bids which took a great deal of time to complete and Steve Hayes is to be thanked for the time and effort he put in to the application.

Have a good summer whatever you are doing!

Chris Hayes

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## Wren-watching!

**Steve Hayes**

WREN in this case is not the diminutive bird formerly on farthings (a reference for the older reader!) but Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd. All those people putting waste into landfill sites are required to pay a levy called "landfill tax". A proportion of this money is then made available to the local community within ten miles of the landfill site, in order to fund eligible projects. Our local site to the Sleas is at Leadenham and we are therefore within the community area. Projects have to satisfy a variety of criteria and bids are accepted only four times a year.

As far as the lift bridge in Eastgate Car Park is concerned the date for submission had to be July 21<sup>st</sup> and a certain amount of midnight oil was burnt to achieve this.

One thing that was needed was evidence of public support and we were delighted to receive letters from organisations and individuals. The Millennium volunteers carried out a survey to count the number of people using the existing bridge and also asked the opinion of users regarding replacement. We are very grateful for their efforts.

The William Alvey Primary School distributed letters on our behalf explaining the plans and the Church Lane Primary School even ran a competition within the school for bridge design. I had the pleasure of visiting the school to explain about the need for a bridge and led a party of pupils to Riverside Green to visit the site. I was touched to receive a signed thank you card from the Y5 and Y6 pupils.

There have been a number of meetings with the County Council Highways Dept. and with the Environment Agency to consider designs and Mary Powell of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership has been helpful and supportive throughout the whole process.

We hope to receive £50K from the application which will go a long way towards funding the first stage of the new Head of Navigation project in Sleaford. We should hear whether or not we have been successful by the middle of October.

Steve Hayes

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## Welcome to our new members!

Welcome to our new members, Robert Clark, and John and Christine Meredith. John and Christine also brought their boat, Kano, to the South Kyme Boat Gathering.

# Boat Gathering - South Kyme

Chris Hayes

It may have been the late May Bank Holiday but the weather wasn't always the most inviting for boating! Nevertheless a collection of boats duly gathered in South Kyme on the Sleaford Navigation for the weekend of May 27th and 28th. Eight of the boats were based fairly locally but we were also joined by IWA Vice-Chairman John Baylis and his wife Chris who had brought their boat from Langley Mill, Derbyshire. A family from Market Harborough brought their tug Kano on the Slea for the occasion. We also had with us "Jubilee" the Inland Waterways Association narrowboat which has spent the Diamond Jubilee year cruising many of the canals and rivers to promote the work of the IWA.

South Kyme has always given visitors a very warm welcome but we were quite surprised to find that this time the villagers had organised a scarecrow competition to coincide with the Boat Gathering. I was invited to judge the competition so spent the Saturday afternoon touring the village to see remarkably lifelike figures chatting over the fence, lounging in deckchairs, climbing over gates, riding bikes, fishing and much, much more. Even assisted by Elliott Hayes, Ellie and Ed Sowerby, I soon realised that this was not an easy task. There were some geographical restrictions as prizes were awarded for areas in the village but after much consideration the final choices were made. The winners were a policeman holding a speed camera (so convincing that cars were slowing down!), two very nostalgic flowerpot men and a wicked scene entitled "Don't argue with the Head Gardener!" At first sight this was a nonchalant figure leaning on his spade but a second glance showed all that was visible of someone who presumably had not heeded the advice – a pair of upturned boots buried in the garden!

The barbecue for boaters and invited people from the village on Saturday night was a great success thanks to LWP for some wonderful Tastes of Lincolnshire burgers and sausages, expertly cooked on the barbecue loaned by the Sleaford Sports Partnership. In true Bank Holiday spirit we then had the opportunity of testing the new gazebos funded by an Awards for All grant when torrential rain began to fall! I am pleased and thankful to say they certainly passed the test.

On Sunday the visiting boaters swelled the congregation of the church for morning service before visiting the recently re-opened pub, now known as The Hume, for Sunday lunch.

Because of some problems at Halfpenny Hatch it had been decided that boats would not go up to Cobblers Lock as usual to turn so instead they had to pair up one towing the other so that the favour could be returned on the way back. This did make progress a little slow at times and I heard many times, “Now if we had a winding hole in South Kyme it would be a brilliant place to go for the weekend!”

Thanks to everyone who made the weekend such a success. We were promised an even bigger scarecrow competition next year so who can refuse an offer like that?



The IWA boat, “Jubilee”

Mel, Chris and Steve  
barbequing in the rain.

*Photos supplied by  
Norman Osborne*





Some more of the boats at  
South Kyme

The barbeque at  
South Kyme  
(before the rain).

*Photos supplied  
by Norman  
Osborne*





# Work Party News

## Mel Sowerby

The work party at Cogglesford Mill was held on one of the hottest day's so far this year and further progress was made on repairing the wing walls and tidying up the path and lock area. Future work parties will need to finish this brickwork and watch this space for possible work at South Kyme and Haverholme.

Mel.



Dave Carnell. Repairing the wing walls at Cogglesford.

*Photo supplied by Norman Osborne*

## Work Party - Bottom Lock

### Norman Osborne

The work party at Bottom Lock on May 14th was in preparation for the boat gathering at South Kyme.

The lock island was strimmed and tidied up with Pat Taylor weeding and tending the flower bed.

The SNT workboat was used to remove obstructions from the lower lock gates and the blanket weed which had drifted down to the top gate was flushed through the lock (quite a dramatic sight of white water in the lock).

The beams on the lower gates were painted and just as the work had been completed, the narrowboat "Laura" from Peak Forest appeared around the corner and was welcomed to Bottom Lock by the 10 work party members - I am not sure who was more surprised, the SNT members or the crew of Laura.

After carefully opening the gate (with wet paint) we saw Laura make her way up to South Kyme. The end of a very successful work party.



The lock being flushed of blanket weed

Laura, below  
Bottom Lock



Laura, exiting the lock.

*Photos supplied by Norman  
Osborne*



# Tidal waters!

Chris Hayes

The trouble with collecting a few boaters together is that someone always has a bright idea about an “interesting” cruise. Consequently it came as no surprise when suggestions began to be made about possible extensions of the boat gathering at South Kyme. Wouldn't it be a good idea to explore some of the waterways at the heart of the projected Fens Waterways Link?

The plan proposed was to go through Boston and out into The Wash on a falling tide, sit on a sandbank until the tide was right to go into the Welland and up to Spalding and from there on to the River Glen. This was no reckless undertaking, there would be a limited number of boats and it would be organised by a group of people with extensive experience of tidal waters.

Sadly, as can often be the case, just as the enthusiasm for the plan was building up and increased interest for taking part was being expressed, it was realised that the timing of the gathering and the appropriate tides did not coincide.

A modified plan was soon identified. This would be to go out at Grand Sluice at Boston, go through the Haven to the entrance to the South Forty Foot. The IWA narrowboat Jubilee is no stranger to campaign cruises to highlight restoration projects and new plans so what better way to draw attention to the Lincolnshire end of the Fens Waterways Link? Jubilee would be seen at the proposed entrance to the Forty Foot waiting to go through!

We had hoped that other boats would be able to accompany Jubilee but we were told that the “window of opportunity” to get through Grand Sluice was one minute and we would have to make do with just one boat passing through. The lock is not long enough to accommodate a 55ft narrowboat and so passage can only be made when the levels on both sides of the lock are equal and both sets of gates can be opened.

At 6.30pm on Monday, May 29th we duly sat at Grand Sluice and waited for the magical moment when the gates would open and we could move with purpose, remembering the minute window, into the Haven. The sight of the gates closing behind us as soon as we passed through was a reminder of how critical the timing was and of what increased opportunity will be afforded by the Boston barrage.

All places look different from the water and Boston is no exception. The views of

the Stump were spectacular and the many old stairways leading down from wharves to the water were a reminder of Boston's history as a port. We passed the tied up fishing boats receiving curious glances and friendly waves from people on the bank. Arriving at the entrance to the South Forty Foot we duly waved in turn for the photographer and then turned back towards Grand Sluice again.

The water level was still rising so we had to moor temporarily before we could get back to Grand Sluice to pass through once more. We had been prepared for this and it had been suggested that we should aim to be back at the lock by 10pm. The time passed quickly and with considerable hilarity. One slight hiccup was that a problem of communication had meant that we did not realise until too late that the full loo on Jubilee had not been pumped out before we took the boat over! On the return to Grand Sluice there were some pretty nifty and purposeful ascents of the vertical ladder to visit the excellent BW facilities there! We finally passed through Grand Sluice again at 11.30pm.

Let's hope that it won't be too long before we can make that journey through on to the Forty Foot.



"Jubilee" in Boston

*Photo supplied by  
Jacqueline Ducker*



More of Jubilee  
in Boston

*Photos supplied  
by Jacqueline  
Ducker*



## 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

## Non-Committee Contacts

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS
Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP) Liaison	Norman Osborne Contact number as above
Editor	David 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.

August 12th-13th Sat/Sun	Sleaford Water Weekend
August 13th Sun	SNT Work Party - Contact Mel Sowerby for details
August 20th Sat	SSP Family Fun Day - inc. Bouncy Castle &BBQ at Sleaford Rugby Club
September 2nd Sat	Historic Car/Motorcycle show at St. George's College, Sleaford
September 9th-10th Sat/Sun	Heritage Open Weekend at Cogglesford Mill 11:00am - 4:00pm
September 10th Sun	SNT Work Party - contact Mel Sowerby for details
October 8th Sun	SNT Work Party - contact Mel Sowerby for details
October 29th Sun	Cogglesford Halloween at Cogglesford Mill 11:00am - 4:00pm
November 4th Sun	SSP Bonfire and Firework display inc. refreshments at Sleaford Rugby Club
November 12th Sun	SNT Work Party - Contact Mel Sowerby for details
December 3rd Sun	Sleaford Christmas Market
December 10th Sun	SNT Work Party - Contact Mel Sowerby for details
December 10th Sun	Traditional Christmas at Cogglesford 11:00am - 4:00pm

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

**All SNT members are automatically SSP members, and 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 available from Norman on 01526 832256, or Barbara on 01529 303749

