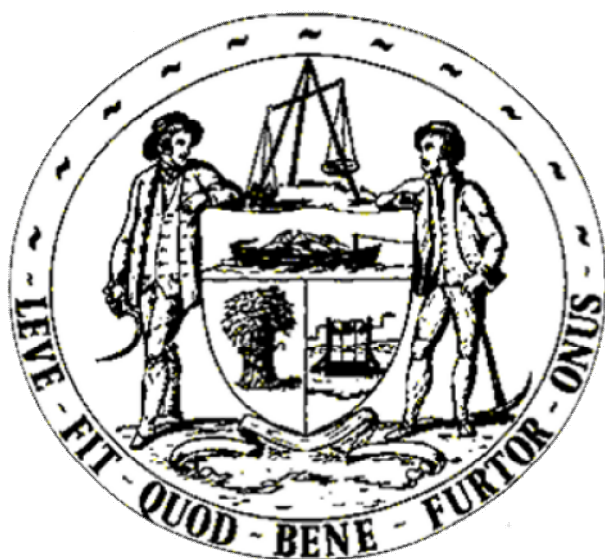


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



27

**Spring 2007**

# 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)

---

---

## Aims & Objectives

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.

---

---

## Submissions

Please send all submissions to either: *david.osborne1987@gmail.com* or *norman.osborne@farming.co.uk*.

---

---

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

Printed by “Westgate Print” of Sleaford 01529 415050

# Editorial

As seems to becoming a habit, I will start this editorial with an apology for the lateness of the newsletter. Due to lack of contributions the usual newsletter sent out in January was not produced this year, which means this newsletter covers many of the things that have happened since the last newsletter in November.

I would like to congratulate Martin Noble, the previous editor, and Chris on their marriage and wish them well for the future.

Congratulations also to Mary Powell of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership on her MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the tourist industry.

I should particularly like to draw your attention to the agenda for the AGM on page 5, and we hope for a good turn out.

Anyone who has an idea for an article for the next issue of the newsletter should feel free to contact me on my email address (see submissions).

Thanks to Martin Noble, who sent the following link on the Sleas and Kyme Eau:

[http://www.igreens.org.uk/kyme\\_eau.htm](http://www.igreens.org.uk/kyme_eau.htm)

*David Osborne*

# Chairman's Report for Spring 2007

Chris Hayes

Latest news on the new bridge in Sleaford is very positive. There was a meeting on April 2nd where the small print of the WREN contract was finally sorted out and work should therefore be able to start soon. Conditions of the grant are such that no work can be started until the contract has been issued so things have been on hold until then.

The planning application for the winding hole and slipway has been submitted and we hope for a decision soon. Dave Pullen has put in a lot of work here for which I would like to say thanks. Applying for planning permission is probably a breeze if you do it all the time but, as with all these things, there's a steep learning curve if you are new to the job!

There will be an informal boat gathering at South Kyme on the first Bank Holiday in May, the weekend of the 5th, 6th and 7th of May, when we hope the weather will be fine, the silt scarce and the weed non-existent! Well, we can hope! I'm sure it will be a great weekend whatever.

The Sleas has appeared in the press quite a lot recently. There have been articles on the proposed works in the Lincolnshire Echo, the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership newsletter, Navvies (WRG newsletter) and there will shortly be an article on the bridge in Waterways World.

Another appearance was most unexpected. Waterways World occasionally carries illustrations taken from old postcards of waterway locations which readers would like to identify. Three such views appeared in last month's copy. The first was of the top lock on the Horncastle Canal in a derelict state with a steam train appearing in the background. It was, at the time, very much a representation of the past and the present. The second one was of a lock in a rural location which had a slightly familiar look! It turned out to be Haverholme Lock! At first that seemed to be a bit too much of a coincidence but we asked Chris Daniels, the editor, if we could have a better copy of the photo and this gave us the chance to examine the lock in detail. It was extraordinary to be able to compare the stonework on the wing wall of the lock on the postcard with a modern photo. In spite of the intervening damage, the stones matched perfectly and it was even possible to superimpose one image on the other. Needless to say we emailed back details of both locations to the magazine.

# **SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Steve Hayes**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will be held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, David Williams Pavilion, Sleaford Rugby Club, Sleaford, on Tuesday 8th May, 2007, starting at 7.30 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes for the previous year.
3. To receive the Directors Report for the year ending 31st December 2006.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2006.
5. Election of Directors. Debbie Scott and Martin Noble are due to retire by rotation.
6. To re-appoint Page Kirk of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting there will be a talk by Mary Powell of Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership about "The achievements and future plans of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership".

---

---

## **Welcome to our new members!**

Welcome to our new members, Mr & Mrs Roy Quin, and Mr Ian Smart.

## Slea Good Food Guide

### Cogglesford Mill Cottage Restaurant

#### Norman Osborne

It was a cold windy January evening when our party of four went for a meal at this very quaint and homely restaurant, to be greeted by the owner, Mr. Colin Pont and his friendly staff.

We were welcomed into the small bar, and relieved of our coats, and then duly shown to our table. On this occasion we were in one of the cosy downstairs rooms, which sometimes have a roaring fire. On other occasions we have eaten in one of the beautifully quaint upstairs rooms.

The menu and wine list gave us an excellent variety of choices. The menu also contained historical notes about the building and informed us that local Lincolnshire suppliers were used, where possible.

We didn't all have starters, but the choices of Greek Feta Cheese Pie and Smoked Salmon with Ginger were made, and set the tone of the evening, with the dishes attractively presented.

Main courses chosen were salmon, duck, and steak, all cooked and presented beautifully, on huge plates.

An equally varied dessert menu followed, with choices of Fruit Terrine, Roulade, and Cheesecake being made. My particular choice of Blueberry Cheesecake (homemade of course) was the best cheesecake I have ever tasted. Coffee and tea followed.

In summing up, I would thoroughly recommend this venue. It is not perhaps the cheapest, but the quality of the food and the obvious pride in which it is presented and served make it well worth a visit. One cautionary note - this is not a hard hat area, but care needs to be taken when passing through the "cosy" doorways and stairs. In warmer weather there are also tables used in the gardens.

# Trailboat Rally

## Dave Carnell

Each year the Inland Waterways Association holds three campaign Festivals to highlight the benefits that can be enjoyed by walking, cycling, boating, fishing or studying nature along the many miles of our inland waterways. One of these national events takes place on the isolated 4.5 miles of navigable waterway in the Vale of Belvoir near Grantham , at Woolsthorpe-by- Belvoir on May Bank holiday, 26-28th.

Trailable boats, up to 30 feet long are coming from as far a field as Scotland and Devon. Trip boats will be operating on this newly re-opened length of waterway and there will be displays of Thatching, Ornamental metal work, Barge Art, trade stands, charity stands plus terrier racing, butterfly conservation and rescued birds of prey. demonstrations of fishing.

Children's lucky dip and bouncy castles plus entertainment by theatrical and musical groups. Catering of locally produced foods and ices by farmers and cooks and real ale at the adjacent Rutland Arms Public House.

Also attending is the SNT sales stand with information on developments within Lincolnshire's Waterways Partnership plus other charity and trade stands.

ALL THIS AND ENTRY IS FREE.

To find the festival from the A52 or A607 follow the signs for Belvoir Castle where a park and ride, in vintage busses, will convey you to the site.

Why not combine your outing with a visit to the Belvoir Castle itself which is open for a family day.

---

---

## Donation

A trailer has been donated to the Trust by our friends at Langley Mill. We would like to thank them.

# Sleaford Christmas Market

## Sue Sowerby

Having heard the weather forecast of gales, Mum and I arrived at Sleaford with a well loaded car and more than a little trepidation! We were pleased to be met by Norman who had already prepared the stand for us, what would we have done without his wonderful red striped back to the market stall and weights to hold it down?? The main point of conversation all day was the weather...at least it's not raining seemed to be the favourite!

As you can see from the photo, we had a Teddy Tombola (teddies kindly donated by Edward, no longer needed but still loved) which proved very popular and I'm sure they all went to good new homes.

We had a good if chilly day and enjoyed meeting and talking to lots of people. Unfortunately the Christmas puddings did not all sell this year.



Pat Taylor prepares for action at the  
Sleaford Christmas Market

*Photos supplied by Sue Sowerby*



# New Street Bridge

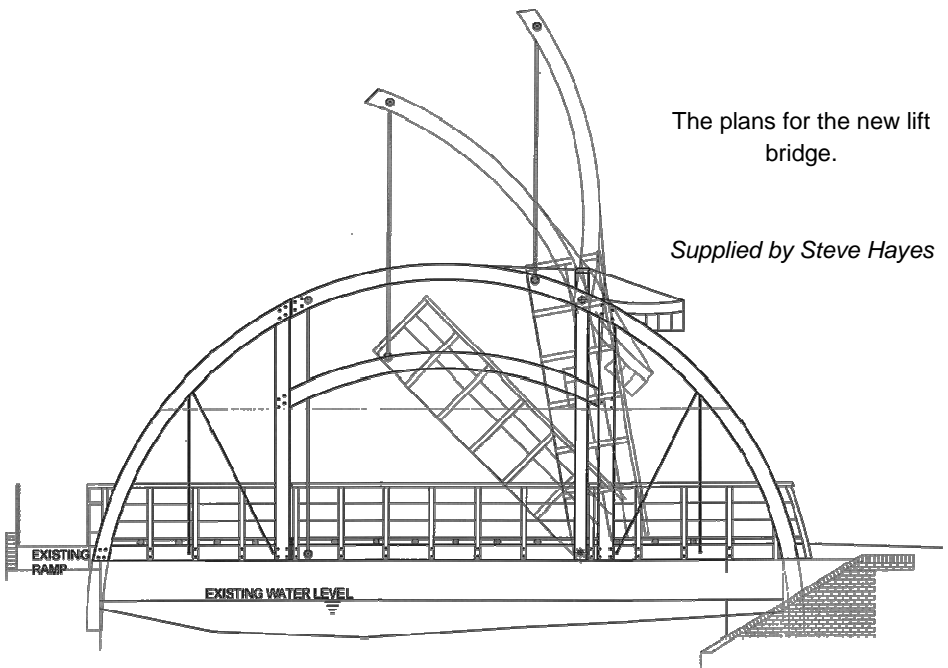
## Norman Osborne

Sleaford will benefit greatly from the replacement of the New Street footbridge with a new lift bridge. With the funding all now in place, and plans approved it will be a great improvement in the Summer for pedestrians and boaters alike.



The current narrow New Street Bridge

*Photos Supplied by Norman Osborne*



# Work Party Reports

## November Mel Sowerby

November work party at Haverholme took place on a sunny Sunday as you can see from the enclosed picture. It looks a lot better for a good tidy up and last year's tree branches had dried out enough for Dave Pullen to show his skills at lighting a bonfire. Rob was well into the strimming by the time I arrived and Steve was tree felling by the lock. Before lunch I had a walk past Haverholme road bridge to see the damage to the footbridge over the beck that runs in to the Slea. The remnants of the bridge you can still see in the river (see photograph), it looks like it had been set alight. By 2pm work was complete and the bonfire had done it's job well clearing this years rubbish.



Haverholme  
from above the  
Lock

*Photos supplied  
by Mel Sowerby*

Remains of the  
footbridge.

*Photos supplied  
by Mel Sowerby*



## December

### Norman Osborne

The December work party took place at two sites

In the morning the Eastgate site of the winding hole and slipway were given a preliminary survey to find the levels and arc area needed for the winding hole and slipway site.

The garage store at the Rugby Club was tidied in the afternoon to make room for the trailer, which has been donated to the Trust by our friends at Langley Mill.

The photo shows our engineer, David Pullen in waders, checking the levels and enjoying a refreshing December paddle, while Steve Hayes and Norman Osborne assisted from the bank. ("Well we can't all wear the waders, can we?" They were heard to sigh.)



Dave Pullen checking the river bed levels  
for winding hole.

*Photos supplied by Norman Osborne*

# Work Party Reports - January

## Norman Osborne

To start the New Year we had a beautiful sunny day at Bone Mill Lock. This is a site we have not previously worked on, and is adjacent to the A17 Sleaford By-pass. It was surprising how many people were walking the towpath.

We had taken environmental advice previously, to ensure that no wildlife habitats would be disturbed with our work at this time of the year.

David Pullen, Alan Farrow, Mel Sowerby, Steve Hayes and Norman Osborne took on the task of clearing some of the ivy and overhanging branches from the lock chamber walls and the area near the by-pass bridge. Unfortunately we didn't manage to clear all the undergrowth this time, but the very welcome mug of tea and cake supplied by Mrs. Baxter, who lives alongside the lock, certainly helped us maintain our stamina during a good day's work.



Bone Mill, before work started

*Photo supplied by David Pullen*





Work in progress  
at Bone Mill.  
Steve Hayes on  
the ladder.

David Pullen  
smiles in his  
waders.

*Photos supplied  
by Norman  
Osborne*



## February

### Norman Osborne

Another work party to complete removing ivy and exposing the brick work and coping stones on the west lock wall of Bone Mill Lock.



Work still in progress to remove vegetation at Bone Mill

*Photo supplied by Norman Osborne*

## March

### Norman Osborne

The March Work Party was the general maintenance, mow and paint pilgrimage to Bottom Lock. It was a beautiful day for Mel, Ernest, David Pullen, Rob Mitchell and Norman Osborne.



Mel greases paddle gear while Ernest and Rob prune overhanging branches

*Photo supplied by Norman Osborne*

## Easter Weekend at Bottom Lock

### Mel Sowerby

When we were at bottom lock by boat we did a bit of finishing off the work from the March work party. Just as Wigford and Florrie Kendal were coming through the lock to turn three boats from the Chesterfield canal arrived to go through up to Cobblers lock. It was good to see 5 boats at the lock and some walkers passing by had never seen a boat at the lock before. They had a very enjoyable trip up, turning at Cobblers proved a challenge due to silting of the river near the bywash but all boats managed to turn and enjoyed the pub at South Kyme on the way back.



A queue at Bottom Lock and an aerial view of Bottom Lock

*Photos supplied by Mel & Sue Sowerby*





# The Slea Journey: Part 1

## Norman Osborne

Many members (and indeed locals) don't know where the Slea rises and where that stretch of water goes when it disappears round the next bend. I decided to seek out the source(s) and follow it through to the Witham. Hopefully this will be serialised in the next few newsletters.

The journey starts 240 ft above sea level at Highfield Farm West Willoughby, where the springs from the Lincolnshire limestone feed into a small dyke, which then falls over 100ft to cross under the A153 Sleaford to Grantham road at West Willoughby and some of it is diverted to form a very pleasant garden pond on the roadside.



The small stream is augmented by numerous springs along the way as it passes through Sudbrook to become Ancaster Beck and then parallel to the A153 at Wilsford.



When I visited this site at the end of March there was a great flow of water heading to Sleaford Golfcourse. Unfortunately the bed was apparently damaged here in the 1960's and the water disappears. Although the watercourse can still be followed near Rauceby signalbox it is now mainly dry and it again crosses the A153 to Boiling Wells Farm.

Boiling Wells, as the name implies is a major source of water for the Slea, and it is an interesting walk from here into Sleaford. We pass from the tranquillity



of the countryside to cross the busy A15 Sleaford bypass into an area known as Sleaford Fen which merges into woodland and then allotments.



To the south of this area the Nine Foot River rises from the prolific springs, which have been tapped by Anglian Water at the Drove, and water is stored for the town and surrounding area in the water tower on the hilltop.

The Nine Foot River runs past the site of Sleaford castle and beside the United Reform Church under

Southgate to join the Slea before it reaches Carre Street.

After the allotments the Slea is crossed by two railway bridges, one being the now derelict Cranwell line, and into town under Castle Causeway and along Westbanks to the site of the old Fire Station and the Riverside Precinct, under Southgate and over a weir and under Carre Street and then the new bridge at the Hub, adjacent to Navigation House and head of the Navigation.



Top: Source of Nine Foot River in Sleaford Fen

Middle: Nine Foot River entering the grounds of Sleaford Castle

Bottom: Railway bridge passing over the Slea

*Photos supplied by Norman Osborne*

## Haverholme Footbridge Replaced

### Norman Osborne

Everyone will be pleased to know that the footbridge over the Ruskington/ Leasingham Beck confluence with the Slea, just below Haverholme has been replaced. The original wooden bridge had been destroyed by arson vandals, as reported in our last newsletter.



The new foot bridge.

*Photos supplied by Norman  
Osborne*



---

---

## Lost and now found

A Middlewich hire narrowboat reported missing on March 27th has been found, repainted, 152 miles away from where it started, on April 20th. For the full story see: <http://tinyurl.com/2vatlf>

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH
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 Tel: 01526 832256
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.

May 5th/6th	South Kyme Boat Gathering
May 8th 7:30pm	SNT AGM David Williams Pavilion Clubroom, Sleaford Rugby Club
May 26th - 28th	Grantham Canal Trailboat Rally
June 10th 10:00am	SNT Work Party Eastgate Car Park Sleaford
July 8th	SNT Work Party - TBA, contact Mel Sowerby
Aug 4th - 24th	WRG + SNT Work Party to construct winding hole and slipway at Eastgate (adjacent to the Hub) Sleaford

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

