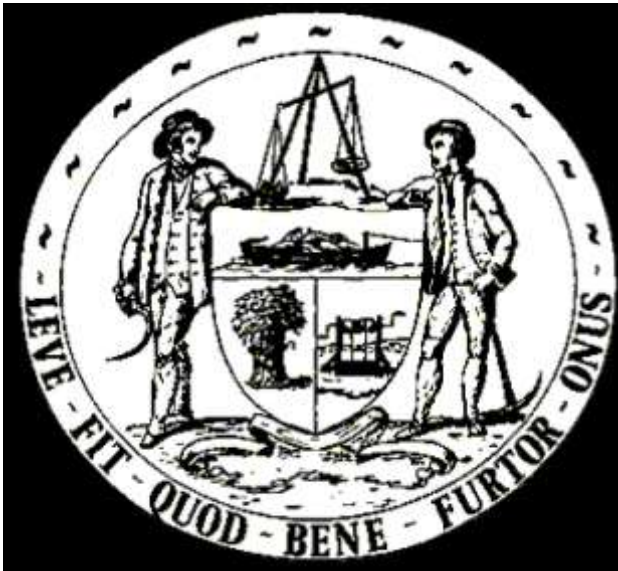


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



37

Autumn 2012

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

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.

Newsletters

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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

Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 37!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

We always welcome your contributions (words and photographs) to make the newsletter informative and interesting for our readers. The deadline for the next issue, Winter 2012, will be 1st December.

Debbie Scott

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Photograph opposite : What is going on here ? A Party? See Page 23

Don't forget SNT Work Parties go on throughout the year, usually on the second Sunday of the month. Contact Mel Sowerby (01522 856810 or sowerbys@ntlworld.com) for details of upcoming dates and activities.

Summer? What Summer? South Kyme 2012

If we needed a reminder that however much planning and organisation has gone into an outdoor event the one thing we cannot control the weather, then this year has given us ample evidence.



is

When we reflect on the

major events cancelled earlier on in the year, the news reports of seas of mud on festival sites and car parks and the terrible weather for the Thames Water Pageant, then perhaps, in retrospect, South Kyme Festival got off fairly lightly. I suppose the problem was that those visitors who were put off by the cold, grey weather on the Saturday didn't have the benefit of knowing that things would only get worse as the "Summer" progressed.

In the weeks leading up to the May Day weekend continuous rain led to flood and high river levels. Some boaters who had intended to come to the Boat Gathering in South Kyme were stopped when British Waterways activated flood gates and prevented their passage. One or two brave souls negotiated the Trent in flood and just got into Torksey before the Environment Agency closed the flood doors there. Finally, in the days immediately before the event, the EA contacted the Trust to advise that the Sleas was on flood alert and that they could not guarantee safe water levels for boating because their first priority was flood control.

Water draining into the Sleas would have to be released into the Witham to flow out at Grand Sluice in Boston whenever the opportunity occurred and this meant that water levels would fluctuate considerably. In the face of this, the decision was made, very reluctantly, that the Boat Gathering would have to be

cancelled. Some boats were already in South Kyme and others did travel there independently but the event that we had planned for so long could not happen.

The trophy to be given annually by the village to the best decorated boat was not awarded in these circumstances but a piece of canalware commissioned by the Trust to be kept by the 2012 winner was given to the crew of Classy Lady to



recognise the overall effort they had made.

Their journey from West Stockwith to Torksey had taken six hours instead of the customary three, they were the only boat to go to Cobblers Lock, with difficulty, to wind and they had made a scarecrow who sat at the tiller of their boat.

Stalls were still manned by volunteers from SNT, Chesterfield Canal Trust and the Grantham Canal, visitors climbed the Tower, enjoyed the medieval re-enactments, viewed the scarecrows and looked at memorabilia in

the church but the poor weather had its effect on numbers attending.

The Festival Committee had invested a great deal of time and effort into the planning of the event and we all felt so sorry that the turn out was not as expected. To add to that, medieval costumes hired for the weekend did not have the thermal properties of fleeces and waterproofs and several of the committee got very chilly over the weekend. At least there was no financial loss and instead the good causes did benefit from the relatively small profit made.

Would we do it all again? Will we do it next year? What do you think? Of course. Chris Hayes

Sleaford Walk 1 - To the West - The Background

The starting point for this walk is Money's Yard, Sleaford. [A] Once known as Gladstones Yard (the name still over the archway leading out into Southgate) this was where the Sleaford Navigation began.

The wharves here and around the main basin by Carre Street thus effectively marked the transition of the River Slea into the Sleaford Navigation in 1794. The massive seventy feet high Money's Mill was built within two years of the Navigation opening, and had three sets of millstones. It was restored by the Sleaford Civic Trust in 1986.

As you walk along Southgate note the "Nine Foot River" which is crossed before reaching the shopping precinct where we come alongside the Slea itself. The estate agents office cantilevered over the river occupies the site of a former watermill. There was another mill where the former fire station now stands bearing the dates stones of the original and present buildings, 1829 and 1900. Beyond Westgate as we head out of town we see something of Sleaford's railway history. [B] The footpath passes under a bridge carrying the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway line to Lincoln, opened in 1882. We leave the Slea at a disused railway bridge. The line was built by the Admiralty in 1917 to supply the Royal Naval Air Service airfield at Cranwell. Closed in the 1920's, it was briefly used again during WWII.

Leaving the Admiralty railway we join Drove Lane, an ancient route connecting Sleaford and North Rauceby. [C] Having arrived at North Rauceby we are able to see some exhibits from the NKDC Sculpture Project, which aimed to place works of art with a local cultural relevance within the countryside. By the entrance to Rauceby Hall is "The Sleeping Shepherd" with his dog and a lamb (note also the mint carved around the back!) by Simon Todd.

Another sculpture, this time by Anne Alldread, depicting local agriculture is in Church Lane. A third work themed on local history and wildlife (this time in metal by Richard Farrington) is seen in Southgate Spinney as we leave South Rauceby heading back towards Sleaford. Rauceby Hall itself dates from 1842/46 and the little school across the road is dated 1842.

Up the road from the Hall is the base of North Rauceby's ancient village cross, restored with a new shaft in 1861. St. Peter's Church nearby has a particularly fine example of a south Lincolnshire speciality, the broach spire.

To reach South Rauceby [D] we pass by Glebe Farm with sweeping views across the valley of The Beck as it flows down towards Boiling Wells to form the source of the river.

South Rauceby is an estate village, mostly built shortly after the Hall. The magnificent brick tower windmill dates from 1841, and the Bustard Inn is so named because the last bustard in Lincolnshire was shot nearby.

On the way back to Sleaford we pass Bully Wells Farm [E] where a short detour can be made to see the Boiling Wells site – though only at a distance, for the springs lie on private farmland. A public footpath however runs close by down to The Beck.

Following the River Slea we rejoin our outward route briefly to reach Westgate again. [F] Once a busy industrial area it had once been considered as a possible Head of Navigation but it was found that, for commercial purposes, a terminus in the town centre was sufficient, and in any case the promoters ran out of funds. There had been a corn mill here by the river since the Middle Ages, which by the early C18th had been converted into a hemp mill and a ropewalk established where Electric Station Road now stands. For many years the Slea was navigable upstream to Boiling Wells and flat bottomed boats were operated by local building firms to transport stone, both for building and lime burning at a kiln here. The electricity sub-station was built in 1901 as a generating station for the town. The area to the south was for centuries undrained fen. This was the start of "Nine Foot River", which also siphoned off some of the Slea's water, which supplied the castle moat before flowing through the town to rejoin the river again. The name Castle Causeway suggests that an artificial way was needed over the marshy ground.

Finally we pass the site of Sleaford Castle [G], built by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln in the early C12th to protect his local estates.

Sleaford Walk 1 - To the West - The Route

SLEAFORD TO NORTH AND SOUTH RAUCEBY.

START: Money's Yard car park, Sleaford (Grid Ref. 069457)

DISTANCE: 8¼ miles (13 kilometres)

MAPS: OS Landranger 130 (Grantham) Explorer 272

REFRESHMENTS: Various inns and cafés in Sleaford. The Bustard Inn, South Rauceby.

PICNICS: South Rauceby quarry.

TERRAIN: Urban and country footpaths, farm tracks, green lanes, meadows and one arable field. Short muddy sections.

NOTES : Variations to this route appear in a NKDC "Stepping Out" leaflet. Take special care when crossing the Sleaford by-pass.

ROUTE INSTRUCTIONS.

(1) Exit Money's Yard into Southgate. (Note the "Sleaford Navigation 1792" ornamental paving under the "Gladstone's Yard" archway.) Turn right, use the crossing and continue to the Riverside shopping precinct. Turn left here but keep close to the river. After passing the old fire station continue along West Banks.

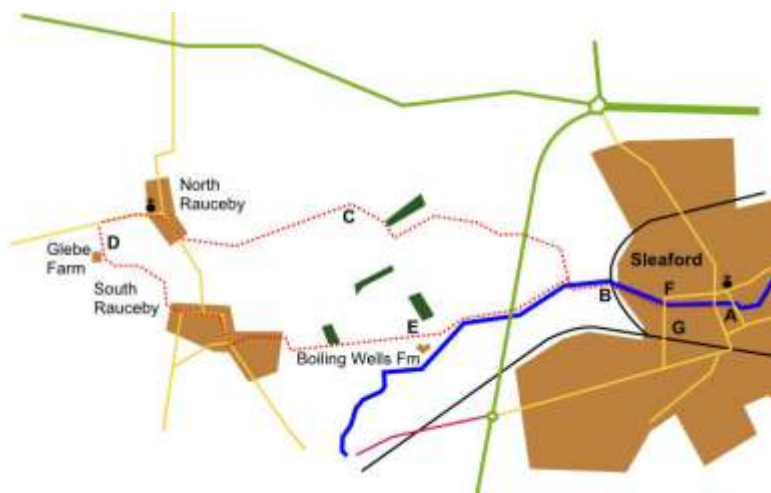
(2) At the end cross Westgate onto a footpath beside the River Slea. Go under a railway bridge, staying by the river to a second railway bridge and there turn right onto a surfaced track. At the next junction turn left along Drove Lane.

(3) Cross the by-pass into the lane opposite and in 250 yards take the track on the right and when it divides keep ahead through a group of trees. At the next track junction bear left beside a hedge. On reaching some electricity wires turn right onto another track going uphill past woods and on reaching a wide green lane turn left. This is another section of the ancient Drove Lane; follow it for a mile to the public road at North Rauceby and take a well-earned rest on the stone bench set into the wall corner.

(4) [Our walk goes right here but first turn left for 100 yards to The Park entrance opposite the school to see the "Shepherd" sculpture.]

(5) Return and walk towards North Rauceby church, going left at the village cross into Church Lane. Continue beyond St. Peter's, passing another sculpture and with views north to the RAF College at Cranwell, before taking the signposted lane on the left for Glebe Farm. At the end go through a field gate and turn left on a grass track to a second gate. (This section has extensive views across "The Beck" valley towards Wilsford.) From the second gate keep ahead for a 100 yards then veer right to pass round the garden wall of a large house, cross the access drive and then steer gradually leftwards to a sports pavilion in the bottom corner of the field. Another gate nearby leads onto Main Street, South Rauceby. Turn left to reach the inn.

(6) Continue downhill from the inn and when you reach Pinfold Lane turn left. As Pinfold Lane bends to the right look ahead for a footpath sign pointing right into Southgate Spinney. Take this path and on reaching a metal sculpture bear right to skirt an old quarry and emerge onto a broad field edge path that has views all the way back to Sleaford. Continue forward until alongside a poultry farm. [After the first sheds a waymarked right of way goes off to the right. From it you can glimpse the site of the Boiling Wells - on private land below the farm buildings - and you can down walk to The Beck in the valley bottom. Return.]



Sleaford Walk 1 continued

(7) Continue on the fenced path past the farm to a stile and then slant right over an arable field down to the River Lea. Follow this to the by-pass, re-cross it and continue by the river until you meet the outward route. Walk back to Westgate.

(8) Now turn right along Castle Causeway and after visiting the castle site take the footpath on the left immediately before the railway crossing. Back in Southgate bear left, re-cross to Gladstone's Yard archway and return to the start.

See the next newsletter for Sleaford Walk 2—to the east



July 12th saw the official launch of the Canal & River Trust, the new charity which has taken over the running of the waterways from British Waterways. Opinions may differ as to how effective this body will be but there is no doubt that it represents a very different approach to working with canal users and volunteers generally.

The management structure involves the Trustees who are responsible for determining policy and strategy while the Council includes a mix of nominated and elected individuals with the important role in helping to shape policy, raise and debate issues, provide guidance and perspective, and act as a sounding board for Trustees.

In addition there are 13 Waterway Partnerships representing different regions and these are made up of different waterway users. We are very pleased that our Honorary Engineer Dave Pullen has been chosen as a representative on the East Midland

Waterways Partnership and feel sure he will represent the interests of waterway users very effectively. Of course the Sleaford Navigation is not a waterway formerly under the control of British Waterways so in our case there is no transfer of management to the Canal & River Trust.

The following extracts from the website clarify the focus and message of the new charity.

Why is the Canal & River Trust needed?

Just a few steps away from our everyday lives, waterways give us a much-needed space where we can escape. Next to our canals and rivers we can relax and reconnect with ourselves, our environment and the people who matter to us. Our waterway network is a national treasure and the Canal & River Trust is here to ensure that it is protected forever.

Our mission is to inspire as many people as possible to connect with our canals and rivers and we will do this by:

- *Being passionate about what we do*
- *Encouraging those with an interest in our work to become part of it*
- *Reaching out to those who have yet to discover this national treasure*
- *Ensuring our financial security by attracting sustainable income*

Shaping our future

We believe that the true potential of our canals and rivers and their long-term survival will only be secured if we fully engage with our visitors, neighbours and business partners. By harnessing their goodwill, energy and expertise, we can widen the enjoyment of our waterways today while protecting them for future generations.

John Baylis BEM

The following extract is taken from the IWA Bulletin Mid-June 2012

“The Queen’s Birthday Honours, announced on 16th June, brought recognition for a host of waterways campaigners, including

John Baylis British Empire Medal

John Baylis has led campaigning work for IWA for over 30 years, and has been instrumental in all the major waterway development and restoration projects in the East Midlands since the early 1970s. He was the driving force behind the restoration of Frankton Locks on the Montgomery Canal - negotiating, leading work parties, devising engineering solutions, inspiring volunteer support and making sure the funds were there; and he was part of the team that restored the upper end of the Erewash Canal and has continued with the maintenance of the Great Northern Basin at Langley Mill ever since. He led IWA’s Navigation Committee for over 10 years, was a deputy chairman of IWA, chairman of IWA’s East Midlands Region and a director of Waterway Recovery Group for 30 years (many of those years as its deputy chairman). He was awarded the Association’s most prestigious award, The Cyril Styring Trophy, at the 2011 AGM.”



Sincere congratulations to John from all his friends in Sleaford Navigation Trust. Steve Hayes, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, did ask Christine Baylis how we should now address John. Sir Baylis? Your Honour? She said, “Ay up John,” would do.

Have you ever been to

Navigation House, Navigation Wharf, Sleaford NG34 7TW?

It seems to be that most people who visit Navigation House are exploring Sleaford while visiting the area either on holiday or staying with friends and those visitors who do live nearby only visit if they are showing friends around!

Perhaps this is true of most visitor attractions but it does seem a shame that people don't visit what is on their doorstep.

The rescue of Navigation House from demolition was a key motivator for the original Sleaford Navigation Society back in 1977.



Navigation House, Sleaford

Photos: Debbie Scott

On display in the house is a letter from Charles Hadfield, well known waterways expert and writer of many authoritative canal books, addressed to Bill Hunt, expressing hope that the House and the portal would be able to remain on site. He does admit that keeping the warehouse ‘although forty years older’ might be difficult to justify as other examples did exist, whereas the House is ‘the only one of its kind in Britain’, most other offices being linked to more major canal companies

Fast forward to the 21st century and after major effort and investment, not only can we see the House restored as a visitor centre, the warehouse rebuilt and in use as Sleaford College, the portal (albeit in a different position) visible to all passing along Carre Street, but the younger Hubbard and Phillips seed warehouse is now the National Centre for Craft and Design, the old stables are in use as offices and a new block of flats has been built on land previously occupied by builders and other businesses.



Crest above the front door

Navigation House was the company office of the Company of the Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation, built in 1938 when the company was at the height of its prosperity. Unfortunately the good times were soon to be running out with the arrival of the railway line in Sleaford in the 1850s, in particular the Sleaford to Boston line which was in direct competition with the Navigation. In common with the rest of the country the Lincolnshire waterways would not be able to compete with the speed of the delivery by rail and by 1878 the Slea was ending its life as a commercial waterway.

The House survived as a private dwelling, occupied by the family running one of the businesses in the Yard, until the 1960s.

In 2004 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Lincolnshire Enterprise, North Kesteven District Council, East Midlands Development Agency and Government Office East Midlands enabled Navigation House to be made safe and restored as an interpretative centre for the Navigation, managed by North Kesteven District Council. Inside there are interactive games for young people of all ages, panels explaining the town's history and connections with the Navigation and lots of local information.

One room houses a collection of old photographs of Sleaford and another is based on the Clerk's office with the weighing machine, desk and ledgers set out as they may have been in the 1840s. There is also a good selection of souvenirs, gifts and books for sale, including a number of SNT items.



The House is open to the public everyday throughout the summer and at weekends during the winter. There is no admission charge, so please call in and have a look. For more details call the House on 07966 400634 or NKDC Tourism Unit on 01529 308102.

Opening Times - April to October: Monday to Friday 12 pm to 4 pm, Weekends and Bank Holidays 11 am to 4.30 pm; November to March: Weekends only 12 pm to 4 pm

See our new website www.navigationhousesleaford.co.uk

JUST FOR FUN Hidden Birds Names

1. I'm a magician
 2. Wrote Gullivers Travels
 3. Gulp
 4. Are my wings real?
 5. Widest wingspan
 6. Envious legs
 7. My capital is Ankara
 8. Abuse the cat
 9. 24 to bake 1
 10. Also names thickknee.
 11. Pastime
 12. Try to seize a pearl
 13. Waltz to my melody
 14. Also known as landrail
 15. LNTC see these letters and I'm there
 16. The solan goose
 17. All deer now go
 18. Precious metal on top of hill.
 19. A4 record breaker
 20. First bird in the bible
- Cryptic quiz compiled by Penny Carnell—see answers on page 23

....Continued from page11 Canal and River Trust

Our trustees believe we can unlock our waterways' potential using the following six strategies:

- *Ensuring our canals and rivers are open, accessible and safe*
- *Inspiring more people to enjoy the canals and rivers and support our work*
- *Earning financial security for our canals and rivers*
- *Doing everything we can to deliver on our charitable objectives*
- *Minimising the impact we make on scarce resources*
- *Establishing the Trust as a respected and trusted guardian of our canals and rivers*

Continued on Page 23.....

Chesterfield Canal Trust Festival at Staveley Town Basin

Chesterfield Canal Trust visited the opening of the new Head of Navigation in Sleaford with their exhibition trailer and John Lower's boat Schandelle was one of the first to go down the new slipway. Over the years we have supported one another by attending events with our respective promotional stalls whether the ground underfoot was soggy or dry! So when the Chesterfield Canal Trust held their Canal Festival at the new Staveley Town Basin on the weekend of June 30th and July 1st Sleaford Navigation Trust were happy to celebrate with them by taking the gazebo and stall.



Three types of transport

Photo: John Lower

Although the basin is not connected to the system as yet, it provided an opportunity for boat trips, canoeing and zorbing, a curious activity where participants look at bit like hamsters in aquatic plastic balls.(I resisted that one.) John again achieved a first by having his narrowboat Madeley Wood craned in to the basin and very well it looked there together with trailboats and the new trip boat, Hugh Henshall.

In comparison with other events this year the festival enjoyed good weather although plans had to be changed to group stalls near the roadway when the ground proved rather too soft for the field to be used as intended.

Congratulations to the Chesterfield Canal Trust on their achievement and thanks for the usual warm welcome.



Dr Geraint Coles, Peter Storey, Cllr George Wharmby, the Duke of Devonshire and Robin Stonebridge

Photo: John Lower

New Members

Welcome to new members who have joined recently, Ken & Mary Cumming and Terry Berridge

If you are thinking of joining please do get in touch or pick up a membership application form from events or Navigation House in Sleaford. If you are already a member and would like to upgrade to paying by Standing Order please contact Jenny Osborne on 01526 832256. The saving in postage for reminders and trips to the bank will be much appreciated by the Trust and helpers!

Elsewhere in Lincolnshire – Extracts from the Lincolnshire IWA Chairman’s Report for Aegre August 2012

Good news on the Grantham Canal, with the weather improving slightly the ground has dried sufficiently for the crane to install the top gates on lock 18 (Top Lock) The trip boats will now be able to use the lock flight and be moored in a safer position near the Rutland Arms Public house.

More details of the bank protection works at Hubberts Bridge on the Fenland Link are known and indicate the works will be ongoing until April 2013. However the site at Hubberts Bridge where the stone is transferred to barges. should be clear by the end of August 2012, allowing the EA design team to progress with the slipway and extension to the moorings.

Concerns about leisure craft obstructing large commercial shipping at the Port Of Boston have raised the issue of VHF Radio. Port of Boston are the navigation authority up to Grand Sluice and their by-laws require vessels to be contactable on VHF channel 12.



Photo: D Carnell

Until the situation is clarified for craft making the passage between Grand Sluice and Black Sluice, C&RT and the EA are to provide telephone numbers for boaters to check with the POB Harbour Master on shipping movements. In addition to this it should be remembered that the Boston Fishing fleet use this part of the navigation.

Charities were invited to apply for EA monies in Catchment Restoration Funds. The deadlines for applications were tight, the technical information from EA sources prolonged and many hours of work put in by volunteers. The applications indicated £54 million has been applied for which is in excess of monies available and the majority of the applications will fail.

Much is being made of the EU Water Framework Directive improving water quality to a good ecological standard by 2015. Reports from water bodies indicate this is not achievable until 2027. Other EU Directives could eventually over rule the work on the WFD and place more demand on Capital Budgets.

Due to high river levels the dredging programme for Brayford Pool, Lincoln did not take place.

To commemorate the Port of Immingham Centenary a public open day was held amongst the many family activities were trips on Humber Pilot vessels, tours of HMS Tyne, displays by fire fighting tugs, planned races by Dragon Boats was cancelled due to the very choppy water conditions caused by the wind. In the past Immingham catered for transhipment of cargoes to barge traffic. Sadly today this no longer exists but to reflect this trade two Humber Keels, Phylis and Spider T were present. Both now in private ownership and resplendent with their flags and pennants, their histories can be found on www.sloopphylis.com and www.spidert.co.uk



Dave Carnell

Bottom Lock News



Taylor's Lock

Photo: Dave Carnell

Bottom Lock has been re-named Taylor's Lock, in honour of Pat Taylor who for many years has represented the Trust at many events publicising and raising funds. It also is the site of memorial plaque to her late husband, Derek, who was an early member of the Sleaford Navigation Society.



Pat Taylor celebrating with friends



Photos: Sue Sowerby

Answers to Penny's Cryptic Quiz on page 16

1. Merlin 2. Swift 3. Swallow 4. Waxwing 5. Green Shank 6 Albatross 7. Turkey 8. Kittiwake 9. Blackbird 10 Stone Curlew 11. Hobby 12. Oyster Catcher 13. Cuckoo 14. Corncrake 15. Lapwing 16. Gannet 17. Long eared owl 18. Goldcrest. 19. Mallard 20. Raven.

Other Slea News

Bizarrely for a period of drought, reports have been received of a boat being unable to pass through Kyme Bridge due to high water levels. The boat managed to wind at the Golf Course pool which is normally too shallow. Beyond the present head of navigation lies Haverholme Lock, a popular area for walkers but in need of extensive works to the chamber and by-wash. An initial survey by Roy Sutton, IWA's Hon Engineer and technical information from the EA now means we can move forward to establish the heights of a new weir and stop planks at the head of the lock to allow further examination and eventual rebuilding to commence.

.....Continued from page 16 Canal And River Trust

Editor's note: having been slightly dubious of how the C&RT volunteer scheme might work, I must say we were delighted to meet up with C&RT Volunteer, Richard, who joined us through the first few locks coming down Hatton on the Grand Union back in July. His elbow grease was a great help and we were sorry when his lunchtime beckoned and he left us to work his way back up to the top with another boat!

Committee Contacts

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Director	John Line Tel: 07967 362141
Director / Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 01529 305755 / 07973 330765
Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director / Sales	Pat Taylor Tel: 01522 790652
Director / LincsIWA Nominee	David Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810

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Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP) Liaison	Norman Osborne Contact number as above

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

