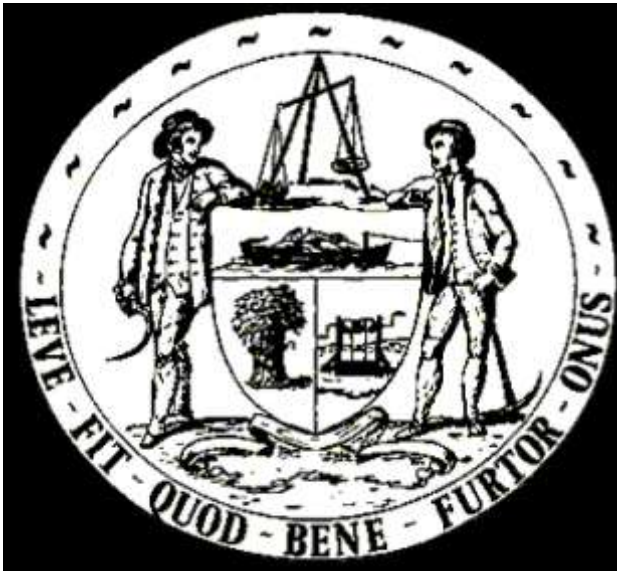


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



39

**Spring 2013**

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## 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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## Newsletters

To request an email version contact:

*[sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com](mailto:sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com)*

## Articles

*[debbie\\_scott@bopenworld.com](mailto:debbie_scott@bopenworld.com)*

9 Forum Way,  
Sleaford NG34 7FF

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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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Our thanks to Westgate Print of Sleaford for their help with printing

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## Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 39!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. You'll see there has been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes over the last few months.

Contributions are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue, Autumn 2013, will be 1st September

Don't forget that to request access to the members' section of the web site where it is possible to download current and past editions of the Trust Newsletter please contact:

sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com

Debbie Scott

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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

## DIVING TO ADVENTURE?

An early-spring work party at Taylors Lock revealed a problem resulting from the high volume of water that has been present over the winter months. The guillotine gate at the lock had originally been installed so that it could be used in connection with flood control if necessary and this year the bottom gates had indeed been secured open to allow excess water to pass through the lock. Inevitably the water brought with it a certain amount of silt and it was initially thought that this was the reason why the bottom gates were failing to close properly. Obviously the lock would not operate until the obstruction was moved.



Photo: Steve Hayes – retrieving the log

Initial attempts from a small boat using poles and rakes failed to make any difference, one gate would not close. It was then suggested help was sought and Steve Hayes approached the underwater search capability team for Lincolnshire Police to ask if they would appreciate a training opportunity in the lock! He was delighted to find that they were happy to help and would check out the lock as part of a training exercise. Their work is generally for missing persons, stolen vehicles and items discarded by suspected criminals from crime scenes but they also search areas to declare them clear for

Royal visits. The team had worked on ensuring the security of sites for the 2012 Olympic events. There are 9 unit members who all work part time on the unit and perform other Police duties as their main role. There are 3 dive supervisors and before diving they needed authority from a dive contractor within Lincolnshire Police.



Photo: Steve Hayes— that log will not get away again!

Thankfully that authority was given and Steve and Dave Pullen met the team to travel down the lock. The large, clearly marked, police vehicle excited no small amount of interest and speculation in North Kyme so some residents were assured that no major crime investigation was afoot.

The divers appreciated the explanation of the construction of the lock and the paddle operation before diving and completing a practice finger-tip search.

They quickly identified the cause of the obstruction, a hefty chunk of water-logged tree trunk which had lodged on the bottom cill. This was removed and the gates worked perfectly!

The training exercise continued and both observers were full of praise for the skill shown in the painstaking, systematic search technique completed in the complete darkness of the muddy water.

Many thanks are due to Andy Wells and his team for their cheerful and professional assistance.

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### **BOAT GATHERING SOUTH KYME MAY 2013**

Boats will be back in South Kyme for the Sleaford Navigation Trust annual boat gathering on the May Bank Holiday weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. I suppose I should clarify that. Boats will be there providing there is not

- a drought
- a flood
- plague, pestilence, downpour of frogs, etc.

We were so sorry that last year's flood prevention measures by the Environment Agency led to them advising us to cancel the boat gathering. Levels did fluctuate over the weekend as they had warned as one boater who had arrived early for the Festival found to their cost. Passing under Halfpenny Toll caused no problem when he went up to Cobblers Lock to turn but on his return the water level had gone up and he made contact with the underside of the bridge. Fingers crossed all will be well this year.

There are plans for a Table-top Sale in the Village Hall on the Saturday and the village will host the ever-popular Scarecrow Competition over the weekend. In addition visitors are invited to the



Photo from the archives– Sleaford Navigation Boaters Team 1994

Church “Boat” Service which will be at 11.00am on Sunday 5th.

As you know we’ve been looking back through the Trust archives recently to make old copies of our newsletter available to members through the website [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk) and this has inevitably produced photos and memories of past events. During the 200yr celebration of the opening of the navigation held in 1994, a 70ft working boat complete with crew in traditional costume, delivered a cargo at the old wharf in the village. An old photo of a football match of boaters versus villagers at the same event may cause some Trust members to lament their advancing years and waistlines! How many can you identify? (No prizes!)

South Kyme has always been a special place as far as the Trust is concerned and we’ll look forward to seeing old friends, and perhaps some new ones, later this year. Come and join us if you can, by boat or car. If by boat, please contact Steve for further details, [sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com](mailto:sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com)

## NORTHERN CANALS ASSOCIATION MEETING IN LINCOLN

The Northern Canals Association is an informal meeting forum for canal restoration societies and trusts located north of Birmingham where they can exchange ideas, share good practice and interact with a variety of relevant speakers. The group meets three times a year and attempts to address current issues of waterway restoration and management.

This year the early-Spring meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> was hosted by SNT and held at the new Heritage Skills Centre in Lincoln Castle grounds, see <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting/historic-buildings/lincoln-castle/heritage-skills-centre>

The day followed a different format from usual in that the afternoon was given over to a presentation by expert David Sleight on the use of lime mortar. This proved to be very informative and the explanation of the inherent properties of heritage structures and the detrimental effect of indiscriminate use of modern building materials in restoration was extremely useful.

The morning session included a presentation by Caroline Killeavy, Head of Community Engagement, Canal & River Trust, on “Fostering & maintaining community engagement”. Caroline was instrumental in the establishment of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership and is an old friend of the Sleaford Navigation Trust committee. It was interesting to hear how the new charity is addressing the issue of involving new people in the waterways movement and how the endorsement of such high profile companies as Marks & Spencer, through their involvement in corporate volunteering, is enhancing the CRT profile.

This was followed by somewhat of an emergency discussion led by Geraint Coles on the potential effects on canal restoration of the recently announced extension of the HS2 route. Particularly



affected is the Chesterfield Canal Trust where the proposed route destroys the line of the canal and cuts through the recently opened Staveley Basin but others too were finding themselves forced to address new potential barriers to restoration. It may well be that the HS2 extension does not materialise but the possibility of its existence can have a devastating effect on potential funders of the waterway projects. The Northern Canals meeting provided an opportunity for delegates to agree a common approach of opposition, not to the HS2 itself but to the current designated route.

The Heritage Skills Centre is a stunning building with wonderful facilities and was much appreciated by those attending the meeting. Claire Butler, the Centre Manager gave us a very warm welcome and the SNT catering team of Penny Carnell, Pat Taylor and Sue Sowerby did us proud with an excellent lunch including Lincolnshire Plum Bread!

Chris Hayes  
Chairman, Northern Canals Association



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2013**

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4th to 6th May    | South Kyme Boat Gathering   |
| 15th May          | SNT AGM                     |
| 25th to 27th May  | Langley Mill Boat Gathering |
| 27th to 28th July | Heckington Show             |

# **FORTHCOMING EVENT**

## **Transport and Trade on the Trent**

### **1850–1970**

**A University of Nottingham Day School arranged in association with the Friends of Newark Heritage Barge and the Railway & Canal Historical Society      Saturday, 18 May 2013**

The event will be held at the Newark Academy, Lilley & Stone Site, London Road, Newark NG24 1TT. There is ample parking at the school and the meeting is being held in an accessible ground-floor hall. The buffet lunch will include vegetarian options.

The day will start with tea and coffee on arrival from 10.30, but the hall will be available for participants to set up displays from 9.30. We are very keen that as many organisations as possible who are attending the event bring material to display (including publications to sell).

There is no charge for the day school but we would like those planning to attend to let us know in advance, so that we can provide adequate catering without waste, and make sure that there are enough tables for displays.

To enrol, please email or write, advising (in the case of societies) how many people will be coming, whether you would like a table for a display, and whether you would like to speak about work you (or your group) have done (or are doing) on the history of the river, to:

*Philip Riden*

Department of History, University of Nottingham, University Park,  
Nottingham NG7 2RD email: philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk

Telephone enquiries: 0115 951 5685, or 01246 554026 (evenings)

## MODEL BOATS ON THE SLEA!

SNT was recently approached by a representative of a group of model motor boat enthusiasts to ask about the possibility of using the area near the slipway in Sleaford to sail their craft. Steve and Chris Hayes met with them to look at the area and hear what they wanted to do. It would appear that some of these boats are quite sizeable and there is a real problem in trying to launch them by leaning over the water from the side. Involuntary submersion of the operator can be the result! In some cases though submersion is exactly what is required as the hi-tech models built by the enthusiasts include submarines!

Following discussion in committee and reassurances that there were no pollution issues involved, SNT agreed in principle to the use of the slipway to launch model boats but advised the group to inform Sleaford Town Council of their intentions.

We look forward to seeing more boats, albeit small ones, using the top pound!





# THE COTSWOLD CANALS TOWPATH GUIDE

THE STROUDWATER NAVIGATION

Michael Handford



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### **The Cotswold Canals Towpath Guide The Stroudwater Navigation by SNT member Mike Handford**

The Stroudwater Navigation was a canal linking Stroud to the Severn Estuary near Gloucester. At Wallbridge near Stroud it connected to the Thames and Severn Canal to form a link between the River Thames and River Severn. It passed through a total of thirteen locks and was eight miles in length. The canal was opened in 1777 and operated until it was formally abandoned in 1954.

In 2001 the Cotswold Canals Partnership was formed to restore the Stroudwater Navigation from Stonehouse to Stroud.

Mike Handford's history of the Stroudwater was first published in the 1970s; this completely revised new edition has been published to reflect the restoration work that has taken place since then. Complete with 100 black and white illustrations many of which are published for the first time this book will bring the restoration story up to date.



#### **New Members**

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!

## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO...COGGLESFORD WATERMILL?

This historic watermill is thought to be the only sheriff's' watermill still in operation in the country.

The word sheriff evolved from the words 'shire' and 'reeve'. The Reeve was an agent or official of the Lord of the Manor (or Shire) who collected the payment from local people who were obliged to have their grain ground at Cogglesford (for a fee!)

Cogglesford Watermill, is situated in a picturesque setting on the River Slea, right on the edge of Sleaford.

It helps to form a heritage "triangle" of attractions – the National Centre for Craft and Design and Navigation House, a restored canal office, are both within the same half-mile stretch of the river.

Like Navigation House, it is owned and managed by North Kesteven District Council.

Although the present watermill was probably built around 1750, with the top floor added in the 1840s, millers have produced flour on this site since c 700AD.

The watermill is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the "Coggle Ford", after which the watermill was named, is a few yards further east, where Mareham Lane, a prehistoric trackway and Roman road, crossed the River Slea.

By 1885, the current watermill had ceased full working and eventually fell into a serious state of neglect. It was rescued from collapse in 1991 by North Kesteven District Council.

The Grade II-listed three-storey watermill has an internal wooden waterwheel and two sets of millstones which visitors can watch in operation on milling and event days.

Organic wholemeal flour is produced just as it would have been 200 years ago, and when milling is not taking place, video footage of the process can still be seen.

Cogglesford Watermill is a member of "Tastes of Lincolnshire" – a Lincolnshire County Council and European Union funded project encouraging people to choose local food and drink – and its organic wholemeal stoneground flour is sold in the watermill shop,

which also features items from local suppliers and producers including honey, jams, chutneys, Lincolnshire lavender, wildflower seeds, gifts and souvenirs.

The mill is in a picturesque position by the side of the river, with a millpond and ducks. It's a pleasant walk from the town centre through Lollycocks Field nature area and the Nettles.

Visitors can discover the fascinating characters and events that shaped the watermill's history, from its Anglo Saxon origins to present day.

The Mill features a programme of special events with children very much in mind and include milling days on the second Sunday of each month from March to December

Some of the events are organised to coincide with larger events in



the town as part of a wider regional or national initiative, such as National Mills Weekend

One of the things that fascinates people is the graffiti in the watermill – some of it dates back to 1663. It was a tradition for millers to carve their names into the old wooden beams and the door frames. Not all of

Miller Michael Darling testing the grain

Photo: Debbie Scott

them are dated but in some cases we have the names of the millers and the dates of the carvings.

When the grain is lifted onto the top floor, it goes through trapdoors – they are the original trapdoors and leather hinges and are over 160 years old. Quite a lot of the original features remain, and others have been sympathetically restored. A traditional millwright comes in each year to maintain the millstones and the milling gear and about six years ago, a major refurbishment took place at the

watermill.

A new timber floor had to be laid on the ground floor; the replacement timber was reclaimed from an old cotton mill outside Leeds.

Cogglesford Watermill, East Road, Sleaford, is open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> October, Monday to Friday, noon to 4pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am to 4.30pm.

From November to March, the watermill opens Saturdays and Sundays only, noon to 4pm.

Admission is free – but for health and safety reasons, children 14 years and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Refreshments are available at the adjacent Cogglesford Mill Cottage Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Call: 01529 309409, National Centre for Craft & Design in Navigation Wharf, 01529 308710 or other venues in Sleaford.

For details of events and working days, see

[www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk](http://www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk) or [Discovernk@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Discovernk@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

01529 308207 or contact the Watermill during opening times

01529 413671

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## THE SIR JOSEPH BANKS CONNECTION

We are fortunate to welcome Pearl Wheatley from the Sir Joseph Banks Society as the Speaker at our AGM this year.

Joseph Banks is a fascinating figure and no brief description can hope to do him justice. In 1768, he joined an expedition, led by Captain James Cook, to explore the uncharted lands of the South Pacific. The expedition circumnavigated the globe and visited South America, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia and Java. Banks collected an enormous number of specimens on the way and, on his return, his scientific account of the voyage and its discoveries sparked considerable interest across Europe.

Banks was interested in plants that could be used for practical purposes and be introduced to other countries for possible



commercial use. After he became president of the Royal Society in 1778, he promoted the careers of many scientists and in his capacity as director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, sent many botanists abroad to find new plants.

It was from a position of considerable influence that Banks was able to assist the passage of the Act of Enablement for the Sleaford Navigation through Parliament in 1792.

In spite of spending a great deal of time at his London house in Soho Square, Banks retained his interest and involvement in Lincolnshire and saw the inauguration of the Sleaford Navigation and the neighbouring Horncastle Canal as instrumental to the economic future of the area. As well as promoting both ventures, he was sufficiently involved to find time to choose their mottoes and design their respective crests. The crest designed by Banks is still used today by Sleaford Navigation Trust.



Sadly he seems to be better known in Australia than in Lincolnshire. There he is commemorated in Botany Bay, in the Banksia tree, in a suburb of Sydney by the same name and in Bankstown and Revesby.

I'm sure we shall find out lots more about him at the AGM in May.

Joseph Banks 1773, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds

# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will be held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, Sleaford, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
5. To appoint Staniforth & Co of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
6. Election of Directors. Christine Hayes, David Pullen and John Line are due to retire by rotation.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting there will be a talk by Pearl Wheatley, Lincolnshire Historian and Officer of the Sir Joseph Banks Society.

# **SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST**

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, Sleaford, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

## **Apologies:**

Mrs D Scott, Mr & Mrs Norton.

## **Minutes of the last AGM:**

The minutes were proposed as a true record, proposed by Mrs P Taylor, seconded by Mr D Carnell.

## **Directors' Report:**

It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Mrs Hayes summarised the report, noted as being the fifteenth annual report, and outlined current progress.

The report was proposed by Mr P Jowett, seconded by Mr M Philip.

Thanks were extended to all committee members and members for the work that they carried out on behalf of the Trust.

## **Accounts and Auditors' Report:**

The accounts and report were presented to the meeting. The accounts were proposed by Mrs S Sowerby, seconded by Mr P Jowett.

The auditors, Page Kirk of Nottingham, proposed by Mr D Pullen, seconded by Mr P Jowett, were re-elected unanimously.

## **Election of Directors:**

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mrs S Sowerby and Mr S Hayes. Proposed by Mr D Pullen, seconded by Mr N Osborne. The directors were elected unanimously.

## **Any Other Business:**

Mrs C Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2012.

## Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460
Secretary	Steve Hayes– Contact as above
Treasurer	Penny Carnell Conifer Cottage, Northend, Goxhill, South Humberside, DN19 7JX Tel: 01469 530138
Engineer	David Pullen Brinkburn House, Church Street, Scothern, Lincoln LN2 2UA Tel: 01673 862278
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

## 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

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

