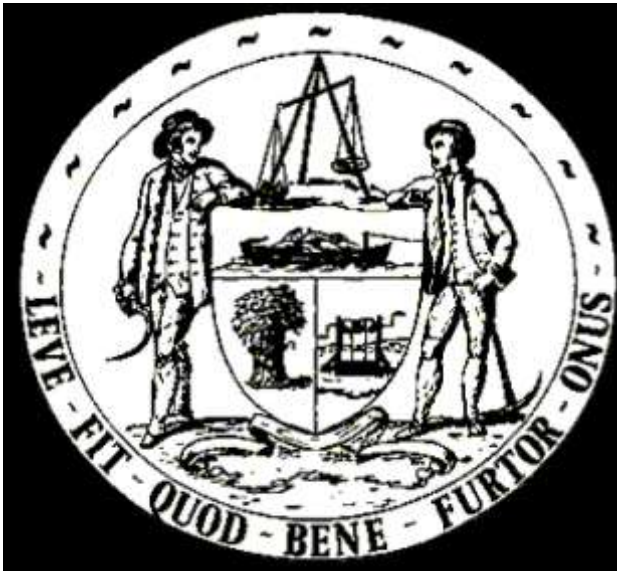


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



45

Spring 2015

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 Island House, Moor Road, Chesham. HP5 1WA.

... 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

To request an email version contact:

sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com

Articles

debbie_scott@bopenworld.com

9 Forum Way,

Sleaford NG34 7FF

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

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

Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 45

The clocks have changed and it's time to get those summer cruises planned.

Read on for information about this year's Boat Gathering at South Kyme. As we go to press, we hear that a new signpost has been installed at Chapel Hill, directing people to South Kyme, thanks to Dave Carnell and Dave Collin - photo next time.

As well as our own AGM on 12th May, SNT will be represented at Sleaford Town Council's Annual Meeting on 13th May and will be at Heckington Show at the end of July. See you there!

The deadline for the next issue, Summer 2015, will be 1st September, with all contributions being as usual most welcome.

Please contact sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com to access the members' section of the web site where it is possible to download current and past editions of the Trust Newsletter

Debbie Scott, Editor

Contents	Page
AGM Papers	4
South Kyme Boat Gathering, Winding Hole in S Kyme	9
Work Party News	10
Money News - grants, raffles and donations	13
A new Funding Stream, Water Access Point at S Kyme	14
Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study	15
Kestevens LEADER Group, SNT change of address, new members	18
Tree Surgeons at Work	19

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 Tuesday 12th May, 2015, starting at 7.30 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business.

To receive apologies for absence.

To approve the Minutes for the previous year.

To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2014.

To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014.

To appoint Staniforth & Co of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Election of Directors. Debbie Scott and Penny Carnell are due to retire by rotation.

To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting, Dr Lauren Tewson, Director, Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, will give a talk on the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust and the Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study.



SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, Sleaford, on Tuesday 13th May, 2014

Apologies: Mr G Scott, Mr & Mrs M Pitcaithly, Mrs Y Pullen, Mr A James, Mrs V James.

Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Mr M Phillips, seconded by Mrs S Sowerby.

Directors' Report: It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Mrs Hayes summarised the report, noted as being the seventeenth annual report, and outlined current progress.

The reception of report was proposed by Mr P B Jowett, seconded by Mrs D Scott.

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 reception of accounts was proposed by Mr M Sowerby, seconded by Mr D Tomlinson.

The appointment of Staniforth & Co of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and the authorisation of the Directors to fix their remuneration was proposed by Mrs P Taylor, seconded by Mr D Pullen.

Election of Directors:

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mr M Sowerby, Mr D Carnell and Mrs P Taylor. They were proposed by Mrs D Scott, seconded by Mr P B Jowett and all three were elected unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Mrs C Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2014.

It was reported that, as of 12th May 2014, the Parish Council had been confirmed as the owners of the land in South Kyme where the Water Access is to be built.

It was stated that the Trust were working with a land owner near Half Penny Hatch to build a winding hole downstream of the bridge.

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.

*Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No.
1060234*

Registered Office: 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham LN6 8TH

Directors' Annual Report December 2014

This is the eighteenth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2014. The company was incorporated on 19th December, 1996 and its full name is the Sleaford Navigation Trust. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 03294818, the Trust is also a registered charity No. 1060234. The governing documents of the Trust are the memorandum and articles of association which have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the Trust during the year to 31st December 2014 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)
Debbie Scott
Pat Taylor
Melvyn Sowerby

David Carnell
Penny Carnell (Treasurer)
David Pullen (Engineer)
Susan Sowerby

No director may remain in office for more than three years without seeking re-election.

The Trust registered office is: 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH
General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at the registered office.

The main Agents of the Trust are:-

Bankers : Lloyds Bank plc, 2 Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7BL

Solicitors: Shakespeares, 10 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. B2 5RS

Auditors : Staniforth & Co of Nottingham

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS

Objectives, Organisation and Activities

The Company was established to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway formerly known as the Sleaford Navigation or Kyme Eau and to promote the restoration and preservation of the waterway for navigation and other purposes.

The Trust

- is organised and controlled by its Directors who provide their services on a volunteer basis as members of the Executive Board which meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, to formulate and implement strategy and to review progress. There are no paid or seconded staff.

- is a corporate member of the Inland Waterways Association which shares certain objectives with the Trust and provides help and support nationally and locally to all organisations engaged in waterway restoration.

- is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership and continues to use their premises for some meetings.

- produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.

- has a website www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk and a facebook page.

Review of Progress and Achievements

During the year The Trust has continued the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years. Activities have included attendance at a series of events which were successful in raising public awareness of the Navigation and, in some cases, also proved a success in the secondary function of fund-raising. These included Charity Markets at Washingborough, Heckington Show, waterways events at Cogglesford Mill and on the Chesterfield and Grantham Canals. Press releases, articles and interviews resulted in valuable publicity both locally and in the national waterways press. In addition, visual promotional presentations were given by Trust members to a variety of audiences.

Representatives of the Trust attended an Inland Waterways Association/ Canal & River Trust seminar in Birmingham, CRT meetings in Nottingham, Lincoln and Retford, and Northern Canals Association meetings. The Trust is represented on the Witham Catchment Partnership Steering Committee. Directors of the Trust attend meetings of the Sleaford Regeneration Group.

Working in partnership with the Environment Agency, the silt bar below Taylors Lock, which had prevented boats from navigating beyond, was removed by contractors in April who desilted about 100M of river below the lock. The traditional boat-gathering at South Kyme could therefore take place and was graced with the presence of the Bishop of Lincoln.

The Trust has continued to work with South Kyme Parish Council to establish a Water Access Point in South Kyme. The Parish Council have now acquired the ownership of the necessary land and the Trust is looking to the funding applications and consents required before work can commence.

Representatives of SNT have attended meetings with the Environment Agency and the Parish Council, separately and together, to discuss waterway related issues.

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock, Haverholme Lock and Sleaford.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

The Trust has been fortunate enough to receive monies from individual donors and raised capital from the sale of goods. The resources available are considered adequate to enable the Trust to continue its work effectively at this stage of the restoration programme. The Trust's assets are adequate to fulfil all its obligations and there are no commitments which are required to be disclosed in this report or the notes to the accounts.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board
Steve Hayes,
Director & Secretary



South Kyme Boat Gathering

Sleaford Navigation Trust will be holding their annual boat gathering at South Kyme at the Early May Bank Holiday weekend of the 1st to the 3rd of May. As you will all know, South Kyme has always given boaters a warm welcome and, following tradition, the gathering coincides with village events such as a Pub Quiz on Friday evening, the village Scarecrow Competition on the theme of Nursery Rhymes, a Table Top Sale on Saturday and a Boaters' Church Service at 11.00 on Sunday.

It may be that the Service will be preceded by the Boat Blessing by the Bishop of Grimsby but this is yet to be confirmed at the time of writing. Lunch will be available at the pub on Sunday but if you wish to take part in this or in the quiz please let us know so that we can book you in.

If you intend joining us by boat please get in touch beforehand if possible to discuss details. We intend to have a DIY Boaters' BBQ on Saturday evening, weather permitting. Additional Request: It would be lovely if you could decorate your boat to add to the spectacle of the weekend!

For further information email sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com or ring 01522 689460.

Winding Hole in South Kyme

It had been the Trust's firm intention to have the winding hole in South Kyme in place prior to the May Boat Gathering this year but, unfortunately, things have not gone as planned.

Funds were being put in place, thanks to Trust efforts and a generous donor, with an additional grant awarded by Inland Waterways Association's Restoration Committee. Preliminary discussions over Land Drainage Consent had been completed with the Environment Agency and a slot reserved with the contractor, when problems surfaced. There had been some ambiguity about the need for planning permission as no structure was being erected but further enquiries regarding clarification resulted in a planning application being deemed necessary. This was not seen as something that would call a halt to the project but it did put pressure on the timescale.

More significant was the result of the Ecological Survey which had to be completed before the Land Drainage Consent could be given. Here the results indicated that the presence of different species of wild life could not be ruled out and that it would not therefore be possible to complete the work before May.

Consequently, sadly, the work will be delayed and will now be undertaken in the Autumn when the impact on wildlife will be greatly reduced.

Work Party News.

January's work party was held at Chapel Hill to erect the information board on the grass near the moored boats. Guy Foreman was on hand to help decide the best location and it was all done very quickly.



Photos: Mel Sowerby

February saw members near South Kyme making ready the area for the winding hole.

This will be an ongoing project over the coming months.

March again was in Sleaford to finish some work started in December and the digger was very useful to clear most of the reeds that were reducing the flow of water in this section down to Cogglesford Mill. An area of the bank was strimmed on both sides of the river in partnership with the Sleaford clean up group.



Photos: Mel Sowerby

Forthcoming work parties will include rebuilding the lock walls at Cogglesford lock.

Mel Sowerby



Photos: Steve Hayes



See above regular work party in action in March clearing more rushes and debris from the River near Cogglesford and the swimming pool bridge. A further extra session was held at the end of March to remove unstable trees on the lock island at Cogglesford which were in danger of falling and damaging the mill – see page 19 for photographs

££££££££££

IWA grant towards the construction of the winding hole in South Kyme

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter that there has been an unavoidable delay in the construction of the winding hole. In spite of that I am delighted to be able to announce that our bid to the Inland Waterways Association Restoration Committee for funding has been successful and we have been awarded £2000 towards the cost, subject to conditions Restoration Committee offer practical advice to canal societies and trusts on matters relating to restoration such as engineering, grant application and land acquisition. They also manage some funds and are able to help groups achieve their goals through direct financial help. We are very grateful that SNT will be one of those groups able to benefit in this way.

And more ££££££££££

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for the recent IWA Draw.



As a result Sleaford Navigation Trust has benefited by £190, our pro rata share of the proceeds.

And more ££££££££££

Thank you to all you Lincolnshire Coop shoppers in the Sleaford area as a result of being a Community Champion, the Trust has earned over £500 through your shopping! Don't forget Coop members can choose to have their community divi shared with SNT, see www.lincolnshire.coop



A new funding stream?

Historic records show that the monks of Haverholme found the mud from the Slea to have curative properties and used it for poultices. In recent years this quality has gone unrecognised but now that is changing. Modern methods of purification have meant that harmful afropillo bacteria can be removed and the refined mud used as a beauty aid to both the body and face.

The well-known entrepreneur Rolo Lipaf is now considering adding to his considerable chain of spas by building a new complex near Cobblers Lock where visitors will be able to experience the exhilarating effect of Slea mud baths. He has already made a preliminary visit to the site today, April 1st. (Dave Pullen says the experience can be had at no cost by coming on a work party - but that's another story!) We are hoping this will bring considerable financial benefits to the Trust.

NB The secret purification process is essential. Do not attempt to apply the mud or silt unless it has been processed.

01.04.2015



Water Access Point in South Kyme

A decision was made by the directors that the immediate focus for attention should be the winding hole in South Kyme which has meant that the Water Access Point has had to take a backseat for the moment. A contributing factor to this decision was that the WREN funding which we had hoped to secure towards the project was no longer available. Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) funding is only available for suitable projects within ten miles of a landfill site. The local site has now closed and the only NKDC landfill site left is in North Hykeham. Some funding is already in place for the project but I am delighted to be able to say that South Kyme Parish Council have made a very generous

contribution of £1500 to the completion of the Water Access Point. We are extremely grateful for their support.

We have always enjoyed a warm relationship with the village and look forward to our yearly boat gathering. Our recent working group meetings with the Parish Council and the Environment Agency have been very productive and we hope to be able to progress the Water Access before too long.

Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study update.

Since the last newsletter, a firm of consultants, Clear Environmental of Derby, have been engaged to deliver the Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study and a series of meetings of stakeholders have been held. Several suggestions have been put forward and, following a selection process, funding will be sought by the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust to take these further.

Some of the suggested developments are to the West of Sleaford and include a proposed wet woodland area which could act as a reservoir to retain water and a haven for wildlife. This could be an area for public access and be a different kind of leisure opportunity for Sleaford.

Among other suggestions was a soft engineering solution to the problem of bank erosion in the area near the lift bridge and slipway in Sleaford. Coir rolls would provide the opportunity for natural vegetation to become established and backfilling would help stabilise the banks and tree roots. It may be that some of this project could be delivered through volunteer participation but the schemes have not yet reached a development stage and funding will have to be sourced. Nevertheless, this idea is one that the Trust are happy to endorse.

Dr. Lauren Tewson, Director of the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, has kindly agreed to speak at the AGM in May so hopefully will be able to give us more information then.



News from the House 1774 - a Navigation for Sleaford

We are accustomed to seeing the workings of parliamentary committees on television but an examination of the 1774 Hansard gives us an insight into the first attempt before Parliament to make the River Slea navigable. Initially this was in the form of a petition to Parliament for permission to present a Bill to the House.

On 28th February 1774 it was recorded that "*A Petition of several Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, Merchants, Farmers, Tradesmen, and other Inhabitants, in the County of Lincolnshire was presented to the House*". It was intended that the river would be made navigable from "*Sleaford Castle Causeway, through the Market Town of New Sleaford, in the County of Lincoln, to the River Witham, near a place called Chapel Hill*".

Interestingly the petition also suggested that there were branches of the river that could also be capable of being made navigable although, unfortunately, these branches are not detailed. It was said that the river would be made navigable for boats, barges and other vessels and that this would be "*of great Benefit and Advantage to the Petitioners and other inhabitants of the said County, and of public Utility*".

There was at least one local MP on the committee, Lord Brownlow of Grantham, who reported back to the House on 28th March that they had summoned the Engineer James Creassy to confirm the details of the petition. It was reported that he had confirmed that the Navigation would be 12 miles long of which 2¹/₂ miles were already navigable.

The following question and answer session gives a modern reader a curious sense of listening in to that exchange of so many years ago.

"What will be the Expense of making the River capable of carrying Vessels of 20 Tons Burthen?"

"It will cost about £6,000."

"Is the River capable of being made navigable?"

"It is."

He was asked, "*Whether the adjoining Lands will be injured by its being made navigable?*"

"By the necessary scouring and deepening the River, and forming the earth arising into Banks, it will render the adjoining lands much more secure from Floods, which now frequently happen there and do great damage."

The committee asked, *“Whether the Mills will receive any Damage?”*
“He presumed not; that they are not to be meddled with, and only the waste water taken for the Purposes of the Navigation; that the course of the Mill Streams is to be deserted and the Old River followed”.

On being asked, *“Whether the course of the Old River is to be deserted anywhere?”* he replied *“Yes, in Two Places; one near Sleaford, in order to avoid several little Turns in the River; the other a little above Flax Dike, for the Purpose of avoiding the Mill Stream”.*

“What Advantages will accrue to the Public from the carrying of the above Scheme into Execution?”

Creassy replied *“It will furnish an easy and cheap Conveyance for the Produce of the Country, and the Returns of Coal and other heavy Commodities, and will also open a Communication with Boston and Lincoln, and from thence into the River Trent”.*

They asked *“Whether he had made any Calculation of the Sum likely to arise by the Tonnage on the River?”*

“That if laid at One Shilling per Ton, he is of Opinion the Amount will be about £500 a Year”.

The committee called Mr Robert Banks to confirm that the evidence with respect to the practicality of the scheme and to the sum likely to be raised by tolls. Mr Banks also confirmed that the money needed to fund the Navigation would be easily raised at *“legal interest”*.

The committee ordered that leave be given to present a Bill to Parliament for the Slea to be made navigable and that Lord Brownlow, Mr Amcotts, and Sir Cecil Wray should prepare the Bill. Accordingly on 15th April 1774 the Bill was presented to Parliament and received a successful first reading with the House resolving to give the Bill a second reading.

History records that the Creassy scheme eventually foundered due to the objections of farmers on the lower part of the Slea who were concerned about the effect of the navigation on land drainage. This led, eventually, to the Jessop plans being adopted in the 1792 Act and the founding of the present Navigation.

Steve Hayes

Editor’s Note: In Navigation House there is a copy of the Creassey plan on display, sadly the print is too small to reproduce here.

Kestevens LEADER Group

Members of the Committee attended meetings last year to find out more about the Kestevens Local Development Strategy which had been submitted to Defra. We have now heard that the strategy has been successful and a programme budget of £1.8m secured.

The stated priorities for projects are:

Encourage enterprise and growth

Celebrate, conserve and value our special culture and heritage

Safeguard and enhance community facilities and access to rural services

It's still early days and the LEADER handbook and application forms are yet to go out but we shall be looking closely at our eligibility for the funding opportunities.

Change of Company Address

In the past our home address, 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln, has been used as the company address for Sleaford Navigation Trust. At a recent CRT/ IWA conference on Readiness for Funding, Geraint Coles pointed out that using a home address could possibly result in property being at risk in case of the failure of the company. Steve and I weren't too keen on this idea!

Some canal societies and trusts have asked that IWA act as host to their groups by allowing them to use IWA's address as their official company location. We have joined them and IWA have kindly allowed us to use the following as our official company address: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham. HP5 1WA.

Although this will now appear on our stationery and website, it is for official use only and, in general, correspondence should still be sent to 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln LN6 8TH as before.

New Members : We are delighted to welcome

Pete Lett as a new SNT member!

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.



Our friendly tree surgeons, Andy Martin and Beth Cope, in action at the end of March, farewell to the Cogglesford sycamores!

Photos: Dave Carnell



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

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 / 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

