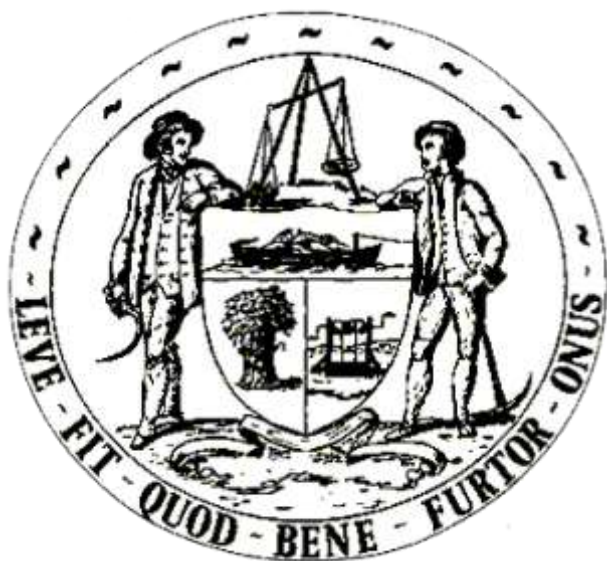


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



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**Autumn 2016**

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

... 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

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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

Suddenly the weather is starting to become quite Autumnal but I'm sure there are plenty of boating days left for those of you who have your own boats. As for us annual hirers it's another 12 months of looking at the adverts and wondering if we can justify the investment in one of our own. And despite 10 days on the Shropshire Union in July I still don't know why some of the locks' top gates have gate paddles as well as side paddles and some don't. Even locals couldn't tell me. Good to see NB Rosewood still moored at Norbury though.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be 1st March

If you wish to receive your copy by email, please do let us know

Debbie Scott, Editor

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## LEADER Funding Update

You may be aware that the Trust has, for some considerable time, been looking closely at the criteria for application for LEADER funding. The focus of the LEADER initiative is to encourage rural diversity and foster tourism. Having attended seminars on the subject and taken advice, we felt that the plans for Destination South Kyme were eminently suitable and submitted an initial bid in May.

The first hurdle was to complete the application form correctly, no mean feat in itself, and we received word quite quickly that we had achieved that. Our proposal would now be reviewed and, if it was judged to be eligible, we would then be invited to submit a more detailed bid complete with multiple quotes for works etc. The date we were given for hearing news, good or bad, was Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Strangely, no news came. A week later, we felt we ought to check the situation. The LEADER initiative is based on EU funding and what we learnt was that the result of the referendum on June 23<sup>rd</sup> had had an immediate effect as far as Lincolnshire County Council was concerned. The answer to our questions as to the present situation was that they were “awaiting guidance”.

We continued to check over the following weeks but there was no change to the message and we began to fear that, at worst, the funding would not be available at all or that would be so delayed that it would not be possible to complete the project in time for the proposed boat gathering in 2017. Could we complete part of the works ourselves? If we did, then we would have to reapply for the remainder as a separate project. To split the two elements of the winding hole and water access would also weaken the argument for potential economic benefit so reducing eligibility.

We heard on August 13<sup>th</sup> that guidance had been forthcoming and that the initiative could go ahead. We were invited to submit the second part of our bid which we aim to do by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will require detailed costings and up to date quotations.

The time lag has meant that some of these will need to be recalculated to fall within the six months required.

Fingers crossed that our next submission will be successful!

*Chris Hayes*

## **James Brindley (1716 – 1772)**

This year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of James Brindley, the architect of the British canal network. Many academic books have been written about the works of James Brindley and I don't propose to write anything about the man himself.

We have recently had a family holiday in Millers Dale, Derbyshire. One day I was checking on my mobile phone to see what attractions there were in the area such as pubs and other places to visit. I was extremely surprised to see a dot on the map that was labelled 'Brindley Memorial' and it was only one and a half miles away. I must admit I was intrigued by this as I had thought that he had come from Leek and not Wormhill near Buxton.

The next day it was a typical Derbyshire day, wet, so we all drove up to Wormhill to have a look. I have to say that we drove past the memorial first time but found it in the end. It is a strange little building, hardly grand, but at least he is recognised in the parish of his birth.

So 'Happy Birthday' Mr Brindley and thank you.



Photo: Steve Hayes



Memorial to  
James Brindley

Photo: Steve  
Hayes

## **Canal & River Trust Restoration Tool Kit**

Not what the name might suggest, this isn't a handy box full of pick axes and waders! Instead it's a computer program which is being developed to help trusts and societies in their applications for funding for restoration. It allows a trust to feed in information

specific to their waterway such as number of locks to be restored, lengths of dredging to be completed, etc. and supplies costings. It also allows the economic benefit of restoration to be assessed and detailed on completion of a series of questions. The intention is that this information can be used to make a case for restoration without having to spend a considerable amount of money in consultants' fees.

CRT have commissioned the program working with Peter Brett Associates and asked representatives from a small number of trusts to a Focus Group meeting in Birmingham to trial the result. Steve and Chris Hayes formed part of that group together with representatives from Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust, Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Trust and Chesterfield Canal Trust. The intention was that by using the program they would identify areas where there was potential confusion or highlight omissions.

It proved to be a very interesting exercise for those taking part and also informative for the organisers. It's impossible to address all issues in a program such as this but the suggestions made highlighted that there will always be aspects or problems which make restorations different if not unique. How are costings affected by Sites of Specific Scientific Interest for example and what are the implications of working in a conservation area? How can costs of restoration by volunteers be factored in against those of commercial bodies?

Following the trial session there will be modifications and amendments before the Tool Kit is made available generally and an opportunity for those taking part in the Focus Group to look again at the changes. All indications are that this will be a very useful and valuable addition to restoration knowledge.

*Chris Hayes*

## **Public Access in Sleaford**

The recent sale of Cogglesford Mill Cottage and subsequent change of use has led to a potential problem over public access to the roadway between Eastgate and the footpath on the far side of Cogglesford Lock.

The house will now be a residence as well as a business and the new owners submitted plans to NKDC to fence off the road section with a gate limiting access to their own use.

The Trust bought a substantial section of the bed and banks of the river from the Bristol Estates in 2004. The main objective was to aid application for funding from such as Heritage Lottery where ownership was a requirement to ensure the future of any funded project. It was also felt that this would prevent any other landowner from taking measures that would conflict with the aims of the Trust. With the bed and banks came the lock and lock island at Cogglesford, together with the bridges over the mill race and the lock. The footpath below the lock is also owned by the Trust and this section was improved some years ago by Trust volunteers and WRG as a Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership funded project.

In the Land Registry documents detailing the Trust's ownership is the assertion of a right of access, on foot and by vehicle, to our property, given by the Marchioness of Bristol. There is no stipulation of the purpose of that access, of any conditions to be complied with or, indeed, of any restrictions to the number of persons to whom it will apply.

The way down to the mill has been travelled by local residents for time out of mind. The mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book and people must have brought corn down that path for centuries. Today it is part of a popular walk along the banks of the Slea and a preferred route to walking through the car park.

Hence there was considerable local concern at the prospect of the road being closed off and this has led to action from Sleaford Town Council to apply for a Modification Order to the Definitive Map in order to add the road as a pathway. Part of this application has involved evidence of continued unimpeded use of the road way by the public.

**STOP PRESS:** Fencing and gates have now been erected, effectively blocking the path. If this is affecting you, please report any issues to [alison.bean@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.bean@lincolnshire.gov.uk)



One piece of historical evidence included a rather amusing insight into Sleaford sensibilities and the involvement of the Company of the Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation was found in the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury 16<sup>th</sup> June 1871.

ments of a very attractive kind.

**SLEAFORD. Closing Public-houses on Sunday.**  
—A meeting in support of this measure was held in the Temperance hall on Friday evening last, and was presided over by an minister. Able addresses were made by Mr. L. Stabler and W. Hipkin, own councillors of Black- the measure was unanimously carried, and the meeting, which

Extract from Lincoln, Rutland and  
Stamford Mercury, June 1871 kindly  
provided by Dr Simon Pawley,

was well attended.

We are glad to find that an improvement has been effected at the lock near the Cogglesford Mill, by placing the swing bridge over the lock pit, for the purpose of allowing pedestrians to cross over without having recourse to the somewhat dangerous plank on the side of the lock gates. We feel sure this act of courtesy on the part of the Navigation Company will be appreciated by the public who frequent the pleasant walks in the neighbourhood, which have only one drawback to their becoming more popular, viz., the practice of bathing in the immediate vicinity, which renders it at times almost impossible for females to walk along. We hope something will be done in the matter of providing a proper bathing place before long.

**BILLINGBORO'.**—The 8th annual meeting of the shareholders of the Billingborough and Heckington Gas Com-

‘We are glad to hear that an improvement has been effected at the lock near Cogglesford Mill, by placing the swing bridge over the lock pit, for the purpose of allowing pedestrians to cross over without having recourse to the somewhat dangerous plank on the side of the lock gates. We feel sure this act of courtesy on the part of the Navigation Company will be appreciated by the public who frequent the pleasant walks in the neighbourhood, which have only one drawback to their becoming more popular, viz the practice of bathing in the immediate vicinity, which renders it almost impossible for females to walk along. We hope something will be done in the matter of providing a proper bathing place before long’

## September Work Party

Work continued on Cogglesford brickwork and the major job of re-instating the coping stones.  
The fence was repositioned for safety purposes.



Photos: Mel Sowerby







## From the Trent to The Mersey

When Wigford and crew last visited Liverpool in 2005, the Eldonian moorings at the top of Stanley flight of locks was as close as we could get to the city. But not this summer . . . . .

We spent a very pleasant 12 days cruising from Trent lock near Nottingham to Liverpool on the Trent and Mersey Canal, Bridgewater Canal and Leeds and Liverpool Canal including a trip into Runcorn, another previously unexplored Canal arm.



Our passage through Stanley Locks was booked for the Friday of August bank holiday weekend. We had to be at bridge 9 on the Leeds & Liverpool canal by 9am (close to Aintree Racecourse) and we then travelled in convoy with C&RT operating the bridges, arriving at the locks for 1pm.



The route through the Stanley flight of locks into the docks gives amazing views of the buildings as you enter Liverpool and the history of waterborne trade that used the locks from the Mersey.



Photos and Words: Mel and Sue Sowerby

On our way towards Albert Dock we were intrigued by signs announcing that we were entering 'Sid's Ditch', definitely a question to be asked . . . . On our way back we were lucky to be assisted up the locks by a lock keeper by the name of Sid! He told us that the first time he was taken on the newly finished waterway, he said that it was nothing more than a ditch and the name stuck!!

Entering Albert Dock having navigated 3 low tunnels (but nowhere near as low as Halfpenny Toll Bridge) you are in the heart of the city and moorings are available in Salterhouse Dock free for 7 days.

And yes we did take The Ferry across the Mersey!!









**Membership :** 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.

**The Tillergraph, Towpath Talk and the Canal Boating Times** are all available free of charge from Navigation House (and other reputable waterside locations), please do drop in and pick up a copy. Navigation House is open 12-4 Saturdays and Sundays from 1st November until 31st March. Free Admission. A growing stock of postcards, gifts and books is available to buy as well as

### **Inland Waterways Association Raffle 2016**

We have enclosed a book of tickets inside each of the newsletters. There is a reasonable chance that at least one of these contains a lucky ticket - why not see if it's yours? All proceeds go to Waterways projects and a proportion of that will come to SNT. Please return direct to IWA as the address on the tickets

**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](mailto:sowerbys@ntlworld.com)) for details of upcoming dates and activities

## Christmas Meal 2016

Arrangements are being made for our Annual Christmas Meal to take place at The Hume in South Kyme, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 for 7.30.

The deal is for roast beef carved at the table, with local fresh vegetables and all the trimmings plus a choice of pudding, tea/ coffee and mints at £17.50 per head. There will be a vegetarian option.

The Hume will be familiar to many Trust members for the role it has played in providing hospitality for the Boat Gatherings over the years, with hosts Vijay & Maeve.

Local Residents will be welcome to join us for the meal and so, as there are limited tickets, early applications are advised.

If you would like to attend please email [sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com](mailto:sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com) and send your food choices and £10 deposit (cheque made payable to Sleaford Navigation Trust) to **Chris Hayes, 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH** by 30th November to book your place.





### **Made in Sleaford 2016**

Chris & Steve manned the SNT stand at the recent Made in Sleaford event. Featuring local businesses and organisations the two day event was a showcase of all that's best about Sleaford. Sleaford paddlers took to the water offering members of the public the chance to have a go at canoeing.

Photos: S & C Hayes



## Committee Contacts

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Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810

## Membership

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS Tel: 01526 832256
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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.

