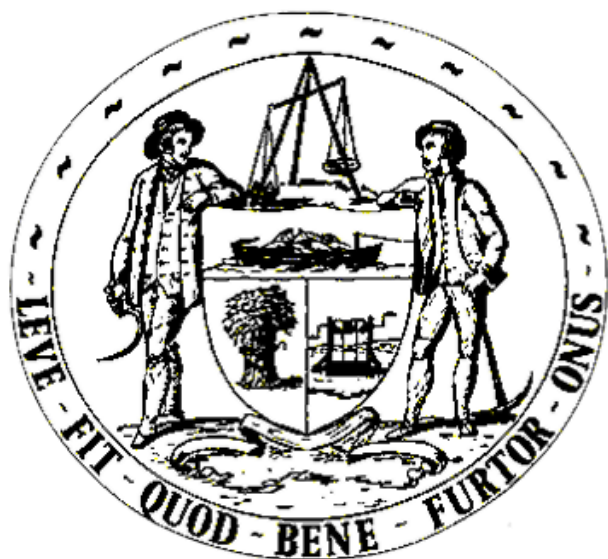


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



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Spring 2017

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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 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.

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## Newsletters

To request an email version contact:

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

## Articles

[debbie\\_scott@btopenworld.com](mailto:debbie_scott@btopenworld.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

'The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of whitewash; till he had dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said 'Bother!' and 'O blow!' and also 'Hang spring-cleaning!' and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat.'

Don't the immortal words of Kenneth Grahame in the introduction to 'The Wind in the Willows' just sum up the season!

The deadline for the next newsletter will be 1st September

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

*Debbie Scott, Editor*

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South Kyme

May Day

Bank Holiday Weekend 2017

Celebrating 30 years since the Opening  
of  
'Bottom Lock'

What's On:

Friday 28th April  
Medieval Banquet

Come dine with us at The Tower  
the Medieval way,  
then dance the night away.

Fancy dress (optional)

Saturday 29th April - daytime

Table Top Sale at Coronation Hall

Duck Race

Scarecrow Competition

Best Dressed Narrow Boat Competition  
& much more

# Saturday 29th April - evening Back to the 80's Disco at The Tower

including food. Fancy dress (optional)

## Sunday 30th April Village Fete at The Tower

Boat Service - St. Mary & All Saints Church

Traditional Fun & Games, Bouncy Castle, Food

Annual Village Meeting

General Knowledge Quiz



Licensed bar all weekend at The  
Tower.

Ticket price £20 per person - in-  
cludes both Friday & Saturday  
night events and food.

Free entry & food to South Kyme  
residents & visiting boaters on  
Sunday

**Contact Craig 01526 860188 or  
Steve 07867972700 for tickets.**

## The Opening of Bottom Lock

Sue and Mel Sowerby have been delving into the archives—they've found this cutting from a local paper reporting the opening



of Bottom Lock, as it was then known, in 1987. Credits are due, we believe, to either the Sleaford Standard, the Sleaford Advertiser or the Lincolnshire Echo, unfortunately, we apologise, we don't know which.

## Tidal Advice for Boaters heading for the Boat Gathering

For the boats going to S Kyme on 28 April the optimum time to leave Chapel Hill will be 10.45 (Boston high tide is 08.15 – "Springs"). Returning from S Kyme on 1 May, optimum time is 13.50 (Boston high tide is 10.20).

## **Tidal variations on the Kyme Eau (lower Slea).**

Although the Kyme Eau from Chapel Hill to Taylors Lock is not tidal in the sense that water from the sea enters the river, river levels in the lower part of the river are nevertheless affected by “tide lock” at Boston Grand Sluice. Tide lock occurs when the tide is high in Boston and the water level through Boston in The Haven (tidal outfall of The Witham), is higher than the River Witham. For several hours either side of high tide the water flowing down the Witham cannot discharge by gravity into The Haven and this causes the water flowing down to Boston to back up in the Witham.

The effect of tide lock at Boston is evident all the way upstream on the Witham as far as Bardney. The effect of this backing up of water increases water levels and occurs 3-4 hours after high tide at Boston. The height increase in the water level can be as much as 1m (39”) when there is a lot of “fresh” drainage water passing down the Witham. Tide lock at Boston occurs on every tide but is greater and lasts longer during “springs” and to a lesser extent during “neaps”.

Typically, at Chapel Hill under normal flow conditions in the Witham, the increase is about 0.18m (7”). The variation in the river level up to Taylors Lock lower gates will be pretty much the same. At Chapel Hill the tide lock time lag is about 3 hours after high tide at Boston.

The practical implication for navigating the Slea Navigation is that the extra depth from Chapel Hill to Taylors Lock will make navigation speed faster and easier due to the increased water depth, especially due to sediment in the lower river. All you have to do is find out the high tide time at Boston, add 3 hours, and aim to leave Chapel Hill about 30mins before this time to allow for water level lag up to Taylors Lock so that you arrive at the lock at the highest possible water level. Leaving Taylors Lock for Chapel Hill is exactly the same but to allow for water level lag upstream from

Chapel Hill leave about 30 mins after Boston high tide.

Of course, daylight hours and tide times may not always be conveniently phased for this to always be practical, but it may help when water levels are rather low.

Tide times and heights at Boston can be obtained from this free site: [www.tides4fishing.com](http://www.tides4fishing.com), or alternatively Port of Boston tide tables. Hull tide times are also very similar.

River level information can be checked out by looking at [www.guagemap.co.uk](http://www.guagemap.co.uk) (Shoothill GuageMap), where you will find more or less real time data on river levels from EA gauging stations across the whole country. This includes Boston, Langrick Bridge, Chapel Hill, and several further sites right through to Torksey. On the Slea this includes the gauging sites at Sleaford tilting gate near Carre Street, and at Leasingham Mill (aka Paper Mill Lock), but the upper Slea sites are not affected by the tides at Boston.

David Pullen



## Clearing the way at Taylors Lock...

report by Mel Sowerby

The tree had come down over the navigable channel in storm Doris.

Work started by taking off all the branches on the far bank to reduce the weight and some in the water that I could attach a rope using the canoe.

Photos: Sowerbys and Franks





The tirfor was used to pull the main trunk up the bank, sections were then cut away and rolled to the side.



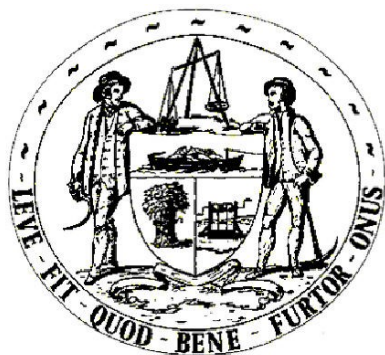
This took most of the day. Thanks to Dave P, Dave C, Andrew and Ernest for their help to make an impact and boats can now get past the tree.



Sleaford Navigation Trust

Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.30 pm**



Sleaford Rugby Club

Ruskington Road

Sleaford

Followed by a talk

by

Richard Pullen

‘Tank production in

Lincoln during the great war’

The meeting is open to everyone, with no admission charge,  
but please note that only members of the Sleaford Navigation Trust are eligible to vote during the AGM

For further details please call 01522 689460

Agenda and papers available on  
[www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

**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 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, 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 2016.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
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 and David Pullen are due to retire by rotation.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting, Richard Pullen will speak about the design and development of the tank in Lincoln during the First World War.

Richard has strong family connections with the creation of the tank in Lincoln. His grandfather worked at William Foster & Co Ltd on tank production in WW1. A professional field archaeologist, Richard has worked as a volunteer at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life where one of the restored tanks is on display. He was one of the founder members of "The Friends of the Lincoln Tank" who were instrumental in installing the replica tank on the roundabout in Lincoln as part of an awareness raising campaign.

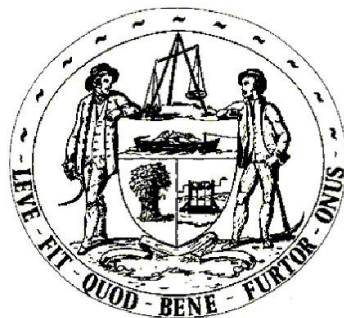
# **SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST**

A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England & Wales No:  
3294818.

Registered Charity No. 1060234

Registered Office: Island House, Moor Rd., Chesham, HP5 1WA



## **Directors' Annual Report December 2016**

This is the twentieth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2016. 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 2016 were:**

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	David Carnell
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)	Penny Carnell
Debbie Scott	David Pullen (Engineer)
Pat Taylor	Susan Sowerby
Melvyn Sowerby	Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)

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

The Trust registered office is: Island House, Moor Rd., Chesham, HP5 1WA

General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH.

**The main Agents of the Trust are:**

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

Auditors: Staniforth & Co of Nottingham

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, 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 the AGM.
- produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.
- has a website [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://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 South Kyme Boat gathering, Heckington Show, the Made in Sleaford event and the Grantham Canal Discovery Day.

Press releases, articles and interviews resulted in valuable publicity both locally and in the national waterways press.

Representatives of the Trust attended CRT Local Forum meetings in Lincoln and Retford and the CRT Annual Partnership Meeting at Clumber Park. Representatives also attend Northern Canals Association meetings. The Trust is represented on the Witham Catchment Partnership Steering Committee and has worked in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust. Directors of SNT attend meetings of the Sleaford Regeneration Group and also meetings of the Sleaford Heritage Forum.

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

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock and Sleaford. Work at Cogglesford Lock has seen cosmetic brickwork and coping stone replacement. In South Kyme, coir roll was installed as bank protection and habitat enhancement. This project was funded by the EA but effected by

Trust members helped by volunteers from RAF Digby and from South Kyme.

The traditional boat-gathering at South Kyme took place in May and the Annual Dinner was held there in December.

During the year, directors worked towards the submitting of a successful initial stage bid for LEADER funding. This was for Destination South Kyme, a project to encourage greater use of the waterway up to the village. Included were a multi-user water access point and winding hole. The second stage bid was submitted in December.

## **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. During this financial year it has registered for VAT. 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

## **LEADER funding update.**

You may recall that at the time of the last newsletter we hoped that we were near to submitting the second stage of our LEADER bid for Destination South Kyme. The deadline for submission was December 17<sup>th</sup> 2016. For the first part of the bid we had been fortunate to have the help of Geraint Coles who had had previous experience of similar funding bids. Unfortunately for us, but not for Geraint, the second stage coincided with him starting a new job in Wales which meant he had to focus his attention elsewhere. Consequently, Steve and I had to apply ourselves rather urgently to the business of completing the second stage bid, getting the relevant quotes for materials and writing the extended rationale for the project. We submitted the bid, a weighty tome, on December 15<sup>th</sup> and breathed a huge sigh of relief.

In January we received the expected list of queries on details of our submission. Many created no particular problems but others meant that we began to rethink the strategy of what we were doing. As a charity we had envisaged that our own volunteers would do a considerable amount of the work involved in the project. We had not realised that this would create problems within the bid over issues such as the ineligibility of the purchase of necessary tools and equipment. This led us to question whether this was the right approach for us and was something we felt we needed to take advice on before going further. Because we were doing the work ourselves, we needed to have multiple quotes for such items as fixing bolts for the water access decking and the normal 30-day time limited quotes were not eligible. The process seemed to anticipate that work would be completed by a contractor who would be able to supply an inclusive price.

An additional problem over the potential temporary unavailability of volunteers to complete the work within the required timescale, led us to consider that it might be a good idea to look again at our method of delivery of the project.

After discussion with the directors it was agreed that I write to inform the Kestevens LEADER team that, at the moment, Sleaford Navigation Trust did not feel in a position to take our LEADER bid



any further.

We are still going ahead with the Boat Gathering this year but sadly the winding hole will not be in place and neither will the landing stages. To say we are disappointed is an understatement!

However, we have now had a further meeting with Wendy Moore, a member of the LEADER team, and have discussed the feasibility of a new bid under Priority 3 “Celebrate, conserve & add value to our special culture & heritage.”



Basically, this would still be a bid to fund Destination South Kyme, the winding hole and water access. For this bid though additional emphasis would be on the interpretive aspect of the bid and we would be including QR codes in our display material. This would enable us to help visitors understand the role the navigation played in the prosperity of the region and encourage them to visit other linked sites such as Navigation House and Cogglesford Mill. It would also give additional information on the history of the village and possible walks in the area. Future village festivals and boat gatherings would also be part of the “celebration” element.

We are currently preparing the first stage of the new bid and hope to submit it in April.

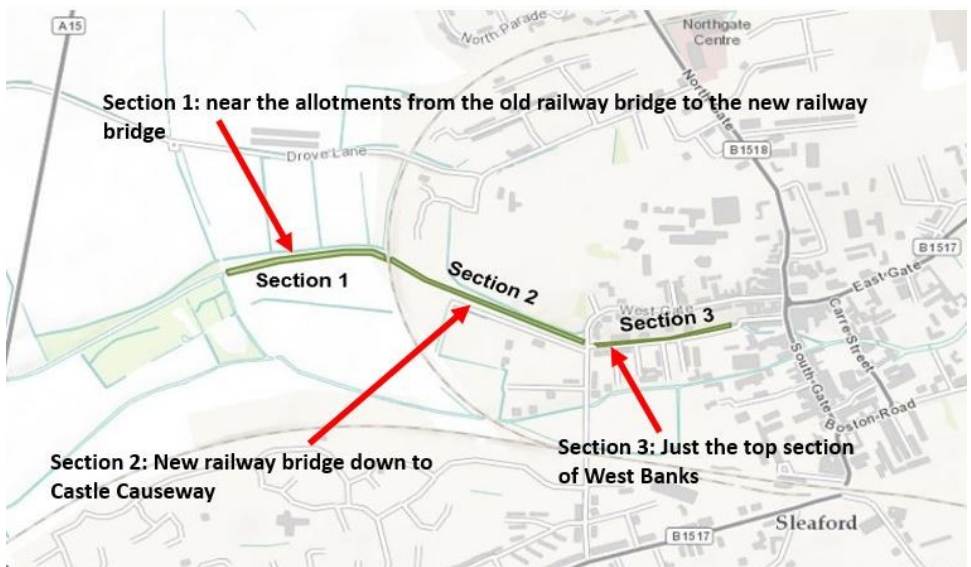
Chris Hayes

## Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

SNT has been working closely with the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust on projects upstream of the Navigation which will ultimately benefit the whole length of the Slea.

Here Marie Taylor, Project Officer of the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, gives us an update from their perspective:

The River Slea is an 18 mile long tributary of the River Witham, Lincolnshire. The River Slea is groundwater fed from Lincolnshire limestone aquifer and the flow depends on the groundwater levels. Historically the River Slea flowed all year round. In the early 60s the flow of the river began to slow and ceased in 1962. This was due to a number of reasons such as over abstraction, increase in population and changes in weather cycles. After a public campaign in 1992, a pump was installed by the Environment Agency which delivers groundwater to the river at times of no flow. The Lincolnshire Rivers Trust (LRT) commissioned Clear Environmental to deliver the Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study,



which was funded by Natural England. This study highlighted how the river would benefit from various rehabilitation techniques to enable wildlife to be more resilient during low flow periods and also contribute towards WFD objectives. Three sections of river were identified where restoration could be completed, this covered approximately 1.2km of river. Unfortunately, due to site constraints, work could only be completed on two sections (sections one and two). There were three phases to the works completed, these are detailed below;

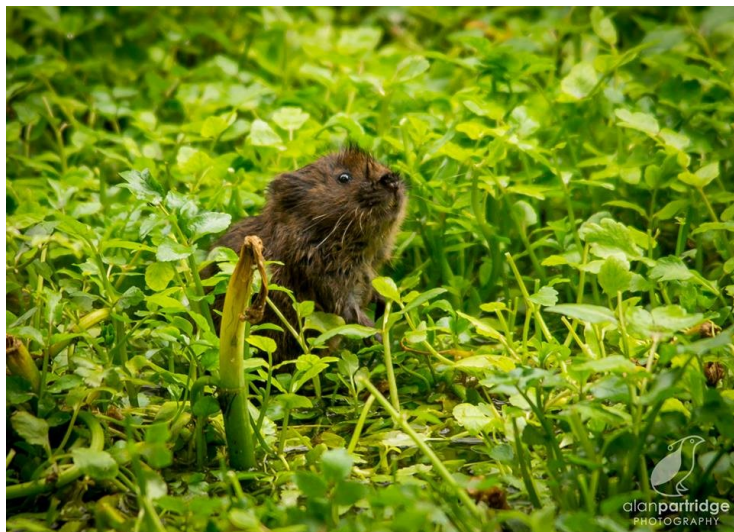
Phase 1: Using an excavator, a low flow channel was created in section one and pools were created in section two. River bed material removed was used to create berms and meanders within the existing channel.

Phase 2: Brushwood bundles were installed, to construct berms which created pinch points, narrowing the channel to speed up the flow and maintain the pools created. This part of the project was made possible with the help of volunteers.

Phase 3: Planting of vegetation using coir matting and plug plants, to increase the rate of colonisation of berms and make them appear more natural.

In September 2015, section one of the river was completely dry, but following the creation of the low flow channel, in September 2016 there was still 1ft of water retained within that section.

Before the works were completed, a water vole survey carried out in 2015 only found old unused burrows, with no signs of water



Photos: Alan Partridge

voles. In 2016 another water vole survey was carried out, detecting 12 feeding stations and four latrines.

In 2015 section two was completely uniform with no pools or

any habitat features.

Following the work, 22 berms were constructed providing cover for fish and providing deeper areas that would help maintain the depth during low flow periods. Planting was successful, and in time, the vegetation will grow and create a natural meandering flow.

This was Lincolnshire Rivers Trust first rehabilitation project, the main lesson learnt was that further feasibility of options should be completed to identify constraints.



**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 now open for the summer season until 31st October 11-4.30 Saturdays and Sundays and 12-4 Mondays to Fridays. Free Admission. A growing stock of postcards, gifts and books is available to buy as well as Navigation Trust items and delicious Dennett's Ice Cream.

Sleaford Museum Trust is now providing changing exhibitions in one of the upstairs rooms, so please do pop in and see what's on.

**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



Work at Cogglesford Lock continues with coping stones being moved into place at the November Working Party



Photos: Franks

Thank you to everyone that took part in the work parties - brilliant achievement!



And three months later,  
tidy at last!

Photos: Pullen



See Sleaford Navigation Trust on [www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)  
for more photos and news updates

## Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460 sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com
Secretary	Steve Hayes— Contact as above
Treasurer	Becky Franks The Windmill Shop, 1 Church Street, Heckington NG34 9RF Tel: 07342 988014 thewindmillshop@hotmail.com
Engineer	David Pullen Brinkburn House, Church Street, Scothern, Lincoln LN2 2UA Tel: 01673 862278
Director / Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 01529 305755 / 07973 330765 debbie_scott@btopenworld.com
Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director / Sales	Pat Taylor Tel: 01522 790652
Director	Penny Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / LincsIWA Nominee	David Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
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.

