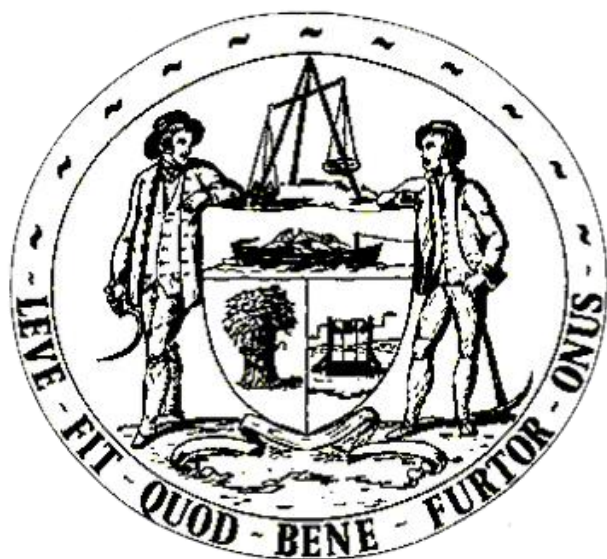


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



53

Autumn 2018

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:

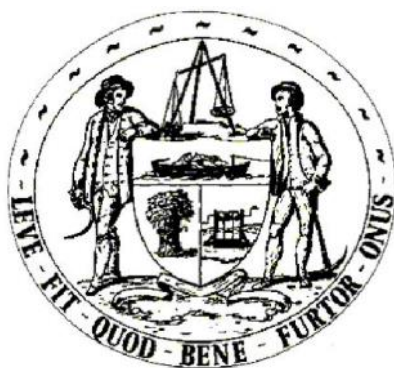
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Articles and opinions in this newsletter are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily reflect SNT policy or the opinion of the editor

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

Editorial

After that great summer (water shortages excepted....) here we are again with an Autumn edition and news of the Christmas Social event. You'll also find lots more news about the works at South Kyme and some unusual pieces of public art for you to explore around the Head of the Navigation. Did you know that once upon a time, when the water level was too low to turn the water wheel at Cogglesford, they used to put local children on the wheel to walk it round ? Just like walking boats through tunnels!

Our contact details are all on the back page as usual - please note there are some new email addresses.

Steve has been busy with rebuilding the website see page 22. Chris adds that she can vouch for the mutterings and cursings but would like to thank Steve for all his hard work. It has been a steep learning curve but we all think the result is highly commendable. Please have a look.

Best wishes - and, if I dare say it now, Happy Christmas!

Debbie Scott, Editor

Contents	Page
Work Parties	4
Destination South Kyme	5
Pennywort	7
New Members	8
SNT Sales 2018 Heckington and Chesterfield	9
SNT Social 2018	12
Waymarker Sculptures - Heritage Open Days 2018	13
Mosaic Art Benches - Eastgate Green and the Nettles	18
www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk	22
Contacts	24

News from the April Work parties

The lock island at Taylors lock was given the first mowing of the year and some weeding and planting was done by Pat. The upper landing stage had jammed due to the high water level that completely covered the island over Easter, this was resolved with a trolley jack but some modification will need to be done later in the year to avoid this problem re-occurring.



Photos: Mel Sowerby

Planting of the coir roll in Sleaford was slightly more difficult than anticipated. Some of the back filling had covered the coir roll and this had to be removed first. The water level was still above normal and the positioning of all of the plants had to be done by feeling under the water to locate the holes in the coir roll. Eventually all plants were securely positioned and some wire netting was fitted to protect them from wildlife and give them time to establish roots.



A busy weekend. Thanks to all who helped on both days.

Destination South Kyme

The Landing Stages are in place!



Photos: Steve Hayes

Destination South Kyme

Contractors P&R Plant Hire Ltd. started on the landing stages in South Kyme on July 9th as part of the successful Destination South Kyme bid funded by Kestevens LEADER.

The approved construction material was recycled plastic which had the appearance of wood but which did not require treatment and maintenance. Installation proved to be quite problematic though as the piles were not sufficiently rigid to be driven into the earth as had originally been planned. This was compounded by the fact that the riverbank was composed of clay of the consistency of concrete! The problem was eventually overcome by the use of an augur which bored the hole to receive the piles.

The two landing stages were then installed, one at a slightly lower height than the other to accommodate canoes as well as boats.

Part of the plan was to include a reinforced pathway which would allow easy access to the mooring platforms for pushchairs and wheelchairs. A series of routes was tried out as the original design had allowed for variation in order to achieve the required gradient. Once the path was determined, the reinforcement was installed, infilled with topsoil and seeded. The site was then smoothed over to remove any irregularities of level.

We think the result is excellent and are very grateful for the professionalism and attention to detail shown by P&R personnel. Thanks are due to Dave Pullen and Steve Hayes who liaised with the contractors and to Mervyn Head and Pete Good from the village who took part in discussion on detail. Special thanks too to Steph Munks who allowed the contractors to use his premises as a safe storage area.

Chris Hayes

Invasive Plant on the Slea.

On August 29th Dave Pullen, Steve Hayes and I went to South Kyme to inspect the mooring area before signing off the work and authorising the last payment.

Everything looked good and the grass was beginning to grow nicely. We checked the gradient of the path by measuring levels and distances to ensure that it was within the recommendations for DDA compliance. All good.

I looked at the water next to the lower landing stage and was surprised to see quite a large clump of foliage that hadn't been there on our last visit the week before. We felt a bit concerned by this and so took a photo so that we could check it out with the Environment Agency. It was a good thing we did so as they confirmed it was Floating Pennywort, an invasive plant with an alarming growth rate.



The Environment Agency reacted with alacrity and the Operations Team dealt with the large clump and checked both up and down the river to make sure that there were no more instances. We are very grateful for their promptitude and expertise.

It was suggested that we should all be aware of the potential problem and keep our eyes open. Darren Randall of the EA emailed as follows:

“One thing that I can’t stress highly enough is that the early identification and eradication of the species will save considerable time and resource in the future. If you patrol the section, I’d recommend that your members familiarise themselves with the species and report any plant they see. An effective eradication plan can then be implemented to eradicate the species.”

He suggested the following links as a source of information:

www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/

[www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?
speciesId=1766](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=1766)

The photo is the one Steve took at the mooring.

Chris Hayes

NEW MEMBERS

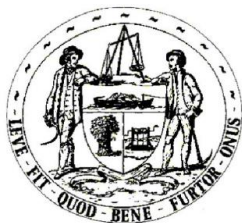
Since our last newsletter, we’ve been very pleased to agreed applications from three new members:

Martin Littler

Martyn Allsopp

Michael Mills

Welcome !



Out and About with the SNT Sales Team 2018



Photos: Steve Hayes



Chesterfield Canal Festival

The Trust had a stand on June 30th at the very well-attended festival at Staveley Basin. It was good to see the new lock in operation and to see so many people enjoying getting on the

water whether in the Chesterfield Canal Trust trip boats or by having a go in the canoes provided by a local club.



Is this the old SNT Dumper Truck?

There's always a warm welcome from our many friends in CCT and we had an excellent position for our stand overlooking the water.

We even had a visit from another old friend from Lincolnshire as the Lancaster flew over to say hello!



Heckington Show 2018

If you had told the organisers of Heckington Show in advance that the event would be mentioned on BBC National News, I'm sure they would have been delighted. Yes, that did happen but, sadly, for the wrong reasons.

We went over to Heckington to set up the stall and display boards in the Heritage Marquee on Friday, July 27th, the day before the show, as usual and left about 5.00pm. ready to come back the following morning. Shortly after we left, freak weather conditions hit the showground bringing torrential rain and what was officially described as a whirlwind. This led to the inclusion of brief footage of the phenomenon on the BBC News.

Messages from the organisers appeared on Facebook with assurances that, following assessment of the situation, the show would go ahead but, as we arrived the following day, squally heavy rain again hit the site. In the previous weeks the weather had been dry and hot but the downpour soon made negotiating the car park field an interesting experience!

We found out that the marquee door had been open when the whirlwind hit and, according to an eye-witness, the wind circled inside the tent and flattened almost everything in its course. Second-hand books for sale on the Trust stall were saturated by the rain blowing in and the SNT display boards were brought crashing down and damaged.

Nevertheless, we fared better than many as the site was littered with mangled gazebos and we heard that the livestock marquee had collapsed on top of the volunteers and horses inside. Thankfully there seem to have been no major injuries.

In spite of all this, a very large number of people visited the show and many came to see us at the stand. Pat often has tea-towels and aprons displayed on a washing line behind the stall, this time

its function was more than aesthetic! We managed to salvage some of the books and the activity of knotting the dragon-flies proved as popular as ever.

I must include one moment of humour. I took advantage of a brief lull in visitors to the stand to snatch a quick ham sandwich from my cool bag. Predictably, at that moment, someone walked up so I adopted the usual procedure of putting the hand holding the sandwich behind my back. Whilst explaining the thinking behind "Destination South Kyme" to the interested visitor, I suddenly became aware that a young Labrador behind me was approaching my sandwich with equal interest! A speedy movement brought the sandwich into view and the dog looked rather disappointed!

Seriously though, Heckington Show provides a real opportunity to talk to people, many of them local, about the work and aspirations of the Trust. The organisers put in a tremendous amount of work to make it happen and it was terrible to think how near to grief it all came.

Chris Hayes



SNT SOCIAL NOVEMBER 2018

Becky is planning our next event - it will be on Friday
30th November at the Carre Arms Hotel in Sleaford.
7.30pm and normal menu - for details see
www.carrearmshotel.co.uk

Becky will be coordinating numbers and the booking
so please contact her on 01529 469523 or email
thewindmillshop@hotmail.com

Waymarker Sculptures by
Mark Steadman beside the
river at Cogglesford



Photos: D Scott

Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days



With the recent launch of the Heritage Open Days local artist Mark Steadman takes time to reflect on the commission and the artworks at Cogglesford.

‘It meant a great deal for me to win this Heritage Open Day commission at Cogglesford Mill. The Mill is part to the landscape I grew up in (my ‘ur-landscape’).

So the commission has been a particularly important one for me, enabling me to create a much deeper connection with my home and the people connected to it. Through ArtsNK (now Lincs Inspire) I got the chance to work with four amazing local artists; Kate McBride, Will Lindley, Sue Pearson, and Peter Wood who came onboard to run a series of public workshops in ceramics, etchings, glass and wood carving. The workshops took Cogglesford Mill as their inspiration and made use of the amazing

studio facilities available to the public at The National Centre for Craft and Design... the stunning end products of which are currently on exhibition alongside my own work at Cogglesford Mill.

As part of the commission, I undertook a series of oral history recordings with Barry Bailey, the recently retired Miller at Cogglesford Mill. Barry's experience during his twenty five year service at the Mill earned him an intuitive knowledge of every creak, nook and cranny of this ancient building as well as empathy for the people and a way of life now gone. It was through my discussions with Barry that the theme for my commission emerged in which I was keen to pay homage to the unsung, unrecorded lives of the many people who lived and worked in and around Cogglesford Mill.

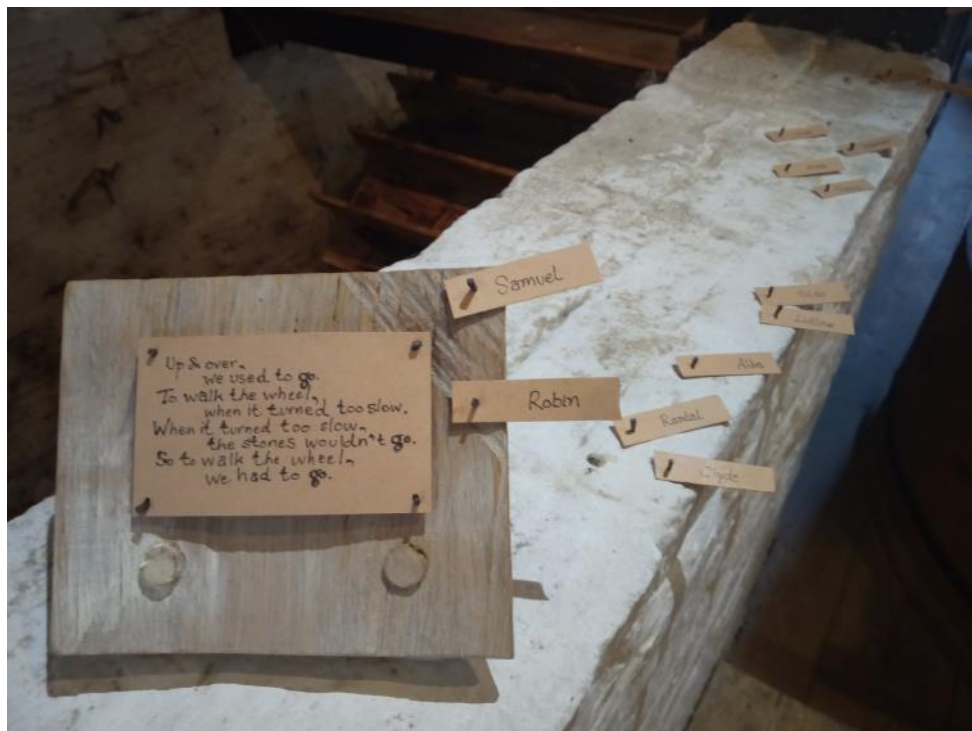


Photos: Mark Steadman

When someone stands in the Mill and takes in the details of their surroundings, like the patchwork of wonky floorboards or the worn steps that lead to the Garner floor, you are immediately struck by

the hand-made quality of every inch of the building and the immediacy of locally sourced materials. As it stands today, Cogglesford has evolved through a constant process of maintenance, wear, and adaptation by a multitude of hands over a great many generations.

Photo: Mark Steadman



Historical interest tends to gravitate towards the more richly documented periods of the Mill's history (perhaps the Regency to late-Victorian period) where most of the archival records are found. However, I was keen to use the opportunity to say something about the people, the women, children and elderly who have not been recorded in traditional primary sources or but who populated the Mill then as well as during earlier times. Cogglesford Mill was always more than a place of work. Flour was and still is one of our staple foods. So around the Mill there would have been a milieu of

folk that would include those employed along the canals as well as the Mill. It would also have included individuals looking for gainful work and keen to prove themselves, often children, but would also include the less able-bodied, as well as the many waifs and strays seeking charity, food and shelter.

It was because of such social conditions that Sleaford established workhouses (the largest being located nearby the Mill during the nineteenth century, while the Mill was still operational).

However, at Cogglesford there is around one thousand years of human activity and endeavour to consider. So as a response, the work I've created looks at the way in which the Mill can be considered a sort of prism through which we can begin to gain glimpses into a hidden history of the hundreds of largely anonymous people who worked and congregated there over the centuries of occupation at the site.

If a building could talk, Cogglesford could speak with authority about the nature of humanity for it will have seen much of it. However, I imagine it would choose to recount to us a story of how among the struggles, privations and endeavours of our ancestors, we looked after each other.

I imagine it would tell of how we cooked for each other where we could, how we tended to each other's wounds and sores, of how we darned socks, repaired footwear and warmed our feet and hands by a fire.

I imagine Cogglesford's story would include how we sung when worked, how we taught each other through songs and the many handicrafts we busied ourselves with when we were at rest... of the folklore and stories we told each other in the evenings of who we were and who we could be.'

Mark Steadman

New Mosaic Art bench on Eastgate Green

A new mosaic decorated seating area created by voluntary arts group MosArt is the latest edition to the wealth of public art in Sleaford.

Situated on Eastgate Green, near to the river Slea, the bench which is in the shape of a sycamore leaf, was designed by Carole Smith, member of the Nettles Volunteer Group and MosArt. The bench features mosaic panels inspired by the nature and landscape of the riverside path, including cow parsley, swans and ducks in flight.

The bench was officially launched and presented to the town council at a special event on Sunday 9 September. The crowd was treated to entertainment by Kesteven Morris Dancers, and there were also activities for young and old with a Make a Mini Mosaic activity and I-Spy Mosaic Bench Quiz.

MosArt are a voluntary group of mosaic makers, who first came together following an artsNK led project to create the new mosaic at Sleaford Leisure Centre. This is their second work for a Sleaford seating area, as the group also created a wonderful pebble mosaic in front of a riverside bench on Rauceby Banks, which was completed last year.

The project was supported by artsNK, the Co-operative Group Community Fund and Sleaford Town Council

Ladey Adey, chairman of MosArt said: "Mosaics are a passion for us and this new artwork can be of practical use. It also builds up the collection of public mosaics around the town including mosaics in the footpaths by acclaimed mosaic artist, Alan Potter and the Pebble Mosaic on Rauceby Banks which the MosArt Group created last year as a joint project with Sleaford in Bloom."



Photos: artsNK / MosArt



Framework Mosaic at the Nettles

A new mosaic for a bench at The Nettles green space was installed in September. artsNK worked with Framework, On Track North Kesteven, a local charity which tackles the causes and consequences of homelessness, on a project involving residents of a local supported accommodation unit. Residents visited The Nettles to get inspiration for mosaic tiles themed around the flora and fauna found at this public green space. They then attended introductory workshops, learning basic hand-building ceramic techniques and creating ceramic tiles for the mosaic, decorating them using natural objects.



The mosaic tiles were used to decorate an existing bench at The Nettles, enhancing the seating and adding to the many artworks already at The Nettles space, including mosaic markers for fruit trees, stone carvings and sculptures.

The Nettles Volunteers meet monthly to maintain and enhance this public area by promoting conservational and creative skill-sharing with volunteers and the wider community. The maintenance and development of the Nettles benefits local residents and visitors alike by providing an inspirational, inviting and safe natural outdoor space for recreation purposes, creative and educational intervention and a performance and display area.

If you would like to join the Nettles Volunteers then visit www.facebook.com/NettlesVolunteerGroup for more information and to get in touch.



Photos: artsNK

www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

The Trust website had existed in its previous guise for a number of years and I was quite happy to give it the occasional tweak to update details such as news items and navigation information. However, the Trust got the news in April that not only was Serif, the software developer, discontinuing support for our software, but also that some of the features we used which were stored on a Serif server would stop functioning. This led to quite a bit of research on my part as to what software I could use to produce a new website. As I'm sure you realise, in technology and, especially computing, nothing stands still and is constantly evolving. In fact, the technology had changed totally and features that, in the past, were the province of professional website developers, are now available for anyone to use.

The software that I decided to use was all based online and called WordPress which, it would appear, is used by a great many website developers. I have to say that it was all a bit confusing at first with new terminology to learn and an absolute myriad of available choices. The theme that you choose alters the whole appearance of a website and there are thousands of themes available so it was quite a job to look for something that seemed appropriate for our new website. Once you have chosen the theme, you have to start creating pages and, depending on what you want to put on the page, you download another thing called a 'plugin'. You can use different plugins to make such diverse items as contact forms, buttons or photo galleries. I thought that there were a lot of themes but the number of plugins is greater by far! The problem can be selecting the right plugin to do the job on a web page that you want. The selection is very time consuming as there are often a large number of plugins that superficially appear to do the same task but when you start to investigate them are not suitable or you have to pay to download them.

The new website is now online and, although there have been not a few mutterings and cursings concerning the parentage of the software, I'm pleased with the result. There is still a bit of work to do putting in links to such things as items in the newsletter archive and some features to make navigation around the site more user friendly but I will get there shortly. There are many features in the

new website that I think give the Trust a far more professional appearance. Please go online and have a look and, hopefully, you will like what you see. If you do have any suggestions please get back to me at secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk and I'll see if I can incorporate them.

Steve Hayes

Membership : If you are thinking of joining please do get in touch or pick up a membership application form from events or at 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.

From 1st November Navigation House and Cogglesford Watermill will be reverting to winter opening time so 12-4 at weekends until 1st April.

Cogglesford Watermill will be milling (without using child-labour!) on 11th November and 8th December and then again in March 2019. You can see some of the fascinating artwork from the Heritage Open Days project.

A growing stock of postcards, gifts and books is available to buy at both venues as well as delicious Dennett's Ice Cream. Pop in and choose from our new selection of Christmas Gift ideas. Navigation Trust items are also on sale at Navigation House

Towpath Talk is also available at the Hume Arms, South Kyme see www.south-kyme.co.uk/the_hume.html

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Membership

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

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.