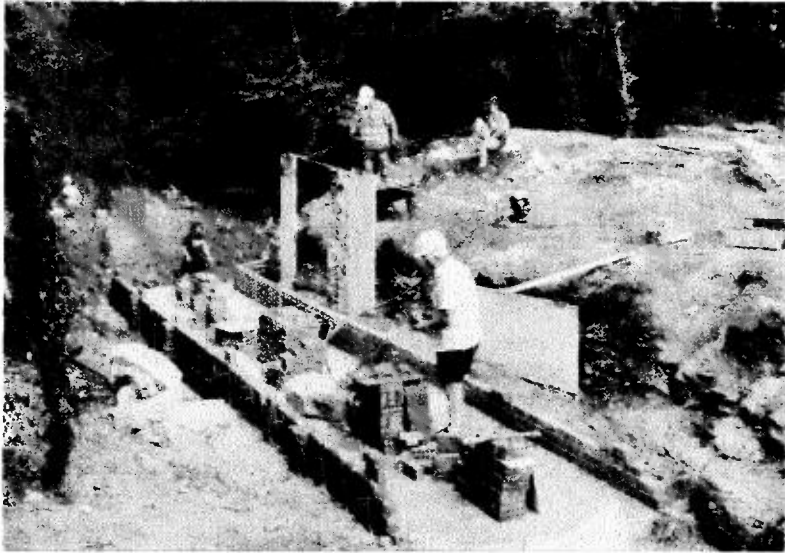


SLEAFORD

NAVIGATION TRUST



NEWSLETTER

No 9 - January 2002

The Sleaford Navigation Trust

A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No: 3294818.
Registered Office 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH
Registered as a Charity, No: 1060234.
Web Page: www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Aims and Objectives

To stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Slea or the Sleaford Navigation and to restore, improve, maintain and conserve and make it fully navigable. To restore associated buildings and structures and to promote the use of the Sleaford Navigation by all appropriate kinds of waterborne traffic and to promote the use of towpaths and adjoining footpaths.

Executive Committee

Chairman : Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH.
Tel. 01522 689460

Secretary : Steve Hayes as above.

Treasurer : David Turner Brownlow's House, Brownlow's Hill, Coddington, Newark, Notts. NG24 2QA. Tel. 01636 708781
E-mail d-turner@totalise.co.uk

Engineer : David Pullen Brinkburn House, Church Street, Scothern, Lincoln LN2 2UA. Tel. 01673 862278

Martin Chapman

Barbara MacKay : Tel. 01529 304355

Susan Sowerby : Tel. 01522 793149

Pat Taylor : Chairman : Sleaford Navigation (Sales) Ltd. Tel. 01522 790652

David Carnell : Nominee of Lincolnshire IWA

Non Committee Contacts

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

Sleaford Sports Partnership Liaison : Norman Osborne, as above.

Editors: Izzie and David Turner, address above.

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

Photographs: Izzie Turner unless otherwise credited.

Editorial

Having been interested in canals and navigable waterways for more years than we care to remember and involved in their restoration and maintenance for over 30 we have seen a few changes one way and another. In the 1960's canals were more likely to be closed than reopened with public opinion pushing many local authorities to spend money on filling them in and destroying locks and other structures. Since that time there has been a total sea change with the tremendous boom in canal holidays and boat sales and usage. Local Authorities are now far more likely to spend money on restoring or developing their local waterways so as to attract holiday makers to their area. Holiday makers spend money and so the debate has gone from 'how do we get rid of this nuisance', via 'should we restore the canal for pleasure boating' to 'how best can we reopen the canal and attract the tourists both waterborne and on land'.

Saturday 19th January was a red letter day for us personally. On that day WRG Northwest celebrated 25 years of restoration work. WRG Northwest grew out of the Peak Forest Canal Society work party who, after the completion of work on the Lower Peak Forest, Ashton and Rochdale '9', became a mobile group to help other groups up and down the country. We tended to specialise in lock chamber clearance - very dirty and smelly work at times - but an essential part of any restoration. 25 years on we could not refuse our personal invitation from David McCarthy MBE. The MBE being awarded last year 'for services to canal restoration'. Nearly 100 sat down to the dinner very kindly hosted by the North Cheshire Cruising Club with the reminiscing and drinking going on late into the night. On the following day those of us still fit after the previous night, boarded two vintage double decker buses loaned from the Transport Museum on Cheetham Hill, Manchester for a tour of some of the completed restoration works on the Huddersfield canal and some of those in progress on the Rochdale. If you get the opportunity to look over these restorations you will probably be as impressed as we were.

David and Isobel Turner

Chairman's Report

A Happy New Year to all our Readers??

You will have already read the press release by Mary Powell, Tourism Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, in the last copy of the newsletter so will understand the extra significance we all hope the above title has for the Trust and for Lincolnshire waterways.

On December 6th, 2001, a Lincolnshire Waterways Workshop hosted by British Waterways and Lincolnshire County Council was held at Riseholme to which were invited representatives of local and national groups. Dave Pullen and I attended on behalf of the Sleaford Navigation Trust and Dave Carnell represented IWA. It would probably not be helpful to give a list of all the delegates but the invitation was pretty wide ranging and included local government, waterway groups, anglers, etc., etc.

The objective of the day was the exploration of the theme that 'Lincolnshire Waterways are both under used and underdeveloped' with the workshop contributing to and influencing the Lincolnshire Waterways Master plan for the next 10 years.

Mary Powell gave a presentation, which in many ways echoed the one she had earlier given to the SNT Management Sub Committee. This centred on the need to build on the current tourism to the county without losing the peace and tranquillity which were seen as major attractions. Currently the tourist spend in Lincolnshire is £807 million, higher than many counties, coming mainly from UK visitors in high season. In applying for Objective 2 European Funding for development of the waterways, it was felt that the project would be in keeping with the established view of the county by tourists but would extend and develop the appeal of the area.

Much of the thinking came from the increased opportunities afforded by the Witham Nene link. The aim was to attract boaters to the area and encourage them to stay for a few days. The spurs off the Witham of the Sleaford Navigation and the Horncastle Canal were seen as keys here. Both waterways would give a variety of experience and should be developed not simply for cruising but also for walking and cycling. Sustrans were also involved in the partnership.

Lincolnshire County Council has earmarked £9.7m for the project with an additional in-house budget over the next five years. It was hoped this would draw European Objective 2 Funding for the Link and for the Lincolnshire Waterways Project.

Roger Butler, Strategic Initiatives Manager, British Waterways, followed

with a presentation outlining the benefits of restoration and giving statistics relating to the amount generated into local economies by resulting visitors. Examples were drawn from the Fens Regeneration and work on the Tees to show the range of community projects, site specific development, marketing and promotion, etc., included in the regeneration theme. He will be developing the strategy document for the Project.

An interesting addition was that if the bid is successful, then the time scale for a complete restoration of the Sleaford Navigation will be within the next five years. If the bid is not successful, then the £9.7m will still be available for restoration and for the basis for further funding but in that case the time scale may be slightly longer.

So what do we do now? We carry on exactly as before with work parties at the end of the month as usual. We are planning an informal boat-gathering in early May and will be attending the usual events with promotional material, sales goods and raffle tickets. Of course we shall be working closely with the County Council and British Waterways to look at issues such as what studies are still needed and to make sure that we are working in the same direction but we certainly don't just sit back and wait for it all to happen.

The account I have given of the day and the whole project may seem rather detached and clinical for something which could be of such astounding significance for the restoration of both the Sleas and the Horncastle and perhaps that needs some explanation.

Within the Society and the Trust we have spent a long time extolling the virtues of the Sleas and explaining the benefits to the community of restoration. The message is very familiar. We have attended IWA conferences, meetings of Northern Canals Association and heard presentations from other Navigation Trusts where regeneration has been preached, albeit to the converted. I have listened, somewhat enviously, to accounts of European, or Lottery, funding now making schemes possible for other waterway groups and seen the look of slightly bemused disbelief on the face of the chairman reporting new developments. It is difficult to realise that, perhaps, the time has come for our turn!

If indeed it has, then thanks go not only to the recent change in attitude towards restoration and the role of the waterways, but also to all those Society and Trust members who have preached the message over the years

and corrected the unbelievers by saying, 'Not IF we get boats back into Sleaford but WHEN we get boats there again.'

Thank you.

Chris Hayes (A slightly bemused, cautiously optimistic, happy Chairman!)

Working Party News

We escaped the cold biting winds of the last Sunday in December and tidied our lock up garage at the Rugby Club. By the time you read this the January work party will have come and gone and weather permitting we should have made a start on the brickwork for the northern side of the by-wash at Haverholme and completed some more concreting. As well as our own volunteers on site we hope to be joined again by volunteers under the Community Service for Offenders Scheme operated by the Probation Service. They joined us for two work parties last year and have made a valuable contribution to progress on site.

Work parties will continue on the last Sunday of the month mainly at Haverholme but note the change in March to Bottom lock where we will be installing mooring bollards at the lock.

Work parties normally take place on the last Sunday of each month but please ring Dave Pullen (address and phone number inside front cover) for further details. Alternatively Email myself. See also 'Diary Dates' on the back cover. We normally work from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm but welcome all helpers even if only for an hour or so. Because of insurance reasons we are sorry but cannot allow anyone under the age of 16 to participate in construction work, in jobs involving edge tools or other activities where there is a risk of injury.

Dave Turner

Snippets...

Notice our notices!

To raise the profile of the Trust's voluntary works two wooden "A" framed display panels have been made. These will be displayed at events and work sites, providing membership leaflets and contact addresses etc.

Dave Carnell

Sales Stand Report for 2001

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year. The stand has been to 11 different venues - inside and out in all kinds of weather!! Thank you everyone who has sent books, bric-a-brac and plants. I am always pleased to receive items to sell (I haven't had to move out yet....) Thank you to all my helpers especially Rodney.

Pat Taylor

Money money money....

Another piece of good news is the offer of three thousand pounds from The Waterways Trust towards the building of launching facilities for trailboats and canoes in Sleaford. The extra funding has yet to be applied for and the slipway will require planning consent from the local authorities and the Environment Agency.

Dave Carnell

Keep those muscles in trim!

We became aware that the Environment Agency were removing some of the Ransomes hydraulic guillotine operating equipment on the River Nene. The amount of effort presently required to raise the Sleat Bottom Lock guillotine would have been halved by fitting this equipment! Unfortunately the E.A. have concerns about the safety aspects of operating this and are unable to allow it to be fitted to a structure they have responsibilities for so we were unable to obtain it.

Dave Carnell.

Diary Dates

16 th Feb.	7:30 pm SSP	Horse Race Night £3/ ticket (sponsor a horse for £5 and get 2 FREE tickets)
21 st Feb.	7:45 pm	IWA John Nuttall (BW) talking on the restoration of the Chesterfield and Grantham Canals.
24 th Feb.	10:00 am SNT	Work party at Haverholme.
2 nd Mar.		Charity Market, Washingborough, Sales Stand.
16 th Mar.	7:30 pm SSP	Irish Night
21 st Mar.	7:45 pm IWA	"The Proposed Fenland Navigations Links" John Adams, Environment Agency.
24 th Mar.	10:00 am SNT	Work party at Bottom Lock.
13 th April	7:30 pm SSP	Quiz Night
18 th April	7:45 pm IWA	"Old Gainsborough & the River Trent" The Delters.
28 th April	10:00 am SNT	Work party at Haverholme.
24-26 th May		Strawberry Island Boat Rally. Sales Stand
26 th May	10:00 am SNT	Work party at Haverholme.
23 rd June	10:00 am SNT	Work party at Haverholme.
6-7 th Jul.		Lincoln Water Festival. Sales Stand.
13 th Jul.	7:30 pm SSP	Sleaford Concert Band and Fireworks Spectacular Summer Concert
20-21 st Jul.		Sleaford Water Weekend, Sales Stand.
10-17 th Aug.		WRG Canal Camp.
23-26 th Aug.		National Waterways Festival, Huddersfield, Sales Stand.
7 th Sept.		Classic Car Rally, Sleaford, Sales Stand.

Meetings marked IWA are organised by the Lincolnshire branch of the Inland Waterways Association and are open to everyone. The venue is St Mary-le-Wigford Church Hall, Lincoln unless otherwise stated. For details contact Mrs V Longthorne on 01949 530138.

Meetings marked SSP are organised by the Sleaford Sports Partnership the venue being Sleaford Rugby Club. For details contact Barbara MacKay on 01529 304355 or Norman Osborne on 01526 832256

Front Cover Picture

The bywash at Haverholme under construction during last year's Canal Camp.