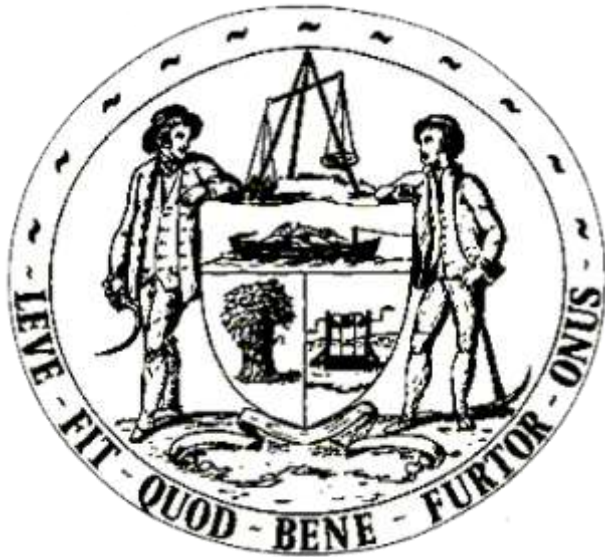


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



56

Autumn 2020

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

...is on facebook: Sleaford Navigation Trust

...is on Twitter: @SleafordNavigationTrust

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.

Newsletters

To request an email version contact:

secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Articles

editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

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

We can't not comment on what a strange year this has been... but hopefully we're on the way back to some kind of normality with schools and colleges re-opening to all pupils and students and more people heading back to work perhaps after months of furlough or working from home. On the water, boat owners have endured restrictions and those of us who regularly hire have found no cheap last minute holidays this year with the extra families looking at UK trips instead of risking travelling abroad. We hope people who've tried a UK canal holiday for the first time had a great time and come back again. The pandemic must have hit the hire-boat companies, along with other industries, very hard. Fingers crossed for their survival.

One casualty of Covid-19 was our AGM, due to be held in May. We have re-scheduled it now for 29th October 2020 and we will be meeting by Zoom — all welcome. If there's anyone out there who hasn't used Zoom, perhaps for work or catching up with family and friends, give us a call and we can setup a practice for you, all you need is an email address and internet access. As usual only members of the Trust get a vote.

The AGM papers, including the agenda, previous minutes and Directors' reports can be found in this newsletter.

Debbie Scott, Editor

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SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that, because of current restrictions relating to Covid-19, the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will take the form of an internet Zoom meeting, on Thursday 29th October, 2020, 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 31st December 2019.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019.
5. To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.
6. Election of Directors. Stephen Hayes, Rebecca Franks and Susan Sowerby are due to retire by rotation.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Sleaford Navigation Trust is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. The details needed to join the meeting are below.

Topic: Sleaford Navigation Trust AGM

Time: Oct 29, 2020 19:30

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89245494359?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89245494359?pwd=NWJ0TUZmL1B5ZWFYOGdMQy9zNXZzd09)

[pwd=NWJ0TUZmL1B5ZWFYOGdMQy9zNXZzd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89245494359?pwd=NWJ0TUZmL1B5ZWFYOGdMQy9zNXZzd09)

Meeting ID: 892 4549 4359 Passcode: 5MGGQ3

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held at Sleaford
Town Council Offices, Sleaford, on Monday 13th May, 2019**

Apologies:

Mr & Mrs D Carnell, Mrs B Jones, Mr & Mrs M Pitcaithly.

Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Mrs R Franks, seconded by Mr K Fernandes.

Directors' Report:

It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Mrs Hayes summarised the contents and noted it as being the twenty-second annual report.

Its reception was proposed by Mrs D Scott, seconded by Mr M Phillips.

Thanks were extended to all committee members, members and volunteers 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. Their reception was proposed by Mr K Fernandes, seconded by Mr D Pullen.

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 Mr M Sowerby, seconded by Mr S Hayes.

Election of Directors:

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mrs P Carnell and Mrs D Scott.

Both were elected unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Mrs Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2019 and outlined the current progress of the 'Destination South Kyme' project. Mr D Pullen responded to a question from Mr D James concerning water supply to the River Slea.



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 2019

This is the twenty-third annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2019. 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 2019 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: Previously 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 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.

produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.

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

liaises with NKDC Executive Board Councillor Mervyn Head who has specific responsibility for matters concerning the waterway.

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 Heckington Show 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

- Meetings of the Witham Catchment Partnership Steering Committee in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust.

- A North Kesteven District Council Funding Seminar at Wilsford.

- A Lincolnshire County Council Funding Seminar “Join the Dots” at Hemswell.

- A fact-finding visit to the Chesterfield Canal Trust with Alan Gray, Economic Development Manager. NKDC.

- A meeting with Richard Wright, NKDC Leader, to discuss the work and aspirations of the Trust.

- A meeting with representatives of NKDC and the EA to discuss and consider the details of the planned ESIF environmental enhancement measures in the top pound in Sleaford.

- An IWA/CRT Restoration Workshop in Wolverhampton

- South Kyme Working Group meetings involving representatives from the Environment Agency and South Kyme Parish Council

- A series of meetings in connection with proposed work on the weir crest and by-wash at Haverholme Lock in preparation for further work on the lock itself. Consultation took place with personnel from North Kesteven District Council, the Environment Agency and the Inland Waterways Association Restoration Hub.

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

As reported in the previous Directors' Report, coir roll had been installed as bank protection and habitat enhancement in Sleaford. Unfortunately, only a few of the plants survived because of extremely wet conditions and shading from the overhanging trees. After consultation with Salix, the supplier, a different choice of plant, Carex Pendula, was used in another attempt in Spring 2019.

Some additional works were undertaken to complete the LEADER funded Destination South Kyme project. These included modification to the landing stages by the installation of a bridging section and the creation of a new access path with a hard surface. The Annual Boat Gathering took place in South Kyme in May.

As part of the plan to encourage more boats to visit the village, it had always been intended to create a separately funded winding hole above the village. The Trust had been fortunate in securing monies from the Inland Waterways Association, East Anglian Waterways Association and individual donors. Following negotiations with the landowner and the necessary permitting by the EA, the digging out of the winding hole was undertaken by contractor Phil Wright in July. Discussion with David Hutchinson, EA Witham Catchment Co-ordinator, had led to the modification of the winding hole design to include a berm and shallow area providing a fish spawning ground and protected area where predators could not access small fish. Extra funding to achieve these additional environmental benefits had been provided by the EA. The installation of the required coir matting and rolls was undertaken by volunteers drawn from the Trust, the EA and the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust. The completed landing stages and winding hole have proved popular and the number of boats visiting the village has increased.

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 Trust is 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

Financial Report for year ending 31st December 2019

Regular AGM Attendees will remember that we usually share hard copies of the report at the AGM itself. This year the documents will be available on the Trust's website. Any members needing a hard copy please contact Steve in good time on 01522 689460

Otters at South Kyme

Photo: Jo Shields

Thanks to Jo Shields for the wonderful photos recently shared on facebook. Let's hope the otters understand that the 48hr mooring restriction does not apply to them!





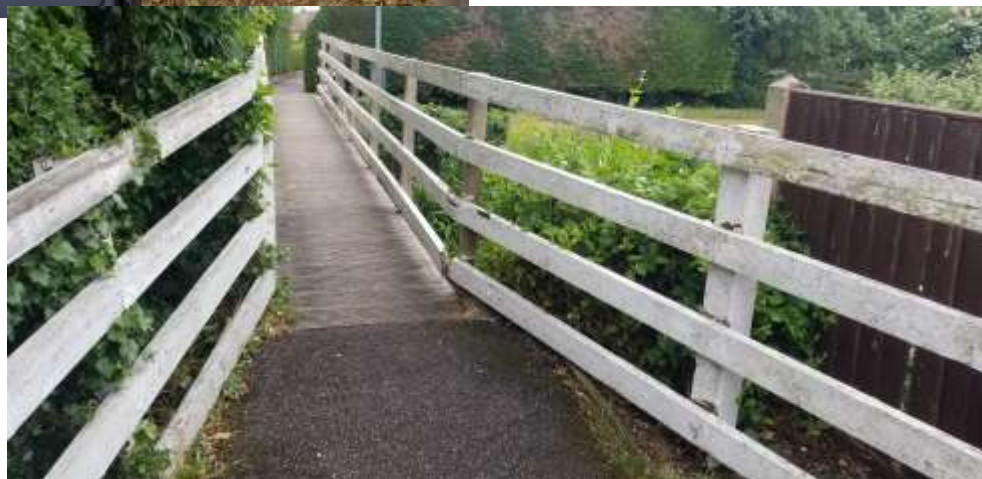
South Kyme Footbridge

Many of us will be familiar with the footbridge in South Kyme which has recently started to look a bit decrepit. We had some news earlier in the year that the County Council has decided to refurbish the footbridge by renewing the decking and hand rails.

Apparently they are planning to use recycled plastic material for the project so maybe we set a trend when we installed the new village moorings.

We did check that any changes would not affect the headroom at the bridge.

Photos: Steve Hayes



Tools Explained - a light-hearted guide for aspiring engineers and long suffering spouses

Bench Drill...A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings itself across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

Wire Wheel...Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh--!'

SkilSaw...A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

Pliers...Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

Belt Sander...An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

Hacksaw...One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Molegrips...Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

Oxyacetylene Torch...Used almost entirely for igniting various flammable objects in your workshop. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race

Table Saw...A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

Hydraulic Floor Jack...Used for lowering a vehicle to the ground

after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

Band Saw...A large stationary power saw primarily used by most workshops to cut good aluminium sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the waste bin after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

Two-Ton Engine Hoist...A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect

Information kindly provided by the Voice of Experience

The weather in 2020

After a very wet start to the year, a dry spring and early summer, followed by torrential rainfall in August, has played havoc with water levels on the Slea and Kyme Eau.

On 22nd August, Dave Pullen reported:

On Sunday 16 August a localised area of slow moving thunder clouds deposited over 2 inches of rain in a band including Ruskington and Heckington. As of last Wednesday the water level in South Kyme had recovered to 2.78m ODN. The flow at Leasingham Mill peaked at 4x the previous very low flow level, and has now returned to near that previous level. Hopefully the flush of fresh water has avoided a catastrophic environmental incident which could have caused significant fish kill.

It is not clear if abstraction has started again since then. Hopefully no further tinkering with the sluices at Taylors lock and attention to detail in keeping the guillotine gate fully closed will prevent further depletion. As expected, the level gauge at Carre Street weir in Sleaford shows that the base flow in the Slea looks to have been very little affected by the downpour on Sunday.

For those with nothing better to do, Google Earth is now showing

the winding hole on their latest aerial pictures. These were taken on 2 October last year and reflect the abnormally high water levels shortly after the time SNT/EA and Lincs Rivers Trust were installing the ecological mitigation at the winding hole.



Copyright: Google Maps

Work Parties

These have continued in a socially distanced fashion with activities at Taylors Lock and Cogglesford. In accordance with Covid 19 regulations, there was no car-sharing and thermos flasks took the place of the usual communal brew!



Taylors Lock....Assessing the situation

Photo: Steve Hayes

At the end of May, instead of attending the scheduled but



cancelled Boat Gathering, volunteers installed the weir boards at Taylors Lock in order to raise the water level upstream and also mowed the vegetation on the lock island.

They returned to Taylors Lock in July to remove a series of fallen or broken willow branches from the waterway and again cut the grass.

Photos: Steve Hayes



By arrangement, some excess branches and vegetation were also tidied along the river in South Kyme.

In mid-July, on a very hot day, the lock island and some of the banks at Cogglesford Lock were strimmed.



Photos: Steve Hayes

As always the Trust really does appreciate the time and effort put in by volunteers and friends on work parties and other activities. If you would like to join in please do get in touch with Mel, whose details are on the back page.



Visit to the Cotswold Canals Trust

In January, before lockdown was thought of, Steve Hayes and I made a fact-finding visit to Stroud together with Alan Gray and Cllr Mervyn Head from North Kesteven District Council



On the left is Jim White, Chairman of the Cotswolds Canals Trust, who kindly hosted the visit

Photos: Steve Hayes

The Cotswold Canals Trust has created a partnership with the local authority and other interested parties in order to push their restoration forward. We were all very



appreciative of their time, hospitality and advice.

The effect of the canal restoration on Stroud is amazing. The waterfront is a vibrant communal area with the district council rehoused in a former



Visit to the Cotswold Canal Trust, continued...

mill on the side of a wharf. It was interesting to meet a number of people involved and to walk along a section of the canal. The challenges that face the Cotswold Canals Partnership are many and complex but it was very valuable to be given an insight into their structure and organisation.

We had hoped to be able to look more closely at the relevance of our findings after the visit but the change of circumstances brought by Covid 19 curtailed that for a time.

Chris Hayes

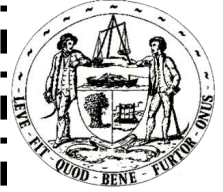
From the archives...

Earlier this year, Martin Chapman, one of the Society's founder members, was having a bit of a clear out and passed a large box of SNS/SNT documents to Barbara Jones, another former Trustee, who kindly passed the box over to your editor.

An ideal lockdown activity you'd think, browsing through the box but alas other things like work got in the way. However here's a few snippets, a taste of what went before.

Spring newsletter 1995 advised members that the Society was looking into setting up a company limited by guarantee and retaining its charitable status. This came to fruition in December 1996 and remains the legal status of the Trust. Martin and Barbara were listed as directors along with Chris, Steve (also Company Secretary), Dave Pullen, Dave Turner, Pat Taylor and Sue Sowerby.

In May 1997, the trust worked in partnership with Sleaford Pride's Fanfare events and Street Entertainment Group and NKDC to organise the first Sleaford Water Weekend. This was such a success that plans were immediately started on an even bigger and better event for 1998.



Membership : If you are thinking of joining, please do get in touch or pick up a membership application form from Cogglesford Watermill 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 membership application form is also available on our website
The saving in postage for reminders and trips to the bank will be much appreciated by the Trust and helpers.

New Members:

Welcome to Anthony Sinclair who joined the Trust in April and Judith Head who joined in August

The Tillergraph is available free of charge from Cogglesford Watermill (and other reputable waterside locations), please do drop in and pick up a copy.

Since re-opening after the Covid-19 closure, Cogglesford Watermill has new opening times 12-4 Saturdays, and Sundays until 1st April. Milling Days are temporarily suspended while the venue has restricted numbers, but the flour is still available to purchase during opening hours. Please see www.heartoflincs.co.uk for the latest information.

SNT merchandise, hot drinks, postcards, gifts, books and local produce are available to buy as well as delicious Dennett's Ice Cream at Cogglesford Watermill.

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

Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460 chair@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Secretary	Steve Hayes– Contact as above and secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Treasurer	Becky Franks The Windmill Shop, 1 Church Street, Heckington NG34 9RF Tel: 07342 988014 thewindmillshop@hotmail.com
Engineer	David Pullen 43 Howell Road, Heckington NG34 9RX Tel 07766 714650 / 01529 460547 Engineer@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Director / Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 07973 330765 editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director / Sales	Pat Taylor Tel: 01522 790652
Director	Penny Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Lincs IWA Nominee	David Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810

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.