

# *Sleaford Navigation Trust*



57

**Spring 2021**

---

---

## 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)

...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 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:

*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

Well here we are, over six months on since our last newsletter, and how many of us expected that we'd only just be emerging through hopefully the last few stages of the lifting of lockdown restrictions? Pubs and theatres are re-opening and optimists are starting to book foreign holidays and many more are looking at staycations of various kinds. We hope this summer works out better for our many river and canal side businesses. Stay safe!

Unfortunately both our AGM and Annual Boat Gathering are again casualties, with the remaining restrictions in place. The AGM is likely to be held in September and the official Boat Gathering in South Kyme is being put off until next year. As always the Trust is keen for the navigation to be used so any boaters interested in travelling up to South Kyme (and beyond, to the winding hole and Cobblers Lock) would be most welcome. It would worth a call to the Chair and Secretary (see back page) to check conditions before setting off on your journey and perhaps a call to the Hume Arms (01526 869143) and/or the Golf Club (01526 861113) to see what their opening arrangements are at the time. Both have facebook pages for more information.

Happy Boating!

*Debbie Scott, Editor*

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Funding for training and equipment	4
Waterways Chaplaincy	7
IWA TV	9
Cogglesford Watermill Waterwheel Updates	9
Plans for Partnership with NKDC	12
SNT AGM 2021	14
Visitors to South Kyme	15
Down Memory Lane	16
Haverholme Lock Ecology Survey	16
NCCD Updates - re-opening as the Hub	17
SNT Subscriptions - new rates	19

*Despite lockdown, the Trust has continued to work hard towards the restoration of the waterway, small steps maybe but all valuable as shown by this update from the Chairman:*

In the past, if the Trust had a problem with any fallen trees that needed some chainsaw work before the branches could be moved, we were fortunate to be able to call on the services of one of our members, Andy Martin, a qualified tree surgeon, to help us out. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the Trust, Andy retired a couple of years ago and let his certification lapse so we were no longer able to rely on him.

Thanks to a grant from the Inland Waterways Association Waterways Recovery Group (WRG), two work party members, Mel Sowerby and Steve Hayes, were able to go on a chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting course which has given them the skills and certification to carry out the work. The course took place on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> but was slightly problematic as the first practical session had to be delayed because the very high winds made it unsafe to work in the woods. The second day was more favourable so they were able to complete the tasks successfully and achieve the required standard. There was comment that those high winds would probably have given them opportunity to practise their new skills in the near future. The additional polesaw course, funded by the Sleaford Renewable Energy grant, followed later. Thankfully there seemed no obligation for them to come back singing, "I'm a lumberjack," but Steve seems to have a recent inclination to wear check shirts! They obviously enjoyed the training but were slightly frustrated to be so near the Coningsby flight path and not see the planes through the trees.

## **Sleaford REP Community Power Fund**

Glennmont Partners (the owners of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant), in partnership with North Kesteven District Council, make funding available via the Community Power Fund to support community projects within a five-mile radius of the plant.

In addition to the funding from WRG, a successful application to this fund in January meant that the Trust could purchase, not only the specific polesaw training but also two petrol powered brush-cutters and a polesaw. The grant also allows us to purchase appropriate PPE for volunteers using the equipment.



# SLEAFORD

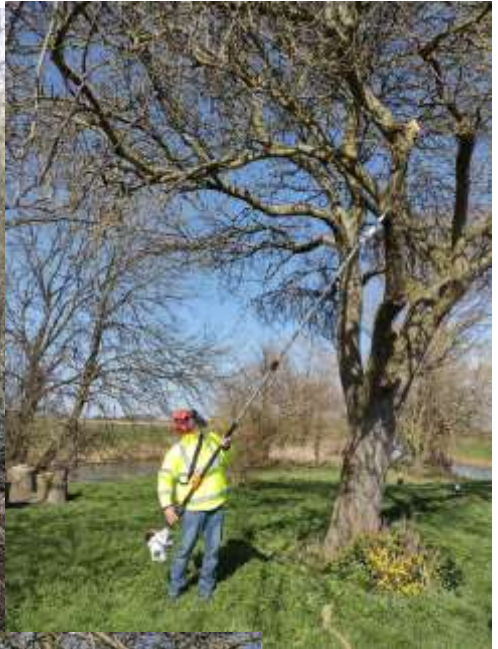
Renewable Energy Plant

Community Power Fund Panel

We hope that this award will enable us to work more efficiently in conjunction with our volunteer work party members and encourage more people to become involved. At present, Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from holding work parties but we hope that, before too long, these will be able to resume. If you would like to find out more and join us, please contact Mel Sowerby for details.



Photo: Steve & Chris Hayes



Photos:  
Steve Hayes



From the  
training  
course (top  
left) and then  
the equipment  
in practice at  
Taylors Lock

## Waterways Chaplaincy



*My name is Tina Clark*

*As well as being an Authorised Lay Minister, I am also a Waterway Chaplain (WWC) in the North East Hub. This is part of a country wide charity of Waterway Chaplains.*

*I am based in South Kyme, Lincolnshire but can be called to serve from the Wash, Boston, up to Lincoln.*

*As a Waterway Chaplain I walk the towpath in South Kyme ready to have a chat about anything to anyone. It is surprising how many times I have gone out at a different time or different route*

*and met someone who says 'I was needing to see you'! I personally feel I am called to serve God by following the mission statement of the WWC - To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. As a WWC I can act as an advocate in disputes, many WWC work with liveaboards, those whose boats are their homes and contain all their belongings. They may be asked to move on and are unable to due to lack of fuel or attending hospital appointments. A WWC may act as a go between to find a beneficial solution to the boater and Canal and River Trust. It may be to advise where a boat or rod licence can be obtained. WWCs are sometimes called by concerned parties about a liveaboard who is suicidal or suffering from some hardship.*

*The WWC prayer line asks for prayers for some very distressing situations, a liveaboard having petrol poured over her boat in a hate crime, a liveaboard whose husband recently passed away and has fallen and broken their arm. Often the problem is a lack of fuel or food which can be a direction to the nearest food bank or being taken to fuel suppliers.*

*At present the problem is continuous boaters, not having a permanent address being unable to access health care including the covid injection or cancer treatment. WWC can help by giving out NHS cards and intervening with Doctors' surgeries. In South Kyme mine is a more prayerful ministry. I support the Sleaford Navigation Trust and lead the annual - water levels and pandemic permitting - Boat Service. I serve the waterside residents, whether it is popping to the Co-op to save a shielding resident going out or listening to a concern, it is lovely just enjoying the joy of seeing a kingfisher or a bank of wildflowers. If I am able to serve you as a WWC please contact me on 01526 860283.*

*For more information about how to become a WWC or the work of the WWC please contact [www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk)*





## **IWA TV <https://www.waterways.org.uk/iwa-tv>**

IWA members will already be familiar with the new feature on IWA's website - its very own youtube channel. It brings together a massive collection of waterways video clips including historic films painstakingly digitalised through to recordings of webinars and talks given during recent months.

You can also access bookable live-stream webinars as they happen.

The direct link to the youtube channel is [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_ROBJ6rpm\\_41BSmu-Glf2Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_ROBJ6rpm_41BSmu-Glf2Q)

## **River Slea to drive historic waterwheel once more following £51k restoration and works.**

*The age-old sights and sounds of water-powered milling will return to Cogglesford Watermill in Sleaford following £51,000 of works which will also include exciting improvements for visitors.*

*The waterwheel at Cogglesford Watermill will be driven by the*



Photo: NKDC

*River Slea once again following £30,500 of repair works, which are being funded by North Kesteven District Council.*

*The mill's historic stones currently grind flour using electricity, after issues with the water wheel were*

*identified in 2018 and the decision taken to rely solely on the back-up electric motor to help protect the wheel from further damage.*

*The works will see the waterwheel carefully repaired and restored, safeguarding it for future generations to see and enjoy as part of the site's authentic milling experience.*

*Meanwhile a further £20,500 from the Council will fund an improved experience for visitors to Cogglesford Watermill,*

*including new information boards and potential improvements to protect other features where appropriate.*



Photo: D Scott

*Leader of North Kesteven District Council, Councillor Richard Wright, said: "It's incredibly important to ensure our history and heritage in North Kesteven lives on, both for our enjoyment now and for the benefit of future generations, through such sites as Cogglesford Watermill and we're very proud to offer it as a visitor attraction in the Heart of Lincolnshire.*

*"Witnessing the grind of its millstones as they turn provides a wonderful living, moving link back to the past. To see and hear the*

*waterwheel turn once more from the waters of the River Slea will be a wonderful moment.*

*“We’re keen that everyone has the opportunity to come and experience Cogglesford Watermill at its fullest, from school groups to individuals and families of all ages, so at the same time as restoration to the waterwheel we’ll be improving the visitor experience in lots of ways.”*

*Both tranches of the works are expected to start in late spring and planned to complete in early summer, allowing the mill to reopen as a popular heritage attraction where visitors can see the thousand-year tradition of milling at the site continue.*

*The works to Cogglesford Watermill aren’t expected to impact any of the paths and walkways surrounding it, which will remain open.*

*While currently closed due to the current Coronavirus restrictions, you can still enjoy the sights and sounds of milling at Cogglesford through [our virtual tours](#), which you can explore on your phone, laptop or other device, in your own time*

*There will also be bookable guided tours available, find out more and book at [heartoflincs.com](http://heartoflincs.com)*

*You can also follow @northkestevencd @cogglesford and @heartoflincs on social media for further updates.*

Hannah Williams, NKDC  
Communications Team



Available water power November 2019

Photo: D Scott

## Exciting new developments

The Trust has been working for some time now on a potential partnership with North Kesteven District Council to develop the waterway and explore its potential in terms of tourism and environmental enhancement. You may remember that, in 2020, before the first lockdown, Steve & Chris Hayes went to visit the Cotswold Canals Trust with Alan Gray and Cllr Mervyn Head in order to look at the restoration project and the structure of the partnership leading it.

Alan Gray, Economic Development Manager at NKDC, presented a briefing paper to the Communities and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on April 21<sup>st</sup> detailing a proposed partnership with Sleaford Navigation Trust. The content of that paper was then reported by the Sleaford Standard effectively announcing the concept to a wider audience. <https://www.sleafordstandard.co.uk/news/politics/council/river-slea-upgrade-projects-spawn-partnership-3212667>

It must be stressed that the scheme has yet to have full council approval before it can go any further.

The following details are taken from the briefing paper and relate directly to plans for that partnership and works at Haverholme Lock and bywash.

*“Haverholme Lock is the site of a very popular Stepping Out car park. The lock itself is crossed by the Spires and Steeples footpath. At the time that the land for the stepping out car park was acquired by the Council, the Council also ended up with the ownership of the lock chamber.*

*The condition of the lock chamber is now deteriorating and given that the Council are the owners of the lock, we have a duty to ensure that it is safe to use, given that it is a popular destination with visitors, particularly during the summer months.*

*The Council is therefore working with the Sleaford Navigation Trust to deliver a long term restoration plan for the lock chamber, which*

*will not only resolve the long term safety issues for the Council but also supports the Sleaford Navigation Trust aim of one day bringing the Sleaford Navigation back into actual recreational use.*



Photo: NKDC

*The plan involves the reinstatement of the bywash in order to take the water flow out of the chamber, followed then by the restoration of the actual chamber using volunteers. This will mean that the cost of making the lock chamber safe to the council are considerably reduced.*

*All of this is however subject to final approval and endorsement by the Council.*

### ***River Slea Partnership Protocols***

*As can be seen from the above, the Council is looking to work in partnership with the Sleaford Navigation Trust to deliver a number*

*of initiatives and potential projects along the route of the Sleaford Navigation between Sleaford and Haverholme Lock, and potentially onwards to Chapel Hill.*

*In order to properly formalise the working relationship between the Council and the Navigation Trust, it is considered that a partnership should be created with an adopted Terms of Reference, which sets out the aims and objectives of the partnership and a governance structure. It is also advocated that other key interested parties, such as the Environment Agency and Anglian Water be invited to join the partnership.'*

The Trust is delighted to have the support of the Council and to begin to work together in order to develop projects to further the restoration of the navigation while at the same time giving more people the opportunity to enjoy the undoubted well-being benefits of being near the waterway. We have already worked closely with the Environment Agency to look at ways of including improvements to wildlife habitat in our projects. The incorporation of fish refuges and spawning areas in the South Kyme winding hole design was cited by the Inland Waterways Association as an example of best practice in Biodiversity Net Gain. A partnership including the EA will ensure that the way forward will continue to offer environmental enhancement as an integral part of projects.

When the time comes for restoration work at Haverholme Lock there will be opportunity for volunteers to take part, perhaps to use their established skills or even to acquire new ones. Bricklaying and civil engineering expertise will be particularly in demand. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to be involved. Perhaps you have friends who you think would like to take part too?

## **Sleaford Navigation Trust Annual General Meeting 2021**

As we go to press, we've just provisionally booked the Community Room at the Town Hall for our AGM. We're planning for Tuesday 21st September at 7.30 pm. More information will follow in due course, but in the meantime please put the date in your diary!.

## Visitors to South Kyme May 2021

The IWA's Silver Propeller Challenge has inspired boaters across the country to visit waterways less travelled and those who take part record their journeys, with photographs as proof, and score points towards an award. Partly motivated by this, two celebrity boating vloggers Minimal List have posted over 380 YouTube videos of their river and canal journeys.



Photo: Minimal List      Perseverance and friends entering Taylors Lock heading downstream below South Kyme

Recently they have been in Lincolnshire on their narrowboat Perseverance and have boated along the River Witham and diverted up the Sleaford Navigation on their way to Boston. We were delighted that they enjoyed their time on the Slea and reached the Silver Propeller Challenge destination of the winding hole in South Kyme. They didn't make it under the very low bridge in South Kyme beyond the winding hole but were appreciative of the information on the website and at the lock regarding bridge height and acknowledged it had always been an over-optimistic attempt.

These two links will take you to their [Vlog](#) and [Vlog](#) on YouTube

## Down Memory Lane

In the last edition we started looking at some of the archives passed on to us from Martin Chapman — this must have inspired others to delve into their collections... we recently received this photograph from Izzie and Dave Turner, taken in the river near the entrance to the precinct off Southgate.

We're not sure of the date but apparently the event included some very squelchy waders, something that our Honorary Engineer (and others) remembers with great fondness!



Photo: Izzie Turner

## **Another project gently coming up to temperature... works to stabilise Haverholme Lock prior to restoration**

Funding has recently been agreed with NKDC for the ecology survey which is required before we can apply to EA for the



necessary permits for the work at Haverholme. The survey was completed towards the end of April by Alex Melsom (seen here in hi-vis) assisted by volunteers, Jill and Tomas Dickson, and we hope to have the results shortly.



Photo: Steve Hayes

## **News from NCCD, back to ‘the Hub’**

NCCD is delighted to announce that it re-opened on Mon 17 May 2021, as the Hub, following the merger of artsNK and NCCD.

*After a challenging and disruptive year, our re-opening marks an exciting new era for the Centre. Following a major refurbishment, we are thrilled to be opening new public spaces including a ground floor gallery, shop, craft workshop and multi-use studio.*

*A fantastic feature of the Centre will be a new Café Bar with outdoor seating space, which includes a stunning new jetty on the River Slea. The jetty view also takes in The Sail by William Lasdun, the river piece sculpture that was installed when the Centre first opened in 2003.*

*As part of our reopening this Spring, we are thrilled to open two wonderful new exhibitions, Jo Fairfax: Play and NCCD Art Club.*

*Our main gallery exhibition by Jo Fairfax celebrates movement, sound and place through a range of public realm works featuring mechanics, light, poetry machines, interactive film projections and walls of tiles. Play also showcases a new commissioned artwork that pays homage to the buildings that have housed us - The Pearroom in Heckington and Hubbards Seeds in Sleaford.*



Pen and Ink piece by Arati Reddy-Devlin



The new jetty... work in progress  
Photo: D Scott

*In our newly created ground floor gallery, we are thrilled to showcase a collection of artworks created by our local community during lockdown, as part of NCCD Art Club.*

*The creative arts have been a huge comfort and fantastic form of escapism and therapy for many of us over the past year. We are really looking forward to welcoming back our local community and visitors and through a new creative programme, we're proud to play our part in inspiring, uplifting and supporting everyone to recover and look to better times ahead!*

Mark Bowery, Marketing Officer , [NCCD](#)

## Membership Subscriptions - Action Required Please

A quick reminder that an increase in subscriptions was agreed at the 2020 AGM, with effect from 1st January 2021, as follows:

**Individual (£10), Senior Citizen (£8), Under 18 (£8)**  
**Family (£15), Life (£120), Corporate (£20min)**

The membership application form with the latest information about subscriptions is also available on our website

If you are already a member and paying by standing order, please could you check the details and upgrade your standing order to the new amount. This is relatively easy to do if you bank online but otherwise please contact your bank for help

Signing up to receive this newsletter by email means that you would receive it in full colour and the photographs work much better that way! Active hyperlinks will also take you directly the more information. Contact [secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

## Places to Visit

NKDC's heritage venues, including Navigation House, re-opened at the end of May, apart from Cogglesford Watermill which will be delayed, probably to June or July, due to the works on the waterwheel.

From this summer the opening times will be Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 12 to 4. For the latest updates see [www.heartoflincs.com](http://www.heartoflincs.com). Hopefully normal service will resume with Tillergraph, Towpath Talk and Canal Boating Times available to pick up and refreshments, gifts, local produce and SNT merchandise on sale.

**Towpath Talk** is also available at the Hume Arms, High Street, South Kyme.

## 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
----------------------	---

**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.