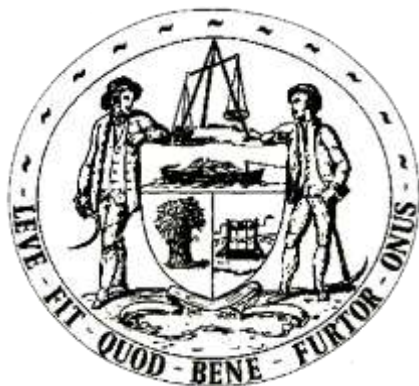


# *Sleaford Navigation Trust*



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**Spring 2022**

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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 website: [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

...is on facebook: Sleaford Navigation Trust

...is on Twitter: @SleafordNavigationTrust

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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 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.

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## Newsletters

To request an email version contact:  
[secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

## Articles

[editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

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 major Sleaford event we were anticipating in our last issue came to fruition in March and with the blessing of good weather (sunny, although a bit chilly, but definitely not bad for March!) has been hailed a great success. RiverLight involved around 120 different businesses and community groups in artistic and water-based activities. The plan is to repeat this in 2023, and, with an extra 9 months to organise it, it should be even more spectacular.

In the meantime, our next event is our AGM, on 9th May in Sleaford, see pages 8-13 for more details. Alan Gray from NKDC has kindly agreed to come and talk about latest developments

We're hoping to have a stand at [Heckington Show](#), 30th and 31st July - see you there?

Any contributions for the next newsletter would be most welcome, please send to the Editor by 1st September 2022

*Debbie Scott, Editor*

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## Work Party Updates

In January, the work party concentrated on tidying up the Winding Hole at South Kyme - rakes and grappling hooks in action - hard work but great result!



Photos: Mel Sowerby

March was a busy month, preparing for RiverLight, but Mel, Rob and Andrew Franks managed to find time to take training on a two ton dumper truck and Volvo excavator under the supervision of Adrian Sturgess from the Waterway Recovery Group. The location at Manor Farm Shop and Garden Centre in Leasingham was ideal. All passed the various tests that were set, including driving, loading and emptying the dumper. Operating and driving an excavator on an incline were other skills learnt. Thanks to Smiths Construction, Simon from DBS Farming, Jonathan Franks and family for their hospitality. Simon joined in with the training which means we now have four qualified operators to help with future SNT projects.



The April work party was based at Taylors Lock for a general tidy up ready for the visiting boats expected over Easter



## David Tomlinson, a life-long champion of the waterways.

We were very sad to hear of the death, at 86, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, of David Tomlinson, a Life-Member and long-time benefactor of the Trust. From an early age, David was an IWA member and active supporter of waterway restoration. As a work party volunteer on the Stourbridge Canal he featured in The Golden Age of Canals film both in the archive footage and in an interview where he reminisced on the experience.

In spite of living in Stafford, David was closely involved in the work of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society and the East Anglian Waterways Association. We were proud to call him a friend of SNT and he very generously funded work party expenses and joined us at many boat gatherings on the navigation and the Witham Navigable Drains.



David presenting Mel with tools at Tattershall Bridge on the Witham

David wanted no public recognition for his donations but was amused to be identified as our “Anonymous Benefactor”. He always referred to me, with a twinkle, as “Madam Chairman”.

He had a wicked sense of humour and caused many a chuckle with his apposite comments. The pithy observations may have been brief and quietly delivered but that only emphasised their humour.

He will be sadly missed by his many waterway friends.

Chris Hayes (‘Madam Chairman’)

Photo: Hayes

# **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 Source, Southgate, Sleaford NG34 7RY on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, starting at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of transacting the business detailed below.

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 2021.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
5. To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.
6. Election of Directors. Melvin Sowerby, David Carnell and Patricia Taylor are due to retire by rotation.
7. To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

The official business will be followed by a presentation by Alan Gray, Economic Development Manager, North Kesteven District Council

### **Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021**

#### **Apologies:**

Mrs P Taylor, Mr & Mrs M Sowerby, Mr & Mrs D Carnell

#### **Minutes of the last AGM:**

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

#### **Directors' Report:**

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

annual report.

Its reception was proposed by Mr G Scott, seconded by Mrs R Franks.

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 R Saul, seconded by Mr D Pullen.

The appointment of Amanda Jay of Sleaford as the Company's Auditor and the authorisation of the Directors to fix her remuneration was proposed by Mrs R Franks, seconded by Mrs J Head. Mrs D Scott declared an interest and abstained.

### **Election of Directors:**

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mr D Pullen, Mrs C Hayes.

Proposed by Mr S Hayes, seconded by Mrs D Scott. Both were duly elected. While remaining a director, Mr Pullen expressed his intention to stand down as Hon Engineer at the next AGM. Mrs Hayes thanked him for all he had done for the Trust in that role.

Mr R Saul had volunteered to sit on the committee and was proposed by Mr D Pullen, seconded by Mrs C Hayes. He too was duly elected.

### **Any Other Business:**

Mrs Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2021

The official May Boat Gathering had been cancelled because of the pandemic but there had been an informal gathering in South Kyme at the end of May.

Mel Sowerby and Steve Hayes had completed training, part-funded by WRG, to use chainsaws for cross-cutting. They had also received separate training in the use of a polesaw. This training, together with the purchase of a polesaw and strimmers, had been funded by an NKDC Renewable Energy Grant.

They had also undertaken an online First Aid course, organised by the IWA, with a practical session to follow.



Steve & Chris Hayes, together with representatives of NKDC, had visited the Grantham Canal Society to see the lock restoration work which had been completed by volunteers.

Discussion and liaison with NKDC was ongoing regarding the work to be done on the bywash at Haverholme. An ecological survey, necessary for an Environmental Permit, had been completed at the lock. NKDC were still keen to upgrade the footpath between Sleaford and Haverholme.

Despite the problems of social distancing, volunteer work parties had taken place at Bottom Lock and in Sleaford.

The hope was expressed that the next AGM would be held in May 2022 and again be face-to-face, not by Zoom.

## **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 2021

This is the twenty-fifth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2021. 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 2021 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)

Stephen Hayes (Secretary)

Debbie Scott

Pat Taylor

Melvyn Sowerby

David Carnell

Penny Carnell

David Pullen (Engineer)

Susan Sowerby

Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)

Robin Saul

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

The Trust's 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: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington  
Fen, Billinghamay, 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](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk), a Facebook page and a Twitter account @SleafordNavigationTrust.
- 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, as much as has been possible, the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years. Restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic have continued to limit some activities this year. Trust members were unable to attend the usual range of events because, in many cases, these had to be cancelled. Executive Board meetings were conducted by Zoom. Press releases, articles and interviews continued to result in valuable publicity both locally and in the national waterways press. Later in the year it became possible to give talks about the navigation and SNT to Leasingham WI and Year 6 pupils at William Alvey School, Sleaford.

## **Representatives of the Trust attended**

- Meetings and discussions with Witham Catchment Co-ordinator, David Hutchinson and Tracey Mooney in connection with the proposed Sleaford Blue-Green Project and the ecologically beneficial modifications to the waterway.
- A fact-finding visit to the Grantham Canal Society with Richard Wright, Leader North Kesteven District Council, Andy McDonough, Economy & Place Director NKDC, Alan Gray, Economic Development Manager. NKDC, and NKDC Executive Board Councillor, Mervyn Head. This provided the opportunity to look closely at the Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative and see the lock restoration work which has been completed by volunteers and which is directly comparable to the work that is needed at Haverholme
- A series of meetings and conversations 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 NKDC, the Environment Agency and the Inland Waterways Association Restoration Hub.

- With the help of IWA's Alex Melsom, an Ecology Survey was completed at Haverholme in preparation for the application for an Environment Agency Ecological Permit in order for the work to proceed.
- Various IWA webinars on topics including Bio-diversity Net Gain. Attendees were delighted to see the example of best practice at the end of the session was the winding hole in South Kyme.
- Tree management courses covering cross-cutting of fallen branches and maintenance of equipment. This training was part-funded by IWA/WRG. Further training, together with the purchase of polesaw and strimmers, was funded by an NKDC Renewable Energy Grant.
- On-line First Aid training followed by a practical session, funded by IWA.
- Meetings of the South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.
- An NKDC Sleaford Regeneration Workshop where the river was identified as a major asset to future development.
- Trust work parties have continued, where possible, at a number of locations including Taylors Lock, the South Kyme winding hole and Sleaford.
- A series of meetings with representatives of SKPC, NKPC and the Ramblers Association regarding the obstruction of the footpath by the navigation at Ferry Farm.

The Annual Boat Gathering in South Kyme in May was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The AGM had to be postponed and took place later in Sleaford in September.

The Trust joined the NKDC Good Cause Lottery as one of the causes which could be nominated directly by purchasers of Lottery Tickets.

## **Review of Financial Activities and Affairs**

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. The Trust is registered for VAT.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board

*Steve Hayes*, Director & Secretary

### **Boat Gathering 2022**

Boats are welcome to meet up at South Kyme over the weekend of 29th, 30th April and 1st May. For more details please contact Sue on [gathering@sleafordnavigation.co.uk](mailto:gathering@sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

We understand that the village festivities this year will focus on the Jubilee Weekend in June. Visiting boats will be welcome to use the moorings provided (maximum stay 72 hours)

New members - welcome to Stephen Hartley and Robert Swindell, both of whom have recently joined the Trust

We hope to have a stand at Heckington Show this year and would love to see you there - 30th and 31st July.

For more details please see the show website:  
[www.heckingtonshow.org.uk/](http://www.heckingtonshow.org.uk/)



For more information about events at the hub see <https://www.hub-sleaford.org.uk/>

Photos: D Scott



The festival started for us on Sunday 13th March when, along with the Sleap Paddlers, we had a stand on Riverside Green at one of the RiverLight Fringe Events. The Paddlers made great use of the Slipway with their canoes and paddleboards and we were proud to demonstrate the workings of our lift bridge. The bridge is tested regularly by LCC Highways, but, for some people, this may well have been the first time that they had the opportunity to see it lifted to permit navigation, albeit by canoes and paddleboards. It was a sight worth seeing and certainly drew the crowds. One day it will allow boats from the River Witham and beyond to pass through!



## Partnership working in practice...

The Slea Paddlers launching on the slipway (left) and Sam McAllister, EA's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Officer, lifting the bridge at RiverLight 2022



Photos: D Scott (above and next page) and S Hayes (right)





Our stand at RiverLight and, below, being visited by a pair of wandering pigeons...



## Useful websites:

Sleaford Navigation Trust	<a href="http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk">www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk</a>
Navigation House	<a href="http://www.navigationhouse.co.uk">www.navigationhouse.co.uk</a>
Cogglesford Watermill	<a href="http://www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk">www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk</a>
TourismNK	<a href="http://www.heartoflincs.com">www.heartoflincs.com</a>
Sleaford Town Council	<a href="http://www.sleaford.gov.uk">www.sleaford.gov.uk</a>
North Kesteven District Council	<a href="http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk">www.n-kesteven.gov.uk</a>
Lincolnshire County Council	<a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>
Inland Waterways Association	<a href="http://www.waterways.org.uk">www.waterways.org.uk</a>
Canal & River Trust	<a href="http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk">www.canalrivertrust.org.uk</a>
Environment Agency	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Blue Green Corridor	<a href="http://www.withamsleabluegreencorridor.co.uk">www.withamsleabluegreencorridor.co.uk</a>

Also follow us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sleaford-Navigation-Trust-632143133547859>

And Twitter

@SleafordNavigationTrust

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The River Sleas Clean Up volunteers have resumed their work parties - for more details of the events please see their facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/)

A selection of plaques is now available to order online through our website [www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

## **Membership Subscriptions - Action Required Please**

A reminder please, that the subscriptions are now as follows.

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

Please update your standing orders accordingly, if you haven't already done so. Many thanks to those who already have.

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

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**

Navigation House

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Cogglesford Watermill

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

and regular Milling Days on the second Sunday of each month

See [www.heartoflincs.com](http://www.heartoflincs.com) for more details and up to date information on events , etc.

## 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
Director	Rob Saul

## 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.