

Sleaford Navigation Trust



62

Spring 2023

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

...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

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter with its focus on the Annual General Meeting planned for Monday 22nd May in the Town Hall. The meeting is open to all of course, including friends and family. This year we are very pleased to welcome Simon Pawley to talk about his new book on the History of Carre Street. As usual, if you would like to contribute an article or photographs, please do get in touch - contact details are on the back page. The deadline for items for the next issue will be 1st September.

Debbie Scott, Editor

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Urgent notice:

If you haven't already done so, please would you let us have your email address so that we can save a few pence by sharing future editions of this newsletter with you electronically.

Contact

editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk or

secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

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 Sleaford Town Hall, Navigation Yard, Sleaford NG34 7TW on Monday 22nd May, 2023, starting at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of transacting the business detailed below.

To receive apologies for absence.

To approve the Minutes for the previous year's AGM.

To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2022.

To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022.

To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.

Election of Directors. Penny Carnell and Debbie Scott are due to retire by rotation.

To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

The business of the meeting will be followed by a presentation by Dr Simon Pawley about his new book on the history of Carre Street.

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

**Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 9th May, 2022**

Apologies:

Rob Saul, Sue Sowerby, Dave & Penny Carnell.

Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Debbie Scott, seconded by Becky Franks.

Directors' Report:

It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Chris Hayes



summarised the contents and noted it as being the twenty-fifth annual report.

Its reception was proposed by Malcolm Phillips, seconded by Gavin Scott.

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 Malcolm Phillips, seconded by Mel Sowerby.

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 Becky Franks, seconded by Steve Hayes. Gavin & Debbie Scott declared an interest and abstained.

Election of Directors:

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mel Sowerby, Dave Carnell and Pat Taylor.

Proposed by Chris Hayes, seconded by Debbie Scott, all were duly elected. Dave Pullen clarified that, at the last AGM, he had meant to say that it was his intention to stand down as a Director of the Trust at the next AGM but to continue as Hon Engineer. Chris Hayes thanked him for all he had done for the Trust in that role. She also thanked Pat Taylor for all her work regarding sales in support of the Trust.

Any Other Business:

Chris Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2022

Committee meetings had continued to be held via Zoom and work parties had taken place at a variety of venues. Volunteers had also undertaken excavator and dumper training. Steve Hayes had met with David Hutchinson of the Environment Agency at the winding hole in South Kyme where David had approved the work done.

Following an approach from Grantham Angling Association Fly-fishing Section, the Trust had agreed to lease to them the fishing rights from Cogglesford Lock to Bone Mill Lock on a trial basis. As part of this, GAAFFS will monitor the top pound where fishing is

prohibited and where signs to that effect have been posted.

The Trust has continued to work with NKDC on plans for Haverholme by-wash and lock. Permissions have now been received from Haverholme Estates for access and work on the site.

The Trust took part in the very successful RiverLight Festival in Sleaford in March.

The South Kyme Working Group continued to meet and an informal boat gathering was held in the village in May. The visitor moorings there continued to attract an increased number of boats.

Representatives attended the Waterways Restoration Conference in Stroud and the CRT East Midlands Annual Meeting in Leicester. At both events the relevance of Bio-Diversity Net Gain and Well-Being to future funding applications for restoration, particularly through the Shared Prosperity Fund, was confirmed.

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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 2022

This is the twenty-sixth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2022. 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 2022 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	Stephen Hayes (Secretary)
Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)	David Carnell Penny Carnell
Debbie Scott	Pat Taylor Susan Sowerby
Melvyn Sowerby	Robin Saul

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: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, 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. Executive Board meetings continued to be conducted mainly by Zoom. Liaison with other bodies was sometimes through actual meetings but occasionally via Zoom or Teams. With restrictions lifted it became possible to give a talk about the navigation and SNT to Bourne U3A.

The directors were saddened to hear of the death of Martin Chapman, the Founder and first Chairman of the Sleaford Navigation Society and several attended his funeral in September.

Representatives of the Trust attended the following:

- A meeting with the Witham Catchment Co-ordinator, David Hutchinson and Darren Randall of the Environment Agency to inspect the completed winding hole and adjacent habitat enhancement in South Kyme.
- A Witham Catchment Partnership meeting in Belton.
- 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 and the Environment Agency.
- A meeting with representatives of NKDC, EA and contractors in connection with the Blue/Green Project habitat improvements in Sleaford.
- Meetings of the South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.
- Meetings of the Slea Flood Resilience Project.
- Meetings with representatives of Grantham Anglers Association Fly-Fishing Section regarding the potential leasing of a section of the river from the Trust for angling.
- NKDC Shared Prosperity Workshops where the river was identified as a major asset to the town and the purchase, fit-out and operation of a trip boat in Sleaford was put forward as a project for funding.
- The RiverLight Festival in Sleaford together with the additional

water-based activities preceding the main event.

- A meeting with representatives of SKPC, NKPC and the Ramblers Association regarding the obstruction of the footpath alongside the navigation at Ferry Farm.
- The IWA/CRT Waterways Restoration Conference in Stroud.
- The Northern Canals Association meeting on the Derby Canal.
- CRT East Midlands Annual Meeting in Leicester together with Councillor Mervyn Head and Alan Gray of NKDC.
- Heckington Show with a gazebo and display in the Heritage Village.

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock, Haverholme, the winding hole in South Kyme and Sleaford.

Trust members undertook IWA Waterway Recovery Group training in the use of dump-trucks and excavators

The Annual Boat Gathering took place in South Kyme at the end of April and the AGM later in May.

The Trust continued to be part of the NKDC Good Causes Lottery as one of the causes which could be nominated directly by purchasers of Lottery Tickets.

Representatives of the Trust were pleased to meet with Mary Davison in connection with the gift of the Handley Cup to the Trust in 1995 by her mother, Mrs Hill.

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

The Handley Cup

You will have noticed in the Directors' report earlier in this newsletter that Chris and Steve met last year with Mrs Davison, daughter of the late Mrs Hill who had kindly returned the Handley Cup to the Navigation Trust in 1995. We have been trawling through the archives and found the following snippets of information.

Extract from Sleaford Navigation Society newsletter January 1978

'When success was obtained for a Sleaford Navigation Act on June 11th, 1792, Benjamin was appointed Treasurer to the new company and, to mark the appreciation for the efforts made by him over the years to bring the waterway into being, on the day of the opening to traffic (May 6th, 1794) he was presented with a solid silver cup inscribed around the base, 'The gift of the Company of Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation, May 6th, 1794' As far as is known, this cup is today held privately in the Transvaal, Republic of South Africa.'

Extract from SNS Newsletter Autumn 1994

'Benjamin Handley, father of the man who is commemorated by the monument in Southgate, Sleaford, was one of the proprietors of the original bank in Sleaford of Peacock, Handley, Kirton & Co. Ltd. This was in the building now occupied by Lloyds in Sleaford. He was one of the driving forces behind the business community as it attempted on several occasions to obtain a navigation act for Sleaford and the district. These attempts, as we know, came to fruition in 1794 with the opening of the waterway. On the day of the opening, Benjamin Handley was presented with a silver cup as a token of gratitude.

The cup disappeared from view for many years, only to re-appear in South Africa with a member of the family, Mrs Graham.

Unfortunately Mrs Graham died earlier this year but her daughter

and son, having brought the cup back to this country have now offered it to the society. We have gladly accepted and are now exploring the possibilities of displaying the cup in the area. We hope to have the cup formally presented to us in January and consider this is a fitting end to our bi-centenary celebrations in 1994'

Extract from local press April 1995

Mystery over Handley's cup

THE REAPPEARANCE of the Handley Cup, given to the Sleaford Navigation Society two hundred years ago, has posed a problem for local historians.

The solid silver cup, about the same size as the FA cup, will be permanently displayed with North Kesteven District Council's other memorabilia but no-one knows anything about its recent history.

The cup was originally presented to Benjamin Handley of the Manor House, Sleaford, father of the Henry Handley commemorated by the Southgate monument.

Opening

It marked the opening of the Sleaford Navigation to traffic.

The cup disappeared years ago and eventually surfaced up in South Africa in the effects of a Mrs Graham.

Relatives

Her relatives decided to bring it back to Sleaford and spent a day in the town, first handing the cup over to the present day chairman of the Navigation Society, Martin Chapman at Lloyds Bank, in Northgate.

It was in this same building that Benjamin Handley probably first received the cup. At a reception later at Cogglesford Mill, Mr Chapman told guests that the next project of the navigation society was to restore the Slea up to the bypass.



200 years on, with the same view behind them that Benjamin Handley probably saw from Cogglesford Mill, members of the Sleaford Navigation Society are pictured with his cup which has returned to the town. Left to right Lionel Ruddle, restoration team engineer, Steve Hayes, secretary, Rebecca Hayes, Chris Hayes, publicity, David Hayes, Martin Chapman, chairman, Bill Hunt, historian. Phone 95355-374.

vehicle l-a-Ride

Kesteven Dial-A-Ride are vehicle can be bought for...
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government's transi...
community.
as kind of vehicle we will...
will be brilliant to have a...
to the chairman.
a bit slow getting off the...
to be very successful...
designed to go out with the...
and this summer as that...
it - it is very impressive...
we haven't seen it yet but...
to see it should call the co...
43.

GIF

Presenting Mrs Hill with a brass plaque and two commemorative flags, the chairman said the exchange gift was to mark the 50-centenary of the navigation and her 24 hours in Sleaford.

Mrs Hill said: "The cup was locked away for a long, long time which was a shame as it is very beautiful."

Proud

"It is going to be in the district council offices and someone may one day come up with a history of it."

The society's director of customer services said that the council would now have the cup.

"It is a lovely thing. I was very impressed, it has nice lines about it," said James Kelly.

"It is housed for several thousands but the workmanship is irreplaceable."

Display

"We are very proud of it and will want to put it on permanent display."

The council were presently looking at "very effective security measures" and hoping to be able to have the cup on show for the chairman's evening reception.



The Handley Cup comes home. Sleaford Navigation Society chairman Martin Chapman receives the 200-year-old cup from Suzanne Hill.

Also pictured are, left to right: Granville Howkes, Lloyds branch manager, Barbara MacKay of the Navigation Society, mayor Peter Haysom, Coun Jean Morris, chairman of MKDC and Arthur Hill. Photo 95355-384.

Since returning to Sleaford, the Cup has been on display in several different places including the Hub and Navigation House. It is now kept in the NKDC Offices for security reasons, pending a suitable place being found for it to return to public display.



Photo: D Scott

Save the date!

RiverLight 2023 has been confirmed as Saturday 21st October
The event will be supported by North Kesteven District Council and the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

RiverLight is a celebration of Sleaford - its history, stories and unique spaces, with the river at its heart. The open and vibrant themes of colour and light mean we can be inclusive of as many exciting opportunities and ideas as possible.

For more details see the event's website
<https://hub-sleaford.org.uk/riverlight>

Sleaford Navigation Trust is pleased to be associated with

East Mercia Rivers Trust

Gail Talton, Witham Project Manager, tells us:

Climate change is felt most powerfully through water, flooding, extreme weather, pollution, and drought. Most of the world will be living with water stress within the next few years. Lincolnshire is known to be the most vulnerable region in the UK to climate change.



Furthermore, from sewage to drought, rivers have been featured much in our national newspapers. With no river classed as good in England we need to double down on efforts to restore and enhance our watercourses. The river Slea is classed as a limestone river, fed by springs, it is an important source of drinking water and, when restored, is home to protected species such as native crayfish, brown trout, and water voles.

East Mercia Rivers Trust (EMRT) is an independent charity formed in September 2022 following the merger of Welland Rivers Trust and Lincolnshire Rivers Trust (established 2011 and 2013 respectively), operating in the Witham and Welland catchments, which covers over 120 watercourses.



Volunteering and educational programmes run by EMRT have multiple personal benefits, helping people improve health and wellbeing as well as skills and knowledge. Increasingly, through Citizen Science programmes we can collate important data, enabling us to monitor the health of our rivers.



Photos: Supplied

We are currently developing a programme of citizen science to bring together people, knowledge and data.

Empowering local communities to take action and be part of the solution; ensuring rivers thrive in the long run.

If you would like to be involved in our future citizen science programme or for more information about volunteering or educational activities for schools, see our website www.eastmercia.org

or contact

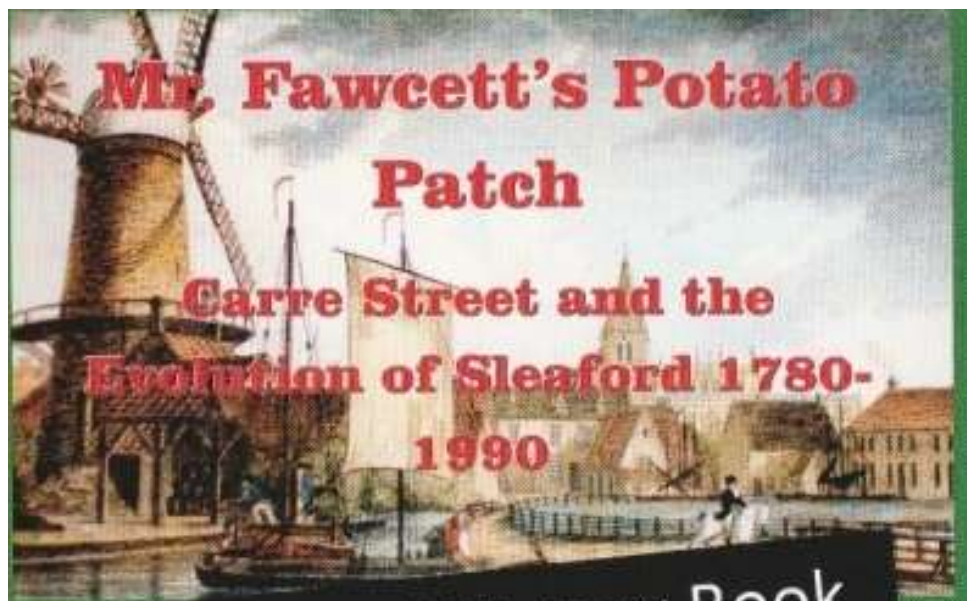
gail@eastmercia.org

Mr Fawcett's Potato Patch

This intriguingly titled book by local historian Simon Pawley is everything you would expect from Dr Pawley and more!

Anyone who has attended one of Dr Pawley's talks, joined in with one of his guided walks, attended one of his classes as a student, or even spoken casually with him, will be able to hear his voice as he tells the story of the evolution of Carre Street and the surrounding area over the last 200 years or so.

Supported by his meticulous research and collaborations with other local historians, he has produced yet another mine of information. Of particular interest to anyone connected with the Navigation will be the detail of how the various plots of land changed hands and usage throughout the Navigation's operation from 1794 to 1879, as well as the different



Mr. Fawcett's Potato Patch

**Carre Street and the
Evolution of Sleaford 1780-
1990**

NEW Sleaford History Book

"Mr. Fawcett's Potato Patch" by local historian Simon
Pawley

A4 paperback—full colour

314 pages

141 pictures and illustrations (including 41 maps)

£20.00 (plus £3.72 UK postage and packing)

AVAILABLE NOW to purchase online from:

<https://quasar-publications-ltd.sumupstore.com>

E-mail: quasarpubs@gmail.com

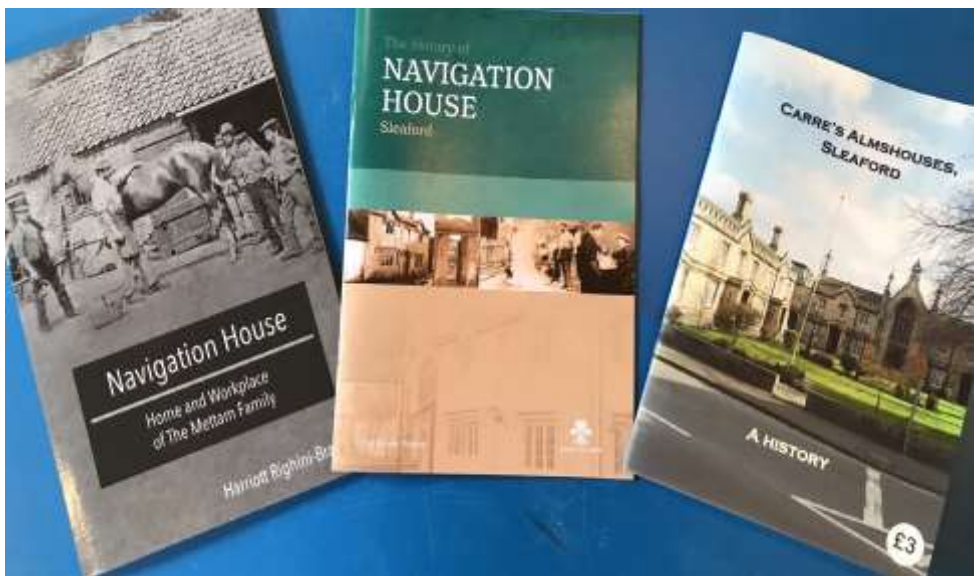
roles taken by the various characters in power in the town during this time.

Landowners, business people and politicians are all brought to life in his inimitable way. Maps, diagrams and illustrations are used to brilliant effect and, although the book's subtitle is 'Carre Street and the Evolution of Sleaford 1780 to 1990', later images and comments do reference more recent changes – the Barge and Bottle, the Hub, the restoration of Navigation House, for example, to bring it up to date.

The book can be purchased online from

<https://quasar-publications-ltd.sumupstore.com> Price: £20 plus £3.72 UK postage and packing Email: quasarpubs@gmail.com. Local collection is possible by arrangement.

Working with NKDC, Simon has also produced a History of Navigation House, which along with other books, is available from the shop in Navigation House.



Work Parties

Practical work has continued over the winter, weather, hip replacements, trips to Australia and cataract operations permitting.



A large tree, felled in a storm down at Bottom Lock was dealt with by EA thankfully, as it constituted a flood risk

Photo: Jo Shields

Further tidying up was carried out in October around the winding hole



Photos: David Pullen

Work party at Bottom Lock, April 2023



Risk Assessment ...

All work by volunteers shall be properly supervised by an expert in a hi-viz jacket!



Photos: Steve Hayes



And this was the resulting pile of branches at the end of the day's pruning work.

Fundraising

Do you know how simple and easy fundraising for the Sleaford Navigation Trust can be?

In 2022 alone we received over £500 from a combination of NKDC lottery players and Easy Fundraising contributions.

NKDC runs a community lottery where 60p from every £1 ticket goes to a local good cause or charity of your choice.

The lottery is run every week on a Saturday evening where the top prize is a fantastic £25,000!!

The link for joining up and being in with a chance of a prize whilst supporting the Trust is:

www.nklottery.co.uk/support/sleaford-navigation-trust





Easy fundraising is exactly that! When shopping on any and many online shopping sites an automatic % donation of your total spend will be made to your nominated charity or cause, at no additional cost to you. Purchases such as insurance, holidays and cars are all included along with entertainment, eating out and all the well known shopping sites.

Your usual internet browser can be easily set up to alert you that a donation is available when you are on any of the brands sites that are part of Easy fundraising.

If you load the app onto your mobile phone or tablet and go to the retailer's site via the app the donation is activated for you.

The link for Easy Fundraising is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sleafordnt/?from404=1 or search in your app store to upload to your phone.

Thank you and good luck!!

Much of the route of the Sleaford Navigation is off the beaten track but over the Easter holidays we discovered a section which is easily accessible by a short walk from the middle of Anwick village. A turning right to head upstream, past the AW sewage works and the back of the chicken factory (not a very inspiring-sounding start,

but bear with it!) brings you out on to open views across towards Ruskington in the north and the wooded area of Haverholme to the south.

Download the What3Words app and aim for /// intersect.saves.picnic



Useful websites:

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

Also follow us on facebook

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

And Twitter

@SleafordNavigationTrust

Dates for your diary:

All being well, this summer the Trust will be represented at Woodhall Spa Country Show on 21st May; Langley Mill on 27th May and Heckington Show on 29th and 30th July.

The River Sleas Clean Up volunteers continue their work parties - for more details of the events please see their facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/

A selection of plaques is now available to order online through our website 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

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.heartofinco.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.