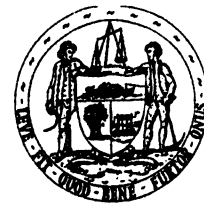




SLEAFORD NAVIGATION NEWS

AUTUMN 1993



PETERBOROUGH WATER FESTIVAL

The overwhelming consensus from those people who attended the Bank Holiday festival was that it was a great success! Thanks to the support of N.K.D.C. with display material and a grant, we were able to have a professional looking display in a six metre square mini-marquee, which was buzzing for the full three days.

Our badge making machine was part of the "Waterways For Youth" scheme which kept a flow of children coming through the tent, followed closely by adults of various sizes. They were 'tempted' to buy our raffle tickets, mugs, pens, pencils, cross stitch kits, T-shirts and sweat shirts.

The younger members of the Hayes, Woodhouse, Chapman and Boddy families were marvellous, with various combinations of badge making, raffle ticket selling, stall holding and general mugging going on throughout the three days. Additional attractions were Rebecca Hayes dressed in traditional boatwoman's dress and Paul Chapman attired as a boatman. They did not allow people to pass our area without a gentle approach, and 270 books of raffle tickets were disposed of.

The senior members were kept busy answering queries about the society, the Slea and the Lincolnshire Waterways. Many thanks to all who came and gave a hand or just called by to say hello. One visitor gave a donation after reading the spoof article about our Cobblers Sweatshirts in the festival news letter. We still can't work out whether it was to encourage more or to pay us to stop irritating them!

CENTRAL TV

Whilst touching on publicity, the society had excellent coverage on radio, TV and in the press. Central Television decided to follow the Taylor family aboard Wigford from Lincoln to Peterborough. The complete recording went out on the Friday evening as Central News, followed by a live interview of the family. As well as well as emphasising the waterway links between Lincoln and the rest of the country, we received some excellent publicity for the bi-centenary next year. Thanks to Pat, Mel and Sue for allowing Wigford to be used, and for their time and patience.

AND ELSEWHERE.....

Whilst all the frenzied activity was going on over the festival preparation, other activities continued apace.

DERELICT LAND GRANT

Our application for a DLG towards the engineering survey for the last four miles has been successful, with half the cost of the study being granted. Provisional approval has been given and a copy of our tender document is now awaited and is being prepared by Lionel Rudkin.

NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL - SLEA NAVIGATION WORKING GROUP

We were pleased to hear that NKDC has formed a Working Group to consider all aspects of the Slea. We met with members of the committee on 16th July and briefed them formally on our activities and future plans, both for restoration and for the 1994 bi-centenary celebrations. They are keen to be kept involved, and offered the use of Cogglesford Mill for our Cheese and Wine Evening. We suggested that further work could be carried out by the Society in Cogglesford Lock to complement the mill, and this is being considered further.

COUNTY COUNCIL GRANT

As part of their requirement for a DLG, the Department of the Environment wanted to see that we had the balance of the cost covered. We approached Lincolnshire County Council, and were absolutely delighted to learn that we had been granted £5000 towards the cost of the study. This is even more encouraging when you consider that when we contacted the council, the time scale was very tight, and there had been the upheaval of the local government elections and a change in the make up of the committees to contend with. Whilst we did not receive the full amount we applied for, we have been encouraged to apply again at the year end. Our Sleaford councillor, David Romney, showed a lot of interest in the project, and were grateful to the officers for putting time aside, at relatively short notice, to view the video and bring together our proposals. This was an excellent result!

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY GRANT

A third success was the grant from the NRA towards the study. We appreciate the local officers supporting us, especially when they have to offer guidance and control to our ways of working!

NOVEMBER SOCIAL

This years November Social will take place at the Hume Arms, South Kyme on Friday November 26th starting at 8.00pm. There will be a last chance to buy raffle tickets, just in case you haven't got any!

COBBLERS LOCK

NRA gave consent to carry out work on the by-pass weir. A new concrete apron has been laid to prevent further erosion and work has been carried out on the brickwork. The scaffolding bridge had been tipped into the lock, but this has now been recovered. We hope to have a work party weekend in the Autumn to clear up the chamber and build the top cill and we would welcome any help that you care to give. Let Neil know, or our Clerk, Steve Hayes, if you feel able to help.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Whilst the sales of tickets went well at Peterborough, we do want to obtain maximum funds from this raffle, and there are only a few weeks to go before it is drawn at our November social. The prizes have been added to by the donation of a framed copy of a photograph of a barge at South Kyme and we also have the signed print of Money's Mill by Robin Wheeldon, in addition to the cash, and various other prizes. Please make every effort to sell as many tickets as possible, it's really not too difficult. One 'friend' of the Society not only bought tickets himself but took 20 books to sell.

WIGFORD'S TRIP TO PETERBOROUGH

It's good job that it wasn't Friday 13th but Thursday 12th, the day that we left Lincoln or else we would all be superstitious for the rest of our days. What a series of events - our youngest, Edward, was stung by a bee and so was not a very happy 2 year old. The engine wouldn't start so we couldn't go across Brayford to fill up with water, there was an horrific thunder storm, the Echo photographer arrived just as the storm was breaking (perhaps you saw "Mr and Mrs Wigford" in the Echo) and then the BBC Television crew arrived.

The BBC were having a live outside broadcast from the National Waterways Festival at Peterborough and wanted to follow a boats journey to it.

After getting on and off the boat three times for the camera, not too fast, not too slow, and not looking at the camera. Mel got the engine started, what a day for a flat battery! Eventually, we set off for a trip round Brayford complete with BBC camera crew in attendance. We actually set off for Peterborough three times too, the first time the camera crew hadn't realised that floating moorings moved up and down when the boat left them, our departure gave all the appearance of a force nine gale, we went up as the moorings went down. The second time, we had no problem with up and down motion but we all looked at the camera. Apparently this just isn't on. Third time nearly lucky, they finally accepted that the children could not be coaxed to look away! They did an interview with Pat all about the Sleaford Navigation Society but never used it in the eventual broadcast.

Our holiday proper started on Thursday 19th August when we retraced our steps from Shardlow to Trent Lock and then onto the River Soar. As always we enjoy the Soar, we met up with Carole and Mick Golds on Electra, which looks very smart after its repaint. That day was a good day and we travelled from Syston to Fleckney, look at the map and count the locks!

Our next TV call was at Foxton Locks, a sunny afternoon, therefore plenty of gongoozlers! If you think it's busy with onlookers when going up Foxton, try it with a film crew in evidence. Bystanders seem even more intent on throwing themselves off the lock sides! It's rather off-putting to be winding a paddle, glance up and find a TV camera in your face. Cameramen also seemed to find a lock beam a good place to sit which can be a bit disconcerting. Filming went well going up the flight, and then we moored for more at the top. The last shot was of Wigford going into the countryside and the commentary saying "Will they be on time?"

We arranged a fairly early start on Monday as we were warned about the queue at the top of the Northampton Locks, we needn't have worried as there were only two boats in front of us when we arrived, but we did hear of long delays later that day. It was slow progress down the flight but we eventually arrived in Northampton after lunch, in plenty of time to shop and to restock the cupboards.

Then we were onto the Nene and the 'drippy locks' as Edward called them. Travelling with Florrie Kendall made the journey much easier and it wasn't until the Thursday that there were any holdups at all. We were beginning to wonder if everyone had changed their minds about going to the National!

We spotted "Bramley" and were pleased to see Martin, Pat and the Chapman family. He was sitting with his foot up after falling off a mountain bike that afternoon. Was this an attempt to get out of manning the stand!

Friday morning saw a big pre-rally cleanup and brass polish, and than on to Peterborough. The TV horrors really began for us on the Friday when we were asked to appear live at 6.30pm. After they went round us

all with the powder puff, apart from little Edward who totally refused, we were positioned on our spots. We waited for 15 minutes for Shoula to speak to us, and eventually spoke for about 90 seconds. The 90 seconds seemed far longer than the 15 minutes! We were, of course, all wearing our smart new Sleaford Navigation Society sweatshirts, and managed to get a plug in for the society 200th anniversary. They couldn't edit anything on a live broadcast!

Finally we could relax and start to enjoy the rally.


Pat Taylor & Susan Sowerby

SLEA '94

With Peterborough safely behind them and scarce a pause for breath, the Sleas '94 Committee's attentions are now firmly on the rally to celebrate the 200th Anniversary. Indeed, the response from boaters and caravanners alike who visited the stall, wrote down the dates and promised to visit us left one or two committee members slightly uneasy. Can we physically accommodate all these people if they really do turn up? Eventually it was decided that many of those expressing interest were actually expressing good will and the return of booking forms would probably reveal a lower figure.

Incidentally, we were surprised by the number of people who came to the stand and said, "Yes, we've heard of you but where exactly are you?" This may be understandable if the questioner comes from Essex or further south but some of those who asked were local to Peterborough. We patiently explained and directed them to the NKDC pamphlets.

We felt slightly more heartened when we realised that several of the visitors from further afield had not realised where Peterborough was prior to the rally!





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