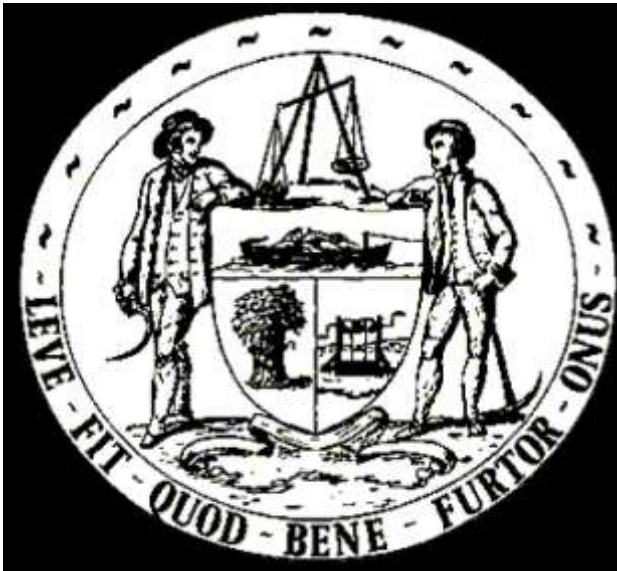


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



44

Winter 2014 –2015

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 10 Chelmer Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 8TH

... is registered as a Charity (No. 1060234)

... has a web page: www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

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:

sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com

Articles

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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

Our thanks to Westgate Print of Sleaford for their help with printing

Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 44

So winter is well and truly here now with Christmas preparations underway and hot soup the order of the day at work parties!

Lots of information here about the last two work parties and more to come, visible effects at Cogglesford Lock where planned work and spontaneous remedies have both been fruitful. And good news from Lincolnshire Co-operative: SNT has been chosen as Community Champions – see page 4.

The deadline for the next issue, Spring 2015, will be 1st April, with all contributions being as usual most welcome.

Please contact sleford.navigation@ntlworld.com to access the members' section of the web site where it is possible to download current and past editions of the Trust Newsletter

Debbie Scott, Editor

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Sleaford Navigation Trust has become a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion!

7th December 2014 to 7th March 2015

Everyone knows about the Co-op divi – arguably one of the earliest shopper loyalty schemes – whereby for each £ that you spend you earn a percentage of the Co-op’s ‘profit’, but did you know about Lincolnshire Co-operative’s Community Dividend?

For years now Lincs Co-op has been giving another slice of its ‘profits’ to local charitable causes through grants, donations, raffle prizes etc, in addition to each member’s personal dividend.

Distribution of this Community Dividend has recently changed to Community Champions. This means that each Co-op store has a Community Champion for a quarter and the Community Champion earns the Community Divi attributable to members’ purchases in that store in that quarter.

Bit of a long preamble, sorry, but the good news is that Sleaford

Navigation Trust has been chosen as the Community Champion for Lincoln Road Foodstore, Sleaford for the quarter starting 7th December 2014.

So please, if you live in Sleaford, but you're not already a member of Lincolnshire Co-operative, do join and then when you shop at Lincoln Road Foodstore you will help boost the amount that SNT will receive.

Alternatively, if you are a member but don't live in Sleaford, you can still register to have the Community Dividend attributable to your shopping allocated to SNT:
just go to <http://www.lincolnshire.coop/your-community/community-champions/choose-your-own-community-champion.aspx>

It's a great way of shopping locally and supporting your community!



Like us on facebook!



Log on to find details of work party activities and lots more. Don't forget to "like" us though and perhaps suggest us to your friends.

www.facebook.com



Navigation House now stocks not only Towpath Talk, but also now the Tillergraph and Canal Boat Times. All three publications are free, issued monthly and contain lots of features about inland waterways www.navigationhousesleaford.co.uk



The Inland Waterways Association's annual raffle will be drawn on 16th January 2015. We've been sent a



small supply of tickets and some newsletter recipients will be finding a book tucked into these pages — if you do you're already lucky! Fill them in and post quickly to IWA, with a cheque

to claim your chance . If you would like more tickets contact IWA direct on 01494 783453 ext. 611.

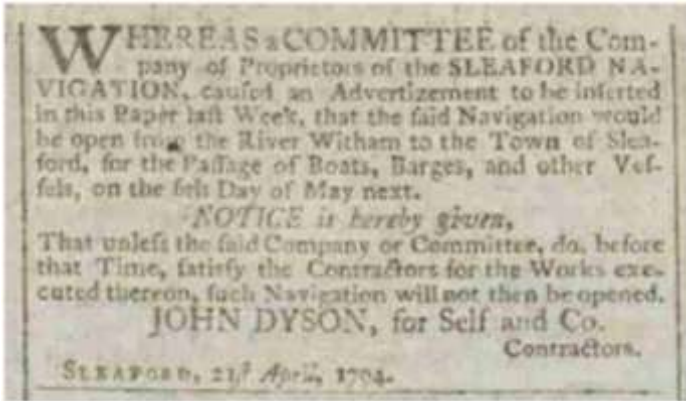
Make sure your ticket says SNT, each one you buy supports us

https://www.waterways.org.uk/support_us/raffle/raffle

A window into the past

I have only recently had access to the British Newspaper Archive, a partnership between the British Library and findmypast to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection. I was amazed at the sheer volume of material available and the ease of tracing articles and advertisements through simple topic searches. An early reference to the Sleaford Navigation is

reproduced here. The formal opening of the Navigation had been planned for a fortnight later and had been advertised widely. There are accounts of the



general celebrations which included hogsheads of ale and fireworks. It would seem though that the little matter of paying the contractor had not been given the same consideration and this was his way of saying, "Pay up or your boats are going nowhere!" The fact that he saw fit to place a public announcement of his grievance in the local paper was an indication of his indignation and desire to cause extreme embarrassment for the company. In effect it was a form of blackmail. "Settle your debts or else!" One can only assume the Proprietors did just that as the grand opening went ahead as planned.

These archives give a real insight into events and a look behind the scenes that official accounts omit. I look forward to further exploration.

Steve and Chris Hayes

October Work Party

In late September the Trust was contacted by the Environment Agency to say that a branch of a willow tree had fallen down on the lock island at Cogglesford and to ask, as we were the owners of the land, could we please remove it. Had the branch been an immediate flood risk, the Environment Agency would have taken responsibility but, as the fallen branch was not deemed to be a dangerous obstruction, it was down to us to carry out the work.

Initially we went to Sleaford to assess the situation and the photos show the extent of the work to be done with the branch lying across the tilting weir. This was obviously not a task that a normal work party could carry out as the fallen parts of the tree were very substantial. Hand saws were not going to make an impact on the branch so it required a professional approach. Andy Martin, our friendly tree surgeon, was therefore contacted to see if he would help out at the next work party in October.



Photos: Steve Hayes



When we arrived at the site in October it was almost impossible to see the extent of the work due to the extent of the undergrowth on the lock island. The first task, therefore, was to clear a space to work in what proved to be quite a complex operation. Andy's chipper certainly helped to break down the vegetation ready for spreading on the island later.

Once cleared, the fallen branches were gradually reduced, the smaller pieces being chipped and the larger pieces of timber being put to one side for firewood. At the end of the day the tree was made safe, the lock island cleared and the chippings spread on the island to prevent the undergrowth growing back.

Many thanks to Andy Martin for his assistance and to all those who helped on the day. Thanks too to the staff of Cogglesford Mill and the owners of Cogglesford Mill Cottage Restaurant for their hospitality.

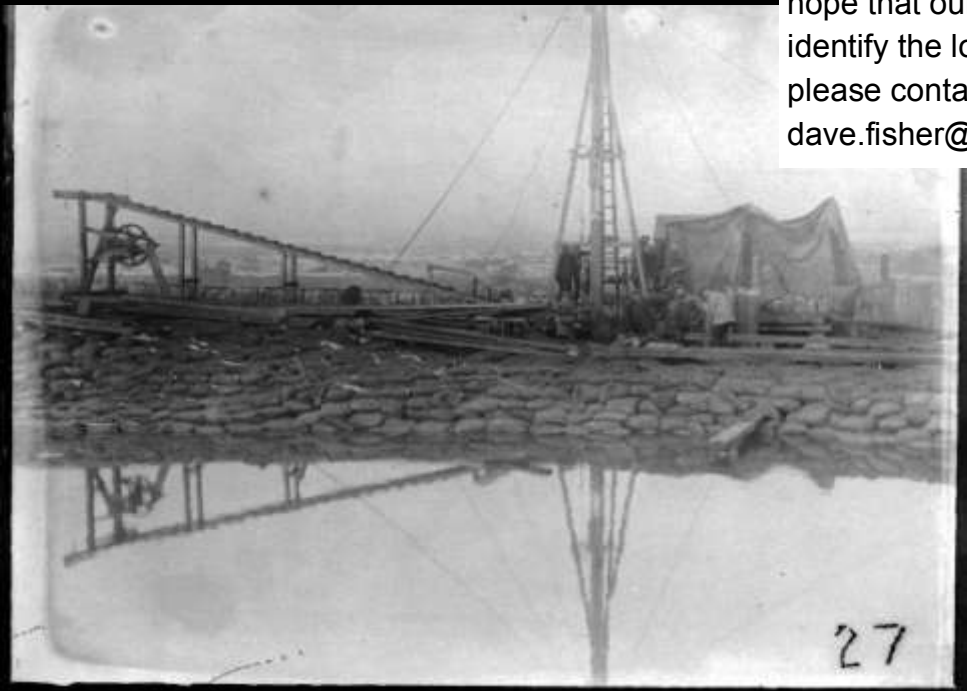
Steve Hayes

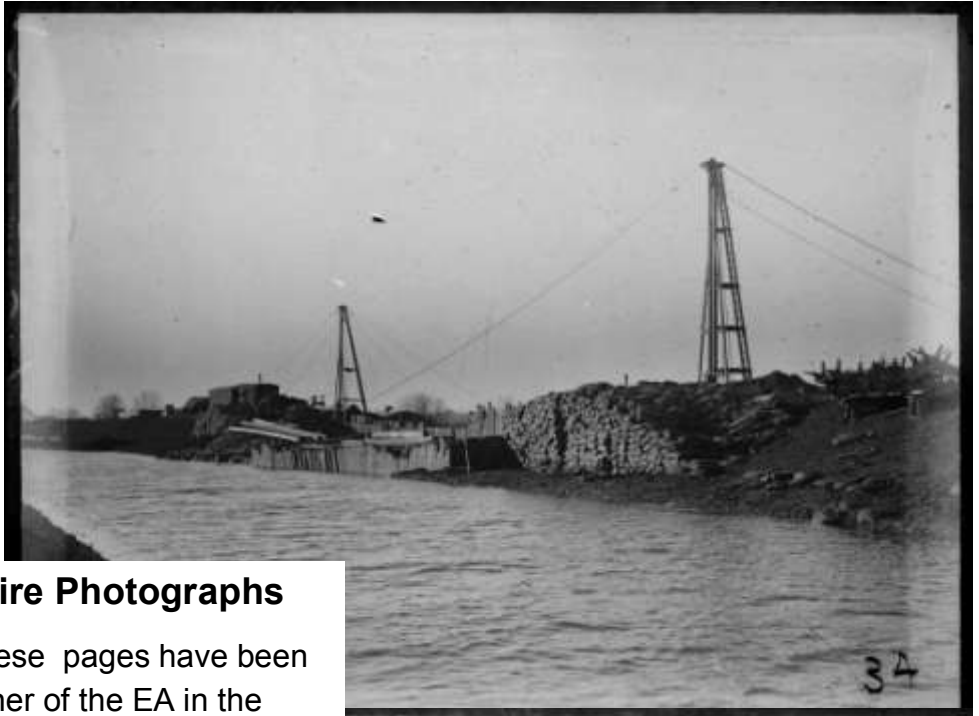
(PS for more photos or work in progress and finished result see pages 12– 14)



Mystery Lincoln

The photographs c
lent to us by Dave
hope that our read
identify the locatio
please contact Da
dave.fisher@envir





Wiltshire Photographs

on these pages have been
the Fisher of the EA in the
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ns. If you have any clues
ve on 01522 785038 or
onment-agency.gov.uk





October Working Party continued

Photos: Steve Hayes





October Working Party continued



Photos: Steve Hayes



November Work Party

The November work party was at Cogglesford lock to remove tree stumps from the lock wall and remove any damaged brickwork.

A scaffolding tower brought to the site by Dave Carnell was used in the lock and was ideal to work from and could accommodate two people.



Photo: Dave Carnell

Bricks and loose rubble were removed and some of the stumps, but it will need some heavier machinery in December to remove the coping stones to get at the other stumps.

Mel Sowerby

Reeds and rubbish were removed from the millrace above the lock to let water flow freely past the lock.



Photo: Dave Carnell

While this was happening Norman and I took a quick trip to Taylors Lock to remove the weir boards and fasten back the lock gates. The lock was tested first to check the gates shut properly. They did without any problems.

It was good to have two new members with us for the work party, Ron and Andrew. Welcome!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped this year and hope to see some of you at the December work party on the 14th at Cogglesford lock.

Mel Sowerby

PS Please let us know if you'd like to be added to Mel's email list for work party notices—see details page 19

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, Witham Catchment Partnership

Sleaford Navigation Trust has been asked to be part of the Witham Partnership, a group of interested bodies looking at the whole of the river catchment area. As the Trust's representative I have attended a series of meetings covering a variety of waterway related topics.

Money has been made available by Natural England to fund projects within the area and a number of suggestions have been put forward. Among these were Urban Opportunities Studies in Lincoln, Grantham and Sleaford. SNT has supported the Sleaford study with the proviso that plans do not detract from the Trust aims and objectives.

We have now heard that the bids have been successful and £7K has been secured for the Sleaford Study. Details of the study are given below. We hope that our continued presence on the Partnership will help steer the focus of the project.

Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study

The urban opportunities study is a plan developed for Sleaford which brings together interested groups and organisations to identify a number of potential projects to benefit the water environment. This will be done by gathering existing evidence and data collected from walkovers. The plan and map of project ideas can then be used as a tool for gaining additional funding. This particular study would focus on identifying opportunities to enhance the habitat along the river Sleas and its tributaries in the town for the benefit of wildlife, water quality and people. In particular, this is seen as a very good way of linking into future growth proposed in the town with the projects used as mitigation against the negative impacts of development on the Sleas.

This approach has proved successful in both Peterborough and Northampton. Benefits for the local environment would include;

- River restoration resulting in increased and improved habitat for all freshwater species
- Improved access to the riparian area for amenity use
- Creation of good quality riparian habitat to benefit terrestrial species, also potentially providing shade to the river and reducing water temperature.
- Creation of good quality amenity space – e.g. flood storage areas could be utilised as parks
- Community involvement in tackling Invasive Non Native Species, creating and caring for new wetlands and park areas, educational opportunities from having access to natural habitat in the urban environment.
- Improved water quality resulting from morphological improvements to the river especially in times of low flow
- Economic benefit from creating a more desirable and aesthetically pleasing riverside habitat in the urban environment.

Chris Hayes

**New Members : We are delighted to welcome
Andrew and Rebecca Franks and Roy Thornley
as new SNT members!**

If you are thinking of joining please do get in touch or pick up a membership application form from events or Navigation House 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 saving in postage for reminders and trips to the bank will be much appreciated by the Trust and helpers.

Picture Quiz... In the last edition we asked What is it that is bothering Sue and Pat?

After much discussion at the November meal it was agreed that the winning caption was



Photo: S Hayes

Sue: Now where did I put my handbag? Pat: Don't ask me,, (thinks: I hope it wasn't the one I've just sold for a fiver...)

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the meal in November and thank you to The Barge & Bottle for a lovely evening.



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 and activities

Committee Contacts

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Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director / Sales	Pat Taylor Tel: 01522 790652
Director / LincsIWA Nominee	David Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810

Non-Committee Contacts

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS Tel: 01526 832256
Sleaford Sports Partnership (SSP) Liaison	Norman Osborne Contact number as above

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. Further details available from Norman on 01526 832256, or Barbara on 01529 303749

