

November '89

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter

WORK CAMP

The September work camp was a great success although reduced to one week in length. Mike Palmer and the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) team made marvellous inroads into Cobblers Lock. By the end of the week the lock had been completely drained, all the mud and bricks cleared out and the south wall of the chamber stripped down to one metre above the invert.

At the top end of the lock the mud has been cleared out and a trench built across the head of the lock to take a metal rail. Grooves are then to be cut into the lock walls and steel channelling inserted to take stop planks thus allowing the lock to be closed off easier in future. Currently sandbags are used at the top of the lock with two rows of steel piling at the bottom. The gap between the rows of piling is to be filled to allow access to the far side.

During the week both the Sleaford Standard and the Lincolnshire Echo turned up on site together with Radio Lincolnshire. Central TV rang for details but never appeared.

Feedback from the WRG people indicated that they viewed it as a successful camp and have asked us to find work for them next year. We already have some ideas for this.

GRATEFUL THANKS...

To Anwick Social Club committee for all their support during the camp. WRG were allowed to use the hall for sleeping accommodation and the kitchen and shower facilities (and bar!) provided a touch of luxury they do not normally get.

PRIOR TO THE CAMP...

preparatory work was carried out, building a site hut and compound, removing a tree and undergrowth and driving the piling. This of course had to be purchased and moved onto site together with pumps and piling. We are particularly grateful to Dave Carnell, Chairman of Lincs and South Humberside IWA for all the time he put in on behalf of the society. As well as locating and seeing the various items on to site, Dave spent most of the week working with the camp. He is also unique in being the only person to dam a lock off using a water bed!!!

DO NOT FORGET DECEMBER 1ST                      DECEMBER 1ST      DECEMBER 1ST  
waterway restoration by an expert. Do'nt miss the talk.  
(see over for details.)

### SURVEY OF ANWICK LEVEL

Following discussions with Anglian Water (now NRA) it was agreed to carry out a survey of the Anwick level above Cobblers Lock in order to establish the problems involved in raising the water level over the cill. We have employed ADAS to carry out the survey and hope to receive details shortly. It is clear that some bank work is required in order to provide the necessary safety measures in anticipation of extra high water levels due to flood conditions. This may seem remote under current water levels but the Sleas does act as a drainage channel. It is probable that extensive work will be required on bi-pass weirs but hopefully the costs can be kept down by the use of voluntary labour.

### MONEY

Talking of money. The work at Cobblers Lock has nearly used up the cash promised by NKDC and Lincs CC. We are applying for further assistance and hope to get grant aid from other sources as well. Ideas are being considered to raise money for the day to day running of the society and we hope all members will give what support they can when events are arranged.

### AND TALKING OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 1st      DECEMBER 1st

Mick Golds of "Mick the Brick", Erewash canal and WRG fame is coming to give an illustrated talk on December 1st at the Nags Head in Southgate Sleaford at 8pm. The talk will be about Canal Restoration and there can be few people more suited to provide such an insight into the practicalities of waterway restoration. Do come along and bring as many friends as possible.

### BAILEY BRIDGE

The problem with the low bailey bridge outside South Kyme may soon be resolved. Mr Lamyman approached Dave Carnell and has agreed to the bridge being raised. Dave has since discussed it with Simon Lamyman and it looks as if we will try to carry out the work during March. East Midlands WRG (Mick Gold John Baylis etc) offered assistance after the 1988 rally and hopefully can still be called.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH 150 RAF PERSONNEL

Well, we are going to put them to work at various places along the navigation. RAF Cranwell have offered us that number of men for the day on November 19th and we have found jobs for them at Bottom Lock, South Kyme, Cobblers Lock and Sleaford. Again Dave Carnell is coordinating

### WATER SUPPLY SURVEY

The NRA invited the society to the initial meeting about the survey that is being carried out by Sir William Halcrow Ltd into the supply problems with the Sleas. We have been asked for information on its historical condition and amenity value. A report is expected early in the new year.