

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1991

SOCIAL EVENING - SATURDAY 23 MARCH 8 PM

Our first social evening of the year is being held on Saturday 23 March at Anwick Sports & Social Club. Excellent Ruskington Fen a La Osborne potatoes topped off by an assortment of fillings (of course you like beans) will be on offer, for a modest fee. Private bar and good company make this a relaxed evening, not to be missed. Bring your family and friends (and you'll hear what happened on the 22nd).

AGM

And our second social event will be on Tuesday 7 May (1st Tuesday), when our AGM takes place. We've invited David Stevenson, National Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association to speak at the meeting. Do support this evening. Again, Anwick Hall, 8 pm (and perhaps by then we will have further news to follow on from what happened on 22nd March).

COBBLERS LOCK

Work continues. The galvanised stopgrooves have been fitted and two stop planks lowered into place. This allows us to remove the top dam. We are now looking to do further brickwork in the chamber and then need to consider removing the lower dams. The longer they are left in place the harder it is remove them. Dave Carnell coordinates the work at the lock and is always pleased to hear from volunteers. Home number 0469-30138.

The work at the lock received national publicity with a picture on the front cover of "Navies". Waterway Recovery Group is coming for two weeks starting 6 July under the leadership of Mike Palmer.

SOUTH KYME MOORING

Following the concern expressed by some villagers after last years boat gathering Pat Taylor and Martin Chapman, supported by Dave Carnell met with the majority of the landowners at the end of February, NRA also attended to help the discussion. Some of the villagers with land adjoining the Sleas in the village do not want boats to moor to their land and it was decided to hold a survey to establish which areas (if any) would be acceptable for short term mooring. The society explained that it had no control over the use of the waterway and the movement of boats, but arranged the yearly gathering to publicise the waterway. Mr Caswell kindly offered to organise the survey.

RUSKINGTON SEWAGE AND THE SLEA

Local people may have seen the articles in the local paper regarding the closure of Ruskington Sewage Works. This currently feeds into the Ruskington beck and hence into the Sleas between Anwick and Haverholme. The output will now be pumped to Anwick Sewage Works and discussions are now under way for this to discharge into the drain as it is not pure enough to go into the Sleas. Whilst the Society understands the danger of having impure water into the Sleas, the loss of a regular supply is cause for concern, after the poor supply problems over the last few years. Apparently the IDB don't want the extra discharge. One would have hoped a more coordinated approach could be achieved to solve Anglian Waters problem and also provide a benefit to the community.

BOAT GATHERING

Our informal gathering takes place over the weekend of 4 May. It is hoped to have individual barbecues at Cobblers Lock on the Saturday evening. Pat Taylor is coordinating the weekend 0522 790652. As in other year some of the participants will move on to cruise the drain around Boston.

HORNCastle CANAL

It was pleasing to hear of the growing interest in the restoration of this local waterway. It's restoration would compliment the work done on the Sleas and provide a network of usable waterways in the centre of Lincolnshire.

Our colleagues in the IWA are making great efforts to promote Lincolnshire Waterways. Let us hope their efforts receive the correct support.

22nd MARCH

A meeting is being held with all interested parties to consider the future restoration prospects of the Sleas, with emphasis on water supply and how this can be resolved.

See you on the 23rd, when we will tell you all about it.