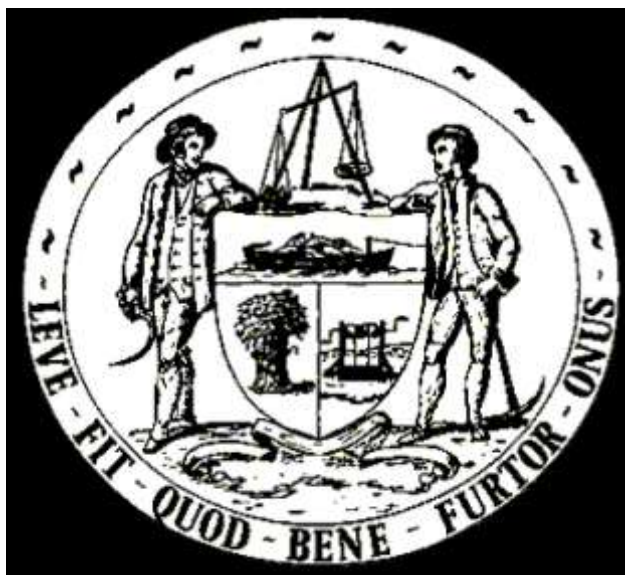


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



41

Winter 2013/14

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## 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](http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk)

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## 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.

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## Newsletters

To request an email version contact:

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## 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

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

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## Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 41!

Congratulations to our Chairman, Chris Hayes, on spotting the last edition's deliberate mistake! Sadly this was only noticed after it had gone to print. And so for this edition I shall be reverting to my correct title.

The deadline for the next issue, Spring 2014, will be 1st April, with all contributions being as usual most welcome.

If you haven't already done so, please contact [sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com](mailto:sleaford.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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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](mailto:sowerbys@ntlworld.com)) for details of upcoming dates and activities

## A walk to the source of the Sleá?

The walk publicised in the last newsletter took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, a rather warm day. Following one of the walks detailed on the Trust website a select party set off from Money's Mill on what proved to be quite a demanding ramble. Following the river at the outset we walked to North Rauceby and then via South Rauceby to Boiling Wells before returning to Sleaford.

Views along the way were spectacular and the visit to The Bustard



at North Rauceby most welcome. We even managed to buy some Lincolnshire honey at New Farm.

We were slightly disconcerted to find that the chicken sheds, identified as one of the trail markers in the walk directions, were no longer there but apart from that had no difficulty following the instructions.

The source of the Sleá at Boiling Wells was rather disappointing as no water was in evidence but the weather had been very dry prior to the walk.

The Bustard, North Rauceby

Photo: S Hayes

Thanks to Sue Sowerby who organised things. We hope to have further opportunities to explore the Slea in the New Year and are looking at the possibility of combining a walk with a canoe paddle.



Happy walkers!

Photo: S Hayes

Look out for dates of forthcoming events on the website and in the local press



## Christmas comes early on the Chesterfield.

One of the benefits of volunteering is the friendships made with colleagues who share a common interest and also give up time to further the cause. This probably holds true whatever your chosen interest/obsession but it is certainly so in the case of waterway restoration.



Loading up at Sleaford Rugby Club...

Societies and trusts tend to support one another's fund raising events by manning promotional stands or simply by attending. In this way friendships are established and skills, experience, equipment and even the occasional drink are shared.

For several years SNT has been in possession of a dump truck which has seen good service. Sadly it has not been used latterly because it is not licensed for use on the road and it has not been feasible to keep it at a location from whence it could be employed. A suitable



Inspection team on arrival....

trailer to transport it would also have been costly and would have created an additional storage problem. It was therefore agreed that, should a dumper be needed, it would be more cost effective to hire one.. We all agreed in committee that we would like to see

the dumper used for waterway restoration rather than see it sold on Ebay. Consequently we spoke to our friends on the Chesterfield Canal Trust and offered it to them on condition that they collected it and used it in their restoration work.



In action.....

On a very wet day in October Rod Autun and Dave Kiddy from the Chesterfield came to collect their new piece of equipment and, according to Norman Osborne who handed it over for SNT, they didn't even attempt to keep the smiles off their faces as they tried it out in the car park of the Rugby Club! The event is described on their website [www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk) but we have reproduced some of the photos here. It's good to know the dumper has gone to a good home and I thought I ought to quote from the thank you letter I received from Robin Stonebridge, their chairman.

"This is a slightly belated note to thank everyone at the Sleaford for the kind donation of the dumper truck to the Chesterfield Canal Trust. Dave Kiddy and the work party are delighted with the acquisition, and I think it will be to the work party what the "little tank" was to Lieutenant Grüber in 'Ello 'Ello ! They're eagerly sourcing a roll bar as I write.

Once again, many thanks to you for parting with the little gem." A final note. The fact that Rod Autun felt it necessary to give the serial number of the dumper in his website news report proves that anoraks get everywhere!

(Photos supplied by Chesterfield Canal Trust)



## **SNT Work Party Update**

The October work party was well attended and the new fenders were finally fitted on the slipway in Sleaford. A big thanks to Steve for sorting the galvanised steel and rawl bolts and for Ernest for bringing drills, without their help fitting 8 metres of fendering in one day would not have been possible. With generator running, holes needed drilling through the rubber fender and new holes then drilled into the stonework by holding the fender in place. Just as well there were plenty of us to do this.

The most difficult bit was having to stand in the river to bend the fender round the stonework before drilling, There were two of us in the river toggled up with waders and others passing tools and exchanging drill sizes or starting and stopping the generator. The whole project went very smoothly and there was time to finish work on the lift bridge and test it by lifting it to its maximum elevation.

In November it was decided to fit some of the galvanised steel to other sections of the fendering to strengthen these sections and Ernest was in charge as Steve and I had to go to Taylors Lock to remove the boards from the sluices. This is essential over the winter and at the same time the gates to the lock were fastened back to avoid any further damage by operating the lock as a sluice in times of high flow. Two years ago EA put in stop boards in front of their sluices to stop water levels dropping too low in the summer. This restricts how much water can go through the sluices in the winter and the lock had to be used last year. Water levels were low and the photographs show the amount of silt that was washed through that now needs to be cleared to get boats through next year.



Silt deposits at Taylors  
Lock

Photos: Mel Sowerby



Back in Sleaford the area around Cogglesford lock was strimmed and cleared and a tree removed at the request of the mill and restaurant to avoid any damage to the buildings.

The next work party will be at Taylors Lock on the 15th December to remove some silt and profile the river bed from the lock to the end of the island.

Thanks to all who have helped this year and look forward to seeing you all again soon. Season's Greetings and best wishes to you all for the New Year.

*Mel Sowerby*

# easyfundraising.org.uk

## Another way to help SNT

Your membership and support already help us towards our restoration aims but this is another easy way of contributing to our funds.

Turn your online shopping into donations for Sleaford Navigation Trust!

Do you shop online?  
Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for the Trust?



That's right, over 2,700 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a small percentage of what you spend to Sleaford Navigation Trust to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

Register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

When you're asked to choose your cause, select Sleaford Navigation Trust.

Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

Easyfundraising has already raised over £5 million for over 50,000 good causes across the UK. So what are you waiting for?

Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to fundraise for Sleaford Navigation Trust now. Already registered? Spread the word to family and friends to let them know just how easy it is!

When you've registered, you can use the new easyfundraising 'Find and remind' toolbar to remind you to login to easyfundraising whenever you start to shop. This will make sure that the Trust never misses out on a donation, plus, we get 50p for each supporter who installs it!

£ £

**Search the web and raise money**

Are you one of the millions of people that use a search engine like Google every day? Why not switch your searching to “easysearch” and raise money?

Every time you search the web using

<http://www.sleafordnt.easysearch.org.uk> instead of your usual search engine, you'll raise half a penny for Sleaford Navigation Trust. Search just 15 times a day and you can raise around £25 a year.

So the next time you need to find something online, please use <http://www.sleafordnt.easysearch.org.uk> and raise money for Sleaford Navigation Trust with every search you make!



## Fun for all!

The Trust was invited to attend two “Fun Days” held at West Stockwith on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Organised by Canal & River Trust, West Stockwith Yacht Club, the Waterfront pub and Chesterfield Canal Trust, the aim was to increase awareness and appreciation of local waterways. A previous successful event had been held at Trent Lock near Nottingham and indicates a welcome readiness in CRT to work closely with other organisations to further mutual aims.



Spider T at West Stockwith

Photo: S Hayes

A whole range of activities for all the family were available including circus skills, fishing - practising baiting and casting, boat trips and get afloat canoeing. The Yacht club also had a beer festival over the weekend and the pub and caravan park had charity and craft stalls.

Spider T, the Humber Supersloop, was in the basin and visitors had the chance of going aboard to see the wonderful restoration work that has been done. You may remember that Spider T was one of the boats taking part in the exceedingly wet Jubilee River Pageant in London last year.

As well as giving information about the navigation, Sleaford Navigation Trust offered a hands-on activity for children and some grown-ups. Steve Hayes had made a wooden jig as an aid to creating a knotwork dragonfly and this proved very popular over the two days. Dave Pullen quickly underwent an apprenticeship in knotting and helped visitors to the stall in the making of over twenty dragonflies on Sunday alone!

The "Indian Summer" weather brought out a good number of visitors over the weekend and the Chesterfield Canal Trust trip boat was very well supported. The organisers are considering making this a regular event.



Sean McGinley (CRT East Midlands Regional Manager) and other East Midlands Partnership members making a dragonfly on the Trust stand at the Fun Day at West Stockwith

Photo S: Hayes

## Canal & River Trust, the next ten years

Dave Pullen, Steve and Chris Hayes, wearing a variety of hats, figurative rather than literal, attended a meeting at Colwick Hall, Nottingham, in reference to the Canal & River Trust East Midlands Waterway Partnership Draft Strategic Waterway Plan.

Chris had already sent in a response from SNT to the document as had Dave Carnell on behalf of IWA and the meeting gave the opportunity for further discussion by representatives from boating and waterway restoration groups.

One of the declared aims in the strategy was to

*Engage with all the public, private, community and user interests that enjoy and benefit from our waterways and gather their views on how we [CRT East Midlands Waterways Partnership] can make them better used, enjoyed and valued.*

CRT has a very different brief from that held by British Waterways and the new charity status necessitates wider consultation and inclusion. The Sleaford Navigation is not a CRT waterway but the draft makes reference to supporting waterway restoration in principle rather than limiting that support to specific CRT connected projects.

Events such as the West Stockwith Fun Days give opportunity for co-operative working and, hopefully, the very positive mood of the Colwick Hall meeting indicates a productive future.





## Sleaford Leisure Centre

After a year long £2.85 million refurbishment project Sleaford

Leisure Centre re-opened its doors to the public in October. An official grand opening event with guest swimming champion and Gladiator, Sharron Davies, was held in November.

The pool which was originally built in 1872 was then outdoors and originally drew its water directly from the River Slea. Thankfully today's water is from the mains and thoroughly monitored for cleanliness!

Sleaford Navigation Trust was involved in the design as a section of the new roof now overhangs the river. This has been designed not to impede future works on the Slea.

At the same time as the SLC works were ongoing, the new District Heating Pipe carrying hot water from the Eco2 Power Station to NKDC's offices, the William Alvey School and SLC was being installed under the river — again more negotiations for SNT!

Photos: Steve Hill  
Photography (Lincoln)



Photo: NKDC



## Zygote Festival October 2013

As part of this year's Sleaford festival, organised by artsNK, the town, including Navigation House and its surrounding area, was transformed into a magical show of lights and action, the wall of the House itself appearing at will to disappear, fill up with water or be flooded with colourful paints and even sprout a healthy covering of vibrant creeper! The projected images were created by artist Adrian Hiatt working with Jane Harrison of artsNK.

As well as other elements too numerous to mention in the festival which celebrated the town's seed heritage, an elegant water feature stood on the river bank on Eastgate Green



Zygote Festival photography:  
Jane Harrison artsNK





## Lloyds Bank in Sleaford

As part of the national restructuring of LloydsTSB in 2013 the Sleaford branch reverted to Lloyds Bank, a branding it was first known by in 1912. A major refurbishment also took place during the year.

The current manager, Adrian Twelvetrees, has kindly provided your editor with some copies of historic documents relating to the bank notably items collected by Mr H Porter for his article on the old private bankers of South Lincolnshire which appeared in the Lincolnshire Magazine in 1935.

According to the article, the bank had been founded in the Market Square in 1792 under the title of Peacock, Handley and Kirton, names which will be familiar to SNT newsletter readers as bankers to the Proprietors of the Sleaford Navigation, and in 1803 moved into 'an attractive house built in 1702 by William Alvey' on nearby Northgate.



Lloyds Bank Sleaford as it stands today. To the right is the stone-built former Sessions House, now Mia, an Italian restaurant, with the Courthouse bar upstairs.

The older building is the 3-storey section between that and the current main entrance

Photo: D Scott

The building was extended northwards in 1902 and the old building 'became the bank parlour and residence of the bank manager'.

The firm amalgamated with Lloyds Bank of London in 1912

The heavily panelled rooms still in use as the bank manager's office, can still be seen tantalisingly as you wait to be seen in today's main banking area within the Grade II listed building.



## **New Members**

Welcome to new members Steph and Robin Saul from Heckington, who have already become active and much appreciated Work Party-ers!

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.

## Committee Contacts

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Secretary	Steve Hayes— Contact as above
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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

