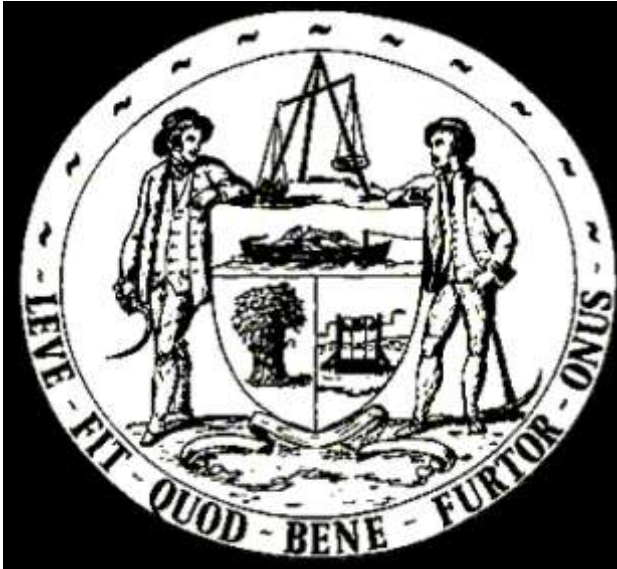


# SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



42

**Spring 2014**

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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:

*[sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com](mailto:sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com)*

## Articles

*[debbie\\_scott@bopenworld.com](mailto:debbie_scott@bopenworld.com)*

9 Forum Way,

Sleaford NG34 7FF

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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 42

There's important information in this edition about the Trust's AGM in May and lots of other stuff about work parties, floating pennywort, dredging and onions, read on!

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

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



## **SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST**

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL**

### **MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will be held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, Sleaford, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2014, starting at 7.30 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business.

To receive apologies for absence.

To approve the Minutes for the previous year.

To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

To appoint Staniforth & Co of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Election of Directors. Melvin Sowerby, David Carnell and Patricia Taylor are due to retire by rotation.

To transact any other business that may be deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Following the meeting, Chris Page of the Society for History and Lincolnshire Archaeology will talk on the subject of Holdingham Mill.

**Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting held at the Sleaford Sports Partnership, Sleaford, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2013**

#### **Apologies:**

Mr & Mrs G Scott, Mr D Tomlinson, Mr & Mrs M Pitcaithly, Mr & Mrs R Alexander, Mrs V James, Mr P B Jowett.

**Minutes of the last AGM:**

The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Mr D Pullen, seconded by Mr M Phillips.

**Directors' Report:**

It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Mrs Hayes summarised the report, noted as being the sixteenth annual report, and outlined current progress.

The reception of report was proposed by Mrs S Sowerby, seconded by Mr N Osborne.

Thanks were extended to all committee members and members for the work that they carried out on behalf of the Trust.

**Accounts and Auditors' Report:**

The accounts and report were presented to the meeting. The reception of accounts was proposed by Mr M Phillips, seconded by Mr J Line. Mr Phillips requested clarification of what was included under the heading of Miscellaneous Expenses and Mrs Hayes agreed look back at the accounts and inform him.

The appointment of Staniforth & Co of Nottingham as the Company's Auditors and the authorisation of the Directors to fix their remuneration was proposed by Mrs J Osborne, seconded by Mr J Line.

**Election of Directors:**

The following Directors stood for re-election, Mrs C Hayes, Mr D Pullen and Mr J Line. They were proposed by Mrs P Taylor, seconded by Mr D James and all three were elected unanimously.

**Any Other Business:**

Mrs C Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2013. Mr R Mathieson said that he had noticed a lack of people fishing in Sleaford and offered to find out about the practicalities of licensing young people under eighteen years old to fish. Mrs Hayes said that the Trust Committee would also make enquires of the Environment Agency as to what permitting fishing would involve.

Mr Pullen commented on the silt bar currently creating difficulties below Taylors Lock and said that the floods over the winter had created similar siltation problems in water courses throughout the country.

# Floating Pennywort

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

**AKA:** Dail-ceiniog amofiwl (Welsh), *Hydrocotyle nova zealandiae*

**Native to:** North America

**Habitat:** Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater

Free-floating or rooted. The characteristic leaves and growth form help to make this plant easy to identify. It is found mostly in the south-east of England and occasionally in the north-west of England and Wales. Spreading rapidly.

First naturalised in 1990 as a result of discarded plants from garden ponds. Can grow up to 20cm per day and may quickly dominate a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use. May out-compete native species by blocking out light, causing deoxygenation, obstructing air breathing insects from reaching the water surface and reducing water temperatures.

Floating pennywort is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

For details of legislation go to [www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation).



## Key ID Features

Grows horizontally



Shiny, kidney-shaped leaves with crinkled edge, frequently broader than long



## Identification throughout the year

Varies little throughout the year, although in the winter it is most likely to be found at the water's edge. Tiny white flowers are rare, but if present, they appear between July and August.

## Similar Species

### Marsh Pennywort

Latin: *Spiranthes vulgaris*



Grows in damp ground in logs and ferns. Always rooted in the ground, never free-floating.

### Marsh Pennywort

### Floating Pennywort



## Distribution

Common in the south-east of England, and spreading to other parts of the British Isles.

Source: <http://www.oxfordjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1093/aob/134.1.101>



Floating Pennywort can form dense mats that need to be physically removed



### References and further reading:

Stunney, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) "The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora." A & C Black.

Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1987) "Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland". Harley Books

Preston, C D, Pearman D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) "New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora". Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1996) "Field Flora of the British Isles". Cambridge University Press.

**easyfundraising** Shopping Online?  
.org.uk

Register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), when you're asked to choose your cause, select Sleaford Navigation Trust.

**easysearch**  
.org.uk

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!

*www. www. www. www. www. www. www. www. www. www. www.*

### **Boat Gathering South Kyme 2014**

There will be a gathering of boats in South Kyme this year over the weekend of the early May Bank Holiday, May 3rd and 4th, but, this year, this will not coincide with the South Kyme Festival at the tower. I understand that event will be held in August. Various activities will be taking place in the village over the weekend although I believe arrangements have yet to be finalised. We are hoping that the usual table-top sale will be in the Village Hall on the Saturday and that there will be the Boaters' Church Service on the Sunday. As we know more we'll add it to the website



## **To dredge or not to dredge, that is the question ...**

Media coverage of recent flooding problems has centred on a debate of this thorny question with the result that the reading and viewing public probably now has a better understanding of the term "dredging" than ever before! I have no intention of entering into the discussion of appropriate means of flood management because our concern is far more specific and the answer is a simple "yes".

Last year we discovered that there was a substantial gravel and silt bar below Taylors Lock which prevented boats from accessing the lock and effectively stopped us from holding the May Day Boat Gathering in South Kyme. We met with Debbie Sylvester and Adrian Clack of the Environment Agency, at the lock, in order to discuss ways to address the problem and learnt that the funding formula, which has since formed part of the ongoing public debate over flood prevention, meant that the EA did not have the budget to be able to carry out any works themselves to clear the channel. We discussed the possibility of work being carried out by volunteers or being funded by other bodies and the issue was raised again at the Parish Council meetings in South Kyme which we attended.

Further meetings with the EA were very positive in that they assured us that although they could not help us by completing the work, they could assist by guiding us through the necessary permissions to enable us to undertake it. They also suggested that representatives from the EA, South Kyme Parish Council and the Trust form a Working Group so that issues could be raised and procedures be discussed face to face. This has proved very constructive and, at the time of writing, SNT is preparing to employ a contractor to remove the gravel and silt bar by dredging. We have received help in identifying and applying for the relevant permissions needed and are very hopeful that all will be in place very shortly so that the work can start and there are no barriers to

boats travelling to this year's Boat Gathering.

This would not have been possible without the data collection work completed by our work party team. Mel Sowerby's mathematical skills were invaluable in calculation of the volume of silt to be removed but the soundings and measurement were a team effort. Dave Carnell then used the figures to get quotations from contractors for the work.

Had it not been for some very generous financial support from an anonymous individual benefactor and two organisations, the Lincolnshire Branch of the Inland Waterways Association and the East Anglian Waterways Association, the exercise would have remained on the drawing board. The Trust is very grateful indeed that we are able to proceed further and we hope to build on this project later to tackle other pinch points where the build up of silt is a real problem to navigation.

Chris Hayes

**Stop Press: With all necessary permissions and funding in place, the contractors are due to start work as we go to press — photos next time!**



**Date for your diary: Sunday 22nd June Midsummer Walk**

Dr Simon Pawley, well known local historian and raconteur, will lead a

walk from Navigation House exploring the surroundings and their connections with the Navigation. Meet at the House for 11 am.

The walk will last approximately 1½ hours, with light refreshments on return



## SNT Work Parties

“We’re aground” is perhaps a not uncommon phrase used by some boaters, but in this case it was used in our “plastic” workboat just below Taylors Lock (Bottom Lock) as we did a depth of silt/water survey, when we found that we had only 15cm. (6”) of water over a depth of 1.8m of silt, at one point.

Our December Work Party was to do a survey of the depth of water and silt in the section between the tail of the lock to the downstream end of the lock island, since this area had become badly silted up during the winter of 2012/13 and had prevented boats getting through the lock on the way to S. Kyme.

Mel had devised a clever plan.

We measured the downstream length into 10m sections and then drove posts into the bank at these intervals.

A rope was then stretched across between the posts on each bank, and the rope was calibrated by using tape markers at 1m intervals.

The boat was then moved along the rope and depth readings taken at 1 metre intervals of the depth of water, and secondly the depth of silt to the bed of the navigation.

These readings were carefully recorded, and then this was



repeated across all the next 10m sections to the end of the island. The end result was that Mel produced a comprehensive cross section survey of this problem area in order to work out the total volume of silt, which would need dredging out by excavator.

January and February Work

Measuring up Photo: Rob Saul Parties both involved releasing the upstream landing stage pontoon from its moorings and floating it through the lock, as the downstream landing stage was not floating because of the siltation around and

underneath it.

We had a problem with silt and rubbish preventing the bottom gates closing and we had to clear this from the cill, and then we floated the pontoon out to the problem area below the lock. Using the pontoon as an ideal working platform we used a 3" water pump with a capacity of 800litres (0.8 tonnes) of water per minute with a fabricated nozzle, to jet wash the silt from the riverbed. We also found that we could move the pontoon across the channel by using this water jet method. This method was used to effectively give us a water depth in excess of 1.5 metres at these lower winter levels, in the channel between the lower landing stage and the lock island. This is in the area that the contractor's excavator will be unable to reach, in the next stage of de-silting the navigation channel, to allow boats to pass freely into the lock on their way up to South Kyme.

Finally, at the end of both days we floated the upstream landing stage back above the lock and secured it into position.

*Norman Osborne*



Photos: Mel Sowerby



Andy,  
Ernest,  
Mel and  
Rob in  
action!



Photos : Norman Osborne



## **Future Plans Update**

Plans are still ongoing for the **Water Access in South Kyme**. We understand that the Parish Council has now made application to the Land Registry for ownership of the land. This has been a protracted process including the submission of affidavits and exploration of possible interest in the land by other parties. Once the ownership is established funding applications for the works can be taken further.

The Trust has applied for Land Drainage Consent for the structure and one aspect of this, mitigation work, was discussed at the Working Group meeting with South Kyme Parish Council and the Environment Agency. It was agreed that coir rolls would be included in the plans and these would form part of work to stabilise areas of the bank where erosion has taken place. The Trust and village will work together here to enhance the habitat for wildlife by creating a new edge to the waterway while at the same time addressing the problem of the bank falling away.

Construction of a **winding hole in South Kyme** has been discussed for some time but, as with so many schemes, apparent funding opportunities have proved elusive. We are very pleased to report that this plan is now going forward and the Trust committee has approved the commissioning of a topographical study to establish the data which will then inform the technical drawings for the winding hole. It is proposed that these drawings will then be submitted for approval by the Environment Agency through the Working Group. We are very grateful to William Orr, the landowner, for working with us on this project. A winding hole will make South Kyme an even more attractive weekend destination by boat.

Plans have now been received for the **by-wash weir at Haverholme Lock**. These were undertaken by John Taplin, the IWA engineer based on water flow data and now give us the opportunity to complete the work already undertaken by SNT

members and WRG on the by-wash. Once again this is the culmination of a great deal of preliminary work and negotiation

### **Canal & River Trust progress.**

The Sleaford Navigation is not a Canal & River Trust waterway but nevertheless the changes that the new organisation brings with it do have some impact on us.

At the recent IWA AGM, Sean McGinley, East Midlands Waterway Manager, spoke of the changes that charity status had brought. He admitted that fund-raising and appealing to the public for support



Canal & River Trust

had been a new concept for many ex BW staff and they had been surprised by the readiness of people to become involved. In the "old days" a breach in a canal would have been seen as something to keep quiet about whereas now it was an opportunity to involve people by letting them see the challenges maintaining a 200 year old waterway system presented. Similarly, open days giving the general public a chance to see, and explore, lock structures drained for maintenance had proved very popular. Often local people had previously had little idea of what lay beneath the water and the increased understanding, together with the opportunity to meet staff explaining what was going on, created an engagement that was missing before. Staff too, contrary to the expectations of some, had enjoyed the opportunity of interacting with the visitors. Working with volunteers has now taken on a whole new meaning and relationships have changed. It really does seem that there is a newfound enthusiasm in C&RT and the new Chief Executive, Richard Parry, has impressed many by his readiness to turn up at relatively low key events and meet the people on the ground, or on the water.

## **Onions and a watery connection.**

Many years ago, when I was a teenager, I remember my Mother commenting that the smell of onions frying reminded her of going up to Torksey with her Uncle Albert on a boat when she was a child. At the time I didn't really think much about the comment. When you are that age you never really listen to your parents! Later, when I got bitten by the inland waterways bug, I asked her if she could remember anything about the boat or the cargo but it seemed that the only thing to make an impression on her was the onions! I don't think she had been very old at the time.

When they were at primary school, both my children did some basic family history research by asking relatives for names and dates of parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents, if possible. They then produced family trees from their findings. It was only some years later that I became interested in family history, probably as a result of the programme, 'Who Do You Think You Are', but I never got very far with my research. I have to admit that this lack of progress was probably because, initially, there wasn't a lot of information online and I was rather loath to pay for access to the websites that did hold some information.

It was only recently that I attempted to discover more. This was rather forced on me by a set of circumstances. The first of these was a rather catastrophic computer crash. I switched the machine on one morning and found that I needed to run the 'Check Disc' program. No problem I thought, confidently, and did as I was told. At this point the computer crashed and produced the 'Blue Screen of Death' showing a terminal fault on the hard drive. I had been thinking of upgrading the computer but this got me into buying mode sooner than anticipated.

I then had to migrate all the data across to the new machine and reload the programs. No problem I thought again, however, not all



of the programs would run on the new computer. Curse you Microsoft! The subsequent buying frenzy included the purchase of a new family tree software package that had access to the Ancestry website included. I have to say that since then my research has been absolutely fascinating; in fact whole evenings and sometimes half the night have disappeared before I have realised.

Things really became interesting when I started to research my Mother's side of the family, her parents' surnames were Smith and Lansdown. I could see a few problems researching the Smith side, especially when it turned out that my great-grandfather's name was John Smith! The other branch of my Mother's family looked potentially interesting with a surname like Lansdown, however, there was no 'e' on the end so that ended any possible link with nobility!

Here the access to previously inaccessible web sites really started to pay off as I was now able to view actual census records. I was delighted to find my great-grandfather, John Smith, in the 1881 census, living at 3 Foss Bank in Lincoln. More importantly, though, his profession was listed as a 'Waterman' as was that of his son, Albert. Albert was the one with a partiality for fried onions! I got really excited when I managed to find John in the 1891 census as the Master of a vessel called 'Ocean', registered in Lincoln, number 208, a sailing vessel employed on Inland Navigations.



I became a bit stuck on the next part of the puzzle as his wife was named in the 1881 census as Terrie A Smith, born in Horncastle. I had been struggling for quite a while trying to trace this distinctly un



-Victorian name when Marcus, my son-in-law, who is an excellent sleuth, came to the rescue and managed to find her correct name, Eliza. Enumerators in censuses occasionally made mistakes which can cause huge problems. Once it was established that her maiden name had been Eliza Ann Boothby, things became a lot easier. I managed to trace her father,

Charles Boothby in the 1871 census to Newton Street in Lincoln. His profession was also listed as waterman, as was that of his son George. Interestingly, his two eldest children were born in Horncastle and his two youngest in Thorne, on the Stainforth & Keadby Canal. This suggested to me that Charles could have been carrying goods to and from the coalfields in South Yorkshire but I had nothing to back this up. When I came to look at the 1881 census, I found the confirmation that I wanted. Charles was listed as the Master of a vessel moored at Wombwell on the Dearne & Dove Canal. I haven't managed to find a name for the vessel yet, I'll keep trying though. However, I did manage to find his son George in the 1891 census as the Master of the sailing keel, Active. On the night of the census he was moored in the parish of St Mary's on the River Hull.

As the Boothbys were from Horncastle, it's tempting to suggest

### **New 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.

that they traded on the Horncastle Canal, it's even more tempting to speculate that they traded on the Slea! I'm delighted to find that my family were watermen, much more satisfying than the posh Lansdownes, with an 'e'. Perhaps we'll have to reinstate one of those boating traditions of having fried onions on the way to Torksey!

Steve Hayes



The poster features a blue header with the 'river care' logo and the title 'River Sleas Cleanup' in large, white, bubbly letters. Below the title, there is a green section with text about the group's purpose and details of the next event. A large circular photo shows volunteers cleaning a riverbank. To the right, a list of future events is provided. The bottom section includes a 'KEEP BRITAIN TIDY' logo, a QR code, and social media links.

**river care**  
**River Sleas Cleanup**

River Sleas Cleanup are a group of volunteers set up to help clear the River Sleas and its banks from rubbish and debris. In order to help the flow of water, help wildlife and generally improve the river and its banks for everyone's enjoyment.

**Our next organised event is:**  
**Sunday 16th March**  
Meet outside the HUB in Eastgate Car park at 10.00am

If you would like to volunteer please come along, or join the group [www.riversleascleanup.org.uk](http://www.riversleascleanup.org.uk) or [www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/)

We will be organising 8 Clean up events throughout 2014 along with a Christmas social event, please come along to any of the below events and see what we are all about.

- Sunday 16th March 2014
- Sunday 27th April 2014
- Sunday 25th May 2014
- Sunday 29th June 2014
- Sunday 27th July 2014
- Sunday 31st August 2014
- Sunday 28th September 2014
- Sunday 30th November 2014
- Social Event Saturday 20th Dec 2014

**KEEP BRITAIN TIDY**

[www.riversleascleanup.org.uk](http://www.riversleascleanup.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/)

## Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460
Secretary	Steve Hayes– Contact as above
Treasurer	Penny Carnell Conifer Cottage, Northend, Goxhill, South Humberside, DN19 7JX Tel: 01469 530138
Engineer	David Pullen Brinkburn House, Church Street, Scothern, Lincoln LN2 2UA Tel: 01673 862278
Director / Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 01529 305755 / 07973 330765
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

