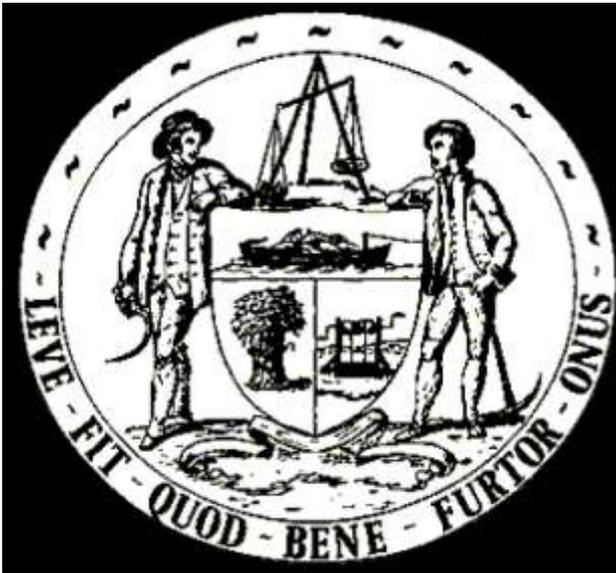


SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST



43

Autumn 2014

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:

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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

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

Editorial

Welcome to newsletter number 43

As we enjoy the last few days of sunshine, this edition looks back at the activities over the summer and then forward to the winter social being planned for 22nd November

The deadline for the next issue, Winter 2014-15, will be 1st December, with all contributions being as usual most welcome.

Please contact sleafor.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) for details of upcoming dates and activities

Desilting at Taylors Lock

After the heavy rain of the winter 2012 - 2013 a huge amount of silt was washed down the Navigation with a sizeable quantity being deposited in the lock cut below Taylors Lock. This caused a huge problem for boats trying to attend the annual Boat Gathering in South Kyme in 2013 as even shallow drafted craft couldn't negotiate the silt bar. The problem was that the silt wasn't the normal soft silt that is often encountered on the Navigation but something altogether more substantial that couldn't be pushed through. In fact some craft became so stuck that they had to be winched off the obstruction.



The Trust negotiated with the Environment Agency about the removal of the silt and obtained a D1 Exemption and Land Drainage Consent to facilitate desilting. In parallel with this quotes were sought from contractors and a price for carrying out the work accepted from Phil Wright Excavations of Sutton Bridge.



The Trust was lucky that a suitable excavator was free at the right time

Photos: S Hayes

and, in fact, the excavator arrived on site on Tues 11 March and started work on Wed 12.

To facilitate the work the pontoon and walkway were moved on the Wednesday and replaced on the Friday when that section had been desilted.

None of this work could have taken place without very generous donations from



Photos: N Osborne





the East Anglian Waterways Association, the Lincolnshire Branch of the Inland Waterways Association and an anonymous private benefactor. The Trust is very grateful for their support and conscious that for other areas to be tackled in the same way further funding appeals will be necessary.



Photos: N Osborne

This summer, boats had no difficulty reaching the lock with the depth of water in the lock cut being in the region of 2 metres. The photographs here and previous page show before and after views of the work



Like us on facebook!

For those of you who keep up to date with friends on facebook you can now also find out what's going on as far as the navigation is concerned. We have created a page for Sleaford Navigation Trust as another means of keeping members and friends informed.

If you log on you will 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's summer opening times (12-4 weekdays, 11-4.30 weekends) continue until the beginning of November, when it changes to being open weekends only from 12-4.

For more information about events at the House please see the website.

www.navigationhousesleaford.co.uk

The popular children's Riverside Discovery Trail has been extended to 2nd November Get your copy for £1.50 from Navigation House, Cogglesford Watermill or nccd and pick up a prize when completed.

South Kyme Boat Gathering — Great to be back!

After a gap of two years, Sleaford Navigation Trust was delighted to be able to hold the annual Boat Gathering in South Kyme over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. Problems with flood control and a silt bar in the entrance of Taylors Lock had, as you will be aware, resulted in the cancellation of the two previous rallies but this year, thanks to the de-silting undertaken by the Trust (see pages 4-6), fourteen boats were able to take part in the celebrations in South Kyme.



The village gave the visitors their customary warm welcome with activities arranged in the Hume Arms, a scarecrow competition, duck race and village hall table top sale. This year the Sleaford Paddlers joined in the fun and gave people the chance to try canoeing. The intrepid even had the opportunity to attempt to control a coracle. We were delighted to welcome the Paddlers to the Boat Gathering and really pleased to hear that they were



looking forward to be able to use the Water Access point. They are considering making canoeing in South Kyme a regular event.



Photos: S Hayes

Judging the scarecrow competition is always challenging as the villagers have put so much effort and ingenuity into their entries. Sue Sowerby and I were joined by David Tomlinson this year as we walked the village to make the all important decisions. The final results were that the witch transforming the handsome prince back to a frog took first place with the magic theme still present for second place Harry Potter while The Great British Bake Off came third. So many of the entries were excellent that they should all be commended.

Traditionally, boaters are invited to take part in a special service in the parish church, St Mary & All Saints, taken by the vicar, Rev. Mike Rose. This year was made very special by the presence of the Rt. Reverend Christopher Lowson, Bishop of Lincoln, who blessed the visiting boats before travelling to the church by water, on the front deck of narrowboat Wigford. His enthusiasm for Inland Waterways and life "in the slow lane" were reflected in his sermon and his warmth and humour were much appreciated. The bishop and his party then joined boaters for an excellent Sunday lunch in the Hume Arms.



Thanks again to the village for their warm welcome and to all those boaters who took part. Thanks too to Debbie Sylvester of the Environment Agency who took time to manage the water level over the weekend to give an optimum depth for cruising.

Chris Hayes

Photos: S Hayes



Doug walks the Sleaford Navigation for Help for Heroes.

Doug Hamilton-Cox, intrepid walker and fundraiser, arrived in Sleaford on Tuesday 13th May having completed the latest section of his challenging tour of the British internal waterways national network by adding the Sleaford Navigation to the long list of canals that he has walked.

He set off from Chapel Hill at 10.30, to walk along the river bank to South Kyme where he met up with local residents before striding out again towards Sleaford where he arrived at 4.00pm.

Doug explains, 'I am a 70 year old ex soldier who with my wife Sue set out 5 years ago to raise money for our wounded troops via Help for Heroes. We undertook a short 150 mile walk from our home on Dartmoor to Wootten Bassett in Wiltshire. This



was so successful that the following year we repeated the exercise with a 250 mile stroll from home to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, the first port of call for our wounded returning from Afghanistan, again with great success. I had now developed a severe case of itchy feet, so in 2011 decided to do the ultimate and final walk of John O'Groats to Lands End. Mission accomplished but I still couldn't settle. So I am now half way through my Final Challenge of walking all of the 2500 miles of canals in the U.K.

Sue and I have raised £82,000 to date and aim to make it £100,000 before we finish.'



Photos: S Hayes

Dave Pullen and Steve Hayes of Sleaford Navigation Trust accompanied Doug in his walk and the photo shows Doug and Dave with Chris Hayes, Chairman of the Trust, outside Navigation House in Sleaford at the end of the walk.

More information about Doug and Sue's travels can be found on www.dougwalking.co.uk/

Yet more onion roots!

In the last newsletter I wrote about my researches into family history and my discovery that I had boating connections. Further research has meant that I now realise that, completely unknown to me, I am descended from a complex web of boating families. I've had a brief insight into a strongly-linked community where extended families lived next door to one another on land, Foss Bank was home to three such. I have traced the fortunes of individual members of my family but the strict adherence to family Christian names made things a bit difficult, they were all called George, Charles or John!

One George Boothby was at Thorne on the night of the census in 1861, master of the vessel 'Sarah', registered in Lincoln and carrying 50 tons of coal. George was 24 at the time and accompanied by his wife and 2 year old daughter. Ten years and three children later, he was working as a porter in an Oil Cake Warehouse in Lincoln and I was left wondering what had gone wrong with the career as a waterman. I felt a sense of family pride to read in the 1881 census that George, now 44, accompanied by his wife and six children, was master of the vessel 'Mizpah', registered in Hull and carrying 100 tons of general cargo.

Further checking of the census records revealed that when George was working in the warehouse his father-in-law, John Thorpe, had recently died and his mother-in-law was living with them. This proved to be the link to the Horncastle Canal for which I had been looking. John Thorpe had been a waterman too. Twenty years earlier, in 1861, John and Sarah Thorpe were on a vessel named 'Transit', registered in Lincoln, on their way from Lincoln to Horncastle with 70 tons of general cargo. They had picked up the census form at Kirkstead Wharf on the Witham.

On the same night, John and Lucy Boothby, my great, great, great, grandparents, were moored in the Brayford in Lincoln, in a sailing keel named 'Queen', registered in Horncastle, laden with 60 tons of coal, bound for Horncastle.

The quest however goes on. I was astonished to discover that one of the lock keepers living at Kyme Lower Lock (Bottom Lock) on the Slea was a Boothby and that two of his children were born there. I now need to trace if there is a family connection there.

Steve Hayes

Thoughts from the Shroppie...

The Shroppie is famous for its wide variety of lock styles, narrow, wide, iron, stone, but why do some of the single locks' top gates have a gate paddle as well as the two side paddles but others only have the side paddles?

Why is it that when you are looking for a boat named Solace, you find that there are two in the same area?



Spotted near Norbury Junction, a Sleaford Navigation boat

Photo: D Scott

Heckington Show

Heckington Show is possibly the biggest village agricultural show in the country and SNT has had a presence there for several years now. The organising body has concentrated on developing a variety of activities for children to take part in and the Trust has contributed to this aim.

This year Penny and Heather Carnell encouraged visitors to the stall to create paper lace plates, paint canal roses and fashion rather fetching headgear featuring decorated ducks! Steve Hayes helped young, and older, attendees at the show to make knotted dragonflies. Some had enjoyed this so much before that they brought their friends back. In the meantime Mel Sowerby demonstrated the noble art of fender making.

The weather over the weekend at the end of July was very warm

Photo: S Hayes



and the temperature in the marquee became quite challenging at times but it didn't deter Pat Taylor from achieving an excellent sales turnover. It was really gratifying to have so many visitors to the stall asking about developments on the navigation and expressing support.

Chris Hayes had painted a small churn depicting the eight-sailed Heckington windmill which was undergoing restoration and this was raffled over the two days of the show. We all hoped the winner would be local so that delivery of the prize wouldn't be too difficult. Thankfully two visitors from New Zealand rejected tickets in favour of a donation! The winner turned out to be both local and appropriate.



Jim Murphy is Heckington Mill Manager and is pictured holding the churn which he intends to display in the mill!

Heckington Show has a wonderful warm and friendly atmosphere and we were delighted to be asked to take part again.

Photo Supplied

Picture Quiz... What is it that is bothering Sue and Pat?



Photo: S Hayes

Please submit your suggestions to sleaford.navigation@ntlworld.com

Answers at the November Social!

**New Members : We are delighted to welcome
Margaret Taylor, Clive Taylor and Jill Larcombe
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.

November Social



The Directors of Sleaford Navigation Trust invite you and your friends to join us for a pre Christmas celebration, to take place at the Barge and Bottle, Carre Street, Sleaford NG34 7TW, on Saturday 22nd November 2014 at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

RSVP Essential

To book your place, please make your choices from the menu below and send them with £5 deposit (cheques made payable to Sleaford Navigation Trust) per person to
SNT c/o Debbie Scott, 9 Forum Way, Sleaford NG34 7FF

by 14th November

In addition to brilliant company, great food and an excellent bar, there will also be entertainment and rewards!

Starters

Baked Nachos £5.25 

Creamy Garlic Mushrooms £4.95 

Portabello mushrooms topped with bacon, chilli chutney topped with Brie £4.75

Homemade soup of the day £3.95

Prawn Twisters £5.95

Battered Brie with Cranberry Sauce £5.25 

Mains (with a Selection of vegetables & potatoes, or chips)

8oz Ribeye steak £10.95

6oz Sirloin & Chicken Skewer Combo £11.95

Pan fried Sea bass £14.95

Barge Grill £16.95

Stuffed chicken breast with garlic & basil cream cheese wrapped in Parma ham with sweet red wine sauce £12.95

Mediterranean Vegetable Tart £9.95 

A selection of homemade desserts £3.95



Steak Orders..Please say how you would like your steak cooking.

Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460
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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

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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

