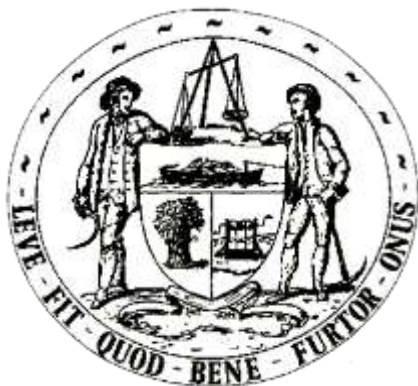


Sleaford Navigation Trust



Spring 2024

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 Island House, Moor Road, Chesham. HP5 1WA.

...is registered as a Charity (No. 1060234)

...has a website: www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

...is on facebook: Sleaford Navigation Trust

...is on Twitter: @SleafordNavigationTrust

Aims & Objectives

The Trust aims to stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Slea, 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 or contribute articles or photographs please contact:

editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

9 Forum Way,

Sleaford NG34 7FF



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 our Spring newsletter!

As usual the focus this time is on the AGM, but we also have news on the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Projects happening in and around Sleaford, not least of all our trip boat project, as well as updates from recent work parties and a plea for new directors and volunteers at this exciting time.

Debbie Scott, Editor

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A taster of the press cuttings to come (see page 13) Pat's collection includes an article published in the Sleaford Standard on 1st April 1999 explaining the water sports and leisure complex 'Flair Pool Canyon' being proposed for across the river from Cogglesford. Andy Hubbert, the then Chief Reporter, was delighted to have even fooled Teletext! (Younger readers - please see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teletext> for explanation)

Signing up to receive this newsletter by email means that you would receive it in full colour and the photographs work much better that way. Active hyperlinks will also take you directly the more information. Contact editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sleaford Navigation Trust will be held at Sleaford Town Council Offices, Navigation Yard, Sleaford, on Tuesday 21st May, 2024, starting at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of transacting the business detailed below.

To receive apologies for absence.

To approve the Minutes for the previous year's AGM.

To receive the Directors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2023.

To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023.

To appoint Amanda Jay as the Company's Auditor and to authorise the Directors to fix her remuneration.

Election of Directors. Stephen Hayes, Rebecca Franks and Susan Sowerby are due to retire by rotation.

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

Following the business of the meeting, there will be a presentation by Garry Titmus about Sleaford Castle.

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND MAY, 2023

Apologies:

Pat Taylor, Dave Pullen, Becca Pitcaithly, Faith Hopkins.

Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Becky Franks, seconded by Gavin Scott.

Directors' Report:

It was recorded that the report had been circulated. Chris Hayes summarised the contents and noted it as being the twenty-sixth annual report.

Its reception was proposed by Sue Sowerby, seconded by Mel Sowerby.

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

Accounts and Auditors' Report:

The accounts and report were communicated to the meeting. Their reception was proposed by Debbie Scott, seconded by Mel Sowerby.

The appointment of Amanda Jay of Sleaford as the Company's Auditor and the authorisation of the Directors to fix her remuneration was proposed by Judy Head, seconded by Becky Franks. Gavin & Debbie Scott declared an interest and abstained.

Election of Directors:

The following Directors stood for re-election, Debbie Scott and Penny Carnell.

Both were duly elected unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Chris Hayes reported on the activities of the Trust so far in 2023.

There was no further news as yet regarding the works at Haverholme by-wash and lock.

The application to the North Kesteven Shared Prosperity Fund for

the trip boat project had been successful. This meant that a steel-built trip boat to carry 12 passengers had been commissioned with a build slot in March 2024. It would be fitted out and crewed by volunteers and would operate between The Hub and Cogglesford Mill.

It was expected the grant would cover the cost of the build, fit-out, crew-training and insurance together with the building of a landing stage at Cogglesford and, possibly, the clearing of excess reed, weed and silt from the route of the boat.

The income from passenger fares would cover the cost of operation, boat and river maintenance together with additional crew training.

There were opportunities for volunteers to fit out and crew the boat and it was hoped this would increase membership in the Sleaford area. As well as being of benefit to tourism it was hoped the project would extend awareness of the heritage of the Navigation and appreciation of the waterway.

Trust volunteers had attended Woodhall Spa Country Show the previous day, May 21st, when interest had been expressed in the project plans. A number of children attending the show had enjoyed the activity of knotting dragonflies at the Trust stand.

Chris ended by thanking those present for their continued support for the Trust.

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT, DECEMBER 2023

A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No. 1060234

Registered Office: Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

This is the twenty-seventh annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2023. The company was incorporated on 19th December, 1996 and its full name is the Sleaford Navigation Trust. A company limited by guarantee,

registered in England and Wales No. 03294818, the Trust is also a registered charity No. 1060234. The governing documents of the Trust are the memorandum and articles of association which have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the Trust during the year to 31st December 2023 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	David Carnell
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)	Penelope Carnell
Deborah Scott	Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)
Patricia Taylor (to September 2023)	Susan Sowerby
Melvyn Sowerby	Robin Saul
William Pickworth (from November 2023)	

No director may remain in office for more than three years without seeking re-election.

The Trust registered office is Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH.

The main Agents of the Trust are:

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 2 Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7BL

Auditors: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, Lincoln, LN4 4DS

Objectives, Organisation and Activities

The Company was established to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Sleaford Navigation or Kyme Eau and to promote the

restoration and preservation of the waterway for navigation and other purposes.

The Trust

- ◆ is organised and controlled by its Directors who provide their services on a volunteer basis as members of the Executive Board which meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, to formulate and implement strategy and to review progress. There are no paid or seconded staff.
- ◆ is a corporate member of the Inland Waterways Association which shares certain objectives with the Trust and provides help and support nationally and locally to all organisations engaged in waterway restoration.
- ◆ is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership.
- ◆ produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.
- ◆ has a website www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk and a Facebook page.

Review of Progress and Achievements

During the year, the Trust has continued the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years.

Executive Board meetings were initially conducted mainly by Zoom although, later in the year face-to-face gatherings took place.

In September, the directors were saddened to hear of the death of Pat Taylor, a long-time director and avid supporter of SNT. Pat truly was “the smiling face of SNT” at promotional and sales events and will be sorely missed.

Representatives of the Trust attended meetings and events as follows:

A Witham Catchment Partnership meeting in Sleaford.

Meetings of the South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.

Meetings of the Slea Flood Resilience Project.

A meeting of Heckington Henpeckers where a talk was given on the history of the navigation and the work of the Trust.

Meetings with Alan Gray and Kevan Ray of NKDC in connection with the Shared Prosperity Funding for the purchase, fit-out and operation of a trip boat in Sleaford. This include a visit to Ranby to see the Chesterfield Canal Trust trip boat Seth Ellis for comparison.

The necessity of clearance from the river of excess silt, weed and reed growth was also addressed in these meetings.

Meetings regarding the RiverLight Festival in Sleaford. Unfortunately, a series of circumstances, including inclement weather, prevented participation in the event in 2023.

A meeting at NKDC with representatives of Lambert Smith Hampton regarding possible future developments in Sleaford.

Meetings in connection with the co-ordination of Heritage Trails in Sleaford.

A Heritage Event in Sleaford where a talk was given on the history of the navigation.

Woodhall Spa Country Show in the Heritage Marquee.

Langley Mill Boat Rally with sales and promotional material.

Heckington Show with a gazebo and display in the Heritage Village.

A visit to HD Narrowboats in connection with the commissioning of a shell for the trip boat and reservation of a build slot.

Sleaford Christmas Market with a display in Navigation House.

Changes

In September, Becky Franks informed the Executive Board that, because of commitments related to her promotion at work, she would no longer be able to act as Treasurer beyond the year end. Will Pickworth was proposed and accepted as a director to take her place as Treasurer and Becky agreed to liaise with him as necessary.

Work Parties

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock, and Sleaford where overhanging branches obstructing the path by the river were cut back.

Trust members undertook LANTRA training in the use of chainsaws to fell trees.

Other news

The Trust continued to be part of the NKDC Good Cause Lottery receiving funds from the sale of tickets.

A new gazebo was purchased with funds made available by a grant from Sleaford Renewables Community Fund.

The promotional leaflets were updated and reprinted.

The connection with Grantham Anglers Fly-fishing Section (GAFFS) continued.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

The resources available are considered adequate to enable the Trust to continue its work effectively at this stage of the restoration programme. The Trust's assets are adequate to fulfil all its obligations and there are no commitments which are required to be disclosed in this report or the notes to the accounts. The Trust is registered for VAT.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board

Steve Hayes, Director & Secretary



Chris and Steve beside the Top Pound in Sleaford



BECOME A MEMBER

Join our community of like-minded people from all walks of life and show your support for the waterways. The Inland Waterways Association is the only national charity that works to preserve and restore all Britain's 7,000 miles of canals and river navigations.

JOIN IWA

**your support
can make a
difference**

Only IWA does all this, and more...

- We campaign for the waterways and champion regeneration
- We lobby Parliament and fight to improve the waterways
- We offer practical support and advice on waterways restoration
- We run Waterway Recovery Group which supports restoration projects



WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/JOIN

The Inland Waterways Association is a not-for-profit charitable company (limited liability) registered in England. Company registration number 402647. Charity registration number 203333. Registered address: Lind Mill, Oldham Canal, Saddlebridge Road, Oldham, Lancs, OL1 2PL. Phone: 0161 265 3400.

IWA Canalway Cavalcade 2024

IWA Canalway Cavalcade returns to London's Little Venice on Saturday 4th May 2024 for the full early May Bank Holiday weekend. Each year we celebrate the best of life on the waterways in London and its community at IWA Canalway Cavalcade. [Fund Britain's Waterways](#) is the theme of the event this year.

There's something for everyone at IWA Canalway Cavalcade; a vibrant canal festival in the heart of London's waterways. Whether visiting by boat or on foot, it's a splendid day out for you and your family. Soak up the atmosphere surrounded by colourful craft of all shapes and sizes, alongside a multitude of unique stalls, a real ale bar, and delicious foods for all appetites.

Each year we celebrate the best of life on the waterways and its community. With eclectic live music around the site, special boating activities like the legendary illuminated procession, and kids' entertainment for all ages. You'll also find amazing art from local schools on display, and plenty of opportunities to get involved at IWA Canalway Cavalcade. We are currently looking for volunteers for the event – could you be one? [Get in touch](#) with us for more information.

Event Opening Times: Saturday and Sunday 10.00 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. (plus illuminated boat procession, from 9.00 p.m. Sunday evening) and Monday 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Please note that the festival site is within London's Ultra Low Emission Zone, details of which can be found on the [TFL website](#).



South Kyme Event

South Kyme Women's Institute is holding its Annual Spring Fayre at the village's Coronation Hall, with lots going on for all the family both inside and out, including a Duck Race, Dog Show and Tug of War, all happening between 11 and 3.30 on Saturday 4th May .

Update on the Sleaford Trip Boat

A new trip boat will soon see people enjoying the unique experience of navigating the River Slea.

North Kesteven District Council is in its final year of delivering UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects. One of these is the purchase of a narrowboat to run pleasure trips between the Hub and Cogglesford Watermill in Sleaford, led by Sleaford Navigation Trust with support from North Kesteven District Council.

The boat build is taking place now. Once that's complete, by late June or early July, the internal fit out will then take place on the river near the Hub with help from skilled volunteers.

There'll also be work needed to sensitively clear silt and reeds along the boat's route, and additional UKSPF funding has been agreed for this. The official launch of the trip boat is likely to take place in Spring 2025.

For more on this and other UKSPF projects, see the Council's website www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/ukspf

Newspaper Archives

Sue and Mel Sowerby have kindly donated to the Trust a large collection of press cuttings that had been meticulously kept by Pat Taylor dating back to the 1970s. It's a fascinating history of the ongoing campaign to restore the waterways of Lincolnshire and especially the Sleaford Navigation. We are hoping to reproduce selected items in future newsletters.

Fundraising

Do you know how simple and easy fundraising for the Sleaford Navigation Trust can be?

In 2022 alone we received over £500 from a combination of NKDC lottery players and Easy Fundraising contributions.



NKDC runs a community lottery where 60p from every £1 ticket goes to a local good cause or charity of your choice.

The lottery is run every week on a Saturday evening where the top prize is a fantastic £25,000!!

The link for joining up and being in with a chance of a prize whilst supporting the Trust is:

www.nklottery.co.uk/support/sleaford-navigation-trust



Easy fundraising is exactly that! When shopping on any and many online shopping sites an automatic % donation of your total spend will be made to your nominated charity or cause, at no additional cost to you. Purchases such as insurance, holidays and cars are all included along with entertainment, eating out and all the well known shopping sites.

Your usual internet browser can be easily set up to alert you that a donation is available when you are on any of the brands sites that are part of Easy fundraising.

If you load the app onto your mobile phone or tablet and go to the retailer's site via the app the donation is activated for you.

The link for Easy Fundraising is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sleafordnt/?from404=1 or search in your app store to upload to your phone.

Thank you and good luck!!

Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan

The working group has now been formally constituted as a Sub-Committee of the Town Council's Planning Committee. The Design Guide, an appendix of the Plan, has been approved by the Town Council and the group continues to work on the Plan itself prior to another formal consultation period under Regulation 14 and submission to NKDC. Please look out for the consultation and respond with any comments.

The plan's website is www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome New Members

Christopher John

Jennifer Parker-Lessware

Martin Johnson

Will Pickworth

New Volunteers and Directors

We are looking forward to working with a group of Veterans in Sleaford that Steve has recently met, especially on the fitting out launching and crewing of the trip boat. All being well the work will start later this summer. We also have a list of other people who have also expressed an interest in becoming involved. If you would like to add your name please let us know by contacting any of the Directors listed on the back page of this newsletter.

We would always welcome new volunteers aged 16 or over to join the work parties - there's plenty of work for everyone!

Please come along to the AGM on 21st May to hear about other roles.



The March Work Party tidying up at Taylors Lock





Photos by
Mel Sowerby



Useful websites:

Sleaford Navigation Trust	www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Navigation House	www.navigationhouse.co.uk
Cogglesford Watermill	www.cogglesfordwatermill.co.uk
TourismNK	www.heartoflincs.com
Sleaford Town Council	www.sleaford.gov.uk
North Kesteven District Council	www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Lincolnshire County Council	www.lincolnshire.gov.uk
Inland Waterways Association	www.waterways.org.uk
Canal & River Trust	www.canalrivertrust.org.uk
Environment Agency	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Blue Green Corridor	www.withamsleabluegreencorridor.co.uk
East Mercia Rivers Trust	www.eastmercia.org
Sleaford Museum	www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk
Sleaford & District Civic Trust	www.sleafordcivictrust.co.uk

Also follow us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sleaford-Navigation-Trust-632143133547859>

And Twitter

@SleafordNavigationTrust

The River Sleas Clean Up volunteers continue their work parties - for more details of the events please see their facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/river.slea/

Membership Subscriptions - Action Required Please

A reminder please, that the subscriptions are now as follows.

**Individual (£10), Senior Citizen (£8), Under 18 (£8)
Family (£15), Life (£120), Corporate (£20 min)**

Please update your standing orders accordingly, if you haven't already done so. Many thanks to those who already have.

The membership application form with the latest information about subscriptions is also [available on our website](#) for potential members.

A selection of plaques is now available to order online through our website www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

RiverLight 22nd June 2024 (with fringe events from 15th)

Heckington Show 27th and 28th July 2024

Places to Visit

Navigation House NG34 7TW

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Cogglesford Watermill NG34 7EQ

Opening Times: Friday to Monday 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm
and regular Milling Days on the second Sunday of each month
See www.heartoflincs.com for more details and up to date information on events, etc.

Sleaford Museum, Southgate NG34 7RQ

Monday 12.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Wednesday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm,
Friday 10.00 am – 12.30pm, Saturday 10.00 – 3.00 pm.

Committee Contacts

Chairman	Chris Hayes 10 Chelmer Close , North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8TH Tel: 01522 689460 chair@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Secretary	Steve Hayes– Contact as above and secretary@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Treasurer	Becky Franks From May 2024: Will Pickworth treasurer@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Director / Newsletter Editor	Debbie Scott Tel: 07973 330765 editor@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
Director	Susan Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director	Penny Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Lincs IWA Nominee	David Carnell Tel: 01469 530138
Director / Work Party Organiser	Mel Sowerby Tel: 01522 856810
Director	Rob Saul

Honorary Engineer	David Pullen 43 Howell Road, Heckington NG34 9RX Tel 07766 714650 / 01529 460547 engineer@sleafordnavigation.co.uk
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Membership

Membership Secretary	Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billingham, Lincoln, LN4 4DS Tel: 01526 832256
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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

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.