



SUMMER 2016
SLEAFORD MUSEUM 1976 - 2016
SLEAFORD CORN EXCHANGE 1858
HERITAGE SECTOR MEETING
WHEN IN SLEAFORD PROJECT



Civic Trust Award to Sleaford Museum: Christopher Hodgson, David Marriage with plaque, Maggie Carr of Carre Heritage.

FIRST SWALLOW

Fly in your triumph over this ancestral field,
You who know more of sunnier climes
Than we rooted here.
Charge the wind and splinter rods of rain.
Find in your delight, a way above the weald
To show us, downcast in wet times,
Weather holds no fear;
And in fireside memory, may our enlightenment remain.

Recall from the heights this green sweep of land
On which we pin our groundless hopes
Each chilly spring.
Shriek your defiance as you flash through thunder.
Yours are the skyways, and in absolute command
Of air about these pastoral slopes,
Let your heart sing,
Whilst we, set as we are, watch in certain wonder.

Malcolm Doughty



SLEAFORD MUSEUM

1976

KEEPING LINKS WITH THE PAST

SLEAFORD now has its own museum ... preserving the past for the benefit of the future. Robin Mackenzie describes how it was formed, what it has achieved, and what it hopes to achieve.



Soon after the Sleaford and District Civic Trust was formed in 1972 the idea was born for one day creating a museum and to bringing back to the town relics of its past; these relics were known to exist in the British Museum and at Lincoln Museum and had left the town because there was no place here for them.

The idea was regarded as a long term one because the first requirement was to obtain suitable accommodation and although one or two properties were considered, they were not pursued for one reason or another.

Then the splendid new shopping precinct opened and along with several other local firms, Keightleys, the outfitters moved in, vacating their premises at 10 Market Place.

The shop in Market Place was just what we wanted: it offered a reasonable amount of public area on the ground floor, storage space and window display facilities. Not only that but it was also a very handsome listed building in an important situation forming a cornerstone to the market square.

The property had been bought by the former Kesteven County Council and had transferred to Lincolnshire County Council on local government reorganisation; an approach to that authority was met with immediate agreement, subject to sharing the property with social services who planned to use part of the shop area for the sale of craftwork.

Although the Civic Trust would of course have preferred to have had exclusive use it seemed a reasonable compromise and so they were on the way to achieving their objective.

In order to make a start on collecting exhibits the first 'open day' was held on a cold day in the middle of last January and local people were urged to bring along whatever they had to offer.

The premises opened at 10 o'clock and nothing happened! At 11 o'clock, however, Nicky Houlden came along, bravely pushing a two-wheeled, cobweb festooned, baby carriage - the first exhibit had arrived.



This is the first exhibit received, the Victorian pram, seen with Robin Mackenzie's daughters Rachel (8) and Louise (10) and their dolls. Sleaford Standard 18 Dec 1975.

Nicky, son of the contractor modernising the Waggon and Horses public house in Eastgate, had discovered the baby carriage in the sealed up roof space of the pub and the museum was its obvious destination; the Civic Trust has since discovered that the carriage was used locally and in fact a lady who rode in it at the turn of the century is alive and well and living in New Zealand.

PROMISING

By the end of that first day a large number of exhibits had been brought to the museum and the prospects of establishing an interesting and varied display were promising. A second open day brought a similar response and the number of items either given or loaned was rising.

The pace at which the museum was developing meant a lot of hard work for a small band of enthusiastic Trust members, so much so that a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Robin Mackenzie with specific responsibility for setting up the museum. An approach was made to the Museums Officer of the County Council and he agreed to join the committee.

One of the first decisions they made was that the museum should depict the history of Sleaford and district and most of the items obtained will fit in with this wide theme. Interesting items which do not have local connections or origins will be displayed too, but will not go into the permanent collection.

All exhibits have been catalogued and classified - no mean task - by Margaret Gosling and Helen Bristow, under the able guidance of Catherine Wilson the Curator of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.

PROGRESS

A month or more had elapsed since the keys to 10 Market Place were acquired and although much progress had been made the building itself had had little attention. First of all the lighting was put in order by Roy Dodman and a large quantity of paint was generously given by another local firm. A weekend in March was spent painting the various rooms and these are now ready to be set up as display areas.

The type of exhibits that have been received have dictated the layouts of the various areas. These will comprise a general display area in which items of general interest will be featured such as plans, pictures and documents about the

Haverholme Estate, the Bristol Estate and Henry Chaplin MP - but nothing yet on Handley!

Others include a costume section based on an Almshouse uniform, a Victorian lady's outfit and a baby's bonnet circa 1820 presented by a lady in Bournemouth whose great grandmother wore it as a baby in Sleaford; a kitchen where domestic equipment will be shown such as a vacuum cleaner featured in the 'Upstairs, Downstairs' television series.

The most comprehensive display will be by courtesy of Stan Buttler, who has presented the Civic Trust with the contents of the family outfitters workroom equipped at the turn of the century and still intact when the business closed recently.

Although much has already been received the Civic Trust needs very much more to make the Museum a success. Anything depicting folk life in Sleaford and the surrounding area will be welcomed and in particular they would like to obtain items connected with early industries including waterways, windmills or any sort of early commerce; domestic and kitchen ware, clothing and especially items connected with or belonging to local personalities and businesses.

There will be a further open day shortly to receive items or they can be delivered to Mr. Mackenzie, 1 Kingston Terrace, Eastgate.

This article by Robin Mackenzie, Curator of the original Sleaford Museum, appeared in the Sleaford Standard's 1976 supplement 'Sleaford Past, Present and Future, a copy of which was kindly provided by Ann Mackenzie, who also has the following colour photos in her collection. The black and white photos are from press cuttings in the museum scrapbook of Robin Mackenzie, which he lent me several years ago. Ed.





Display including the Red Lion pub sign (which was in Westgate) that is still in the Museum collection and has recently been renovated by John Dale for an exhibition on "Agriculture and Ale" in September for Heritage Open Days.



A new room of the museum. The year before, 1,000 people from Sweden, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Holland, Jersey, Guernsey, the US, and Scotland came to the museum.

SLEAFORD MUSEUM

2016



The new incarnation of Sleaford Museum opened on the 2nd April 2015 in the converted art deco toilet building in Monument Gardens (see Winter-Spring 2015 Newsletter). At the Sleaford Museum Trust AGM on 22 March 2016 it was reported that there had been about 3,500 visitors from as far away as Arkansas and Western Australia, as well as private visits by the Alvey School, SLHA, Sleaford Methodist Church, the WI, and Town Twinning groups from France and Germany. Future exhibitions are planned on Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford Workhouse, and Charles Sharpe Seeds. It is also planned to work with older members of the community 'to harvest the wealth of tales about the town.'



Continuity with the original museum can be seen with the first ever exhibit of the Victorian pram donated in 1975 in pride of place at the end of the gallery.





Another important factor of continuity with the original museum is the picture window.
Here is the 'Power to Sleaford' current exhibition.



Haverholme Priory exhibition now on show.



The excellent Lee & Green exhibition curated by Jonathan Smith is still on show.



CORN EXCHANGE.- This building is now fast approaching completion, the whole of the scaffolding has been removed, the front window glazed, and the iron gates hung; the appearance of the exterior is now greatly enhanced by the improved state of the Bristol Arms Hotel, the front of which has been chopped and dressed, making it equal in appearance to a new erection. The two buildings combined are a great improvement to our already pleasant Market-place.

MARCH 20TH 1858

SLEAFORD CORN EXCHANGE COMPANY. - From the first annual report of the directors of the Sleaford Corn Exchange Company we find that the total amount of money received, including a donation of £500, amounts to £5,348 18s. 5d., and the expenditure to £4,941 15s. 1d., leaving a balance of £407 3s. 4d. in the Treasurer's hands. To complete the Exchange, there requires a sum of £1,101 1s. 7d. beyond the present amount of receipts and shares subscribed, and this the directors recommend should be raised by an extension of shares, raising the present capital of £5,000 to £6,000, which, when all paid up, would leave a floating balance of about £200 to meet all contingencies. During the two months the building has been opened, a sum of £180 17s. has been received to the score of income, including £72 9s for merchants' stands, £31 10s. for commission tickets, £47 10s. for yearly admissions, £7 13s. 4d. for weekly admissions, and £21 14s. 8d. for public assemblies, and use of the Exchange hall. The directors confidently anticipate that a dividend of not less than 4 per cent will be realized to the shareholders.

SLEAFORD CORN EXCHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWO FRONT OFFICES adjoining the entrance to the Sleaford Corn Exchange, the LARGE ROOM over the same, and the EIGHTEEN VAULTS under the Exchange hall, will be LET BY TENDER either together or in several lots, at a meeting of the directors to be held in the Corn Exchange, on THURSDAY, the 8th inst., at ONE o'clock, p.m.

For conditions of Tenancy and further particulars apply to Mr. Peake, solicitor, or to Mr. Joseph Bellamy, the secretary, Sleaford, from either of whom forms of Tender may be obtained. - Sealed Tenders, endorsed "Sleaford Corn Exchange, Tender for -----," to be delivered to the Secretary before ONE o'clock, on Thursday, the 8th April.

Sleaford, 1st April, 1858.

Heritage Meeting – NCCD – 8 March 2016



This is the 2nd Heritage Meeting, held on the 8th June.

Attending:-

M Lock, S Willis, G Johnson-Hirt, S Porter, T Hobbs, F Coulson, J Lea – North Kesteven District Council

D Marriage, M Bamford, J Spooner - Sleaford Museum

Cllr G Titmus, S Scholes – Sleaford Town Council

C Hodgson – Heart of Sleaford and Civic Trust

T Benton, R Shaw –Civic Trust

B Windsor – The National Centre for Craft and Design

T Lane – Old Sleaford Heritage Project

S Tapley – Head of William Alvey Primary School

Rev P Johnson – St Denys Church

S Grundy – Lincolnshire County Council Heritage Forum

L Bates – Heritage Lincolnshire

N Jones, D Wiles, L Lumb, M Marr - artsNK

Apologies:- Dr S Pauley – Sleaford Historian; D Trimble – Old Sleaford Heritage Project; C Hayes – The Slea Navigation Trust; S Goodland – Sleaford Town Council

Introduction by Mike Lock - Setting the scene for arts, culture and heritage

Lucy Lumb (artsNK) explained the background and concept for the new arts trail for Sleaford, and gave a presentation of the project “When in Sleaford...”

As we worked with William Alvey Primary School pupils and have gained such excellent work from the pupils, the plan is to exhibit their work prior to the unveiling of the “When in Sleaford” – art trail. A venue is to be agreed possibly either the Community Room at the Town Council, NCCD or NKDC offices.

The project was initially to have 14 plaques sited in significant places of interest around Sleaford, however 18 plaque are now to be erected with Mr Tapley from William Alvey securing further funding.

It is hoped that through this meeting and working together we will be able to secure sufficient funding for maps/interpretation boards to be sited within Sleaford together with an accompanying leaflet for the trail.

LCC hold various historic records in their building on Waterside South Lincoln that are open to the public which may be used for additional information. These can be accessed on line or in person once permission is gained.

A question was asked if all this information could be linked in to an App for smart phones. QR codes and Info Point Technology were also discussed. This would all be dependent on further funding bids. This could be something that (HLF) would be interested in funding. Chris Hodgson then referred to an application that was already before NKDC and the Town Council for an Audio Visual Trail that was being commissioned as part of the re-generation for Sleaford.

Round the table updates:

David Marriage – Sleaford Museum (and is also contact for The Almshouses)

Mark Bamford – Sleaford Museum (Volunteer Outreach Officer) - his aim is to bring schools in to visit the museum and to encourage visiting as part of education.

Jan Spooner – Sleaford Museum since opening has received over 3500 visitors. Their future exhibitions will be made known in the press. Up and coming will be an exhibition for the Queen’s birthday and also the celebration of 150 years of the RAF.

Cllr Garry Titmus – Chair Sleaford Town Council – now Sleaford has a Town Hall, it is hoped that the Community Room in the building will be used to display artifacts relating to the RAF and Navy also to be able to link into exhibitions with the museum.

The Town Council have long term plans to open pedestrian access to the Castle. Pending funding possibly via (HLF) they want this to be a community project with interpretation boards, footbridges etc.

New and better signage is a need in Sleaford.

Chris Hodgson – Chair of Heart of Sleaford (Regeneration Scheme) – they already have plans in place at the Town Council and NKDC for an Audio Visual Trail with heritage plaques on historic places and buildings based on the English Heritage format. This will tie-in with the Butter Market regeneration. QR codes and augmented reality images have already been researched.

Once there has been provisional approval from all authorities a core team will be put in place and plans will progress, with the hope that the community will be part of this project. For example school taking part in script writing, actors involved from Sleaford's Little Playhouse taking on the rolls of characters. A local film company have already volunteered time, equipment and personnel. The priority will be the technology needed to gain a full experience by visitor and residents.

The plan is for it to be in the process of completion within 3 years with the research and filming complete in 18 months once consent is achieved.

QR Codes will help to pull in the 20 to 25 age group. The QR codes to link in with the new signage.

Funding may be applied for via the Civic Trust and Lincs Community Foundation.

There could be a conflict with more than one plaque on the same sites.

Tim Benton – Chair of Sleaford Civic Society

Dr Richard Shaw – Member of the Sleaford Civic Trust and Editor of the newsletter.

He is working with artsNK at present on a memorial for Les Gostick, one of Sleaford residents who was the Postmaster for many years. He also started the process of saving the river Sleas from drying up, by getting a borehole drilled. The memorial will be a bronze statue. A decision as to where this will be is awaited from the Town Council.

In this presentation there is no mention of a plaque for the Corn Exchange. This will need one.

Richard made a call out for new members for the Civic Trust. Also he called for contents for the Spring/Summer Civic Trust Newsletter.

Bryony Windsor – Exhibitions Office for the National Centre for Craft & Design Working in partnership with artsNK, Design Factory and Design Nation on the Ridges & Furrows project. Main involvement in Sleaford is with the Made in Sleaford initiative.

Sally Porter – NKDC (ECS) Project Officer – work involves promoting the visitor economy and product development. Working with Lincs County Council. Visitors sites are the Aviation Centre Cranwell, Navigation House, Cogglesford Mill, Welbourn Forge and Mrs Smith's Cottage. They have been working with Dr Simon Pauley on the heritage of Sleaford. NKDC has signed off a new piece of print for this.

There was a feeling that there had been a lack of knowledge and like everyone around the table, no one organisation knew that any of these other projects were happening. There is a lot of cross planning, research and development happening on the same subjects.

All this needs managing more efficiently, targeting the experience.

Theresa Hobbs – NKDC commented that all these things need cross promotion by all the organisations represented around the table.

Faye Coulson – NKDC Marketing

Tom Lane – Old Sleaford Heritage – funded by Heritage Lottery Fund on a archaeological dig at The Old Manor House. The project is helped via community groups volunteering. They have uncovered a vast amount of history dating back to 12th and 13th Century. The next project will be working with the College for British Archeology on parish boundaries.

Their meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month everyone is welcome.

Chris Hodgson – commented that a compendium of potential sites needs to be drawn up by everyone around the table and sent to Lucy.

Mr Tapley – Head of William Alvey Primary School. Expressed a desire to continue working with artsNK and extended partners. He is happy to liaise with former pupils to have their art work exhibited prior to the unveiling of the “When in Sleaford” Trail.

Sheila Schofield – Clerk to Sleaford Town Council. Confirmed the information board in the Market Place was owned by NKDC.

Julie Lea – NKDC Communications – prepares NKDC newsletter which is distributed to every house in the district. We can supply information to them to be included, as can all the organisations at the table.

Rev Johnson – St Denys – There are numerous amounts of historical points of reference contained in the church itself. The church is improving access to the entrance to maximize the experience for visitors. The church is open every day to everyone. There are plans for a 90th Birthday Exhibition with posters of prominent people of the community also celebrating 90 years.

Sarah Grundy – LCC Commissioning Officer – role to support commissions and commission heritage works. The next phase will be war memorials with a trail.

LCC holds historic environment records which anyone can access with prior permission and arrangements. A heritage network can be started as currently there is not one in this area. Sarah is willing to email contacts of other community groups who can give advice on who to proceed. She offers advice and a chance to help with advertising projects, workshops and exhibition advertising. A project being worked on at present is “Bricks & Bones” with the local community of Wigford and Lincoln University.

Liz Bates – Heritage Lottery Fund who works with cluster groups within Lincolnshire on arts and heritage projects. Also there is some involvement with the private sector representative. She can invite these contacts to future events. At present HLF are working on new signage at Boston to encompass all strategy, orientation at Bus and Railway stations with a tool kit to be rolled out in the borough all tying together to accommodate a better visitor experience.

Chris Hodgson commented that NKDC had deferred new essential signage for Sleaford until a firm decision has been made on the re-generation of the town.

OUTCOMES/ACTIONS:

- Agreed that regular quarterly meetings of all people/organisations at the table continue. Also to widen this invitation to new partners from other sectors including the private sector.
- There be joined up planning of all new heritage projects being planned within Sleaford to aid both residents and visitor to have a greater experience.
- A prioritised list of all sites for all the When in Sleaford artworks and the heritage plaques required be devised.
- Each person to email Lucy their list of 10 top heritage/visitor sites ASAP.
- Julia Knight (Ascoughfee Hall) and Dr Simon Pawley to be included at the next meeting.

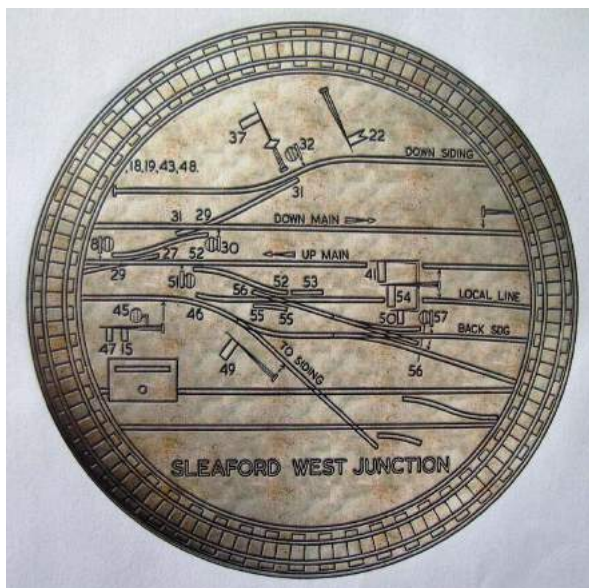
WHEN IN SLEAFORD



Alvey School children with their designs for the When in Sleaford plaques.











This plaque is inspired by the coming of the circus to Sleaford when the elephant was to be seen in Lollycocks Field. To see the background to the design of these plaques refer to the previous article on the Heritage Meeting, the section on Lucy Lumb of artsNK, who is in charge of the When in Sleaford project.

COMING EVENTS

Late Summer Lunch - Saturday 3 Sept 1.00 pm
Village Hall, School Lane, Silk Willoughby

Savoury fork buffet with puddings and glass of wine or fruit juice. £10

Raffle. Prizes much appreciated.

Numbers limited. Contact Miss Stella Butler,
192 Grantham Road, Sleaford NG34 7NU

'Unique and fascinating churches in Lincs and Notts' Illustrated talk by Dr Richard Shaw
Wednesday 19 October 7.30
Roman Catholic Church Hall

Christmas Social
Saturday 10 December 7.30
St Denys' Church Room

Complimentary buffet and glass of wine.
Raffle. Prizes much appreciated.

LUNCH HOUR

Would that this mean hour could last;
The sun hold midday high.
Away from all things workaday
Please let me lie
Watching tongues of irises
Tremble to the breeze,
And worship at this place that brought
The gardener to his knees.

I have a banquet set around,
A thrush to entertain,
Repeating for my benefit
His choice refrain.
Exotic perfume haunts the air,
Drifts from yonder wall
Where wisteria imitates
A frozen waterfall.

I see all creatures hereabouts
Delerious with Spring;
A world of hope tatooed upon
A butterfly's wing.
So little time to take in all
That bursts, unfolds and blooms.
How mad that we contrive to spend
Such perfect days in rooms!

Malcolm Doughty



Photo in Sleaford Standard with caption: Mr Robin Mackenzie, curator of Sleaford's new museum, now open on Saturdays, with some old farmworkers' tools in the Industry and Commerce room. The museum had its official opening on Saturday.
(No date but thought to be spring 1976)