

The Trust is delighted to announce the publication of *On the Trail*. This publication celebrates the Trust's second photographic competition and exhibition which was made possible through financial support from Sleaford Town Council; artsNK and the Carre Gallery. The publication contains all of the entries selected and shown at this year's exhibition. The cost of publication was made possible through subscriptions from the following local people and businesses:

Anthony Brand, Ray Butler Ltd, Carre Heritage/D Hatchers & Sons Ltd, Kate Cook, F Graves & Sons (FGS Furnishings), Christopher Hodgson and Christopher Micklethwaite.

Trust Chairman Garry Titmus presented copies to the subscribers who were able to attend the Christmas Social.



A limited edition of fifteen hard copy books was produced but it is possible to purchase additional individual copies and electronic versions which will work on tablets. The links to the various formats are:

<http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/9061334-on-the-trail> (Hard copy)

<http://www.blurb.co.uk/my/ebooks/680171-on-the-trail>  
(e-version from Blurb at £10.99)

<http://www.blurb.co.uk/my/ebooks/680171-on-the-trail#ibookstore>  
(e-version from Apple at £10.99)

### News from your Executive Committee



Your Executive Committee held meetings on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Sheldrake Room of Sleaford Town Council. At these meetings a main item was the revision of the Trust's Constitution. This will be presented for ratification at the March 2019 AGM. Approval was given to produce a limited edition publication of the recent photographic competition – *On the Trail*. Progress on the funding bid for the Water Fountain was provided along with an update on working with Sleaford Town Council to develop and enhance the Castle Site. Final arrangements for the Social Event were approved.

## Civic Matters

### The Newsletter of the Sleaford and District Civic Trust

Winter 2019

#### The Christmas Social



Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December saw Trust members come together for an enjoyable social event. Ample supplies of food and drinks stimulated a variety of discussions at the various tables. Garry Titmus introduced the event with an update on a range of Trust activities. He went on to present copies of our limited edition publication "On the Trail" to those members who made it possible through personal subscriptions.

David Marriage entertained those present with an informative and engaging presentation on The Bede Houses in Sleaford. He covered the history of its development and phases of construction. The talk included the social history of the occupants of the Alms House and how this has changed up to the present day.



#### Dates for your Diary

The AGM of the Civic Trust will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 19:00 in Sleaford Town Hall.

We anticipate the Heritage Lottery Fund decision on the Water Fountain bid by the end of February.



With the RAF Centenary year drawing to a close, a letter just received by one of our members brings back a reminder of Lincolnshire's contribution. What follows was written by a former Officer in the WRAF whose family had close ties to Cranwell and Sleaford. Jane was attached to RAF Woodhall Spa in 1943 and watched 617 Squadron take off for Scampton in preparation for what became known as the Dambuster's raid on the Ruhr Valley Dams three days later.

2 October 2018

Dear Tina

*For some strange reason, I recently started to read my 1943 diary. On May 13<sup>th</sup> I'd written "We watched 617 Squadron take off for RAF Scampton" and I remember silently wishing them a safe return. As there was a complete security clamp down we sensed something big was going to happen.*

*As a young S/O (Section Officer) in the WRAF, I was attached to RAF Woodhall Spa and am so proud to think I knew some of those wonderfully brave young men who never gave any indication of anxiety or worries they may have had. They were so friendly and nice to talk to and spoke warmly of their family or girlfriends.*

*It was incredible to think that there were two VCs in the squadron – one being Leonard Cheshire who went on to do so much charitable work after the war and the other, of course,*

*Guy Gibson. I was rather in awe of Guy but he seemed to be a troubled person and I think possibly flew to forget.*

*Nigger, his dog, was a great favourite. I believe he sometimes accompanied Guy on training flights. It was so awful when he was killed before the raid. I was told that his name was a coded call sign and I do hope Nigger's grave will be protected. You tell me that local folk tend it which is lovely of them.*

*A few days after reading my diary, oddly enough I heard on the news about RAF Scampton's future, followed by your phone call. You were as horrified as I was – it's great to have a kindred spirit who is also passionate about my beloved Lancaster aircraft*

*Whatever happens to Scampton, nothing will destroy our memories of those brave men.*

*At the age of 96 I still feel emotional when I hear the sound of those powerful Merlin engines – misty-eyed as well!*

*It is difficult trying to collate my butterfly mind to find words that portray my feelings and I often wonder how the air crew boys eventually settled into civilian life.*

*Hope all is well with you.*

*Love, Jane.*



Photographs: Inspection by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester in 1948 and Just Jane, Lancaster NX 611 in 2018 undergoing restoration at the Lincoln Aviation Heritage Centre, former RAF East Kirkby.

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## The Trust's Constitution

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Following on from the last AGM your Executive has been working on renewing, revising, and enhancing the Trust's Constitution. This has culminated in the separate document being sent out with this Newsletter. You now have an opportunity to review this prior to ratification at the next AGM which will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Our current Constitution was last updated in 1993 and relevant legislation has been changed with some new requirements introduced.

The process of developing the new Constitution included accessing constitutions from other trusts across the UK; seeking expert advice and feedback as well as checking the current requirements set out by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Much will look familiar in part due to the formal language required by the Commission. However, looking at other trusts some additional sections have now been included. The Executive has additionally agreed a number of General Policies covering:

- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

These can be found on the Trust's website: <http://www.sleafordcivictrust.btck.co.uk>

This new version better clarifies the role of the Executive including the structure and processes associated with the functioning and running of the Trust. The dates and requirements associated with the calling of a Special General Meeting and the AGM have been updated.

With regard to Membership and Subscriptions a new category of Corporate Membership has been added.

The Executive commends this revised version to you for ratification at the AGM.