

History of canals since the Romans

ABOUT 70 people attended the last two meetings of Louth 'Ants and Nats' in the Studio, Schoolhouse Lane.

They were there to hear Kidgate School headmaster and historian Stuart Sizer lecture on the history of Louth navigation.

In the first talk, he gave an overall history of canals since Roman times, stressing how farsighted the Warden and Six were in commissioning John Grundy to produce a plan for a canal in 1756.

Had they gone ahead at that stage, it would have been one of the earliest of the industrial age in Great Britain.

His second talk illustrated the canal, its lock and bridges from Tetney to Riverhead.

Two further talks are eagerly anticipated. They will deal with trade and boats and the buildings around Riverhead.

● **RIGHT:** A picture, taken in about 1900, at Alvingham showing the canal and the neighbouring churches of St Mary's, North Cockerington (left) and St Adelwold's, Alvingham. A swing bridge brought the footpath across so that people from North Cockerington could get to their church, which is actually in Alvingham churchyard. Photo courtesy of Louth museum.

