



HECKINGTON AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

157th Heckington Show

Annual Report 2025



Registered Charity No: 1108829
Company No: 5141838

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR HECKINGTON & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Our 157th show was a great success with good visitor numbers and high levels of participation. Total attendance was between 22,500 and 23,000 under our new re-calibrated system - slightly down on 2024's strong figures but given the heavy rain on the Saturday morning was a very satisfactory result. Entries and participation were at exceptional levels – a record 450 runners in the road race with a waiting list, tradestands sold out, horticulture exhibitors up, strong entries in the children's races -particularly in cycling, a huge number of riders in the showjumping, record entries in the sheep section and good heavy horse entries – both above county show levels.

The show was a success financially too. We have now fully recovered the losses suffered due to poor weather and Covid between 2017 and 2022 meaning our reserves are stronger than ever before.



This year marked a record number of entries into the 10 Mile Road Race with 450 competitors and a waiting list for places

The numbers this year were undoubtedly good but the show was successful in less obvious ways but equally important for its long-term success and prosperity. The feedback this year was tremendously positive – do take a moment



This year saw record entries in the sheep section, with strong entry numbers in the Lincoln Longwool classes

to look at the page of quotes – and the few criticisms were minor and readily addressed for future years

The physical build up to the show in July is always an intense time and this year it went very smoothly despite poor weather the weekend before, which is a key time. Careful planning and hard work earlier in the set-up phase meant our own preparations were largely complete two days before the show – a new record. It also meant that we were able to welcome our exhibitors and traders to a showground that was



The Horticulture area had over 1300 entries across the 243 different classes

fully-prepared for them, making their own set up easier and more relaxed as well as enhancing the reputation of the show as organised and friendly.



The main ring attractions drew large crowds to the arena, with FMX Stunt Motorcycles just one of the main attractions

That planning included making sure we had strong teams for all the key tasks. A particular success was a new team of mainly young people who fitted out the horticulture tent on the Saturday morning the week before the show – a task that normally takes 2-3 days. The enthusiasm and commitment of the next generation bodes very well for the future of the show.



The Horticulture marquee was set up and ready in record time, thanks to an army of volunteers

The renewal of the team is critical to the long-term success of the show. We were delighted to

welcome Kathryn Pledger as Children's Sports secretary. She did an excellent job ensuring the smooth-running of the event as ever, and the decision to open up the children's cycling event to those outside the village significantly increased numbers and made it a worthwhile event.



New Children's Races Secretary Kathryn Pledger with Athletics Secretary Ruth Treharne

Staying on our legendary grass track we said farewell to Duncan Wood who with Rebecca has kept cycling at Heckington alive for the last three years. We were pleased to welcome back as his successors Richard and Elaina Kennedy who have a long personal and family tradition of delivering high-quality and engaging cycling at Heckington.



Our new Cycling Secretary Richard Kennedy, winning the 400m National Championship at Winterton in 2004

A strong theme from this year's feedback is the atmosphere of the event – making people keen

to attend and often to participate, support and enhance it. We were delighted that the County's Agricultural Chaplain Rev Alan Robson led our Sunday morning church service. He enjoyed it so much that no sooner had he finished than he asked to come again in 2026!



Lucy Heath with Trip Hazard, a regular at the Concert Marquee performing to a packed crowd

In my own post-show reflections this year I took time to consider what that atmosphere was and where it sprang from. What strikes everybody who comes onto the showground is the positive energy of the place – it is an exciting place to be – but more than that there is a sense of harmony which is a powerful antidote to the anxiety and division that plagues modern life, and shows how good life can be.

And that leads to the question of what it is about the Show that creates that atmosphere. My own view is that it springs from three things. Firstly we are all agreed that there is only one thing that matters – how do we put on the best show. Next, we acknowledge that we may have different views on what that means but we are all prepared to work respectfully and patiently to get to good results that all support. Finally, we are all here not for personal benefit or recognition but to serve our community as best as we possibly can.



Youth athletics races were well attended with competitive teens competing for the Denman Cup

Heckington Show is enormously fortunate to have such a dedicated, hard-working and selfless team, and the strength of those values is clearly demonstrated in both its long life and its exceptional strength and success. On behalf of the Society and the community it serves I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all who so generously support the Show and its values.

Charles Pinchbeck
Chairman



The firework display ended Saturday evening in spectacular style

Acknowledgements

Heckington & District Agricultural Society is fortunate to have very generous support from the local community, businesses and organisations —without whom the show would be unable to go ahead

- 2160 Squadron Air Cadets for helping sell programmes and cleaning picnic areas
- Janet, John & Richard Harriss for providing pedestrian access to Showground via Hall Lawn
- J L Priestley for transport services
- The St John Ambulance Brigade for First Aid Services
- Messrs P Asher, Ben Burgess, E Cullen & M Sardeson for loan of equipment
- Blaston Show and Lincolnshire Show for loan of equipment
- Turners Distribution and J L Priestley Ltd for providing trailers for the concert stage
- Mr & Mrs Graham Doughty and Mr & Mrs Lewin for lending their caravans
- Lincoln Red Cattle Society, Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders Association, Rare Breeds Survival Trust & Lincoln Buff Poultry Society for their displays
- Mr & Mrs G Bolton for providing Lincoln Red Cattle for the displays
- Donaldsons DIY and volunteers for advance ticket sales
- Tracy Hine & Fiona Wrisberg for photography at the show
- The many local land owners, including Messers Sharpe & Cash, Mesdames Denman & Mason and Mr & Mrs A Key
- Thanks also to A Greetham, Heckington Parish Council & Heckington St Andrew's School who help facilitate the show and its supporting activities
- Heckington Young Farmers Club for support with Showjumping and Livestock judges' hospitality
- And not forgetting the many families and friends of committee members who provide invaluable support throughout the year



Some of the committee members and helpers at the Health & Safety briefing before the Show

Trustees, Officers, Committee & Members

Trustees: Mr C A Pinchbeck DL Mrs J A Wright Mrs S E Grant
Mr T M Atkinson Mr M A Sardeson

Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Toby Dennis

President: Mr Alan Stennett BEM

Life Members:

Dr M J Elliott, P Ireland, J D Kirk, D Nickols, D Simpson, T Atkinson, P Gash, M Sardeson, P Asher
R A Hipworth, I Johnson, Mrs R Nickols, Mrs S Pinchbeck, Mrs S Grant, Mrs J Lewin, Mrs J Wright

Chairman: Mr Charles Pinchbeck DL **Vice Chairman:** Mr Mark Sardeson
Deputy Chairman: Mr Ian Johnson **General Secretary:** Mrs Sarah Grant
Treasurer: Mrs Jo Lewin **Chaplain:** Heckington Methodist Chapel
Minutes Secretary: Mrs Susan Albrighton

Committee Members:

Mrs Ann Beever	Miss Jane Bowtell	Mrs Karen Clifton	Mrs Carole Martin
Mrs Jane Harrison	Mrs Sally Pinchbeck	Mrs Elaine Sardeson	Mrs Sue Spencer
Mrs Linda Stanley	Mrs Anne Watts	Mrs Jacki Wright	Miss Abbie Needham
Mrs Ruth Treharne	Mrs Tina Stankley	Mr Terry Atkinson	Mr Glenn Albrighton
Mr Peter Asher	Mr Matt Brown	Mr Rolf Cinavas	Mr George Bell
Mr Paul Elderkin	Mr Paul Gash	Mr Charlie Harrison	Mr Jesse Harwood
Mr Adrian Johnson	Mr Des Johnson	Mr Dennis Johnson	Mr Richard Kinsey
Mr Tony White	Mr Mike Lock	Mr Nick Needham	Mr Derick Turner
Mr Sean Oxby	Mr James Oxby	Mr James Pinchbeck	Mr Thomas Pinchbeck
Mr Daniel Tarry	Mr Byron Robinson		

Society Members:

JOINT MEMBERSHIP

Alec & Helen Hill
Anne Clayton
Caroline Windrum
Christopher Baxter
Claire & Jody Mitchell
Dr D Townley & Dr J Sellick
Emma Hoyes
Gary Hopkins
Geoff Barnett
Georgia McCormack
Helen Ruddock
Ian Buckthorpe
Ian Clarke
Ian Kimpton
Janet Mathieson
JH Gaddes
Karl Cinavas
Louise Blake
Marion Hurdman
Mariska Hemens
Michael Hodgetts
Mr & Mrs A Thomas
Mr & Mrs B Webb

Mr & Mrs C Barlow
Mr & Mrs C Brummitt
Mr & Mrs C Rowland-Jeffers
Mr & Mrs C Thompson
Mr & Mrs D Harriss
Mr & Mrs G Mountain
Mr & Mrs Turner
Mr & Mrs R Williamson
Mr A & Mrs S Bealby
Mr C & Mrs S Henrickson
MR J & Mrs C Collard
Mr J & Mrs J Morrissey
Mr L & Mrs B Douglas
Mr M & Mrs L Gibson
Mr M A Hudson & Mrs P McBeath
Mr M Skingle
Neil Martin
Patricia Jones
Paul Reid
Rebecca Morris
Richard Emsley
Sharon Woolner
Sue Stennett
William Berridge

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

Mr J Wells
Ann Stevenson
Lyndis Lee
Katherine Wilkinson
Denise Parker
Mr J Stevenson
Mr W Coutis
Eugene Conlin
Mrs M Hillcoat
Mr D Kinersley
Mr S Brear
Karen Hill
Ronald Ransom
Heather Guess

Highlights from the Children's Races

The Children's Races 2025 proved to be an outstanding success, with a record number of enthusiastic participants and supportive families creating a joyful atmosphere throughout the event. Despite the heavy rain on Saturday morning, spirits remained high as children, parents, and volunteers came together to celebrate fitness, fun, and community.



It was particularly heartwarming to see many children returning from previous years, as well as some of our older children now helping to run the popular obstacle course. Their involvement set a wonderful example of teamwork and leadership for the younger participants.



The preschool and reception races were a delight to watch, with proud parents cheering them on. The children's happiness was evident as they crossed the finish line to receive their well-deserved chocolates and medals. Throughout the day, many could be seen proudly wearing their medals around the showground.

Although the weather presented some challenges, with rain making the cycling results sheet too wet to read, the young cyclists showed remarkable determination. This resilience perfectly captured the spirit of the day.

The obstacle course continued to provide an excellent addition to the running, providing both excitement and variety. Several races were so closely contested that heats had to be held, adding to the thrill of the competition.

One Year 6 pupil summed up the spirit of the event perfectly, saying, *"I wish I was doing this again next year, but I'll be too old. I might join a running club so that I can take part in the older athletics classes instead."* A parent also commented, *"What a great start to show weekend!"*

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the fantastic volunteers who helped make the Children's Races 2025 possible. Your dedication and hard work ensured that the day ran smoothly and successfully. This year's event truly inspired a new generation to take up running and reminded everyone of the joy that sport can bring, rain or shine.

Kathryn Pledger, Children's Race Secretary



Sponsors

We are very pleased to thank all of our sponsors for their contributions, including:

Mrs L M Burditt	Arctic Cabins	Belle Love Italy
Harvey Fabrication, Bassingham	North Kesteven District Council	Highland Clothing
Burgess Farm Shop, N Hykeham	Butternut Box	Lincoln Longwool LLSBA
Richard Hopkins	Downtown of Boston & Grantham	Corner Farm, Helpringham
Thorpe Tilney Farm Foods	Professional Paddock Care	Country Living Store
Blueberry	Irvin Confectionery	UK Eco Energy Solutions
Thorncliffs	Lincolnshire Shire Horse Assn	White Hart Hotel, Lincoln
The Wright Family, Heckington	Heckington Windmill	J L Priestley/Melbourne
A W Robinson	Streets Accountants	Ben Burgess
Feather Edge		



The White Hart Hotel, Lincoln were a main sponsor this year of the Area Trial Showjumping event



Sponsors included North Kesteven District Council who put on an amazing show on their stand include a sandy beach and giant deck chair!



Trade stands play an important part in income generation for the Society. Agricultural Machinery specialist Ben Burgess, were sponsors of the Vintage Section

Trustees Report

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the company are the advancement of agriculture, horticulture and rural crafts for the benefit of the public by the holding of an annual show.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and planning future activities. All of the trustees give their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The principal activity of the charity is the staging of the annual Heckington Show. The 2025 show was held on 26th and 27th July and was highly successful in showcasing the best of rural life and strengthening the community it serves. This was reflected in the high level of attendance by both exhibitors and visitors which helped generate a

financial surplus to strengthen the charity's reserves and act as a buffer against rising costs.

Investment performance

Interest and dividends contributed £18,240 to general funds.

The high level of reserves noted in the reserves policy below has largely been generated by the hard work and dedication of many volunteers from Heckington and the surrounding area who have given thousands of hours free of charge

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

Cash is held in interest earning deposits at banks and other institutions. Funds not required to be immediately accessed are held in high interest rate deposits at varying periods of notice relating to the likely timescale on which they would need to be accessed. This policy is reviewed annually.

Reserves policy

At 30th September 2025 the charity had £744,043 in unrestricted reserves of which £514,439 is represented by fixed assets and investments.

The reserves are held at this level as a protective measure in case the costs incurred in preparation for a show are not met by income due to bad



Showjumping competition was high, with competitors praising the quality of the grounds

weather or any other unfortunate event on the day. The target is therefore to hold two years full costs in reserve. One of the principal risks is the future of the showground. Our policy is therefore to accumulate costs of acquiring and servicing a showground. These are estimated to be in the region of £500,000. The reserves policy is reviewed annually.

Due to the level of reserves held, the trustees have no concerns about the charity's ability to continue to operate in future years.

FUTURE PLANS

We will maintain our policy of continuous improvement through each successive show. The focus for the next period will include:

- Enhancing the horticulture section of the show.
- Using modern methods of communication to promote and raise awareness of the show
- Continuing to serve the community through staging the 158th show on 25th & 26th July 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The original society was founded in 1863.

The charitable company was incorporated 1st June 2004 and commenced trading on that date, acquiring all of the assets of Heckington and District Agricultural Society (an association) registered charity number 507328 on 1st October 2004.

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

The governing document of the charity is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The charity is managed by the trustees who meet on a regular basis and decisions are made at these meetings.

The trustees are elected at the AGM and receive no benefits. They are supported by a committee of 45 elected by the members.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The directors are committed to ensuring that their members have the life and professional experiences essential to the growth of the charity. They are open to any opportunity to attract new members. All new trustees and volunteers are given relevant induction training on their first day or as soon after as it is possible. Training will be on an "on-the-job" basis as is necessary.

Risk management

Trustees have reviewed risk and undertake regular health and safety assessments

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015) and in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



We were very privileged to have not one, but two fly passes by the Lancaster and Hurricane over the weekend

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as at 30/09/2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		Unrestricted Funds £	Total 30-Sep-25 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 30-Sep-24 £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible assets	9	47,618	47,618	48,538	48,538
Investments	10	149,206	149,206	140,234	140,234
		<u>196,824</u>	<u>196,824</u>	<u>188,772</u>	<u>188,772</u>
<i>Total fixed assets</i>					
Current Assets:					
Investments	10	317,615	317,615	308,253	308,253
Debtors	11	6,601	6,601	7,368	7,368
Cash at bank and in hand		224,977	224,977	200,311	200,311
		<u>549,193</u>	<u>549,193</u>	<u>515,932</u>	<u>515,932</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>					
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	- 1,974	- 1,974	- 4,268	- 4,268
		<u>- 1,974</u>	<u>- 1,974</u>	<u>- 4,268</u>	<u>- 4,268</u>
Total net assets	13	<u>744,043</u>	<u>744,043</u>	<u>700,436</u>	<u>700,436</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	14	744,043	744,043	700,436	700,436
		<u>744,043</u>	<u>744,043</u>	<u>700,436</u>	<u>700,436</u>
Total charity funds		<u>744,043</u>	<u>744,043</u>	<u>700,436</u>	<u>700,436</u>



Heckington Windmill's display in the Heritage Village, was one of many local and community groups at the Show



Heckington & District Young Farmers Club attended with their winning float from this year's Lincolnshire Show

Financial Statements

Income & Expenditure to 30/09/2025

Income	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Sponsorship	4,352		7,302	
Entry fees	17,287		14,827	
Gate money	123,491		137,977	
Advance ticket sales	96,880		108,327	
Membership	2,868		3,065	
Programme advertisements	930		2,330	
Programme sales	1,526		1,889	
Trade stands	111,911		101,532	
Miscellaneous income	1,110		979	
Deposit account interest	3,388		14,334	
Gains/(Losses) on investments	8,972		19,275	
		<u>372,715</u>		<u>411,837</u>
Expenditure				
Advertising	9,804		8,718	
Accountancy	2,318		2,180	
Entertainment	42,660		37,047	
Badges and rosettes	4,341		4,805	
Catering and hospitality	12,107		11,134	
Insurance	11,322		8,962	
Stewards	1,405		1,145	
Gate expenditure	37,343		35,033	
Utilities	4,611		7,754	
Equipment hire	60,084		59,066	
Trophies	3,096		6,291	
Telephone	874		626	
Clothing and miscellaneous	-		1,032	
Administrative expenses	3,150		2,014	
Printing, postage and stationery	7,065		8,096	
Honoraria and secretaries expenses	2,810		2,410	
Judges expenses	831		1,244	
Field licences	34,050		32,250	
Licences and subscriptions	3,749		654	
Prizes	17,783		18,699	
Contract work	38,559		45,656	
Security	15,757		14,808	
Ground preparation	3,597		2,246	
Signs	4,639		5,557	
Bank charges	4,924		5,192	
Repairs and renewals	1,309		6,790	
Depreciation	920		1,167	
		<u>329,108</u>		<u>330,576</u>
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		<u>43,607</u>		<u>81,261</u>

2025 Show Highlights



"Fantastic day at the show yesterday. Helping to marshall the run with my fellow Sleaford Striders in the morning. Sat around the arena with family and great friends in the afternoon. Then stayed to enjoy the Take That tribute.... the fireworks display to "Rule the World" and "Never Forget" was amazing. Big thanks to all the organisers & volunteers."

"It's a great show, we always have a lovely time. It's got everything"

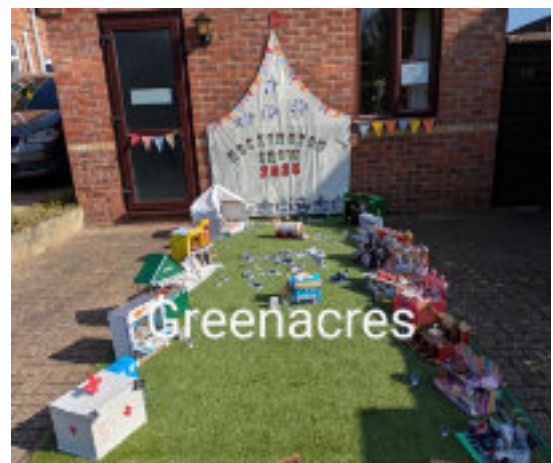


*"Brilliant fly past Well done BBMF"
Cllr David East- Heckington*



"Absolutely amazing! Loved it all, very well organised, well done! The fireworks were unreal!"

"The atmosphere and spirit of involvement is intoxicating and a wonderful credit to all the team. We really enjoyed ourselves at a most special event"



"Well done to Greenacres Care Home for a wonderful mini Heckington Show display, and to all the other fabulous houses"

“A truly fabulous day, something for everyone. A big thank you to all the volunteers without you there would be no show for us all to enjoy”

“Wow. Heckington Show you never disappoint. I’ve had such a fantastic weekend alongside so many wonderful, talented crafters”



“Heckington Show 2025 you nearly killed us - our best day EVER yesterday, and we nearly matched it today! We were so busy we didn’t take a single photo - not even of the Lancaster! You went mad for waffles 🍩, but even madder for crumbles! Sorry if you missed out but we physically couldn’t do any more today! 35kg of crumble topping, 40kg of apple 🍏, 20kg of cherry 🍒 and a whopping 48 litres of custard in 2 days!”



“Thank you for an amazing show, we visited for the second year in a row and will visit every year now as we all thoroughly enjoy it. There is something for everyone and the concert and fireworks are superb. It must take a lot of effort to organise but what a weekend you can all be incredibly proud of organising”



"Thanks guys, we have had an amazing weekend from start to finish, we have meet some of the loveliest people of Heckington & afar, we are honoured & very privileged to have received the award for best trade stand and all of the lovely comments from you all. This was just the icing on the cake to make it an extra special weekend.

Special thanks to Jacki & all of the organisers concerned for the hard work that has gone into such a wonderful event."

Winners of the Best Trade Stand



Heckington & District Agricultural Society

Registered Charity: 1108829

A Company Limited by Guarantee: 5141838

www.heckingtonshow.org.uk