

The logo features a stylized red windmill with a central hub and eight blades, positioned to the left of the text.

Heckington Windmill



Newsletter

Join us at www.heckingtonwindmill.org.uk



CHAIRMAN' S REPORT

Welcome to our 83rd newsletter, full of news of the continuing progress and success at our windmill. Our first full year of opening the new site has gone tremendously well attracting over 20,000 people. A huge thank you to every one of our fantastic army of volunteers without whom none of this would have happened.

The importance of what we do has been recognised in the County Council's Heritage Review. Whilst it is proposed to close many sites, Heckington will continue to be supported recognising that *"Heckington Windmill is a unique Lincolnshire visitor attraction showcasing Lincolnshire's rich agricultural history and forming part of the Lincolnshire DNA."*

Big news is our award of Museum Accreditation status, making us one of a tiny fraction of sites in the UK that have achieved this and one of only two windmills in the UK with this accolade. It is both a recognition of all that has been achieved, and a "hallmark" of how well we do things here at Heckington. This will be a great help with attracting more outside support and grants in the future.

Read about our people too. We celebrate the launch of the VIP club – for volunteers and members who have retired from active duties but still want to keep in touch. They meet for a cuppa and cake at 1.30pm on the first Saturday of the month. Thanks to Liz Desmond for setting this up.

Looking to the future, we continue to work with the County Council to ensure the mill is returned to working order. This is currently expected to be in the summer of 2020. In anticipation, we are looking at how we offer support and training for all would-be millers. We've attracted interest from English Heritage, the County Council and SPAB and this could see Heckington becoming a national milling school!

There is so much happening at Heckington. Do come along to the AGM on 14th June to hear the latest news, and please don't forget to renew your membership – your support makes all the difference for this wonderful piece of our nation's heritage.

Charles Pinchbeck
Chairman

Museum Accreditation

Over the past few years Heckington Windmill has been working towards its aim to achieve Full Museum Accreditation with Arts Council England. The Accreditation scheme sets out nationally-agreed standards of good practice.

Some of the benefits of becoming an Accredited Museum are that :

- * It inspires the confidence of the public, and governing bodies.
- * Helps to achieve sustainability and funding and provide great visitor experiences.
- * Helps to ensure long-term guardianship of the windmill, the collections and site.

It is with pleasure that the Trust can report that, following an assessment in February, and after the consideration of an Accreditation panel, Heckington Windmill has now been awarded Full Museum Accreditation status.

re- Shabeena Anait, the Assessor stated, **“All that you've collectively achieved over the years is ally something to be proud of ”.**



Michelle Andrews
Collections Manager

THE VIP CLUB



Members of the VIP Club meet at the Mill on the 1st Saturday of every month for tea and cake. All now retired from “active service “at the Mill but still have a keen interest on what’s going on.

Each and every one has been involved for a very long time and kept the Windmill and the tiny shop going often working under difficult and cold conditions. We owe them a great deal of thanks .

From left to right around the table we have Tony Lickman (ex Treasurer) Sheila Channing (ex Membership Secretary) Molly Thompson, Sue Cook, Charles Pinchbeck (just popped in for a cuppa and to say hello) Liz Desmond (ex Shop Manager) Michael Surfleet (ex Project)

Other VIP members not in the photograph include Martin Hanson, John Duckworth, Rose and Harry Bakker, Sonia Pacey and Jeff and Val Wise



The Maud Awards for 2019

(Mill Award for Unfailing Devotion)

The following Awards were handed out at the Volunteers Dinner at The Queen's Head, Kirkby la Thorpe on 2nd February.

This year there were six awards, including, in the best Hollywood tradition, one to a volunteer who was unable to be there to collect his award in person



Rachel Sergeant The volunteer who has spent so much time researching and making beautiful scrapbooks of the mill, much admired by visitors to the Tearooms.

Jim Bailey The volunteer who became so committed to the windmill that he sold his house and built a new one in Helpringham in order to devote more time at the mill and less time travelling, and consequently without whom the windmill and the Project would not have enjoyed the success that it has.

Michelle Andrews The only volunteer who is professionally qualified for the post that she holds in the mill. Without her advice the committee would be lost – just what is Museum Accreditation and how do we classify all the things that have been donated to the mill and how do we order a quern from India.

Sue Cook The volunteer who among other jobs, organizes Father Christmas' visits and ensures that the correct present is given to each child, although she hasn't, as yet, dressed up as an elf or a fairy.

Roger Woods The volunteer for the next award cannot be with us tonight. He has recently stepped down from his role as events manager and we must thank him for all the hard work that he has done in that role, but the award goes to him tonight for being the Best Dressed Elf ever at the mill,.

Glenys Williams The final award goes to a volunteer who can turn her hand to anything, be it serving in the Tearooms, cataloging the Archives or giving a talk to the public. But the award tonight is in recognition of the hours spent as the excellent washer- up in the Tearooms.

Liz Desmond

WINTER TALKS

The Winter Talks at the Windmill were a great success with an audience of just over 250 people in total. The talks were all very different and were most interesting. A big thank you to our speakers, Neil Wright, Glenys Williams, Tony Pygott, Flight Lieutenant Andy Preece, Jim Bailey, and Mary Rudkin, who kindly donated their time for free. Also, thank you to the members of the audience who gave donations that will, importantly, contribute to the on-going running costs of the windmill site. Keep an eye on our website www.heckingtonwindmill.org.uk and for posters around the village advertising future events at the mill.



Jim Bailey on “Lincolnshire Windmills”



Glenys Williams on “Textiles from along The Silk Road”

Humdinger Foods Visit Heckington Windmill

On Friday 15th March the Mill was briefly visited by 33 employees of Humdinger Foods as part of their staff Wellbeing Week. Based on the Station Road Industrial Estate, they walked over and climbed to the top floor of the Mill and back down again. Their management kindly made a donation to the Mill. They all enjoyed the break from routine and for most of them it was their first visit, so we hope they will come again! Sue Cook

STEAMING DAY



Maud with a smaller stationary engine on Steaming Day

Following the tail winding it was clear that the mill would be out of action for some time and whilst we could readily buy stone ground flour from Sibsey Trader, it would be much more expensive than grinding it ourselves, and reduce our profit margin substantially.

The installation of the Ruston Engine and Hurst frame, which would allow us to grind our wholemeal flour became a priority, but first we had to install the new safety devices and guards to the Ruston before the engine could be run again. This was achieved last August, and the installations were completed with flour being ground successfully on New Year's Eve. We have now ground over 120 kg of wholemeal and it is on sale and being used to make our cakes.

We continue to buy in white flour from Sibsey as we cannot produce it on the Hurst Frame. However, Sibsey Trader is also waiting repair and have been using spare capacity at Alford mill while they wait for

English Heritage to fund their repairs. Our need for repairs have been assessed, costed and prioritised by Lincolnshire County Council. We await them to authorise the funding, then work will start dependant on Millwrights availability.

With Martin Willis now taken over as Engineering Team Leader, the list of defects which accompanied her from the Museum of Lincolnshire Life were quickly rectified, and shortly after New Year the three part boiler testing programme was successfully completed. We now have a fully functioning steamer! The team have had to undergo conservation and operator training, but now are confidently steaming the engine. In March we instigated "Steaming Days" on the first Sunday of the month, where Maud, the Ruston and guest engines are run.

At the time of writing, Maud is again in pieces, but this time for Tony Warren to paint her in traditional Tuxford colours. The down side of having to concentrate on getting the Hurst Frame grinding has been the lack of progress on the Farm Mill we are restoring in the Nissan Hut. However work has now restarted, and a 1926 Ruston APR engine acquired to drive it. More of this in the next News-

The Engineering Team

(l. to r.) Dennis Johnson
Martin Willis
Roger Mitchell
Paul Gash
Mike Bryer



Arthur Ronald ("Ron") Pocklington
20th Dec. 1925-2nd October 2018

Ron Pocklington, who passed away towards the end of 2018, had a lifelong enthusiasm for Heckington Windmill and played a crucial role in its restoration to working order in the 1980's. Born in Heckington in 1925, he was the grandson of John Pocklington who had created the now unique 8-sailed windmill in 1892. Living in the village, the family considered the windmill to be an important part of their life. There is a charming picture of Ron and his sister Sylvia standing on the mill's gallery as young children. (see opp.)

Ron trained as a mechanical engineer. After getting his engineering degree at Nottingham and National Service in the Navy, he did a graduate apprenticeship at Vulcan Foundry in Lancashire and then joined the Railway Testing Station at Rugby. From there he was seconded to Irish Railways in Dublin, where he worked on the development of the prototype turf-burning locomotive, a pet project of the legendary Oliver Bulleid.

The rest of his working life was at the B.R. Research Department in Derby, where he met and married Alison. He was also keen to volunteer on preserved railways for 'hands-on' work, qualifying as a fireman on the Ffestinog Railway and later, while living in Heckington, helping in the restoration of Bulleid's "92 Squadron" locomotive on the Nene Valley Railway.

Ron Pocklington
with HRH The
Duke of Gloucester
as he unveils a
plaque to mark
the restoration of
the Mill in 1986



It was on taking early retirement that Ron and his family returned to his native Heckington, just as interest in reviving the mill was emerging. With a small group of villagers, Ron and I formed the “Friends of Heckington Mill” (now Heckington Windmill Trust) in 1982. Working with the mill owners, now Lincolnshire County Council and English Heritage, the mill was restored to working order in 1986 and fittingly, Ron was the first miller. Ron brought the meticulous precision of the mechanical engineer to the traditional world of millwrighting.

His family connections were instrumental in building up a deep knowledge and understanding of the story of both the mill and his grandfather who created it. He used this unusually rich archive to produce the first proper history of the mill and generously donated it to the Trust to secure its future preservation and accessibility.

Always looking for a new challenge, Ron moved to Swanage in 1995 where he played an active role in the restoration of some of the Buileid Pacifics he had worked with as a young man. He was a patron of the Buileid Pacific Preservation Society and assisted Buileid locomotive owners with both advice and practical tuition over many years. He was the last surviving working colleague of O.V.S. Buileid, the last Chief Mechanical engineer of the Southern Railway.

Charles Pinchbeck





OUR MILL IN WALES !

Earlier this year we were amazed to receive a letter from a Mr Thomas, who lives in Wales, enclosing a copy of the picture of his hall window as he had noticed a similarity to Heckington Windmill.

After some careful research Lynda Sergeant, one of the archive team at Heckington Windmill, replied to Mr Thomas.

Both letters are printed below:

Dear Heckington Windmill

I live in Rhos on Sea near Colwyn Bay, North Wales in a bungalow built for a Mr Pocklington, in 1957 / 58 . The bungalow is called Hildermill, and I've discovered that Mr Pocklington was a master miller possibly from Staffordshire. In our hallway there is a small stained glass window depicting an 8 sail windmill which looks very much like the photos of Heckington windmill. I am wondering if this has anything to do with your windmill? Perhaps you could throw some light on the subject !!

Richard Thomas

Lynda's reply

It is indeed a Pocklington Bungalow. It belonged to Alfred Pocklington(1898 -1983) He was a miller and cake merchant (probably animal cake food) in South view Lichfield, Staffs.

Alfred married Hilde Thorneloe, daughter of a local business man (if my memory serves me right) in Lichfield (1935)Staffs

Notice the name of the bungalow "Hildermill". There were no children from this marriage. Alfred died on 5th October 1983 at St Michaels,53 Main Drive, Rhos on Sea.

Regards,

Lynda Sergeant (Research Team)

VACANCIES

Be part of the Windmill
Family

TOUR GUIDES

Learn all about Heckington Mill and then share your knowledge with others.

MILLERS

Get real hands-on experience by becoming a miller and helping us grind our flour.

You will need to be fairly fit as this involves regularly climbing to the top of the mill!

TEA ROOM ASSISTANTS

Required to help out on a part-time basis in the mill house tea rooms.

SHOP ASSISTANTS

Welcoming our visitors to the Windmill and selling our lovely range of goods and gifts in the shop.

To find out more drop into the Windmill when it is open or contact:--

Guides & Millers : Jim Bailey

Tea Room: Marie Mooney

Shop: Penny Johnson

(Contact details on back page)

Don't forget to re-
new your Member-
ship—forms en-
closed with this
newsletter!

Enjoy
food

Why not visit the Miller's
House and enjoy a delicious
homemade afternoon tea made
with our own Heckington
Windmill flour



PRICE
£10 per person
*Introductory Offer
only with this news-
letter!*

Available every day the Tea Rooms
are open between 11—4pm

To Book Please
Telephone
Marie on 01529 461919 or
Email
millhouse@hckingtonwindmill.org.uk

Heckington Windmill Bake House

The last six months or so have passed in a whirl for the baking team as we have kept up with constantly increasing demand for our array of baked goodies and we hope you all have an opportunity to sample them.

During the early autumn of 2018 we commenced making the Christmas cakes having extended the range to include both iced and plain and varying sizes. Forty cakes were made during three baking sessions, fed regularly with a tot of brandy and finally presented for collection in early December.



Christmas Market weekend was an ideal time to welcome visitors to the bake house to see where the baking is done and it was lovely to see so many people. The pop up shop proved very popular with everyone, especially as we baked lots of Christmas themed goodies over both days. We lost count of the number of mince pies after six dozen but the total was probably around 120 and there were none left!

The quieter period after Christmas and the New Year has enabled us to try out new recipes, including vegan, dairy free and fat free cakes. Two of our volunteers also asked if they could try making swiss rolls which they have mastered very successfully, again extending our repertoire.

Presently plans are afoot for Easter goodies and looking forward to summer menu planning.

Marian Stocking

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

Discover Lincolnshire Weekend	30th – 31st March
Countryside Lincs	14th April
National Mills Weekend	11th and 12th May
Sleaford Live & Music Train	3rd to 12th May
AGM Date	14th June 2019
Armed Forces Weekend	29th – 30th June
Heckington Show	27th – 28th July
Easton Walled Garden Food Fair	8th September
Lincolnshire Heritage Week	13th to 22nd Sept
Harvest Home TBC	28th – 29th Sept
Halloween	26th – 27th October
Sleaford Christmas Market	1st December
Father Christmas w/e	7th & 8th December



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Discover
milling

Explore
history

Love
baking

Enjoy
food

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