



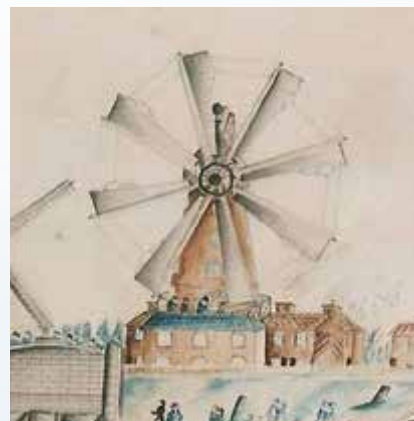
Heckington Windmill

Heckington Windmill Regeneration Project A Village Success Story



Heckington Windmill: A short Introduction

Heckington Windmill (in the Lincolnshire village of Heckington), is the only surviving operational eight sailed windmill in the world and is one of the finest examples of 19th century windmill technology. Built in 1830 (although the top is re-used and dates from 1813), the Mill is a Grade 1 Listed building, designated in 1951, and one of the earliest designations of this type of industrial buildings. The Mill is positioned within its original setting including the mill yard, Miller's House, granary, saw mill and bakehouse.



Heckington Windmill Trust

Heckington Windmill Trust (originally the Friends of Heckington Windmill) was established in 1981 with the aim of restoring the windmill (owned by Lincolnshire County Council) to working order. The mill was restored successfully in 1986 and the Trust, sensing a renewed vitality and purpose, set about to enlarge the visitor offer.

An entirely voluntary organisation, the Trust embarked on an ambitious and long term journey, to restore the mill along with the surrounding outbuildings to good working use. This would be enhanced by developing the site as a visitor attraction and educational offer with interpretation, a community education programme,

significant volunteer opportunities and creation of a series of traditional skills courses relating to baking and millwrighting. In 2010, it established itself as a company limited by guarantee with the charitable objectives to:

'Preserve, restore and maintain Heckington Windmill for the public benefit as a building of architectural and historical importance' and,

'To advance the education of the public in the history and operation of the mill'

Just two years later, the Trust applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund and in 2013, following a successful funding outcome, delivery began of an ambitious and high quality programme of conservation, restoration and development work, culminating with an official opening in October 2017 in the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

The story of the Heckington Windmill Regeneration Project

Heckington Windmill Trust (HWT) had long recognised that to meet their charitable objectives, they would need to secure a long-term sustainable future for the mill and the surrounding period related buildings, owned by two branches of the previous milling family, the Pocklingtons. The original Friends Group had worked with owners of the mill, Lincolnshire County Council since the 1980s to help restore and open the mill to members of the public, but the group had further ambitions.

Discussions began to secure a closer working relationship with the mill owners and, once agreed, volunteers carried out day-to-day maintenance along with opening the site regularly to visitors. In 2007, the Trust also agreed a short-term rental of the Miller's House from the Pocklingtons to use as a tea room and community education space after the closure of a local facility opposite the mill in 2001. This led to HWT contacting the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2009 to see whether they would be open to an application to help the Trust with its plans concerning the Miller's House. Initial discussions quickly developed to a large scale HLF application which would safeguard the future of the entire site; the Trust rose to the challenge!

In 2010, the charity established itself as a company limited by guarantee and detailed discussions began with Lincolnshire County Council to secure a long-term lease of the mill, and also with the Pocklington family who were open to a sale of the associated land to the Trust. At the end of that year, HWT lodged a project enquiry with HLF under their Heritage Grants Programme. The aim of this programme is to '...help people learn about their own and other people's heritage...' and must meet one or both of the following:

'Conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy' or

'Help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.'



HWT were successful in their initial HLF Stage One Development Phase application. This led to 12 months of intensive activity and HWT, supported by local charity Heritage Lincolnshire, submitted their Stage Two Delivery application in 2012. In December 2013, HWT received confirmation that this had been successful to deliver the following approved aims:

1. To purchase land and buildings surrounding Heckington Windmill
2. Repair and re-develop buildings to create a heritage attraction
3. Deliver an activities programme to include school visits, events & volunteer involvement
4. Development and delivery of traditional skills courses relating to baking & millwrighting
5. Ongoing business planning and reviewing to ensure financial sustainability for the future

“Everyone should be so proud of all the hard work they have put in to make Heckington Windmill amazing. Thank you.”

Community Questionnaire Respondent

An ambitious and extensive programme of restoration and re-development of the site and buildings was carried out, including:

1. Converting the granary to an interactive visitors centre (including reinstating the floor to the granary and mill and installing a lift to provide access for all to the mill)
2. Restoring the Miller's House
3. Rebuilding the Piggeries as the new entrance to the Visitor Centre and Mill
4. Develop and reinstate the Bakehouse
5. Converting the lorry garage to fully accessible toilets
6. Extensive landscaping works including the Miller's House garden, car park, signage and access
7. Further improvements and re-roofing works to the existing onsite brewery
8. Install a Hurst Frame (a technical piece of milling equipment) into the windmill

Stage Two Delivery took place between March 2014 until June 2018, with the site officially opened by HRH Princess Anne in October 2017. HWT successfully achieved all its approved aims and have now have a visitor attraction to be rightly proud of.

Our Activities Programme – Something for everyone

The activity programme designed as part of the Regeneration Project centred on offering activities for a wide variety of audiences, something which HWT felt extremely skilled in:

“We are good at doing this – we’ve been running [these activities] for 35 years”.

The confidence and success of delivery can be seen through their diverse programme of events, many of which were running before the HLF programme and will continue to be delivered:

1. A developing school's curriculum based on-site delivery programme
2. A thriving outreach programme, offering talks to local community groups and societies
3. An annual Heckington Village Community Update
4. A varied programme of special interest days including a Threshing Weekend, Armed Forces Weekend and Christmas Festival
5. Participating in the annual National Milling Weekend each May, coordinated by SPAB
6. Successful development of a Brownies, Guides and Scout Challenge Badge

From 139 completed visitor questionnaire surveys of participants who had visited, overall awareness of special events at the site was good, with 61% of visitors having attended. When asked about events or activities that people would like to see at the site to encourage them to visit, many people commented ‘more of the same’ which implies that people are happy with the types of events offered. Delivering an engaging and lively events and activities programme will be an ongoing priority to continue building a strong repeat visitor base and inclusive community focused offer.

Feedback received from the activity programme gathered as part of the end of project evaluation shows clearly how HWT exceeded their targets:

Baseline HLF targets for the activities programme

Initial Target	Figure Achieved (2014 - 2017)	Participants Engaged
14 school visits	25	543
Youth Group Visits (no target)	27	330
12 outreach talks	86	2741
12 special interest events	35	c.2,400
4 milling special interest days	4	c. 600

In addition to extensive programme of events and activities held for members of the public, there was plenty of opportunity for the local community to get involved through one of many volunteering roles. During project delivery, local volunteers played an essential role by the establishment of a community history research group; an important aspect of the project as this provided much of the basis for the interpretation of the site.

It is clear from the feedback offered from visitors that the ongoing events and activities at the site have contributed a great deal to learning and enjoyment:

“We wanted to thank you for a fantastic day when we visited..... You provided lots of interesting information for the children and the baking demonstration was a super way for the children to learn about healthy eating.”

[School Visit]



A centre for learning & development

Crucial to the future of both Heckington Windmill and the Trust itself is to promote the site as an opportunity for people to learn new skills. Volunteers involved in the Regeneration Project listed the skills they felt they had gained as a result of the project:

Volunteer Focus Group – Skills Identified

Skills	Number of Responses
Commercial (Retail/Catering etc.)	17
Customer Service	16
Milling	12
General Professional (Teamwork etc.)	11
Heritage Management	10
Engineering	9
Conservation and Archiving	8
IT	5
History	4

Whilst the HLF project had a number of quantitative targets relating to millwrighting and baking, the strength of this project has been the personal experiences that volunteers have shared through qualitative feedback gathered as part of evaluation. Two stories stand out in particular;

Shirley Garlick, current volunteer bakehouse member

"I specifically wanted to get involved in the baking – the Bakehouse manager wanted to get a bakehouse group together to try out new recipes. I wasn't a baker and had done no baking. It was an opportunity to learn new skills get involved with the windmill and meet new people ... I've really enjoyed it – my confidence in baking has rocketed. Now I can confidently bake cakes at home - I've been very open about

[my lack of experience] I got taken under their wing, but I have also been one for asking questions to different members of the team, my knowledge of baking has increased. I have also got another group of social friends, it's a lovely environment to be working in. It's not often you get the chance to work in a bakehouse and the chance to get feedback from the shop and feedback from the tea room."

Pete Lett, former volunteer engineering team

In a letter from the family of Pete Lett (who tragically lost his life in February 2018), the significance and impact of Pete's volunteering at Heckington Windmill cannot be under estimated;

"... we want to thank you for being such a special group of people... You all made him feel so welcome, and he saw it as a great privilege to be part of the team. Coming from an engineering background, he loved the idea of fixing things that were broken, and delighted in his part to bring the Windmill back to its former glory. Even though he'd only been with you for about 4½ years, he enjoyed every minute of the trials and tribulations of getting things up and running... Pete was very proud to be part of the renovation work on the engine, and of course helping get Maud on site ... The impact on his mental health was improved so much - more than any doctors or counsellors could have done, and so many who knew him over the years could see the difference in him ... we intend to keep our link with the Mill and remember the joy it brought to Pete."

With the mill fully functional, there are ongoing opportunities for volunteers to be involved with a large variety of roles and huge potential for learning and development in day-to-day site management as well as the more specialist opportunities. The creation of the bakehouse in particular offers an exciting area for further expansion.



Official opening by HRH Princess Anne

On 13th October 2017, the Heckington Windmill Regeneration Project was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal. On concluding her visit, although not officially required to comment, The Princess Royal chose to speak publicly and offer some feedback from her visit:

"To congratulate everybody who has been part of this long-term project"

"Imaginative and sustainable"

"Genuinely a unique place"

"Properly funded and properly finished"

"This windmill is evidently an important part of the community and of Lincolnshire"

The souvenir brochure produced to commemorate the official opening and visit of The Princess Royal's lists an impressive series of project achievements including:

- A total grant from the HLF of £1.48m; the largest award from them for a windmill to date
- £168,000 Match Funding raised through 12 external grant awards and donations
- 85 active volunteers contributing 10,000 hours support
- 300 members of Heckington Windmill Trust

"People [sitting outside] filling tables, drinking their tea or their beer ... We did this ... It's good that it's volunteer led – it's a real buzz; they are enjoying it as well. The success depends on how it feels when people come and it feels good!"

(Board Group Interview)





The Heckington Windmill Regeneration Project - A wonderful success story!

The HLF project was completed in June 2018 and has achieved the following outcomes:

- The surrounding land and buildings around Heckington Windmill were successfully purchased and negotiation of the windmill lease from Lincolnshire County Council was completed on time.
- The repair and redevelopment of the buildings has been achieved with a high-quality outcome and within the timeframe of the Stage Two Delivery Round. The site now forms a collective whole and has been repurposed as a visitor attraction.
- Feedback from external sources and the local community demonstrates clear evidence that visitors have an enjoyable experience.
- People have had a valuable experience from participating in the project through volunteering experiences and events and activities. Volunteers feel very strongly that their contribution during the project has made a substantial difference in making the local area a better place to live and visit.
- People have enjoyed taking part in the courses offered and have developed skills along with more intangible 'softer' outcomes (such as increased confidence, a sense of belonging and improved mental wellbeing).
- The project has been carefully reviewed at all stages of its development and this strong platform offers excellent prospects for an enduring legacy. The resulting Business plan provides an extremely strong viable model for a sustainable future.
- This work has been managed by an entirely voluntary team and their governance could serve as a model for other community groups.

The decision to reunite the site and to create a visitor attraction from the remaining contemporary buildings has enhanced the windmill along with the immediate environment and produced a viable sustainable future for Heckington Windmill. Everyone involved with the project feels justifiably proud of their achievements and the legacy they have put in place to secure a sustainable future for Heckington Windmill. Feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders, participants and visitors strongly endorse the success of the project and how it will contribute to continued growth of the site as a visitor attraction, community resource and contributor to the local economy:

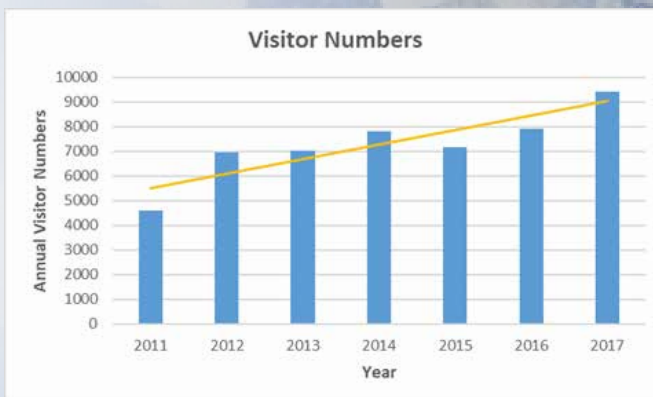
"The village is behind it – it's something to be proud of. It will bring visitors into the village and raises the profile of Heckington as a place to visit."

(Catherine Wilson, OBE, Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, conservation windmill expert and former Museums & Galleries Commissioner)

"The site is an absolutely wonderful advert for the village – for all those involved as volunteers – a wonderful sense of achievement and the majority has been done by volunteers which is even more impressive."

(Jan Palmer, Heckington Parish Council)

Visitor Numbers



Trip Advisor Rating



"The legacy of the project will be to secure the site and having a fantastic visitor attraction for the county to bring visitors and something that the village can be really proud of. It must benefit local businesses the amount of people that we have."

(Sheila Channing, HWT Volunteer)



Our HLF delivery programme – overcoming challenges!

As with any project, there were a number of unexpected developments as work commenced. Some were small scale and were easily addressed, but several larger scale issues developed which tested the HWT Project Board and serve as testament to their hard work, dedication and problem solving abilities. Some of the more challenging scenarios included:

- A substantial uplift in costs was required which led to a significant hiatus in the commencement of site works and a substantial shortened capital works building programme. Nevertheless, the purchase, repair and re-development of the buildings was achieved with a high-quality outcome and within the original timeframe of the Stage Two Delivery Round. HWT made a compelling argument to the HLF and negotiated an appropriate increase in project costs, not once, but twice during project delivery to cover increased purchase costs for the surrounding land and also for the increased costs of capital works. This led to the initial funding request rising from an initial £768,000 to a total grant of £1.48m from the HLF.
- Delays to the capital works affected the ability to deliver some aspects of the traditional skills courses and a delay in particular of the baking sessions; nevertheless the vast majority of all the targets set by the HLF have been met and it is clear that people have enjoyed taking part in the courses offered and have developed skills along with more intangible 'softer' outcomes.
- During final stages of building work with the extension connected to the Miller's House, a previously unknown rising mains sewer was identified which impacted the extension design. This led to a building re-design with further permissions required from Historic England and the local authority. This was smoothly negotiated by the Project Board with little time lost and the risk to the project minimised.

All of these challenges have been managed by an entirely voluntary team and their governance should serve as a model for other community groups – both in terms of their structure, the way they allocated tasks amongst the team, the way they engaged with stakeholders and overcome difficulties. It will serve as a solid foundation to consider the next steps on their journey.



Our funding supporters

HWT is exceedingly grateful for financial support from the following organisations in addition to Heritage Lottery funding:

Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK

Grant Amount: £7,000

Grant Purpose: Disabled Lift

The grant from the Sylvia Waddilove Foundation was used to help fund the disabled lift which provides access from the main entrance area in the piggeries to the upper level in the granary.

The granary floor level has been reinstated to its original height which allowed for carts to load and unload corn and flour easily. The disabled lift allows less mobile visitors and volunteers to ascend onto the granary level, which provides access to the visitor centre and the ground floor of the windmill.

Within the visitor centre there are interpretation boards and interactive displays, along with an accessible touch-screen giving a full tour of the windmill for those unable to climb the steps up into the mill tower itself. On the ground floor of the windmill we have installed a hurst frame, which allows everyone to see milling in action.



Pilgrim Trust

Grant Amount: £25,000

Grant Purpose: Restoration of Historic Buildings

The Pilgrim Trust grant has enabled the conservation and restoration work on the key buildings that surround the windmill to be carried out. This includes restoration of the granary, re-building the piggeries into an entrance and exhibition space and restoring the bakehouse to its original use.

The work on these buildings has been carried out sympathetically, and the design for the visitor centre and re-instated access into the windmill tower from the granary provides accessibility for all into the mill tower.

Previously derelict, the buildings have been preserved for the future and now provide a first class visitor facility for all to enjoy



Lincolnshire County Council

Grant Amount: £20,000

Grant Purpose: Conversion of lorry garage to toilet block

The Community Facility Grant Award from the County Council has been used towards providing a new toilet block for the new visitor site. This includes separate male and

female toilets, together with a disabled toilet, baby change facility and shower for use by volunteers.

The original lorry garage was in a poor state of repair, with only 3 walls remaining. The architects plans reinstated the wood cladding on two of the external walls and provided high quality fittings within the building.



Lincolnshire County Council

Grant Amount: £25,000

Grant Purpose: Purchase of land and buildings

This Community Facilities grant was used towards the initial purchase of the land and buildings that surround the Grade I listed windmill. The grant provided funds towards the purchase which enabled the additional work on site to take place.

The buildings surrounding the windmill were in a state of near collapse and in urgent need of repair. With the help of this grant the Trust were able to rescue the buildings from decay and start work on their restoration.



Museum Development East Midlands

Grant Amount: £1,500

Grant Purpose: Purchase of cash registers

This grant was successfully used to purchase cash registers for the three till points that have been set up on site – in the main entrance in the piggeries, the Miller's House tea rooms and the shop. The tills in use were old and did not have the facility for stock management or to take payment cards. The grant has enable a new digital till system to be put into operation with online stock management, direct bank transfer of card payments and departmental management of items. This ensures effective financial management and the easy to operate tills ensure that all volunteers are able to use any of the three till points on site.



Heckington Parish Council

Grant Amount: £6,000

Grant Purpose: Educational Purposes

The grant from Heckington Parish Council of £6,000 was paid in annual instalments over three years. This helped to ensure that the educational activities at the windmill were in place early on during the project, with a large number of school and youth group visits taking place over the lifetime of the project. The grant assisted with the development and production of our education packs which are now used by all children during their visit. These packs are aimed at the different Key Stages in education and help with learning

about the windmill and how it operates. The education packs also contain learning sheets that use a wide range of skills associated with mathematics, English, history, science and arts.



Garfield Weston Foundation

Grant Amount: £20,000

Grant Purpose: Preservation of Industrial Heritage

Awarded in May 2015, this grant was used towards the restoration and preservation of the buildings on site. The restoration of the industrial heritage of the site is a key part of the project and this grant ensured that the buildings were restored sympathetically and in keeping with the Grade I listed windmill. This grant was a significant contribution towards the preservation of the heritage of the site and fundamental to our long term plans for the future of the windmill.



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ARTS Council England

Grant Amount: £2,925

Grant Purpose: Purchase of Stationary Engine

This grant was awarded and enabled us to purchase a Ruston 2XHR oil engine which replaces a similar one that was installed at the windmill in the early 20th Century. The new engine is permanently mounted in the engine shed and drives a pair of Hurst frame mounted stones which have been reinstated on the ground floor of the windmill. The engine can be operated even when there is no wind, allowing us to grind corn even when the windmill is not operational. With the stones set on the ground floor of the windmill our visitors who are unable to climb the tower steps can see corn being ground and take part in the milling operation.

Waynflete Charitable Trust

Grant Amount: £500

Grant Purpose: Training of Volunteers

This grant was awarded to the Trust to enable volunteers to receive First Aid training, which is essential for a large site with increasing visitor and volunteer numbers. The training was used for 10 volunteers on an Emergency First Aid at Work course.



North Kesteven District Council

Grant Amount: £30,000

Grant Purpose: Match Funding

This grant from North Kesteven District Council was provided as match funding towards the project for the Heritage Lottery application. The windmill site is a key tourism destination within North Kesteven; we are very grateful for the support and commitment that the District Council have given the Trust. This support was not just in the £30,000 contribution, but also significant support and assistance with the negotiations and purchase of the site, and support with cashflow during the lifetime of the project, which enabled us to make claims to the lottery and payments to our suppliers in a timely and effective manner.



Charles Hayward Foundation

Grant Amount: £10,000

Grant Purpose: Purchase of land and buildings

This grant was used towards the initial purchase of the land and buildings that surround the Grade I listed windmill.

The grant assisted in securing the long-term future for the windmill and the surrounding buildings. It enabled us to secure ownership of the site and buildings and enabled us to carry out urgent repairs to the buildings and to start clearance works on site. This ensured that visitors had continued access during the building works to the windmill and allowed them to view the work as it progressed on site.

Other Donations Received

Heckington Windmill Trust	£15,000
Mr Bill Hopkins (in memory of David Hopkins)	£1,000
Heckington Henpeckers	£300
Heckington Players Quiz Night	£700
Little Audit Service	£250
Heckington Ladybirds	£250
Heckington Show Collection	£500
Mr Tony Worth, prev Lord Lieutenant	£1,000
Kurtis Wright – Bake sales	£498
Global Sustainability	£500
Weber Flooring / Jacki Biggin Media	£584
B J Waller	£260
Others	£1,900

HWT is incredibly grateful to receive these important donations which have all had such a positive impact.

We are also exceedingly grateful for the hard work of all our volunteers who, through contributions of their time, gifted the equivalent of £47,750.

The value of volunteers

As well as participating in the project by volunteering their time (and contributing over 10,000 hours of support), it is clear that people have thoroughly enjoyed their experience from participating in the project. When volunteers were asked what they had enjoyed about their volunteering time, their responses fell into five broad categories:

1. Opportunities for learning and to develop new skills
2. The opportunity to learn about the history and heritage of the site
3. Providing volunteers with a sense of purpose and feeling useful
4. Working in a wonderfully friendly environment and meeting new people/making friends
5. Contributing to the local community, leaving a legacy and making a difference

Baseline volunteer numbers recorded that at the beginning of the project there were 33 active volunteers engaged in the project. It was expected that 50 people would volunteer and take part during the life of the project. At the end of the project, there was a doubling of active volunteers to 66 but throughout the life of the project, 104 individuals have been involved in a wide variety of roles including milling, guiding, retail, engineering, events, catering, baking, collections and archives, visitor services and gardening.

"When I retired I missed being part of an institution – it's nice to get back to working and with people with a common aim. We feel as if we are a family. I've enjoyed learning the skills. This is also the best thing – being part of a group – I really enjoy what I do – I enjoy it most being with other people – having people to talk about and share – being part of something."

"Since I've been [volunteering] at the windmill, this [my confidence] has massively improved"



It is clear that without a strong volunteer base at all levels of project management, delivery and day-to-day site running, the Heckington Windmill Regeneration Project could not have been a success. It is important that now further work takes place to continue to develop and support volunteer roles. The Business Plan identifies the need to develop the framework to support volunteer recruitment, induction, ongoing training and consistent communication.

A wealth of voluntary opportunities has been created for people to get involved, learn new skills and share existing skills, meet new people, make friends and significantly enrich and enhance their quality of life. This has provided the local community with a wonderful historic asset to appreciate and, from evidence gathered as part of the final project evaluation, one they value as well. It is this value placed on Heckington Windmill which should see it continue to develop and thrive for many years to come.

Achievements & Awards

Recognition of the substantial work of the Project Board in the successful development of the site can clearly be seen through the awards individuals or the project have won or been nominated for:

Project/Individual Nominations/Awards

Year	Nomination/ Award
2010	Voluntary Services Award – Lincolnshire County Council Charles Pinchbeck
2012	NK Community Champion Awards, Contribution to Arts & Culture Jim Bailey – Nominated and Commended
2014	NKDC Annual Members Planning and Economic Development Tour HWT - 'Letter Opener' Award
2014	NK Community Champion Awards, Contribution to Arts & Culture HWT – Award (acknowledging the contribution of Charles Pinchbeck)
2015	Heckington Show – Allenby Award for Woodwork. Geoff Stead for the HWT flour blender
2015	Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence
2017	Queens Award for Voluntary Service HWT - Award
2018	NKDC – Building Control Awards HWT - Award
2019	Civic Trust AABC Conservation Awards HWT – Regional Finalist

Of particular significance was the announcement that in June 2018, HWT learnt they had been awarded the



Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. This is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. Created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of The Queen's coronation, it is the MBE for volunteer groups. Only around a hundred awards are made each year across the whole of the country, which makes this award even more unique, as Heckington & District Agricultural Society, the organisers of the annual Heckington show were also nominated and awarded the QAVS this June as well.

"The awards represent a tremendous achievement for both organisations and are a fitting tribute for everyone who gets involved. They can be extremely proud of all that they have achieved both at the show and the windmill over years of dedicated service. It is a wonderful acknowledgment of all that has been contributed by so many people, and a great encouragement for the future," commented Charles Pinchbeck chairman of both the show committee and Windmill Trust.





But this is not the end...

The great storm of 1890 could have spelled the end of Heckington Windmill, yet John Pocklington created the now unique eight-sail windmill. Similarly, in the early 2000's the mill and its surroundings could have faced dereliction or inappropriate development. Instead the vision and dedication of this community group and their partners has again created something unique and of lasting worth - a place where people cannot only enjoy such an important part of their heritage but engage with ever-important themes of where our food and our power come from.

That community spirit and energy which has driven the project to such a successful outcome continues to thrive, and the team at Heckington Windmill are not certainly not resting on their laurels.

Our latest projects in development include:

- Releasing a Victorian steam engine made by the Tuxford family (who built the windmill) from long-term storage and returning it to working order
- Giving our milling team the unique experience of working with wind, steam, and diesel energy
- Creating and hosting a national-standard training course for wind millers
- Combined milling and baking courses so everyone has the chance to grind their own flour to bake their own bread
- Achieving official Museum Accreditation status becoming one of the top 2% of heritage operations in the UK to do so
- Restoring the Nissen Hut as a dedicated engineering workshop and conservation-grade exhibition space
- Further supporting and developing the fantastic volunteer team that makes Heckington happen.

And most of all, we continue to welcome the widest possible range of visitors to visit our special and wonderful windmill.



What they say about Heckington Windmill....

"The Heckington Windmill Trust is one of the very best. The volunteers are well organised, have clear goals and good leadership, involve stakeholders and members in forward planning, and above all are making an excellent job of caring for a special and very impressive part of the nation's heritage. A huge number of volunteer hours has gone into the project so far, and this will continue. The volunteers are committed, dedicated, enthusiastic and inspiring."

Catherine Wilson OBE,
National Conservation Expert

"Without intention and by example, the Heckington Windmill Trust have provided inspiration and lessons to other voluntary groups in how to build and maintain an effective volunteer team. They are a credit to the milling community, raising the profile and standards of all preservation organisations, and of volunteering as a lifestyle choice, making me proud to be in a position to support their nomination for a Queen's Award."

Geraldine Mathieson, Secretary,
Lincoln Mills Group

"The project has achieved the conservation and long term sustainability of the mill. There is a fantastically strong community group it's built – credit to the Trust to have recruited such a large and strong group. Also I admire the vision of the mill – telling stories from field to fork – you wouldn't necessarily expect that from a project. Their policy has been innovative and exemplary – with the community involvement, the outcome has been fantastic."

David Stocker,
HLF Trustee

"This has set a template for future partnership working with local communities and the result in Heckington is excellent and this has raised the Council's confidence."

Alan Gray,
North Kesteven District Council

"The legacy is a site that gives the group the ability to continue to develop and grow due to the good facilities established there. There is still all to play for but HLF has put them in an excellent position with this investment."

Mary Powell,
Lincolnshire County Council

"As an inhabitant of Heckington, I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved with this project and everyone involved should be extremely proud of their contributions; through volunteers they have produced a professional museum and adjoining site. It is a tremendous asset to the village and surrounding area."

Questionnaire Respondent

"A fantastic place that really fires your imagination and transports you back to yesteryear. Keep up the great work"

Visitor Book Comment

"Heritage Lincolnshire is delighted to have been involved with the windmill regeneration project and congratulate all involved on their hard work and outstanding achievement."

Liz Bates,
Heritage Lincolnshire CEO

Written and Designed
by Heritage Lincolnshire

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