

Society Matters Newsletter

Winter Edition : Jan 2025



Newark
& Notts
Agri Society



Newark & Notts Agricultural Society 2025 Membership!

Annual membership of the Newark & Notts Agricultural Society (NNAS) is now open for renewal for 2025.

By renewing your membership, you ensure another year of exclusive benefits, including priority access to events, discounted entry to shows, networking opportunities with like-minded individuals, and the satisfaction of supporting our local agricultural community.

This year, we're excited to offer Early Bird pricing until 31st January 2025 – a fantastic opportunity to save while securing your place for another year. After this date, membership fees will revert to full price. Don't miss out on this limited-time offer and reaffirm your commitment to the NNAS community.

Act now to take advantage of the Early Bird rates, and join us for another incredible year of celebrating and supporting agriculture in Nottinghamshire!

For more information, please see page 2.

www.newarkandnotts.com

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Newark & Notts Agri Society

Membership

- **2025 Young Person's Membership (one person) – £30.00**
- **2025 Single Membership (one person) – £45.00**
£48.00 after 31/01/25
- **2025 Joint Membership (two people) – £65.00**
£69.00 after 31/01/25
- **2025 Friends & Family Membership (for up to four friends or family) – £120.00**
£126.00 after 31/01/25
- **2025 Corporate Membership (for up to six people) – £275.00**
£289.00 after 31/01/25
- **2025 Life Membership (one person) – £750.00**

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY & GET THE EARLY BIRD RATE

Early Bird price ends 31st January

We are dependent on your continued membership support. Being a part of a Society that's dedicated to supporting, celebrating and promoting agriculture in Nottinghamshire and beyond. Together, we're creating a brighter future for our local communities.

Renew your membership or become a member now:

www.newarkandnotts.com

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER

Your membership also provides:

- Free and fast-track admission to the Nottinghamshire County Show.
- Use of the Members' Pavilion and Ringside Marquee at the County Show, which serves complimentary morning refreshments and afternoon tea.
- Forward Showground parking for Members.
- Free admission and use of Members' Lounge at The Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show, plus 3 nights complimentary camping!

New benefits added for 2025:

- Early Bird Membership Rates – Renew before 31st January.
- Christmas Party Pre-sale: Get priority booking for Newark Showground Christmas Parties!
- 2-for-1 Tickets to the International Antiques Collectors Fair.
- Discounted room hire at the Showground. T&Cs apply.

www.newarkandnotts.com



Newark & Notts
Agricultural Society

YOUR INVITE TO

THE SOCIETY'S AGM & ANNUAL REVIEW

28 JANUARY 2025

As Members and stakeholders of the Newark & Notts Agricultural Society, you are invited to our annual review and AGM. This will be an opportunity to meet the 2025 Society President - Col. Tim Richmond OBE TD DL

ARRIVAL: FROM 6.30PM

MEETING START: 7.00PM

LOCATION: NEWARK SHOWGROUND, LADY EASTWOOD CENTRE

The review will be followed by a glass of wine and light refreshments, please join us to see what we have been doing this year, recognise achievements and meet with other Members and the team!

Please RSVP to
harriet.canovan@newarkshowground.com



Vintage Tractor Show Stories

Two-seater tractor claims modified class win

People have modified tractors to suit their needs since the advent of farm machinery – and the new class 'Best Modified Tractor' added at the last years Show recognised the most innovative designs.

The winning vehicle – a two-seater Massey Ferguson 135 – was designed and built by Alan Hopkins for his son David, who was born with glaucoma.

While David used to be able to drive, his eyesight is deteriorating, but Alan still wants to take him on tractor runs and for him to be part of it.

Built in 1972, the 135 was in a poor state, Alan stripped it down completely, set about widening the rear end to fit two seats in the cab, adjusted the steering so it could be driven from the right-hand side, and moved the pedals. The whole job took about two years.

"It's got two steering wheels, but the one on the left is a dummy, for David to hold," added Alan. "To my knowledge, it's the only two-seater 135 out there."



Celebrating Scammell's role in Britain's industrial past

Commercial vehicles have played a tremendous role in Britain's industrial past – and a great selection were on display at the Show as we celebrated Scammell Lorries.

Scammell, which developed an articulated six-wheeled low-loader after WW1 and went on to produce the three-wheeled Mechanical Horse to replace horses in rail, postal and other delivery applications. This evolved into the Scammell Scarab, with the single front wheel offering exceptional manoeuvrability and the rounded steel cab providing driver comfort.

Matt Baker bought his Scarab in 2002 – originally built in 1967 for use at Mersey docks moving goods around the harbour, it had more recently found use on classic film sets.

At the time, Matt was volunteering at The Great Central Railway in Leicestershire, so he repainted the Scarab into British Railway's grey livery to exhibit at the Mountsorrel & Rothley Heritage Community Centre.



Rare Porsche tractor catches the eye

Mention the brand Porsche and the first thing that springs to mind will likely be a sports car. But the German manufacturer also produced a range of innovative tractors from the early 1930s until 1963, a rare example of which was on display at The Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show.

"It was rescued from a hedge in Washington, when we bought it in 2019 – it wasn't running and was really scrap, but we brought it back to life," says Seamus O'Dwyer, who co-owns it with fellow enthusiast Donie Fitzgerald. The 1959 Porsche Master 408, powered by a 50hp diesel engine, is one of only 200 built – of which only four remain, with just one in the UK, to their knowledge.

"This one is a show pony – we got it ready just for the Concours d'Elegance at the Show and have a bit more to do to finish it off," says Seamus, who also owns a Massey Ferguson 168 and a John Deere 310.



To read the full stories and for others, please visit:
www.newarkvintagetractorshow.com/news



Show Record at VT&HS

203 Massey Ferguson 135s take over the Showground!

Celebrating 60 years of the 'Red Giants' 100 series, The Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show also brought together an incredible 203 135s – a model which sold more than any other in the series and remains in use across the world today.

We would like to thank all exhibitors and Friends of Ferguson Heritage (FOFH) who co-supported the record attempt.



Members Survey Feedback!

Thank you to all those who filled out our survey – we've listened!

We are continually working hard to ensure that you get the most out of your membership of the Newark & Notts Agricultural Society.

Last year we asked Members to fill out a survey asking for your input and feedback about your NNAS membership experience to ensure we are effectively meeting your needs.

This has resulted in more benefits being added and what you would like to hear more about from us, including; what events are happening at the Showground, how to be an NNAS Trustee and how to gift a membership – keep an eye out on your emails in coming months!

Top Feedback:

96%

Think NNAS Membership is good value for money.

95%

Will renew for 2025!

83%

Came to the Nottinghamshire County Show.

Winner of the 2 Members guest badges!

By filling in the survey, Members were automatically entered into a draw to win 2 Member's guest badges.

We would like to congratulate Nina Kemp who was randomly picked as the winner!



MMS Recap: New products and talking points

New products and talking points were at the Midlands Machinery Show as it celebrated its tenth anniversary

Farmers and exhibitors converged on Newark Showground in their thousands for the tenth Midlands Machinery Show last November.

Many attendees had returned from the London Farmer's rally earlier that week, keen to discuss what the budget would mean for their future business investments with fellow farmers and the trade.

More than 220 exhibitors set up stands across the site offering machinery demonstrations and professional advice, as well as showcasing new products.



New products and propositions

For some exhibitors, the event was an opportunity to display new products for the first time.

Both Chandlers and B&B Tractors took the opportunity to debut the Valtra S416.

Valtra Dealer Principal at Chandlers, Shane Lowe, said: "The technology options are fully customisable through Valtra's Unlimited Studio, including automatic levelling for linkage-mounted fertiliser spreaders and automatic headland turn modes."



Budget talking points

The ongoing fallout from Labour's budget was a hot topic of conversation across the Showground. Held just 24 hours after the London Farmer's protest against the budget, exhibitors acknowledged the challenging environment and said it would take time for confidence to return.



A plan for water

The NFU Midlands Environment Conference 'Water: Under Pressure' took place on the first day of the Show, discussing the challenges landowners face in maintaining a ready supply of one of their key resources in the future.

Dr Georgina Key from Severn Trent Water outlined how population growth, climate change and extreme weather are expected to put more pressure on water provision in the future.

Paul Carrott from Dyson Farming believes the concept of 'water in – water out' is key to farming successfully in the future. However, he revealed that getting projects off the ground can be tricky and therefore working with other farmers is essential.

"Collaboration is going to be key," he added. "You need to be sitting down with other farmers and talking about what you're going to do."

Farmer and agronomist Kate Mayne shared her experiences of encouraging farmer engagement, before the NFU's Mark Betson issued a warning that abstractors need to start planning for the future now, as the Environment Agency will be able to change licenses from 2028 without paying compensation.





YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUCCESSION PLANNING



Young People and Succession Planning

How do we overcome barriers for the next generation of farmers?

Succession issues are often thought about, but the topic can be challenging to discuss and put into practice.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) have launched a Bitesize Guide on 'Young people and succession planning: Overcoming barriers for the next generation of farmers', which brings together key findings from several Nuffield Scholarship reports to provide guidance on the issue.

The guide is part of a collaboration between RASE and the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust.

It includes an exploration of:

- The situations which lead to succession discussions
- Approaches to begin the process of forming a succession plan
- The merits of using a facilitator for family discussions
- How to make it fair for non-farming siblings
- The different land tenure models which might be considered

Read the full guide by visiting www.rase.org.uk or get in touch at info@rase.org.uk if you have questions, comments or feedback.



NUFFIELD
Farming Scholarships



Tickets now on sale for the LEAF Conference 2025 'Profit, Risk & Transformation'

Profit, Risk & Transformation: Global perspectives around climate change adaption, the role of agri-tech and finance to create the enabling conditions for change.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat – it is the daily reality of farmers across the globe. Erratic weather patterns, rising temperatures, increased pest and disease pressures have made farming and food production more challenging than ever. Leading farm businesses across the global supply chain are showing remarkable resilience, adaptability, and innovation in the face of uncertainty brought about by climate change. However, if this is our new normal, our sector is only in the first stages of adaption.

With climate change at the forefront of the agenda, the LEAF conference on Thursday 6th February 2025 will bring together top industry thought leaders, academics and farmers to share the latest insights into the specific nature of the risks farmers are facing into – both in UK and globally, and the priorities and inevitable trade-offs they are going to have to make.

- When: Thursday 6th February 2025
- Where: BNP Paribas UK Headquarters, 10 Harewood Avenue, London, NW1 6AA
- Time: 9:30 to 16:00 GMT (Arrival from 9am)
- Cost: Tickets are £42 for LEAF members or £90 for general admission

LEAF Members will have received a discount code via email

For more information and how to book tickets please visit: www.leaf.eco/events/conference-25



Midlands Agricultural Engineering Apprenticeship Award Winners

The latest young technicians to be supported by the Midlands Agricultural Engineering Apprenticeship Awards were recognised again at the Midlands Machinery Show.

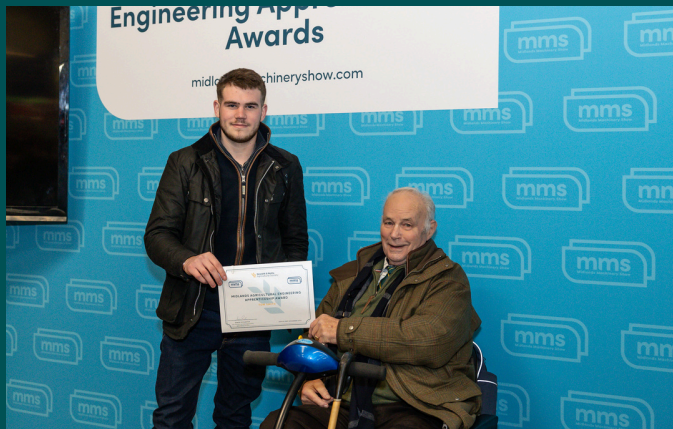
The winners, aged 17 to 25 are supported with a bursary to assist with their career development, receiving a total of £500 paid in two instalments of £250 over two years.

A total of 12 apprentices collected their awards from the Newark & Notts Agricultural Society (NNAS) at a special ceremony on the second day of the Show.

NNAS President Bob Sheldon said: "Investing in the next generation of agricultural engineers is crucial in today's rapidly-changing landscape. These young apprentices represent the future of farming and the awards create valuable opportunities for them to further their expertise and industry knowledge."

Apprentices from dealers Chandlers, Farol, B&B Tractors, Russells and Sharmans were selected for bursaries this year.

Tom Smith from AgCo dealer B&B Tractors in Barnsley said: "I'm into the third year of my apprenticeship now and I'm learning loads. I want to keep learning and working my way up the ladder. It's nice to be recognised for this award."



Harry Bassett from John Deere dealer Farol in Ashbourne said: "Winning this means a lot to me because I'll be able to buy some special tools to improve what I do and also get some recognition within the dealership and industry. I want to progress and my goal is to become a master technician."



Joining Tom and Harry at the ceremony were Chandlers apprentices Robert Marlow, William Vines, Joshua Whotton and Nathan Wells.

B&B Tractors had three further apprentices at the ceremony; Henry Bowman, Joe Slater and Joe Sweetmore. Cameron Sirrell and Max Lumsden from Russells also collected their bursaries, as well as Lewis Collins from Sharmans Agricultural.

The awards, which were introduced by Geoffrey Bond during his presidency with the support of the NNAS, are organised in support of the Society's charitable objectives, to promote, celebrate and champion primary agriculture and related industries.





Showground Winter Round-up

October saw the beginning of festive activities, with Aztec Events hosting their Christmas Food and Gift Show. The Showground was transformed with Christmas trees, sparkling lights, Christmas jumpers and seasonal tunes playing while thousands of visitors started their Christmas shopping.

During this same weekend, the Showground showed its versatility, as at the other side of the site, flyball action was taking place for both Junkyard Dogs and British Flyball with their teams of dogs battling for the win! Midlands Fitness games saw fitness fanatics raising heart rates and getting competitive. We also welcomed the Scouts who completed training for their World Scout Moot Training Camp. Regular events of Antiques, AutoJumble and Blood Donors all made a return.



November started on a romantic note, with Cupids Wedding Show hosting various wedding suppliers under one roof for couples to explore their services. The Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show and Midlands Machinery Show made their annual appearance. Carl Greaves Promotions took over the Lady Eastwood Centre for a ten-bout boxing evening. Cranwell Bloodhounds donned their sequins for their annual ball. Railwayana Auctions closed the month for us with enthusiasts from across the country gathering.

In December, festivities were in full swing with parties galore in the Cedric Ford! Over two consecutive Saturdays, we hosted our own Christmas parties attended by a record number of attendees, as over 750 revellers were keen to enjoy the delicious food and fun offered by Tastes.



One of the highlights of the evening was the surprise entrance of the Singing Waiters who stumbled onto the dancefloor dropping plates and spontaneously bursting into song.

Boxing returned with Ultra Events White Collar Boxing which raised money for Cancer Research. One of the biggest attended dog shows of the year took place, organised by Boston and District Canines with over 1600 entries!



These are just a few of the many events that took place in the last quarter of 2024. The team is raring to go for events in 2025. We hope to see you here!



Save the Date: ASAO Annual Learning Day for Members & Show Organisers

- **Saturday 8th March 2025**
- **At Newark Showground**

Topics to be discussed: Volunteers and Competitive Sections.

- Day Delegates – £45
- Package including day delegate, accommodation, evening meal and breakfast – £150pp / £195 for 2 sharing a room.

More details to come – for updates please visit the ASAO website www.asao.co.uk/learning-day-2025



<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/leek-butter-bean-crispy-chorizo-soup>

Leek, Butter Bean & Crispy Chorizo Soup

Blend leeks and butter beans to make this filling winter soup. Top with crispy chorizo and rosemary for a final flourish and serve with crusty bread.

Prep 10 mins / 30 mins to cook

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 30g unsalted butter
- Olive oil for frying
- 2 large leeks sliced
- 1 large garlic clove crushed
- 2 x 400g cans butter beans drained and rinsed
- 800ml hot chicken or vegetable stock
- 4 tbsp crème fraîche plus extra to serve
- 225g chorizo finely cubed
- 4 rosemary sprigs leaves picked and finely chopped
- Bread to serve

Method

- 1** Heat the butter and a glug of olive oil in a casserole over a medium heat. Add the leeks and fry for 15 mins until softened and beginning to turn golden brown. Stir through the garlic and cook for a further 1 min.
- 2** Tip the butter beans into the pan, pour over the hot stock and simmer, uncovered, for 10 mins. Blitz to a smooth consistency with a hand-held blender, then stir in the crème fraîche and season to taste. Keep warm over a low heat.
- 3** Meanwhile, fry the chorizo in a small glug of olive oil in a frying pan over a medium heat for 5 mins or until oily and crispy. Stir in the rosemary, cooking for a further minute. Ladle the soup into bowls and top with the rosemary and chorizo mixture, as well as any oil left in the pan. Serve with some crusty bread.



Diary Dates

17-18 Jan Newark Quilting & Patchwork Show

1 Feb Festival of the Force

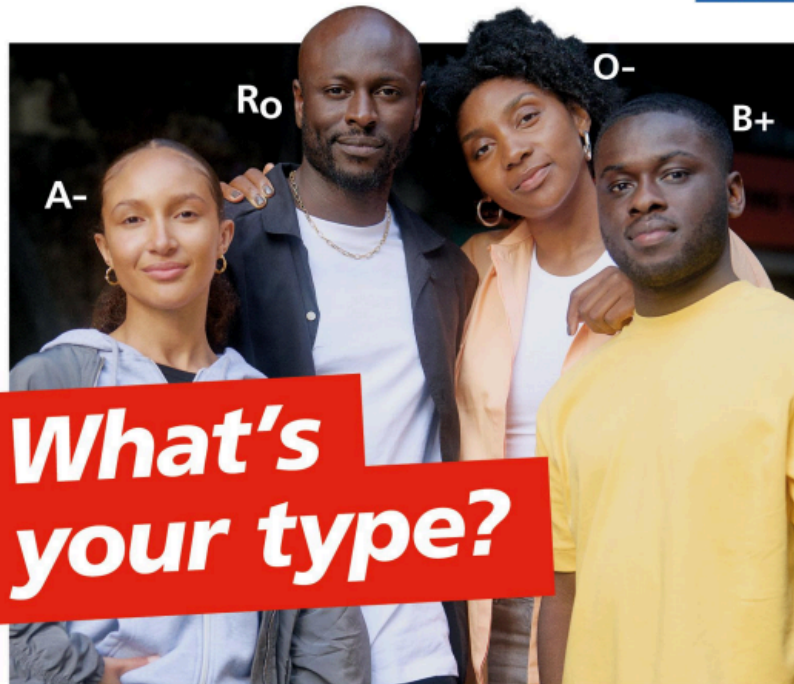
7 March Midlands Woodworking Show

8 March ASAO Annual Learning Day

25-27 April Newark Garden Show

26-27 April All About Dogs Show

For more event information in January, February, March & April go to:
www.newarkshowground.com/whats-on



**If you are the 'Giving Type'
register to become a blood donor
with us at
The Nottinghamshire County
Show
10th May 2025**

If you're the **giving type**
book now at blood.co.uk



New faces at the Showground!

Andrea has been at the Showground now for 6 months.

She first started out in hospitality two nights a week doing bar work, working her way up to Assistant Manager and now Deputy Operations Manager with the Showground.

Andrea has acquired 5 NVQs in later life and is looking at gaining some more – never too old to learn!



Andrea Hopkins

Deputy Operations Manager
andrea.hopkins@newarkshowground.com

Olivia, but most people know her as Olive, started working at the Showground in 2018 as a part-time waiting staff member. In August of 2024, she became a full-time staff member as a Hospitality Team Leader. Over the 6 years working at the Showground, she also studied business at Nottingham Trent University. Olivia enjoys reading, playing scrabble and collecting obscure cuckoo clocks.



Olivia Snaith

Hospitality Team Leader

Neil joined the Showground towards the end of last year and was thrown straight into the deep end with the Midlands Machinery Show and The Newark Vintage Vintage & Tractor Show.

He has extensive experience within highways and building sectors and has a keen interest in travelling and motorcycles.



Neil Edwards

Grounds & Maintenance Manager
neil.edwards@newarkshowground.com

In December, we also welcomed Steve as a permanent member of the Grounds Team. He has a background working in engineering and as an HGV driver.

He loves DIY and being a handyman. He also enjoys riding his bike and getting away in his caravan when he can.



Stephen Scott

Grounds Team