

## Trafford Farm Blog April/May 2018

When Sheila Trafford passed away in January 2015 it was communicated to the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society that we were to become the major Beneficiaries of her bequest, namely the House, farm yard and 460 acres of land. By September 2017 the Deed of Transfer had been agreed and the process of transferring the land and other assets could commence, enabling the Society to work on the House, with a view to letting it to a private tenant. This work is now complete and a number of viewings have been conducted by our appointed agent, Mundy's. The aim is a short term tenancy for the house and some building access for a garage and storage @ £1,400 p.c.m target price, there have already been some viewings.

Thanks must go to LAS Trustee Andrew Buckley for great work in overseeing this complete renovation, including wiring, plumbing, flooring and various structural improvements, to give a character house fit for a modern family. We anticipate that a tenant will move in during the next couple of months.

The farm is being managed by Mike Johnson of J H Walter, with several contractors producing cereals, OSR, Maize and Sugar Beet, this system is planned to continue until harvest 2019. Between now and then we are going to consult with a number of local Land Agents who will be asked to suggest a medium term system of managing or letting the farm that will give the Society income whilst not adding unduly to the management tasks of our already overstretched team.

The LAS Steering Group for Trafford Farm has had many discussions on how we make the farm work for the charitable objectives of the Society and fulfil Sheila Trafford's wish that the legacy should be used '*for the support and education of young people in agriculture*'. We are delighted to announce the formation of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society Trafford Fund, which will be the conduit for application of funds towards helping young entrants into farming in the future.

The first LAS Trafford Fund Scholarship that will be available is for a member of the LAS Impact Group to attend the 2019 Oxford Farming Conference; applications for any member of the group who has not previously attended the Conference should be made to Chris Rothery [chris.rothery@live.co.uk](mailto:chris.rothery@live.co.uk) who will send an application form to you. N.B. Applications this year will close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018. This was announced at the LAS Council Meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 and will be followed by other announcements in the coming months.

