

# Norfolk Grey keepers!

This year sees the 90th Anniversary of the date when Norfolk Grey creator, Fred Myhill, first registered the breed with the Poultry Club of Great Britain.

To help mark the occasion, special celebrations are being organised to take place at this year's National Poultry Show, held at the Telford International Centre on November

21st-22nd. For this reason, every Norfolk Grey pen at the show will receive a special, commemorative rosette.

Enthusiast Gina Upex is also in the process of undertaking a census on the breed and, as the table here shows, has some preliminary results to share.

However, Gina tells us that there are still plenty of keepers who she knows haven't yet responded. While she's extremely grateful to those who've already supplied details, hearing from the rest would help complete the picture. It's important to get the best possible feel for how the Norfolk Grey is faring in the UK today.

Gina adds that the results here include responses from requests made to five Facebook groups, and individual emails sent out to people advertising stock for sale on the internet. She's also visited the homes of two known keepers who aren't on the internet, to assess their stock levels.

Photographs of birds have also been received to clarify they are standard Norfolk Greys, although Gina points out that the information she's gathered so far does not cover any survey done through the Rare Poultry Society, which normally happens later in the year. This will not be duplicated in the



Gina Upex is working hard to record Norfolk Grey numbers in the UK. If you are a keeper then please get in touch so that your precious birds can be accounted for.

final count when the RPS survey is completed.

In a bid to encourage further responses, Gina will be placing advertisements and press releases anywhere that she feels may provide access to more Norfolk Grey keepers.

Finally, Gina has clarified that the responses she gathers won't affect the 'Rare Breed' status of the Norfolk Grey with the RBST and the RPS, and that names and addresses have been documented – together with breed numbers – so that a detailed record can be kept for future reference.



It's 90 years since the Norfolk Grey was presented to the Poultry Club of Great Britain for breed standardisation, by Fred Myhill.

## 'Chick lit' boost

When Heather Trefusis adopted some ex-battery hens as pets, she had no idea that they would end up helping her achieve her life-long ambition of becoming a children's author.

But Heather was so inspired by the cheeky antics of Henrietta, Josephine, Pollyanna and Delilah, that she decided to write a children's book. It was soon snapped up by a publisher, who then asked her to write three more.

Hertfordshire-based mum-of-one, Heather, said: "It's literally a dream come true. I've always loved writing and hoped to write children's fiction, but it's so difficult for new authors to secure a publishing deal these days. I didn't think it would ever happen."

Heather is donating some of the profits from each book sale to the re-homing charity, the British Hen Welfare Trust, whose celebrity patrons include



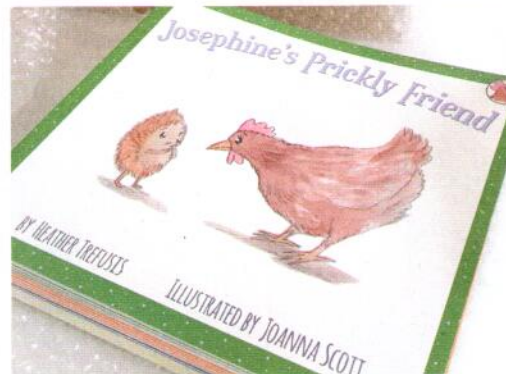
Children's book author, Heather Trefusis.

Jamie Oliver and Amanda Holden.

The charity, which re-homes ex-commercial laying hens, and educates the public about how they can make a difference to hen welfare, also encourages support for the British egg industry.

Since its launch in 2005, the charity has re-homed over 460,000 hens from over 31 locations, run by teams of volunteers across the UK. It hopes to re-home the 500,000th hen later this year.

The Four Little Hens series is out now. More information about the author and the charity can be found at [www.fourlittlehens.com](http://www.fourlittlehens.com).



The Four Little Hens series of children's books; inspired by rescued hens and generating money for the BHWT from sales.

## Norfolk Grey census: the results so far

No. of keepers	48
No. of RPS members	11
No. of breeding males	61
No. of breeding females	169
No. of 2015 males kept	88
No. of 2015 females kept	70
No. of hatching eggs sold or gifted (from 3 breeders keeping records)	682
No. of keepers of hens/pullets only	26

## And briefly...

### COVER BIRD

Pride of place this month goes to a pretty little Cream Legbar hen. These birds lay plenty of eggs with varying shades of green and blue shells. Find out all you need to know about getting some of your own using our Buyers guide, starting on page 10.

