

# Heathfield Agricultural Show: A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The clocks change, a sign of lengthening days and a reminder of things to come. The last round of Show committee meetings finalising their own arrangements before everything is pulled together for the Show on the last weekend in May. Each committee having its own issues to resolve as well as making sure everything comes together on the day.

The phenomenal work of our Show secretaries and their committees

throughout the year seem to be over looked when we come to Show day. Not by me though, apart from the odd year, I have been connected in some form with the Show for roughly 65 years; it's in my blood. People come and people go but the maintenance of the Show's family spirit is vital for its success. In mentioning family spirit I would like to encourage people to become members and enjoy supporting the Show, hopefully with their friends and families as well.

Leading up to the Show we have scheduled events such as sticker Sunday when as many committee members and volunteers get together to update advertising boards and make sure they are in good condition to be displayed across the area where councils allow.

Two weeks before the Show there is mark up day when the paper Showground plan is marked out on the ground. With thanks to our ground contractors and volunteers, from this day on the Showground infrastructure is put in place.

As we approach Show day volunteers become more and more important culminating in a large number of people from local organisations who provide stewards on Show day. These volunteers are fundamental to the Show's success and their contribution is vital.

I would encourage anybody wanting to be involved in the Show in any form to contact the secretary.

As I have mentioned in our previous newsletter our secretary Nicola Magill has decided to step down after this year's Show. Fortunately, we have been lucky enough to secure the services of Tracy Hobden who will be shadowing Nicola and assisting for this year's Show with a view of taking over in August.

Thanking you all for your support this year and hope we are all able to enjoy a wonderful 2023 Show day.

*Bill Gower*  
Show Chairman



Photographs: Lillie Bell Photography | Design: Apatite Design | Editor: Nicola Magill



# Heathfield Show News

## BE PART OF THE EVOLVING ADVENTURE THAT IS THE HEATHFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW



As the Organisers of the Heathfield Show work tirelessly towards bringing together a Show day to be remembered, they are excited to be able to say that entries in the horse and livestock competitions are looking good. Agriculture is at the heart of the Show that will take place on Saturday 27th May.

Come along and become part of the evolving adventure that is the Heathfield Show.

Now in its 76th year the Show continues to reflect all that is good and great about the High Weald area in which we live. If you don't have any animals to enter, then

maybe aspirational judges and animal lovers would like to head over to the livestock rings early in order to witness the judging of the cattle, sheep and pig classes. Commentators will talk you through what the judges are looking for in a champion Showing animal. Alternatively, when judging is not



taking place, visit the animals in their stalls. The Horse competition goes on throughout the day. There are five horse Showing rings so it is recommended you consult the programme for timings of classes - the glossy Show programme is distributed free of charge to all visitors.

This year we are excited to announce that we have new qualifier classes taking place for the London International Horse Show, so the calibre of the entries will be to the normal high standard.

As well as Show casing rural businesses the Show is also about

the promotion of the rural way of life and reminding people how they can become involved. The Education marquee Showcases displays from Plumpton College and the Young Farmers, and South Brockwell Farm will be giving our younger visitors the chance to listen to a story with live animals!

There will also be thrills and spills in the Main Ring. Big Pete, the Monster Truck, will be smashing his way across the ring and the Shetland Pony Grand National will be taking place – talk about two very contrasting displays!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Heathfield Agricultural Show on Saturday 27th May. Save money by purchasing your entry tickets on line and in advance and don't forget, children 16 and under are free of charge when accompanied by an adult.



## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SHOW

### Di Vickery, Membership Secretary

The 2023 Show is fast approaching so if you haven't yet renewed your membership now is the time to do it. If you have already renewed, thank you!

Do please spread the word to family and friends about the benefits of membership and what a great spot the Member's Enclosure is to take the weight off your feet, watch the displays, enjoy some liquid refreshments and enjoy a tasty buffet lunch.... and not forgetting chat and put the world to rights. The easiest way to purchase membership is online at

[www.heathfieldshow.org](http://www.heathfieldshow.org) although it is still possible to pay by cheque if you prefer (form with this newsletter).

As normal, membership packs will be sent out approximately 2 weeks prior to the Show date. Please advise us if you have moved house and / or changed your email address or telephone so we send the packs to the right address.

Finally, a reminder about how immensely important members are to the success of the Show – we couldn't do it without you!

# HEATHFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW: THE TIME HAS COME

## A note from the Show Secretary, Nicola Magill



The time has come for me to step aside and let the Show move forward with a new Show Secretary bringing new ideas and inspiration to the Show. As Jacinder Aherne, the former New Zealand Prime Minister said on her resignation, (she) "no longer has enough in the tank" to do the role justice.

As I type I keep remembering many milestones that the Show has achieved, but none of this would have happened without the enthusiasm and support of the Show Council, the other Show Committees and volunteer stewards on Show day and all who contribute and make the Show the

success it is. The Show Committee members really are one big family and together they create the day, once a year, which is recognised by all who attend as one big happy family day out.

I am proud to have been able to help facilitate the ongoing success of the Show. I know my successor Tracy Hobden, has all the tools in her armoury to ensure the continued success which feeds into the evolving adventure, which is the Heathfield Show. I leave with a heavy heart but also a sense of relief that the Show is in very safe hands and that I can now actually relax and enjoy the Show!

## ALL CHANGE AT THE HEATHFIELD SHOW

### A word from our soon to be new Show Secretary, Tracy Hobden.

The Heathfield Show has been part of my background from a very young age. As a local person and a farmer's daughter, I was lucky enough to be involved with the Show as a child when my parents were in the ring with their cattle, and in later life, as a general visitor. The Show has always appealed to me as it celebrates the diversity this area of outstanding natural beauty offers and the rich cultural heritage we know and love.

My working background is in communications for local government. In that role, I was

responsible for the general communication of local authority news and information to residents of Hastings by way of press releases, website updates and social media. Part of this work included marketing the town as a tourism destination and organisation and promoting the three annual fish festival events held each year.

I believe that this very varied work experience has given me essential skills to bring added value to the ongoing progression of the Show. In my private life, I love making

(and selling at local craft fairs) wet-felted items made with wool fibres such as bags and purses. Most recently I have been using fleece from our own Portland sheep. I am also an avid needle felter, making 3D animals with carded wool including border terriers, seals, fish and my speciality, mice!

My other passion is cold water swimming. I try to swim at least twice a week, all year round at my local beach in Pevensey, it's not something for the faint-hearted but I can recommend the joy when you wrap up to warm up, afterwards! I'm excited about joining the Heathfield Show team and look forward to assisting in its future continued success and growth.