



# Heathfield News



“A not for profit organisation benefitting the local community”

## The Visitors came and they stayed

Sussex as a county is fairly unusual in that it has many of its own ‘local’ brands. For instance, we have Sussex cattle, Sussex hens, Sussex trugs, Sussex pudding, a whole host of Sussex cheeses and now, of course, we have the Duke & Duchess of Sussex. Whilst we didn’t expect to see the new Duke & Duchess of Sussex at the Show – not this year anyway – all the other fine Sussex products were around the Show ground in May 2018.

There was a plethora of products and produce available at the Heathfield Show, this is, after all, what we do best ... we provide a shop window for everything local. Local farmers show their livestock, local riders compete in the Horse Show, local artisans exhibit their wares, not only in Country Ways and the Farmers’ Market, but this year in the Arts & Crafts marquee. Local agricultural machinery companies sell their tractors and ploughs, local accountants and estate agents offer hospitality to their clients, local volunteers help to steward the Show. Everywhere you turned, familiar faces were recognised from the local neighbourhood.

This year’s Education marquee was organised by Plumpton

College and the Young Farmers. Working together they promoted how the young can become involved and learn more about the area where they live. From remote controlled tractors, DIY milking, identify the eggs and the smoothie bike there were things for all to do and enjoy and it didn’t cost a penny to take part.



Being one of the first Shows in the season the Livestock competitions were well supported. This year sheep had more entries than ever. The livestock rings demonstrated stock handling at its very best. Champion of champions masterly

controlled by their handlers. The Young Handlers are always my favourite classes. Separated into different age groups the young handlers proudly exhibited their abilities. Even little children were seen handling large bulls (with a watchful parent in tow), careering pigs were another favourite! Some of the other one day Shows will not be offering livestock competitions in 2019 but we will continue to fly the flag for our local farm exhibitors and offer a full schedule of competitions classes.

The Heathfield Show is famous for running qualifying classes for the equestrian world,

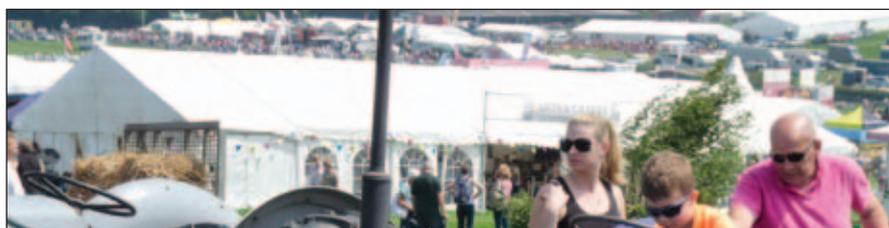


many of the riders who qualify through our Show go on to win national events. This year was no exception. We also provide a great arena to start young novice riders off on their famous careers in the Show ring. With 6 rings running all day with Horse events there was enough for all budding equestrians to sate their appetites. And, of course, with the Horse show comes horse trade stands and the Heathfield Show was not short of equestrian flavoured stands either.



This is what makes the Show special. There was a wonderful feel good factor wandering around the Showground. It took me ages to get around the Showground in 2018 because I kept bumping into people I recognised and hadn’t caught up with for a while. Saturday of the last Bank Holiday in May in 2018 was a day for leisure and fun.

And, of course, the final ingredient which meshed it all together for us – THE SUN! That’s laid to rest the oft said “It always rains on Heathfield Show day” for a few years to come!!



## Welcome



*Tate Fencing Best Non Agricultural Trade Stand*

We always endeavour to try and bring new blood into the Show organising Committees. We hope this brings in new ideas and innovations to keep the Show forward looking and interesting, year on year, for our visitors. This year is no exception.

We welcome on board our new Chairman, Rita Dingwall, who has been shadowing Graham Mosey who now retires. Bill Gower returns as our Vice Chairman and will take over from Rita in three years time. The Show Society has a rotation system in place with our Chairman standing

down every three years (see Rita's letter at end of this newsletter).

The trade stand organiser is a very important part of the Show organisation and one of our main income streams. Katie Plumley stands down after four years of bringing about many changes and upgrading the look of our trade stand areas. Kate Laird is taking over the role. Kate comes with some previous experience working as Head of Conference and Events for the National Autistic Society. Not only, therefore, is she familiar with organising events but she also knows the vagaries and challenges of working for a not for profit organisation and keeping Committee members happy!

Nicola Dean is taking over the Cattle Secretary position. Nicola has a history of showing her dairy cattle at the Heathfield Show and we hope she will be bringing a list of contacts who will help her undertake this very important role for us. Livestock showing is at the heart of the ethos of our one day agricultural

Show. Nicola's knowledge will be invaluable.

The Farmers' Market also has a new organiser. Laura Dymore will now work in conjunction with the Country Ways Committee to make this the best shop front for all our local farmers and their produce. Laura comes with much experience of dealing with customers and for the past few years has been helping out our Sheep & Pig Secretary, Rachael Smith. All this experience, I am sure, will transfer seamlessly across and help keep our Farmers' Market exhibitors happy.

Finally, Louise Leggatt is joining the team as our new Horse Secretary. Cutting her teeth in the equine world with her own horses from a young age, Louise has been involved with the Pony Club and Ashford Valley Hunt in the past. She has showed Hunters for many years and last year competed at the Heathfield Show. Her administrative skills have been put to good use at Milbourn Equine and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

## Meanderings from one of our Local Concession units

(First published in The Heathfield News [www.theheathfieldnews.co.uk](http://www.theheathfieldnews.co.uk) pre Show 2018)

I have a confession to make, it has been playing on my mind! 23 years ago (1995) I walked from Punnetts Town to Broad Oak (Heathfield) on a pilgrimage with my friends to a special site, almost magical, perhaps even mythical? It was the day of the Heathfield Show and, "Famous Five" style, we had been planning an audacious break-in!

It was late May and it was without question the day of the most significant event in Heathfield's calendar of events (not too hard I hear you cry!). For (what felt like) weeks me and my friends had watched in awe as a humble field was transformed into the most exciting place in the world, nay, the universe.

After a long and arduous journey, our mission was successful and we managed to avoid the, then exorbitant entrance fee of £5!

(A king's ransom by a 13 year-olds standards and half a week's wages from my paper round). We wreaked some havoc on that day at the Show, as we were little tearaways, so I ask forgiveness for that but probably not for breaking in as it was amazing fun!

Tomorrow, I return to the Heathfield Show! This time I have paid quite a lot more than I should have done back then (karma?) in order to feed the visitors who have successfully navigated their way to the special field. I have in the last few weeks experienced a great deal of nostalgia seeing the tents go up as I drive past every day, thinking that there was still a lot to do on Monday, it was with great admiration that as I drove past after work today I saw that it was ready to receive people in the morning.

When I was a 13 year old, I didn't really know what the Heathfield show was, I just got excited because it was something happening in the

sleepy town I lived in. 23 years later I'm still not entirely sure what the Heathfield Show is, but I do know that it's a good thing! That there will be children going (but not sneaking in as its now free for under 16s, so that would be ridiculous) and I hope they are in awe of what it is.

Community events are so important, tomorrow I will see my friends from the rugby club working in the car park and I will see so many faces from every part of my current and past life - please don't ask for free pizza as I have to sell a lot to break-even ;-)) from the local community and I think at least it will give me a warm feeling of belonging to an area which I have belonged to (sometimes reluctantly) my whole life.

So, have a good time tomorrow everyone, and do pop in and say hello if you know us or even if you don't!

Damian Petzell, Community Oven

## Henry Noakes Young Achiever Award

This was very difficult to judge this year as there were two nominees who stood out. The runner up was Paige Chapell from High Weald YFC.

The winner was Chelsea Smith from Plumpton College. Her dedication, self motivation and passion for cattle shone through. She gives up her spare time to train the Show Team at Plumpton and select the Show cattle and produce them. Due to the absence through illness of the lecturer she has done all the preparation work for the last two months.

Congratulations Chelsea.

Ross Scott, Henry Noakes Young Achiever Award Judge



Chelsea Smith and  
John Moore-Bick CBE, DL

## Just a few statistics from the 2018 Show:

178 Trade Stands  
654 animal exhibitors  
246 animal classes  
Over £15k presented as prizes  
18,000 through gates on Show day  
Over £17k presented to good causes as a result of the Show  
40 acres of parking fully used up  
450 stewards, Committee members and volunteers  
1,500 sq m temporary roadway laid (but not needed as weather great)  
1,100 crowd barriers to enclose rings etc

*Many thanks for putting on a superb show again this year and I look forward to our club being able to continue to assist at the show in whatever way we can.*

*John Kay, Heathfield Rotarians"*

## Thank yous

In my many years of helping to organise the Heathfield Show I have discovered that visitors are very quick to put pen to paper when it comes to airing their wrath, but reluctant to do so when they have a good day out. 2018 has laid that ghost to rest. We have received numerous emails of congratulations and absolutely no complaints. Visitors, trade stands, exhibitors, volunteers, competitors, all have written congratulating us on a wonderful day out, value for money, happy atmosphere ... the list of adjectives praising the day and what we are trying to achieve goes on and on and on. Its surprising what a bit of sun can do!

Below is a letter from the Heathfield Rotarians who field a team of stewards on Show day thanking us for the donation we made to them for their help.

*"Dear Nicola*

*Richard Ridley has passed on to me your card and cheque for £720 made payable to the Heathfield and Waldron Rotary Club.*

*Many thanks for your donation this year which I believe is at a record high figure. We will make sure that the funds go to good causes and benefit the local community. We, and the other local organisations who you support, are very grateful to all those involved in the Heathfield Agricultural Show. You do a great deal for our town and the local area, not only by attracting huge numbers to the show and putting Heathfield "on the map", but also by your generous financial help to local charities and organisations.*

*Our members always enjoy their stints helping out at the show and we never have any problems in finding volunteers.*

## New Chairs, Old Chairs!



*All four office holders from After Show Party*

## And finally ....

I am very proud of being associated with the Heathfield Show and consider it an honour that the Show Council puts their trust in me to help organise and guide this event year on year. The Show combines the county's rural heritage with a focus on the future - an event which appeals to every strand of the local community. With this in mind can I remind you that becoming a member of the Heathfield & District

Agricultural Show Society, not only brings extra benefits to its members on Show day, but helps ensure that this loved event continues year on year and enables us to plan for the future. Don't forget therefore to renew your membership in time for the 2019 Show on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Additionally, now is the time to consider giving membership as a gift to your friends and family. What better way to promote this

great day out and help to extend the secret of our wonderful Show far and wide.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a membership form. But additionally, why not streamline your membership renewal by purchasing membership online? [www.heathfieldshow.org](http://www.heathfieldshow.org).

Nicola Magill, Show Secretary

## CHAIRMAN'S AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear Friends,

I have been given the great honour and privilege to have become the Chairman of the Heathfield & District Agricultural Show Society, immediately after our incredibly successful show in May of this year. The show was conducted under the auspices of Past Chairman Graham Mosey who has worked tirelessly in this role for the past 4 years, ably supported by our Secretary and Sponsorship Secretary Nicola Magill. I have no idea what size shoes Graham takes, but they will be huge shoes to fill! I will be supported by Graham in his role of Past Chairman, Bill Gower, known to many, as the Society's Vice Chairman and our enthusiastic and supportive President, Jeremy Courtney.

Around 18,000 visitors attended this year's Show compared to 17,000 last year. There were plenty of new things to see for our 71st show and we were very happy with the attendance, but more people are always welcome. We had so many compliments and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time, whatever their interests were. There were a record number of trade stands attending who all had a good day of trading due to the excellent weather that we all enjoyed.



*Agrifactors winner of 12m and over best agricultural trade stand*

Our supportive exhibitors, who return year on year, brushed and preened their animals to showing perfection. Over 21 local charities and organisations have received donations from our surplus as a thank you for helping at the Show. We rely on an army of volunteers to

help with everything from managing the car parks, stewarding and washing down the animal pens at the end of the event. Each year, we hold a special event as a thank you to all the Committee members and volunteers and the donations are presented at this gathering, an enjoyable time was had by all.

Heathfield Show is also very grateful to our President Jeremy Courtney and his wife Anne for organising an educational Farm Walk through their farm in September followed by a BBQ. Everyone had a wonderful evening and there were lots of questions from our enthusiastic junior visitors who had a great time and who may in time become farmers of the future. They ended the evening in the President's kitchen eating ice cream and I am sure that each and everyone of them will remember that evening for some time to come.

What next? You may well ask! Planning for the following year's show starts immediately after the last one has been reviewed. For the 2019 show, we have confirmed that we will be having both the MONSTER TRUCKS in the main ring as well as the SHETLAND PONY GRAND NATIONAL. Both of these displays are always well received, something for everyone. Heathfield Show is one of the largest one day Agricultural Shows in the country, featuring cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry with a firm focus on the local community and education is at the very heart of what the Show is about. The Young Farmers will be attending once again and will have a stand within the Education area which is being developed further to accommodate the thirst for knowledge. They will also be hosting their very popular terrier racing in the Country Ways area. Another popular display is the local Hunts parading their hounds and horses and welcoming the public into the main ring to say hello, this is very much a firm favourite with everyone. After a successful first year Heathfield Wealden Dog Agility will be making a return to the Show along with our regular features such as the Sheep Show, the Sussex

Stompers, Heathfield Silver Band and Ladies Side Saddle Costume Class and the Micro-Brewery and many more activities can be found in the Country Ways section.



*Monster Trucks*

We have over 120 people and companies who sponsor the Heathfield & District Agricultural Show each year. Sponsorship opportunities range from special features which can include technical exhibits providing education for both farmers and general public, to arena events/displays and livestock classes. We have wonderful facilities for corporate hospitality that give sponsors the opportunity to entertain clients, family and friends throughout the day.

There is also the opportunity for companies to receive, not only recognition while the event is taking place, but also their name advertised in the show literature. Free banner spaces will apply in some cases as well as the opportunity to present prizes in the rings.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the sections and all the volunteers who come to meetings or work quietly behind the scenes working away diligently for the good of the Heathfield & District Agricultural Show Society along with all the valued visitors to the Show.

Let's all hope for a dry and sunny day in 2019 to be shared and enjoyed by all and to be able to put something back into the local community

Rita Dingwall