

JOURNAL 2015/16



THE ROYAL
BATH & WEST
OF ENGLAND SOCIETY
PATRON HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
VICE PATRON HRH THE COUNTESS OF WESSEX GCVO



Front Cover
Pre-Show Press Day 2015.



David Moulard and his single trade turnout.

Welcome to the Journal

There is a real energy around the Society at the moment and I believe that you will find the Journal an invaluable document to keep you up to date with all the exciting developments and positive changes that are cementing our reputation as England's leading agricultural show and events organiser. We are continuing to issue the Journal in the depths of winter so that you can reflect on all those glorious summer images from 2015 and have time to absorb news about what you can expect at next year's Royal Bath & West Show. We like to hear from members and readers, so please do email me with short anecdotes or interesting stories about your experiences at any of the events on the showground at journal@bathandwest.co.uk

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The Bath & West Showground,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN

Charity Number: 1039397
Company Number: 02931640



The Wessex RFCA and their guests enjoy superb views of the show jumping in the main ring.



BCA Judges.



Floral art display.

President 2015/16

Michael Eavis CBE

Michael Eavis, the founder of Glastonbury Festival and Gold Cup Winning Dairy Farmer, is the new President of the Royal Bath & West of England Society.

It has been a great privilege to be part of the team for a year...

He took over the reins from Joint Presidents Lord and Lady Fellowes of West Stafford at the Society's Council meeting at the Bath & West showground on Thursday 16 July 2015.

Handing over their presidential badge of office, Lord and Lady Fellowes commented: "It has been a great privilege to be part of the team for a year, which has been an enormous pleasure. We have met wonderful people and have viewed the very best of great British agriculture and food. We wish this, one of the oldest agricultural societies in Britain, the very best for the future and we know that, with Michael at the helm, we leave it in safe hands."

Michael Eavis said "I am very much looking forward to the next year as President of The Royal Bath & West Society. I have fond memories of coming to the Blues Festival at the Showground and also the Bath & West Show. Being a dairy farmer I am looking forward to the Dairy Show in October".



Michael Eavis receives his badge of office from Lord and Lady Fellowes, the outgoing Presidents..



Robert Drewett DL, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Chairman's review

When you received last year's Review we were getting ready to welcome Rupert Cox as our new Chief Executive. A year on I am glad to report that we have had no reason to regret our decision – under the onslaught of Rupert's unabated enthusiasm and drive the Society already feels a very different organisation to that he joined.

...this has resulted in some significant changes and innovation during the year.

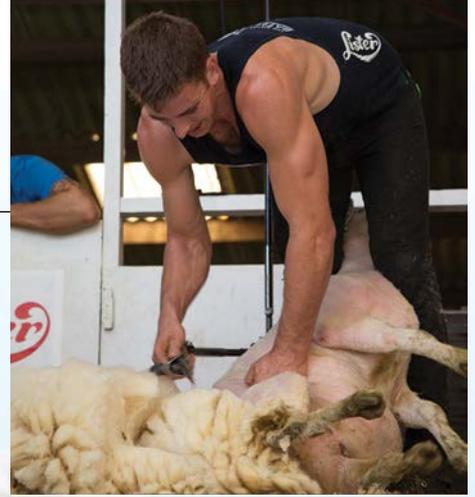
Rupert has taken to the position like a duck to water. He feels a genuine passion for the Society and, when coupled with his background of farming and business leadership, this has resulted in some significant changes and innovation during the year. So please forgive me if I spend some time to focus on Rupert – but I think that is appropriate as I look back at his first year in office.

Rupert's first task was to get to know his staff. He spent time learning the role of each staff member. On the back of this he has re-defined many of the roles so that there is greater logic to them and a greater focus. This has meant some re-distribution of activities, where historic anomalies had arisen, but these have been achieved with the full support of the staff and it is clear to me, on my visits to the Society's offices, that there is a renewed spring in the steps of all of the members of the team. It was Rupert and the staff who planned the makeover of the offices, so that these are now much lighter and more airy than before, helped in part by the dictate that accumulated paperwork should either be binned or sent to the attic. This has meant some desk tops have seen the light of day for the first time in many years.

Rupert has been quick to focus on the four key areas of the Society's operations – its shows, its trading activities, its development plans and its charitable activities and to align resources to these areas.

busy year

2015 was a busy year for the Shows team, since we staged Grassland UK in May. This event only occurs every third year but is an opportunity to show the best of grass management machinery and techniques in operation. Alan Lyons and Rachael Hann worked hard with the Grassland UK Committee, led by Richard Calver and David Sedgman, to lay on a first class event. A wet day the day before did not help preparations but the day itself dawned bright and sunny, and continued to improve. A good crowd attended what is, effectively, a trade fair and the traders and manufacturers were all positive. Amongst those attending was one of our Presidents, Emma Fellowes, Julian sadly



Sheep shearing in full flow.



A prize winning egg exhibit.

having been detained in London, and she took great interest in all the demonstrations and exhibits. As ever, such an event would not be possible without the support of neighbouring farmers, and a particular thank you to Carrie Dunford, on whose farm the bulk of the event takes place.

first big test

The highlight of the Society's year remains the four days at the end of May. This was Rupert's first big test and he and the team did not disappoint. Between them they laid on a first class show with a large number of people commenting on the quality way in which the showground was presented. This attention to detail was matched elsewhere in the content of the Show, where Alan Lyons and his team delivered some first class competitions and exhibits. It was pleasing that their hard work was rewarded with good crowds. The Show this year was celebrating 50 years at Shepton and was also the start of a trend to revitalise the showground and the activities carried out on it. I am very aware that what might have served in 1965 may no longer be so relevant and hence why we have started a programme of reviewing and re-planning parts of the showground. In some cases these moves are quite radical, but after 50 years some refreshing is needed. We are mindful of the adage of not fixing those things that are not broke, but equally we believe that the time is right for a full review of the way in which we run our Show.

continued overleaf





HRH The Countess of Wessex with the hamper presented to her, to mark her 50th Birthday.



New Chief Executive Rupert Cox finds the music on the main square irresistible.



Society and Company Secretary Paul Hooper receiving a memento from the joint Presidents following his award of the OBE in HM the Queen's Birthday Honours.



The Presidents open the show.

And, as ever, the year culminated with another successful Dairy Show. As well as being attended by ever more trade stands and visitors, one highlight is the Dairy Industry Dinner, which takes place on the eve of the Show. This year it was marvellous that a group of local producers and processors should have joined together to sponsor the evening – now one of the highlights of the dairy industry. We are extremely grateful to them for taking the lead in this way.

development programme

One of the reasons for this review is because we have, this year, seen the first step in the development programme materialise. This has been on the cards for some time, but this year the first 5 acre plot has been let on a long lease, for the creation of a new free school. Combined with a renewed and healthy interest in commercial enquiries there is a real possibility of further development occurring and this has necessitated the re-planning of the equine area. I have been cheered by just how enthusiastic individual committees have been in tackling this project and would thank all of them for the open minded and positive way in which they have approached the changes that will inevitably occur.

In terms of the Society's out of show activities, run by our Enterprises Board, there has long been a recognition that our buildings were becoming old and in need of attention. This year the nettle has been grasped to improve

them, with new roofs being fitted to both the Mendip and Sedgemoor buildings. I can remember these buildings being erected soon after the Society moved to Shepton Mallet and so they have given good service. The new roofs will ensure that those renting the buildings can enjoy a dry space – not an overly demanding requirement but one that has been challenging for the last few years. At the same time the electrical substation has been over hauled and new boilers have been installed in the Showering Pavilion to complement the existing bio mass boilers, so that in colder months we can offer a building that is warm.

These improvements in infrastructure have been matched by a much greater focus on marketing of the facilities. Our new Chief Executive is a natural marketer and he has been driving this initiative, alongside a team from within the office who share these skills and aspirations. The showground remains a unique facility within the South West and we are confident that ample opportunities exist, but these need to be correctly targeted.

charitable activities

The final quartile has been the charitable activities of the Society. To date these have been slightly disparate and these have now all been drawn together into a single committee, under the chairmanship of David Wills. This will help pull together much of the excellent work that has been done in the past. A good example is the work of the Somerset Levels

Development Fund, under the chairmanship of Edwin White. As the work of this fund draws to a natural conclusion it is hoped that the Committee will find other areas on which to focus, where we can provide levels of thought and leadership akin to those espoused by the founders of the Society some 238 years ago.

The drive to raise funds for the SLDF culminated at a reception in London at which we were honoured to be joined by our Vice Patron. As ever it was a great pleasure to see Her Royal Highness and she wasted no time in bringing herself up to date on the activities of the SLDF and in meeting the many representatives of the organisations supporting us on the project who were present. The reception took place at the London Museum of Water and Steam at Kew – not perhaps an obvious tourist destination but a monument to the incredible engineering talent of the Victorians and well worth a visit if you should ever find yourself in that part of London with time on your hands.

thought provoking

That was, in fact, the second time that we saw our Vice Patron this year. I was invited to take Rupert up to Bagshot for a briefing meeting relatively soon after he joined. As ever this was a lively and thought provoking experience and helped our new Chief Executive to appreciate that we are fortunate in having a Vice Patron that takes a keen and perceptive interest in our affairs. He came away with plenty of matters to consider.

Our trip coincided with our Vice Patron celebrating her 50th birthday and we were able to deliver a hamper filled with West Country produce in order to mark the occasion, all generously provided by our many friends and supporters within the region. Her Royal Highness was absolutely delighted to have such a tangible link to Wessex to celebrate her birthday, as shown by the photo that appears elsewhere in this Journal.



Show jumping in the main arena.

I have talked much about Rupert in this article – indeed probably too much. The reality is that, as ever, none of these achievements and activities would be possible without the hard work both of the permanent staff and the vast team of volunteers. Each is equally important and thanks are due in equal measure to all who contribute to the success of the Society.

At risk, therefore, of singling any individuals out, there are a couple of mentions that are needed.

The first is of our Society Secretary, Paul Hooper. We were all absolutely delighted to read of the award to Paul of the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, a great testament to his long years of tireless service both to the Society and the ASAO, and the opportunity was taken at our Council meeting in July to celebrate his achievement.

worked tirelessly

The second is to our Presidents last year, Julian and Emma Fellowes. Both worked tirelessly throughout the year and injected enormous enthusiasm, wit and style into everything that they did. This came to the fore during the four days of the Show, when they appeared never to stop. As well as introducing a string of celebrities to the Society they were assiduous

in seeing as many of the activities taking place on the showground and meeting as many people as possible whilst, in Emma's case, never passing by the opportunity for a little retail therapy. There was universal agreement that they were a memorable combination and a great credit to the Society, and we are very grateful to them for all that they did during their year in office.

Lastly, we were sorry to say goodbye to two members of the Board during the year. Firstly Annie Maw, who as she took up the post of Lord Lieutenant of Somerset – an appointment that we were delighted to see – decided that she needed to step back from some of her other commitments; and secondly Ewen Cameron, who, after many years of service, is in the process of starting to wind down and to reduce some of his many commitments. In both cases we have been very lucky to benefit from their wise advice over the years and are grateful to them for all that they have contributed to the society's affairs.

So, looking back, 2015 has been an exciting year. Much has happened and I hope that it heralds the start of a new and exciting phase in the history of the Society. Thank you for your continued support.





Rupert Cox, Chief Executive

Chief Executive's report

The chance of a lifetime

It hardly seems possible, but my first year as the Chief Executive of the Royal Bath & West of England Society has now concluded – where has the time gone, as it seems only yesterday when I bounded into the offices and thought I could “change” a 238 year organisation overnight! I could not have been more proud when our Chairman, Robert Drewett, offered me the chance of a lifetime to lead such an iconic institution, and I hope that in my first year I have been able to demonstrate what a good decision it was for both of us!

...to evolve this great organisation into a well managed, financially viable charity...

If we are honest, none of us likes “change”: we all have the same thing for breakfast, usually at the same time; we sit in the same



Paul Hooper collects his OBE.



Winners of the inaugural Mendip Business Awards.

pew at Church, or the same seat at the rugby; and we know where everything is at the Show. However, if you always do what you've always done, you will only ever have what you've got, but in business, that will result in stagnation. During the interviewing process for the role in October 2014, I suggested that to move the Society forward we needed evolution, not revolution, and while at times it might have seemed like the latter to some, for me it is trying to evolve this great organisation into a well managed, financially viable charity that delivers its charitable objectives with confidence and pride. I think we have made a good start.

good progress

In his report elsewhere in the Journal, the Chairman sets out a number of areas where we have made good progress, so I will just set out my philosophy for how I think our charitable Society should do business. By simplifying our thinking we have instantly become more focussed and as the 2015 accounts will demonstrate, financially more successful.

Our Society has 4 strings to its bow – its charitable activities, its wonderful Shows, its Showground and the opportunities brought about by the Development Plan. Simply put, the net trading surpluses from our Shows and Showground should feed the charity so that it, in turn, can invest in projects that deliver the charitable objectives – the encouragement of Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce and Rural Crafts through education and knowledge transfer. The capital released by selling land for commercial development will provide investment to improve the infrastructure and building stock on the Showground. Let's keep life as simple as possible.

Many of the highlights this year have revolved around our people and how proud we should be of them.



Hands on at Farming for the Family.



The sheep dog trial in the main ring.

career

The staff, Trustees and company Directors and our wonderful throng of volunteers make our Society what it is today. I make no apology for placing the staff at the front of the list as they live and breathe the Society, the Shows and the Showground every day of their lives and for them it is their career, not their hobby.

We all gathered on a dark February winter's day for a typical "away day" of team bonding, but in just four hours we all got to know one another in more detail than they could ever

imagine which culminated in them agreeing core values for the Society being: Honesty and Integrity; Loyalty and Respect; Excellence and Pride; Creativity and Innovation.

While it is never great to see people leave an organisation, it has been a joy to welcome some new faces who I know will add great skill, experience and enthusiasm to our working environment.

promotions

I was particularly pleased to give promotions to both Alan Lyons and Paul Hooper.

Alan has been our show manager for a number of years, but I felt that this title did not do his experience, knowledge and responsibility justice which is why I asked



Orchards and Cider exhibits.

him to become the Head of Shows. Paul has been with the Society "man and boy" starting in 1977 in the accounts team and working himself up to the role of administrator, although I could not quite work out what that meant, so I asked him to become Society Secretary. As with the Head of Shows, this gives due respect to the skills and experience that Paul brings to our Society, and I was so proud when his "services to the agricultural show" were rewarded with the OBE. I would not want to move on from the Senior Management without noting the contribution of our Financial Controller, Dave Stich. Being a naturally cautious accountant, he has been the perfect foil for my over enthusiasm and we could not have achieved much of what we have done without his steady hand on the budgetary tiller and his beady eyes on the bank accounts.

continued overleaf





Bronze exhibit from the Art Section.



Sports Village.



Farming for the Family.

patience and realism

Our Trustees and company Directors have the responsibility for running our businesses (Society, Bath & West Shows Ltd and Bath & West Enterprises Ltd) and this year they have been mentally taxed more than might have happened in the past. I know that I have “bull in a china shop” tendencies, so I have really appreciated not just their support, but also their patience and realism. These volunteers, led by the three respective Chairmen, Robert Drewett, John Alvis and Richard Calver have all been hugely supportive of what I am trying to achieve through the new business plan. Entitled “Building for a Sustainable Future” the plan is all about consolidating what we have, getting our buildings and infrastructure up to standard, growing our commercial activities including our Shows and making the business more resilient.

We can achieve this by:

- valuing and respecting our volunteers;
- maintaining our “Royal” status;
- doing what we do best even better;

- staying focussed on the business plan;
- putting the expectations of our customers first;
- being robust on how we do business particularly cost management;
- considering where the income will come from to justify expenditure;
- recruiting the correct skills and experience to deliver our aspirations.

Our volunteers are the key to our success. Working with over 500 of them from girl guides running around with bits of paper, through to stewards at the Shows maintaining order, through to the sage-like Council, we are a diverse flock all of whom make a fantastic contribution to the Society’s success, and even when the heat is turned up high, we all get stuck in together.

innovative features

Naturally, the highlight of my year was to lead the 2015 Royal Bath & West Show. Just under 10,000 competitive entries admired by some 132,000 visitors together with innovative features such as the new Sports

Village, the highly popular Imagineering and the re-emergence of both Horticulture and more farm machinery made the Show one to remember – especially with our effervescent and engaging Joint-Presidents, Lord and Lady Fellowes leading the way down every avenue.

Our 2016 Show will feature some layout changes, a new emphasis on local food, an increase in street theatre and entertainment, and for the first time in 50 years, a full programme of livestock showing classes on all 4 days, culminating in the Grand Parade on the Saturday afternoon. We hope that it will epitomise the character of our President, Michael Eavis CBE – great at farming with a penchant for the festival atmosphere.

Finally, there are two projects that have gained some momentum in the last few months of 2015 that I believe will put the Society on the map for different reasons.

stimulate debate

Firstly, I am very keen that we refer back to the thoughts of our founders back in 1777



Go away, I am having a snooze!

and consider how we can demonstrate innovation in how we encourage agriculture and food production. On the back of DEFRA identifying our showground as a Food Enterprise Area I am keen to bring forward an Agri-tech and Food Innovation Centre where we can support individuals into land-based careers, small food businesses develop their products for larger markets and stimulate debate for farmers to work collectively



Farm Woman of the Year Lesley Bowes is presented with her award by Lady Fellowes.

to solve mutual problems through research and development.

Secondly, I am conscious that while we have a number of buildings, none of them offer a quality environment for conferences, exhibitions, award ceremonies, weddings or "black tie" dinners. With this in mind we are undertaking feasibility work to assess the justification for such an investment before we consider how to fund such a project.

affection

I am very clear however, that I will not take the Society in a direction that puts it at either financial or reputational risk, as we all hold the Society in such affection that it would be folly to prejudice its future.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has welcomed and supported me during 2015 and I look forward to us working together in 2016 and beyond.



Lord Fellowes addresses the society reception on the Wednesday evening of the show.



Alan Lyons, Head of Shows.

Royal Bath & West Show 2015

The 2015 Royal Bath & West Show lived up to its billing of showcasing Great British Agriculture, Entertainment, Food and Drink.

...record advance ticket sales with bumper crowds each day.

England's only four day agricultural Show had entries from around the country for its cattle, cider and cheese classes.

In fact, not only were there high numbers of entries with record breaking figures for the Poultry section, but also there were more trade stands than previous years plus record advance ticket sales with bumper crowds each day.

Shepton Mallet

The 152nd Show marked 50 years at the Shepton Mallet Showground which became a permanent base for the Society in 1965 after being a touring Show.

It was the first as Chief Executive for Rupert Cox, who said: "I am immensely proud of all that has been achieved at the 2015 Show; it



Mrs & Mrs Alford's British Limousin, Foxhillfarm Jasper.

has been a true showcase of Great British Agriculture, Entertainment, Food and Drink.

"It embraced our heritage as well as looking forward to the future and I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak to so many of our visitors and members and discuss ideas for continuing to make this the best possible Show of its kind.

"I must pay tribute to the staff, the volunteers, the exhibitors and sponsors whose hard work and dedication have made the Show such a success."

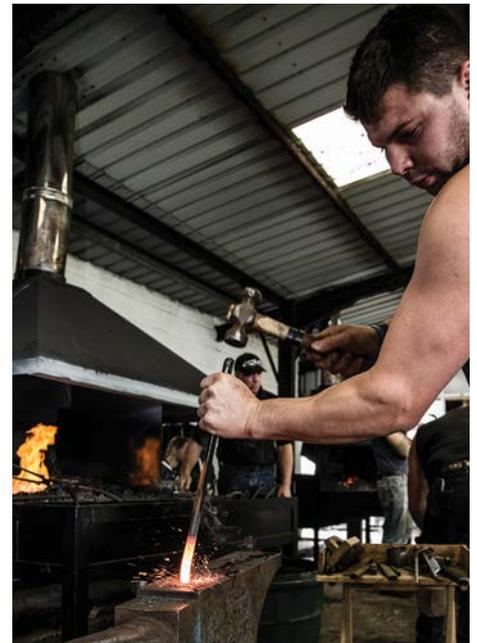
good formula

Alan Lyons, Head of Shows, said: "It has been fantastic and I am pleased that everybody bought into the concept of the change in layout, reduced ticket prices and working hard on the trade stands. It seems to have been a good formula and there has been a tremendous atmosphere over the four days.

"The areas we opened up for people to sit in,



The Ladies' Day winner Pam Norris, judged by Miss Bristol.



Shoeing in progress.

eat and relax have been so well used that it would seem people have found new areas of the Show to visit."

thousands of hands

Joint presidents for this year were Lord and Lady Fellowes who shook hundreds, if not thousands of hands, as they toured trade stands, cattle lines, attended receptions and presented awards across all four days of the Show.

Lord Fellowes said: "The Show was a celebration of country life for which we feel immensely privileged to have played a part."

Lady Fellowes added: "We have had such a wonderful time and met so many lovely people both visiting and trading or involved in displays at the Show. It is difficult to identify a favourite but I particularly enjoyed the falconry and sheep shearing."

There were awards aplenty as Long Service was recognised as well as special ones this year for those who have played a part in the Show since it moved to Shepton Mallet in 1965.



Pig judging.

Farmer's wife Lesley Bowes scooped the Show's Farm Woman of the Year Award. Lesley, from Chewton Keynsham in Somerset, was nominated by 17 different people which joint judge Lady Fellowes said was an indication of the high esteem in which she was held.

Meanwhile the Ladies' Day winner for best dressed was named as Pam Norris, from Frome, whose practical yet stylish outfit was praised by judge Miss Bristol, Meg Abernethy-Hope.

continued overleaf



Lady Fellowes admires the Floral Art exhibits.

**Next year's show takes place –
1-4 June 2016**





The 2015 show.



1965 the first show on the permanent showground at Shepton Mallet.

breed history

A Murray Grey cow made breed history by winning a British interbreed beef championship for only the second time on record. The cow, Ashrose Rita, comes from the Ashrose Herd, owned by the late Michael Rosenberg CBE. The herd manager at Pencoed Farm, Carmarthenshire is Wendy Finucane. Reserve was Laity Farms champion South Devon bull, Z Polkinghorne Indiana, who also beat off competition from 112 other South Devon cattle to win the Herd Book Society's National Show.

Muscovy duck

More than 550 birds competed for the prestigious Poultry Club Royal Championship Show with a chocolate and white Muscovy duck taking the honours. Owned by Michael Jackson from St Austell, Cornwall, he also won the championship and reserve championship prizes.



The Red Devils drop in.



Ferret racing.



Alice Newth – with her Supreme Champion pig.

Victoria and Simon Baxter, who grow apples and make cider at Longburton, near Sherborne, were the surprise winners of the British Cider Championship with their dry bottled cider. They beat more than 600 other ciders to the blue riband of cider competitions at Orchard and Cider.

Farmhouse Cider

The Champion British Farmhouse Cider was also made in the West Country with the title won by Denis France, of Handmade Cider, who has been making cider commercially at Slaughterford, near Chippenham for just five years.

The Coopers' Trophy for Craftsmanship in the Cider industry went to the writer and cider historian, James Crowden, for what Orchards and Cider Chairman, Anthony Gibson, described as his "craftsmanship with words".

And the British Cheese Awards featured an array of cheese from across the country with the Supreme Champion named as Barkham Blue Two Hoots Cheese from Berkshire and the Reserve White Lake Cheese from Somerset.

2015 entries



Cattle



Pigs



Horse & Ponies



Sheep



Goat



Poultry & Eggs



Bees & Honey



Cheese



Show Jumping



Shoeing & Iron



Cider



Art

The sheer number and the variety of competitive entries are what makes the Royal Bath & West Show so special.

As these figures demonstrate there is no shortage of produce and animals of all shapes and sizes vying for glory over the four days. Elaborately feathered cockerels have their place, alpacas are now established and horses have their own area but it is the traditional farm animals that are still out in force and maintain the show's reputation as the centre of agricultural excellence.



Ever wondered what the judge is thinking when he looks at a sheep? Experienced show judge **Richard Weir** spills the beans...

Showing sheep...

You can't all be champions but your turn may come. The Sheep world awaits for you to produce that product which will hit the headlines – can you produce it?

... each judge has different priorities as to their perfect animal.

The summer show season produces many winners and champions hoping to impress potential customers to purchase their stock whether it be other breeders or the actual housewife.

Having judged in seven different countries I am always amazed how the standard of stock and preparation varies from country to country. In the UK hours are spent preparing the sheep, but in New Zealand the sheep come straight out of the field, not even halter broken. There the exhibitors are not allowed near the sheep when the judging is in progress – the steward just opens and shuts the gate.



2006 Champion Animal All Livestock – National Rare Breeds Survival Trust Show – Malvern.

great pride

There is no doubt that the UK exhibitors take great pride in the preparation and presentation of their stock as a result of which we have to thoroughly inspect and handle each entry. Inevitably each judge has different ideas as to what makes the perfect animal.

What the judges look for...

Myself I pay great importance to the walking ability of each exhibit. Upon entering the judging ring I ask for each animal to be walked towards me and away from me individually. I then line them up approximately 2-3 feet apart, facing up hill if possible.

I try to examine each sheep with the same amount of time. Each exhibitor has paid their entry fee and expects to be properly inspected. I then assess each sheep's breed characteristics and handle them thoroughly throughout. Each sheep is then walked 3-5 yards away from me and then back to their original position.

The thorough handling and inspection of the sheep needs to be the same for each exhibit. I start with the head – inspect for breed character, then the teeth and feel whether they are correctly positioned onto the upper jaw – they definitely must not protrude past the pad and not more than ¼ inch back from



Richard Weir and his wife with their 1st Prize Lamb 1963.

a judge's view

the edge. This is very essential because if the grazing is short in a dry time the animal will have to spend more time to obtain enough fodder for its daily needs.

Richard Weir judging at the Melbourne Show, Australia 2006. Note the short tails!

winner

I then select what I consider to be the most suitable winner and send it forward approximately 3-5 yards to the top left hand side of the judging ring – I then send forward the 2nd and 3rd and then 4th and 5th. I never change my mind once they are pulled forward, first will stay first and the other exhibitors still in the line up always seem quite happy, as no one is last in the class and they come into the next class eager to get into the final line up. The steward takes your exhibitor number and awards you the prize card, rosette and in some cases a voucher for your prize money.

horns or buds

I generally feel in the polled and hornless breed to check whether there are any small horns or buds – this is not always successful, as the older exhibitors will remove them before the show with a pair of pliers!

continued overleaf

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outline

Coming to the shoulders they must be neatly set in and not protruding from the general outline of the body. Heavy shoulders usually lead to a more difficult lambing and I was once told by an old shepherd, now long gone, that a leg back at lambing means that the lamb is too big in the shoulders or the ewe is lacking in minerals. Going back through the body, the top line must be level, with the ribs well sprung so that the adult sheep has plenty of capacity for her daily food needs.

Coming to the rear end there must be plenty of length and width from the hip bones to the tail head and it must not slope from the hip. Quite obviously the more area here, the easier it should be for the ewe to deliver her lamb. The wool is still important – it must be the same length throughout – the more fibres per inch the better and in the shortwool

breeds at least ten crimps per inch. The wool structure must be the same throughout and definitely not curly on the outside of the hind legs.

each corner

When standing behind the sheep the four legs must be on each corner of the body, being straight down and the hock joints must not be pointing inwards and the feet must be directly under the leg and must not be too long in the fetlock joint – in other words the leg, fetlock joint and feet should be near enough in a straight line when viewed from the side.

With correct leg and feet structure there will be less foot trimming for the owner and the sheep should be more likely to last more years before culling.

first show

After having inspected all the sheep I then ask the steward how many prizes are to be



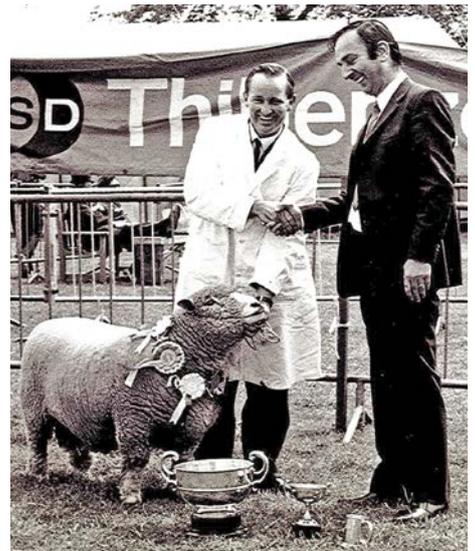
1985 Royal Bath & West Show.

awarded. Whilst the judging is in progress make your sheep stand square and watch the judge – do not talk to the other exhibitors or wave to someone who is watching from outside of the ring.

For your first show, I suggest you enter at a one day show to get to know the procedures and to be able to compare your sheep against other exhibitors. It is the usual practice for the judge to walk around the lines afterwards, so don't be afraid to ask him how you can improve your sheep for the next show.



Richard Weir's father judging in 1953.



Richard Weir winning Reserve All Breeds, 1973.

Champions of the Royal Bath & West Show

Continental Pairs Championship

Exhibitor: JN & LP Dun

How long have you been showing? 8 years.

Why do you do it? We use it as a form of advertising, to let people see the type of animals we are producing to sell.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

A lot of time, care and attention to detail. Washing, grooming, clipping, handling, maintaining high standards of health/bio security.

Can you share any secrets or tips?

Dedication, care and kindness and to put your animals first.

Describe what it felt like to win.

It's a great feeling to win, a huge amount of satisfaction knowing that all our hard work has paid off, and to see that the animals we believe in and love are showing the qualities not only to us but to the judges as well.



Gold Award – Maddens Mellow Cider

Exhibitor: Armagh Cider Company

How long have you been showing? We have been displaying at the Bath & West Show for three years.

Why do you do it? Bath & West Show is England's biggest celebration of rural life so there is no better place to showcase our product range. It's an impressive show at Shepton Mallet and we thrive on showcasing our products among the 500+ other cider producers who participate. The West Country is renowned for being cider country so we are honoured to showcase what County Armagh orchards can produce.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

Ensuring we as a family choose the right ciders, juices and vinegars to showcase. A lot of thought goes into which ciders we put in for an award. As a small family run team we not only bottle for ourselves – we bottle for other companies too so planning for show means we must plan resources carefully. Marketing, branding and PR is also

key as we like to keep our customers fully up to date with what we are doing, what products are coming out to the market and what awards we have won.

Can you share any secrets or tips?

As Northern Ireland's longest established cider producer we tend to keep the tricks of our trade under wraps. We have been producing ciders, apple juices and vinegars from our County Armagh farm for 10 years now and we are proud to have our own bottling facility. Our experience in the production of well presented County Armagh ciders and juices continues to strengthen.

Describe what it felt like to win.

This Gold award for Maddens Mellow Cider reflects the success of our growth and popularity among cider drinkers who want something artisan and totally unique. Our team were delighted to have won this year and we look forward to next year.

continued overleaf



Supreme Championship Beef

Exhibitor: Otter & Co

How long have you been showing? We have been showing Murray Greys since 1992.

Why do you do it? Ultimately as a shop window for our stock and to promote the breed. But we absolutely love the whole experience of showing and everything it involves.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

Lots of hard work! You tend to pick out the show team in January and the preparation begins then. But training of yearling cattle starts at weaning in November. Many hours of hard work are involved in producing a show team – we bring 9 animals out to most shows.

Can you share any secrets or tips?

Not really a secret but it is attention to detail and turning out your team to the highest standard you can. Put the work in at home before the show and all will go a lot more smoothly on the day when it counts.

Describe what it felt like to win.

The feeling of winning a Supreme Championship is awesome! My daughter and I were over the moon and we remained on a high for weeks. It was fantastic and so wonderful for a minority breed to win at such a great agricultural show.



Waterfowl & Eggs Champion

Exhibitor: Sue Black



How long have you been showing?

About 10 years.

Why do you do it?

You get hooked! Also you get to make so many friends all over the country and it's great to catch up at the shows.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

You pick your best bird (or eggs) and enter them, then hope by the time it's the show they are still in good feather. Then you wash them with great care!

Can you share any secrets or tips?

Start with good stock that you can breed from. Then try and hatch early. It's always more fun to show a bird that you have hatched rather than one you have bought in.

Describe what it felt like to win.

It's a great feeling. Obviously you can't always win, but you can still enjoy the show. Having a bird in the Championship Row gives you the chance to be the Champion though – which is great fun!



Fine Art Champion

Exhibitor: Tessa McIntyre

How long have you been showing?

I trained at Bournemouth Municipal College of Art and taught full time. Since retiring I have worked for myself and try to show on a regular basis.

How do you do it?

The work has to begin with observational drawing, on site, in pen and ink with notes on colour. From this, I allow the piece to dictate.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

To produce enough work that I am pleased with for a show. For instance, to prepare for Dorset Arts Week, it takes a year and is about 30 new pieces.

Can you share any secrets or tips?

I have always found landscape to be a great inspiration, but I need to be "in" it. I never use a camera.

Describe what it felt like to win.

Overwhelming! It took a while for it to sink in. I've been able to buy myself a new plan chest with the prize money.



Floral Art Champion

Exhibitor: Janet Jones

How long have you been showing? Second time at the Royal Bath & West. Previously I have exhibited at the Bath Spring Flower Show.

Why do you do it? Royal Bath & West is an excellent show for all those interested in floral art and the South West area of NAFAS actively encourage all members to compete in shows. It is a wonderful opportunity to display all spheres of our art, linking conservation and education with fun and friendship through flowers.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

A lot of thought, time and dedication. Good planning and preparation are paramount. Mock up at least 2 weeks before the show, ensure you have a well stocked work box and your chosen plant material is well conditioned and will last the duration of the show.

Can you share any secrets or tips?

Read the schedule and read it again! Check space allowed per exhibit. No matter how good the exhibit – if it is oversize it will not be judged.

Describe what it felt like to win.

Unbelievable and thrilling and at the same time I was pleased for my mentors who have encouraged and helped me over the years.

Supreme Dairy Champion

Exhibitor: Peachy Holsteins

How long have you been showing? We have been involved with showing all our lives and showing our own animals for the last 7 years.

Why do you do it? It's firstly a hobby for ourselves and our children. It's also a good way to show off your stock.

Explain what it takes to prepare for a show.

The preparation for a milking cow for a show starts the day she has her calf. As for our young stock that starts as soon as we can after they are born: getting used to being handled, putting a halter on and any other thing they may encounter whilst showing. So come show day they are ready for anything!

Can you share any secrets or tips?

There are no secrets or tips – it all comes down to hard work and commitment. I know it sounds very boring, but it's very true.

Describe what it felt like to win.

It was a very proud moment for us all.





For the last three years, the Royal Bath & West of England Society has been leading the way in addressing the problems of the Somerset Levels. But this is by no means the first time that the Society has intervened to shape the future of the Levels for the better, as **Anthony Gibson** explains...

The role of the Bath & West in...

Draining the Levels

The first 30 years or so of the Bath & West's existence was arguably the most influential period in its history. In that time, the Society, in the persons of two of its most distinguished members, Richard Locke of Burnham and John Billingsley of Ashwick Grove, was instrumental in creating two of Somerset's most distinctive landscapes: the drystone walls and four-square farmhouses of the Mendips and the green grid-iron of the Somerset Levels.

...a passionate desire
to see the agricultural
potential of
Somerset realised...

John Billingsley was a remarkable man. "He drained Sedgemoor; he inclosed Mendip; he wrote the Agricultural Survey of Somerset!" declared Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, in delivering Billingsley's eulogy at the Annual Meeting of the Bath & West Society in 1812. And if you couple his name with that of Richard Locke in the 'Sedgemoor' context – by which was meant what we would now regard as the entirety of the Levels and Moors – you wouldn't be far from the truth.

Billingsley and Locke were very different men, from very different backgrounds: the former, a hugely successful industrialist turned farmer, who didn't bother to hide his disdain for the prevailing standard of farming in most of Somerset; the latter, a self-regarding, if philanthropic, surveyor and farmer, who had been preaching the gospel of drainage and enclosure since the middle years of the eighteenth century.

potential of Somerset

What they had in common, and what the foundation of the Bath & West Society in 1777 enabled them to channel, legitimise and publicise, was a passionate desire to see the agricultural potential of Somerset realised, at a time when, thanks to a fast-growing population at home, and war with France abroad, Britain needed every ounce of food it could produce.



If we focus for the purposes of this article on the Levels and Moors, the history was a discouraging one. The two great marshes – Brent Marsh to the north of the Polden ridge and South Marsh to the south of it – were effectively commons, and the small-holders who held the common rights had proved extraordinarily resistant to the prospect of losing their fishing, wild-fowling, turf-cutting and summer grazing to grandiose drainage schemes – especially as they knew they would end up paying for them! James 1, Charles 1 and Oliver Cromwell had all been sent packing. Even Richard Locke had been given, quite literally, a bloody nose, after being set upon and stoned by the locals whilst attempting to survey King’s Sedgemoor in 1769. By 1770 – more than a century and a half on from when Vermuyden and co had transformed the East Anglian fens – two-thirds of the floodable land in Somerset remained un-reclaimed.

In his Agricultural Survey of Somerset, Billingsley was scathing: “The possession of a cow or two, with a hog and a few geese, naturally exalts the peasant in his own conception. In sauntering after his cattle, he acquires a habit of indolence. Day-labour becomes disgusting; the aversion increases by indulgence; and at length the sale of a half-fed cow, or hog, furnishes the means of adding intemperance to idleness.”

prominent public platform

But times were changing. Food prices were high, land values were rising fast, the Enclosures legislation provided a much simpler method for promoting drainage schemes than the old “Courts of Sewers” and, crucially, there was the newly formed Bath & West Society, to give Billingsley and Locke a prominent public platform and to epitomise the improving spirit of the age. In article after article in the Society’s Journal, Billingsley and Locke made the case for drainage and reclamation. Local resistance gradually crumbled, funds were raised and major scheme after major scheme went ahead, each time with the Bath & West’s influential support. Between 1770 and 1840, all of the main rivers – barring, fatefully, the Parrett – had a clyse, or tidal sluice, installed or renewed at their mouths to prevent the high tides from pushing up river, and a new channel, the King’s Sedgemoor Drain, was cut to take the troublesome river Cary to a new outlet at Dunball.

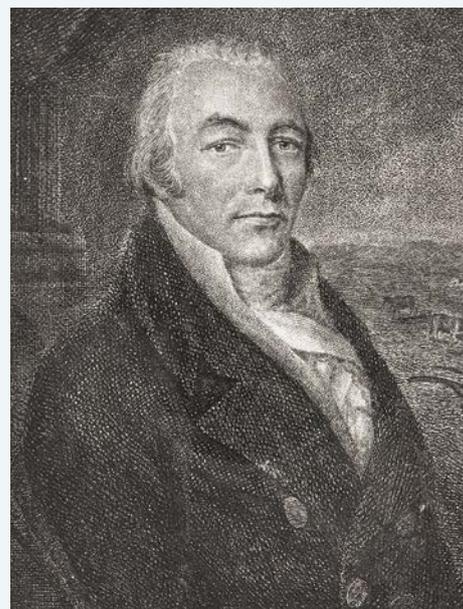
This latter scheme – designed by Locke, engineered by Billingsley – was a particularly bold initiative, involving as it did cutting a deep channel through the belt of clay which separates the peat moors from the coast. All sorts of problems presented themselves – the sill of the sluice was too high; the weight of the spoil on the banks of the new cut forced peat up through the base of the channel, which meant it had to be timbered, at vast expense; and so on. But it was correct in its basic conception – witness the key role, almost two centuries on from its construction, that it played in the evacuation of the floods in the winter of 2014, albeit reinforced by the presence of high-powered mobile Dutch pumps.

‘rhynes’

The main river improvements in turn cleared the way for field drainage, with Billingsley once again providing the blueprint. Open ditches, or ‘rhynes’ as we call them in Somerset, were preferred to hedges for subdividing the new pastures because they were cheaper – 2s per 20 feet, compared with 4s 9d for quickset hedges – they provided water for stock in the summer and they didn’t harbour the flies which farmers suspected annoyed the cattle and slowed their weight gain. In an article for the Bath & West Journal, Billingsley set out his specification for the ideal rhyne: 8 feet wide at the top, 3 and a half feet wide at the bottom and 5 feet deep. Couple that with his engineer’s preference for straight lines, and the landscape of the newly reclaimed moors became one of quite remarkable uniformity. Thus was the green grid-iron created. Billingsley put his stamp on the landscape as few men have ever done.

consequences

The agricultural consequences of this remarkable burst of drainage activity were dramatic. Land values increased by anything up to tenfold. King’s Sedgemoor, ‘a boggy flat of insignificant value’ rose from 2s 6d/acre to 34s in the space of a few years, with some of the best land, further north, commanding rents of close on £10/acre (the equivalent of £970 in today’s money – that’s how profitable farming was during the Napoleonic wars!). Pastures were improved by paring, burning, claying and sometimes warping (deliberate winter flooding) and Billingsley’s hopes were high that arable farming might become the norm.



John Billingsley.

Photo courtesy of: www.bathinme.co.uk

It was not to be. The farmers of the Levels were either dairymen (to the north and east) or cattlemen (in the west and south). They knew little of arable farming, and probably cared less. Besides, there were flaws in some of the major drainage schemes which, coupled with a lack of funds for proper maintenance and an increased flow of water thanks to drainage in the upper catchment, meant that flooding was still an all too frequent occurrence, even in the summer months.

But still, large parts of Somerset had been transformed. Where thousands of geese once grazed, now there were hundreds of ruby red Devon cattle; the marshes had become pastures; the commoners – some of them anyway – had progressed to the status of small-holders, without ever quite losing their fondness for a spot of wild-fowling, fishing and a glass of cider! In an extended ‘letter’ to the Bath & West Society in 1796, harking back to the time when he was stoned on King’s Sedgemoor, Richard Locke was able to boast “that the neighbourhood is two millions the richer for the shedding of my blood”.

So what are the lessons in all of this for the present situation on the Levels, where Somerset County Council is leading the implementation of a 20 year Flood Action Plan? Two main ones, I think. The first is that no matter how well thought out a scheme may be, its value will rapidly fade if it is not maintained. And the second is that you not only need to show leadership, but also to carry the farmers of the Levels with you, to achieve lasting change. The Bath & West is as uniquely well placed to do that now, as it was 240 years ago.



Rachael Hann, Show Organiser.



Grassland UK 2015

Grassland UK 2015 took place on 7th May welcoming over 7,500 visitors returning to the fields adjacent to the showground with working grass machinery, muck demonstrations and handlers in the grass clamp.

A great day of trading, talking and activity took place...

The site spanned over 100 acres with static trade stands sited in the red car park area of the showground, with great proximity to the other car parks enabling the use of the showground's permanent infrastructure.



Crowds watch clamp demos in action.

Over 180 exhibitors attended the Show, the majority reporting a fantastic day of trading and seeing quality customers.

sponsors and supporters

Our major sponsors were Agrii and Origin Fertilisers and the media campaign was in association with Farmers Weekly. Other sponsors and supporters included Galebreaker, Ecosyl, BPI Visqueen, Santander, Secure Covers, Trident Feeds, Cannington Centre Bridgwater College, Wiltshire College Lackham, John Deere Limited, Massey Ferguson (Highwood), Same Deutz Fahr, Farnlink and North Somerset Agricultural Society.



Working grass plot.

The British Grassland Society and DairyCo hosted a programme of seminars which proved popular and topical with a good attendance of visitors.

The Show welcomed Lady Fellowes, Joint President of Royal Bath & West of England Society, who met farmers and talked to many exhibitors whilst touring the entire Show site. The Award for the Best Trade Stand, The Mark Dunford Memorial Trophy, was presented to Oliver Seeds.

preparing the farm

Adams & Dunford worked alongside the Show Team preparing the farm for the Show. A reseed and overseed took place in September 2014 which offered plenty of challenges with the unusually dry September which followed. Luckily the spring brought better growing conditions and by the 7th May the sward was a good crop of grass.

The previous day's rain provided a few challenges with muddy ground conditions



Latest machinery being showcased.



Clamp demo.

during set up but the day of the Show was drier and saw crowds of farmers stream through the gates. A great day of trading, talking and activity took place with much to see and discover.

demonstrations

Crowds gathered in the farmyard to watch the clamp demonstrations, which were well attended all day. Out in the fields, new machinery and equipment was demonstrated such as Hi-Spec Engineering's Kompactor trailer, which compacts forage loads by up to 40%; JW Fabrication's standalone silage

bulker – a conveyor system designed to move or load large quantities of forage easily and Cordex's ID bale wrap, which uses barcoding and a virtual identity card for complete traceability of silage bales.

Grassland UK was again a successful Show made possible by tremendous support from our exhibitors and sponsors, Adams & Dunford – our tenant farm business, neighbouring landowners, our hard working volunteer stewards, competent contractors and the fantastic team of staff.



Mowing.



Tedder on show.



Bale wrapping.



Collecting grass.



Viewing the latest machinery.







Never has it been so important to emphasise the link between farming and food, as the 2016 show will reflect, explains **George Streatfeild**.

Bath & West food a

In the post war years of the Royal Bath & West Show (RBWS), the emphasis was on helping farmers feed the nation. "Never again will this Country be held to ransom" was the political message. The Show responded to this message by developing the Agricultural demonstrations Committee to help educate farmers and support them in increasing agricultural production including milk, corn, beef and sheep from the West Country.

Quality, provenance and uniqueness are features which have been encouraged.

As British Agriculture became more successful in its task and food more plentiful, and as consumers became more affluent, better travelled and discerning in their choice of food, there became a need to differentiate between producers and brand



Smoked fish from Chesil Smokery.



Handmade artisan Sausage Rolls.

individual products. Adding Value and diversification became the watch-words of the 1980s (it still is!) As before, the RBWS led from the front; this time by creating the opportunity for farmers and food producers to sell directly to consumers by initiating the British Farm Food Fair.

uniqueness

The last 25 years have seen the Food Hall offering at the RBWS grow and change. Quality, provenance and uniqueness are features which have been encouraged. When the British Farm Food Fair was created, there was no meat or bread sold. Great efforts were required to find a butcher who would promote and sell British meat. This hard work paid off and now meat products are a major part of the Food Hall.

The area given to the Food Hall grew as demand increased. In the early 1990s Taste of the West took its own marquee to promote only West Country food and drink. A second Hall opened up at the bottom of Exmoor Hall in what had previously been the Carcass Competition building. Then in 2014 on another side of the main hall, the Small Producers market opened; the RBWS was working to encourage and enable small producers, who often find a 4 day show very demanding to come and show their wares.

where it comes from

As generations pass, consumers have become increasingly divorced from their source of food and drink; they do not know who grows it, how it is grown or from where it comes. There is little understanding of

Food and drink 2016



Fresh pies and pastries from Rose Cottage Pantry.

soil, water or the environment and their importance to crops and animals. The RBWS's Food Hall provides the link between farming and the consumers. Visitors come to the show, see the animals, farm machinery

and demonstrations but it is not until they visit the Food Halls that they can make the connection between the pig being shown further down the site with the bacon or sausage they taste.



West Country traditional cheesemaker Westcombe Dairy.



Everyone loves pancakes!

food chain story

In the RBWS's drive to improve the food chain story, the Food Halls need to further develop. Therefore 2016 will witness a dramatic change in location, layout and emphasis but still with the high quality food and drink which our visitors rightly expect, in line with the quality of the rest of their day out. The Food Halls will move right into the heart of the showground and onto the Village Green site. In the centre of the green will be a tented area with seating and music allowing show visitors to relax and enjoy their meal and drink in a great atmosphere. This will be the hub and the spokes will be food-to-go stalls radiating out from the centre. To one side will be a large wooden floored marquee with food and drink producers selling products to take home alongside a number of Food-to-go stalls as well. The entire area's emphasis will be on quality and provenance and focus where possible, but not exclusively, on West Country. British will be a strong theme as well. Using large signs and banners at each entrance to the area and more of the feather flags used in the last 2 years, it will be branded as "Bath & West Food and Drink".

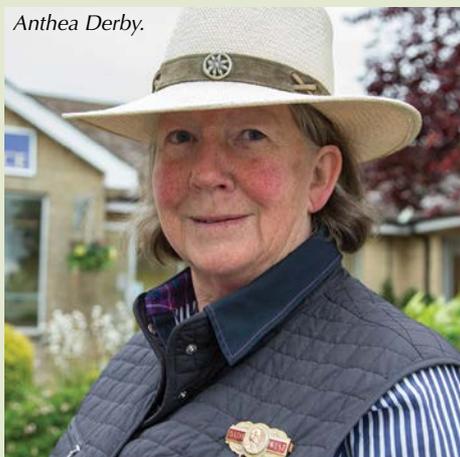
By way of reinforcing the relationship between the food and drink which we eat and where it comes from, how it is produced and grown, we shall link with both Farming for the Family, which is below us, and the Horticultural section, which is above us. We shall exploit the synergies between us all.

Stewards Q&A

Stewards form the backbone of the main show and some have been coming for several decades to give freely of their time.

We have asked some of them to explain what they do.

Anthea Derby.



ANTHEA DERBY Chief Steward of Horses

Length of Service at the show First competed (on a Welsh pony) at the Show in 1958

Profession when not at the show Officially I am retired, after 30 years in computers, but currently active as a Granny etc.

Where do you live? 8 miles from the Showground, I rode here on a Show Hunter once when the lorry would not start, (and he won a prize).

What does your stewarding job entail both before and during the show? A very good question, but it starts immediately, when one show ends and the preparation for the next show begins. During the show itself, the Horse Stewards' Hut endeavours to present a serene atmosphere to the world when actually it may be a little different.

What is the most challenging aspect of it? Survival!

What is the most enjoyable aspect? The comradeship within the Horse Section and the B&W Staff, and the opportunity of seeing so many top quality horses and ponies year after year.

Why do you do it? I often ask myself that question, but I suspect it is because I love it.

How did you become involved? Initially as an exhibitor, then because of my husband, Richard Derby, who was a Chief Horse Steward and briefly became Chairman of Horses before he died in 1999.

What is the most amusing thing to happen to you while stewarding at the show? The senior Judges and Stewards panicking when they thought all the Dartmoor ponies were too small in height only to discover that they were Shetland ponies instead.

In addition, early one morning, one of the Birdman's Cranes landed beside the horses lined up in Ring 2; it paused long enough for the Judge to award marks for Type, but left the ring as the Movement marks were allocated, causing instant disqualification. The Chief Horse Steward then had to contact the Chief Main Ring Steward to inform him, before his breakfast, that one of his Display items had gone AWOL and the reply was memorable.

What are the show highlights for you? The day before the Show starts and you think that everything is ready and seeing in the distance some of the iconic features on the showground, Main ring with Show Jumps, the Helter-skelter and the buildings over by Livestock displaying the Royal Bath & West Banners. When I retire, I am looking forward to listening to the music on the Bandstand and having the time to ride on the Carousel and the Steam Railway.



Clive Ross.

CLIVE ROSS

Chief Steward of Main Ring

Length of Service at the show Approx 20 years

Profession when not at the show Farmer and Garden Designer

Where do you live? Child Okeford in North Dorset

What does your stewarding job entail both before and during the show? As a Steward of the Main Ring before the Show I check the Main Ring timetable which is arranged by the office, and if necessary suggest any changes. The day before the show opens there are several rehearsals in the main ring ensuring that myself, my stewards and the arena party are fully aware of everything that is required allowing the whole programme to run smoothly. During the show most of my time is spent with my eye on the clock and keeping everyone involved in the main ring informed in case there are any changes in timings or conditions of the surface.

What is the most challenging aspect of it? Timings. It is always very difficult to judge how long some show classes or jumping classes are going to take, as you never know exactly how many are going to come forward. A jumping class may have 25 forward and you could well have up to ten clear rounds going forward to the jump off. The course has to be changed and then the arena cleared before the next act can start in the ring. It is very easy for the timetable to slip back which then involves informing all the following performances of the changes to timings. It is impossible to hold back 150 cattle once they leave the cattle lines for the Grand Parade! Similarly, I hate to see an empty ring. If

a class finishes early we have to then try to spin things out for a bit longer. Pony Club Games and the Hound Parade always oblige.

My other big worry is the condition of the ground. If we have a wet show and some of the Main Ring demonstrations involve wheeled vehicles, the ground can cut up badly. If it gets damaged early in the show it is virtually impossible to repair it. I have to bear in mind the fact that the course builders have to have enough good ground to build several courses for the remaining days.

What is the most enjoyable aspect? Without a doubt it is meeting the people who are involved both within the Society and those who participate in the Main ring, whether it is competitors, performers, commentators and the general public.

Why do you do it? Whilst I spend most of the four days on my feet and walk miles. I have the most wonderful time at the show. It is without a doubt the best Agricultural Show in the country and I am very proud to play a small part in it.

How did you become involved? I met Michael Barnes after Church on Christmas Day in Sturminster Newton and got talking to him. Before I knew it I had a letter from the Society asking me if I would become a Steward.

What is the most amusing thing to happen to you while stewarding at the show? I think that the Thursday evening of the 2008 Show when the heavens opened and the showground became a lake. Whilst the powers that be struggled to make decisions about the continuation of the show, I and several hundred others stood in the Cider and Orchards tent in Wellington boots with a river running through the middle drinking cider as though nothing was wrong! Because the Council tent was also under water the only place serving food that evening was the Westex Restaurant and everyone staying on site congregated there. In true British spirit they managed to produce over nine hundred meals. Performing that night were a band called the Somerset Paddies and I can well recall several stewards up on the stage singing Irish Rebel songs well into the early hours! A truly memorable night never to be repeated. And the following morning the Show opened on time!

What are the show highlights for you? When the sun shines for four days, the crowds flock in, everyone is happy and has a smile on their face and the Show goes off with a bang, that makes it all worthwhile.

MARIE HANDEL

Chief Steward of the Sheep Section

Length of Service at the show I first started as a sheep steward in 1994 after leaving college and starting my first job in Somerset. I became Chief Steward in 2004 (I think?).

Profession when not at the show Chartered Surveyor, Agricultural Valuer and a Director of Humberts based in Taunton.

Where do you live? Near Membury, Axminster

What does your stewarding job entail both before and during the show? When one show finishes the preparation for the next show begins with the selection of our sheep judges. We have to find 40 capable and competent judges to judge our 28 sheep breed classes and other classes such as the Interbreed Championships, Young Handler Competitions, fleece competitions etc which are judged over the 4 days. During the Autumn the schedule of judging is fine tuned with over 230 classes.

The sheep entries close during the middle of April and, based on our 2015 entries, we would expect to receive almost 1,300 individual entries involving over 1,000 sheep and 140 different exhibitors. Once the entries have been collated by the office, the final judging programme is set and a penning layout is produced, squeezing all of the sheep into the 700 available pens. A day is spent boxing up the judging books, rosettes, trophies and prize money.

After all the pens have been labelled with the names of the exhibitors occupying them, the exhibitors and their sheep start arriving on the Monday and throughout the Monday and Tuesday the sheep are unloaded and penned up with all their feed and kit.

A full day of judging takes place on the Wednesday with 3 judging times (0900, 1130 and 1400) and 8 judging rings. During this time the judges and stewards have to be met and briefed, girl guides distributed to collect results and, thanks to our commentator, the passing crowds are entertained with what is going on. Like many jobs these days, the paperwork is endless, from collecting and handing out movement forms to collating the results and class winners ready for the following days' judging.

Both Thursday and Friday mornings involve the Interbreed judging. This is a big showcase



for our section, with all of the best sheep in each breed being judged against each other to find the best sheep in the show. On Friday morning it is also the turn of the youngsters to show off their skills in the Young Handler and Stockmaster competitions. Both afternoons involve the Grand Parade of livestock in which all champion and first prize winners are paraded around the main ring.

From 1600 on Friday evening the majority of these sheep leave the showground and then the preparation for a new lot of sheep to arrive for the Saturday show begins. Pens have to be cleaned out, re bedded and re labelled for Saturday morning ready for another 160 sheep to arrive which follows another morning of judging and an afternoon parade.

It has to be said that none of this would happen without the hard work carried out by the show office and the help of my fellow stewards

What is the most challenging aspect of it? Initially fitting all the sheep into pens in the sheep marquees and setting a judging timetable involving 140 exhibitors, many with multiple breeds, so that they aren't expected to show more than one breed at any one time in a different ring. Some exhibitors also show cattle or pigs which also has to be factored in. Once the show begins you have to try to keep the 140 exhibitors happy and the timetable of events flowing.

What is the most enjoyable aspect? Watching the sheep judging on the Wednesday. You can stand at the top of the sheep section and watch all 8 judging rings full of sheep being judged in their immaculately prepared grass judging rings. All the preparation work has then been worth it.

continued overleaf

continued from previous page

Then watching the Interbreed judging on the Thursday and Friday when the best sheep of each breed is judged against each other to find the best sheep in the show.

Why do you do it? The lead up to the show is always very busy at a time when my day job is also busy and at that time I do wonder why I do it. But ultimately the challenge of running a successful section and making the week enjoyable for the sheep competitors is always rewarding, once the initial sigh of relief that everything has gone ok and the exhaustion by the end of the week has passed.

How did you become involved? My parents have always shown Dorset Down sheep. With the Bath & West Show taking place during the half term showing at the Bath & West was always regarded as a holiday. Therefore since a very early age we have always shown and stayed at the show. Then, when I left college I was persuaded by the Chief Steward, Anthony Lang, to help as a steward.

What is the most amusing thing to happen to you while stewarding at the show? – in 2008 the sheep section flooded. We had water everywhere. But despite the chaos everyone worked together to get sheep moved and pens re bedded with dry straw. During all the commotion one exhibitor was seen sat on a bale of straw, in his shorts, in the middle of the sheep marquee surrounded by a lake of water, drinking from a bottle of port. He wasn't worried about all that was going on around him.

What are the show highlights for you? Seeing the Grand Parade of livestock in the main ring showcasing the quality and quantity of livestock at the show, watched by a packed ringside and grandstand.

PATRICK PALMER

Chief Steward of Power of the Past

Length of Service at the show 36 years.

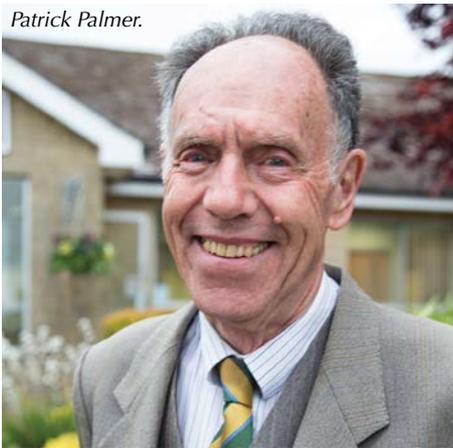
Profession when not at the show Farmer (semi-retired).

Where do you live? Martock, Somerset.

What does your stewarding job entail both before and during the show? Chairing Power of the Past meetings. Making sure that my stewards are carrying out their responsibilities both in and out of show to ensure that we have the right number and type of steam engines, vintage tractors, vintage agricultural lorries and static stands to present a safe demonstration of past agricultural machines to the paying public.

What is the most challenging aspect of it? Making sure that both our valued exhibitors and visitors have a happy, fulfilled and safe show

Patrick Palmer.



with plenty of camaraderie and feeling that they must come back next year.

What is the most enjoyable aspect? Meeting everyone connected with my section whom I only see once a year and the warm welcome they give me, thus making me feel that all the hard work put in for the rest of the year to prepare for the show is really worthwhile.

Why do you do it? I enjoy the challenge of running my section including making sure the parades are on time, the public including children are enjoying a safe environment whilst being educated on the important history of farm machinery.

How did you become involved? In 1979 I was elected County Chairman of Somerset and South Avon NFU and was invited to join the Bath & West Council for that year, the then Chief Executive James Myatt asked me to join what was then the Machinery and Demonstrations Committee, becoming Chief Steward some 13 years ago.

What is the most amusing thing to happen to you while stewarding at the show? Seeing the sheer amazement, shock and wonder of around 40,00 people looking up at Concorde which circumnavigated the show twice escorted by a Harrier after I, together with the late Jock Cunningham, had fixed it but were sworn to secrecy. No one, not even the Chairman or Chief Executive, knew it was coming except he and I. That I will never forget!

Also observing Peter Bishop of Bath and Wells dressed in his regalia attempting to drive a steam engine!

What are the show highlights for you? Seeing the owners and drivers of the machines all getting together and enjoying each others company, mostly only meeting once a year at the Bath & West Show. Also seeing our paying public getting good value for their ticket money in our section.

Paul Meatyard.



PAUL MEATYARD

Chief Steward of Poultry & Small Animals

Length of Service at the show 20 years.

Profession when not at the show Leisure Industry

Where do you live? Cornwall.

What does your stewarding job entail both before and during the show? Source Judges, Draw up schedules, Check entries, order penning, stage pens, work out penning staging etc.

What is the most challenging aspect of it? Organizing stewards, exhibitors problems.

What is the most enjoyable aspect? When exhibitors and public say how wonderful, well organized and how successful the show was.

Why do you do it? I enjoy the show and I enjoy promoting the poultry, also meeting old friends.

How did you become involved? I started exhibiting back in 1979, and over the years I got more involved with the society and realized that I could be an asset to the section. I was invited to join the committee twenty years ago, and six years ago I joined the Council and was elected to Chief Steward three years ago.

What is the most amusing thing to happen to you while stewarding at the show? I was taking Adam Henson (Countryfile) around the Poultry Breed Club stands, when a little boy approached Adam and said "are you the man off the tele?" Adam replied "yes, I am Adam and your name is?" and he replied "William" and the little boy then said "does this mean I am on the tele?" and Adam said "no, but I think you might be in the paper as that man is taking a lot of photos".

What are the show highlights for you? Seeing the build up of the show, receiving of exhibits, meeting the Judges and then setting them on their way for their task and seeing the winners enjoying themselves celebrating their success.



Alan Lyons, Head of Shows.



Judging.

South Devon National Show 2015

As a past Breed Secretary to the South Devon Herd Book Society I was delighted when Caroline Poultney the current Breed Secretary approached me to ask if we would host the National Show in 2015.

...the Royal Bath & West Show has pulled out all the stops to welcome us.



Cow with calf at foot.

great job

The Herd Book Society did a great job in promoting the event; and at the Showground we used South Devon images in all the marketing of the Show. The result was tremendous with 25 exhibitors exhibiting 95 cattle in the breed classes.

Once the breed classes were completed the South Devons took centre stage within the Interbreed Championships. In the interbreed classes the crowd was delighted to applaud Laity Farm's Z Polkinghorne Indiana as Reserve Supreme Champion. Welland Valley Claudia 12 was Reserve Champion Junior Beef Heifer. Plus South Devons led the Grand Parade in the Main Ring each day.

Awards Dinner

The South Devon Society held a number of activities during the Show, including an Awards Dinner on the Showground; and an evening barbecue at Higher Farm, Shepton

Montague which was very kindly hosted by Mr and Mrs Robert Dimond.

Young Handler Competition

On the third day of the show, highlights included a Young Handler Competition for 11-15 year olds which was won by Oliver Laity; and a parade of some 40 South Devons which provided a tremendous spectacle for the crowd.



Grand parade of prize winning South Devons.

Society President Mrs Diana Rusher, the Burrow herd, Minehead, Somerset, congratulated all the exhibitors, and said that she had attended all of the National Shows and that the standard of cattle had risen at each and every one of them.

excellent condition

Breed Secretary Caroline Poultney commented, "It is a great credit to breeders to bring their cattle to our National Show in such excellent condition and displaying tremendous breed character, and the Royal

Bath & West Show has pulled out all the stops to welcome us."

build on this

This has been the second National Beef breed show we have hosted and the common reaction from both breeds is how welcome they were made to feel by staff and stewards, and how we made the event "special" for their exhibitors and members. We hope to build on this and actively work with other breeds to give them the same warm "West Country" welcome in the future.



Reserve Champion Female, A&C Farms.



Colin Johnston, our archivist, takes another nugget from the archive.



Judging Hampshire Down shearlings.

Looking back... the Society's Bristol Show of 1931

In the midst of the great financial depression of the early 1930s the Society's Secretary F.H. Storr had reason to be cheerful in presenting his annual report. Decisions taken that year to reduce Show days from five to four, and offer cheap entry at one shilling to afternoon visitors, had averted financial disaster but still achieved a successful Show. Visitor admissions at 59,976 were up 20% on the previous two years, even if ticket income was down 10% at £6,480.

...the Showground offered exhibitors and competitors a record amount of space...

"It can be claimed unhesitatingly as another of the long line of successful Shows held in Bristol. When it is remembered through what a serious depression the country was passing, and how badly many Agricultural Societies fared in the course of the season, it is remarkable that not only the quality of the exhibits was so universally high, but that the financial results were distinctly good."

record amount of space

At the Ashton Court site, the Showground offered exhibitors and competitors a record amount of space for Implements and Machinery, a record number of entries in the Horse Section, and the highest amount of prize-money ever provided.

The Society demonstrated its own innovation with the appointment for the first time of a



The Show Works team 1931.

Show Director to co-ordinate the work of the Show Stewards. Lord Radnor was appointed, and found time to address visitors on the benefits of electricity to rural populations for agricultural as well as domestic use. He stated that he had seen more electricity in use at this Show than at any other, and the quantity of electrically run machinery was the finest he had ever seen. He conceded that electricity suppliers could not "reduce charges to the level of the oil-lamp, but electricity should be made so attractive that the cottager could not fail to realize the true economy of electricity."

National Mark

Innovation was also strongly promoted at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' stand, where the government's National Mark scheme was displayed. The National Mark was a newly introduced route to better

standardization and marketing of British agricultural produce, to raise awareness of "the value of a national brand" and to "create a definitive bias towards home produce". The exhibition was designed to encourage shoppers to purchase Home or Empire foodstuffs, and also to stimulate suppliers and packers to sign up to the scheme as further categories of foods such as cheese and honey were added to the scheme.



Cattle judging at the 1931 Show.



VIP guests at the Opening ceremony.

The Forestry Section display could undoubtedly claim the oldest exhibit with a 4,000 year-old piece of wood from Egypt and 700 year-old wood from West Pennard. The newly-formed British Wood Preserving Association used these museum items to explain that unless wood formed its own preservation in natural conditions (such as these exhibits) then artificial preservation methods were necessary, such as creosote. Under the caption How Wood Preserves Wood the use of coal-based products were demonstrated, with the prediction "It may mean the salvation of the mining industry in this country and at any rate the distillation of wood preservatives opens up a well-nigh unlimited field."

A stark reminder of the times, and the high unemployment of the great depression, is the Ministry of Labour's stand offering employment possibilities to those in need, and boasting that Show exhibitors and caterers had given temporary work to 300 local people as salesmen, demonstrators, handymen, barmen, and waitresses.

Extensive coverage of the Show by the Western Daily Press has provided us with most of our insight into the attractions on offer. It is of equal interest to us today as it was in 1931 to learn that Messrs. Smith & Co. of Wells Road in Bristol exhibited at Stand 101 their steel hay-barns, one measuring 45 feet long with a 20 feet span priced at £41.

with gold fittings

The domestic plumbers Arthur Scull & Sons of Bristol exhibited at Stand 167 "a complete bathroom suite in all black vitreous ware with gold fittings." The press report adds "The use of chromium plating is another step forward adopted by this firm, who specialise in every way to reduce the amount of labour in the house to a minimum."

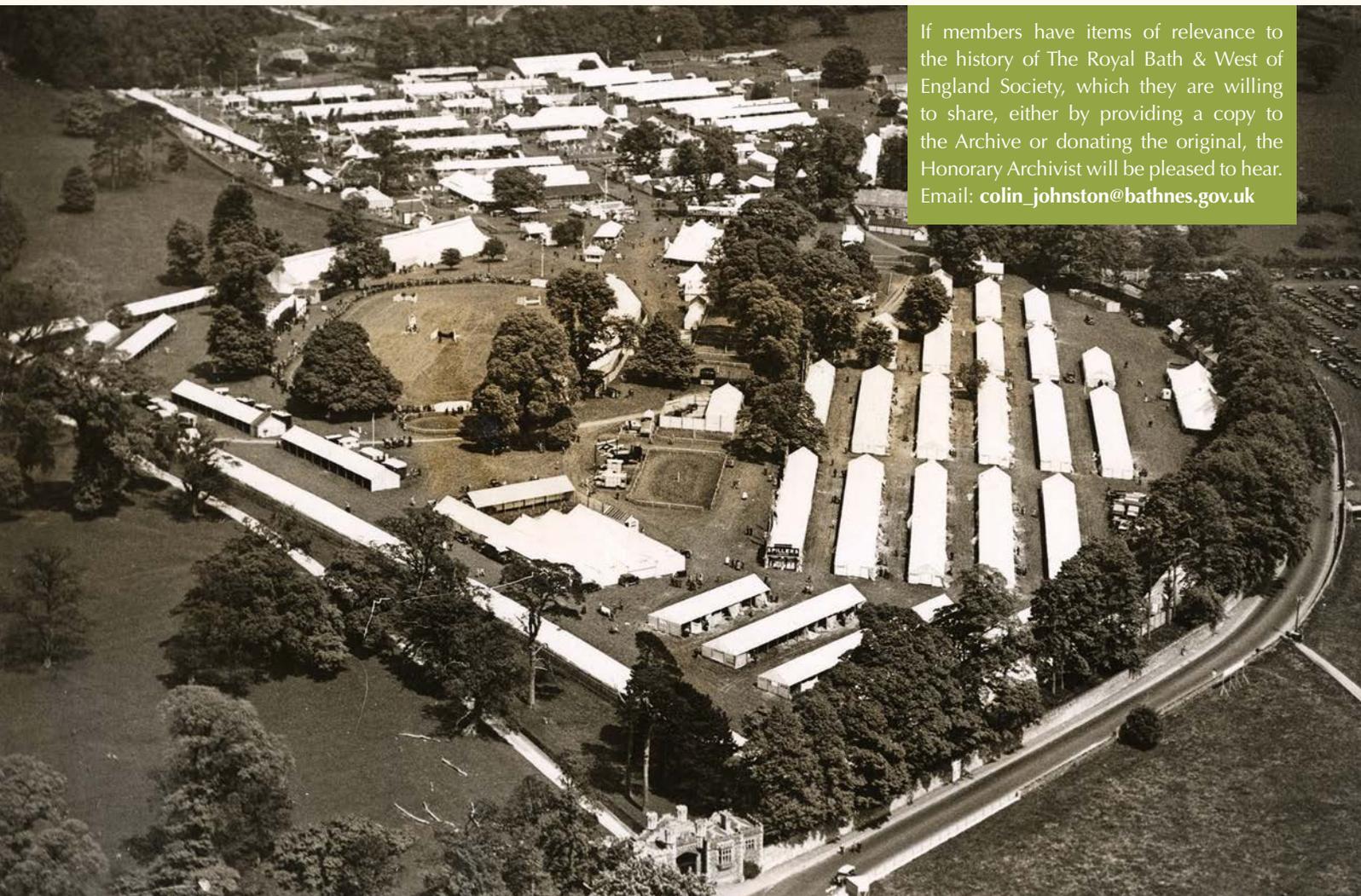
Somerset schools displayed and competed in rural crafts, but the children of Bedminster, Bristol, turned up en masse at the Show to demonstrate modern physical training in dance, exercises, and games with 2,500 performers in the Horse Ring. Press reports announced that all this was achieved "without ground markings and without rehearsal."



Judging line for goats.

assisting the urbanite

The impact on Bristol of the Show's visit was recognised by the local press in a fitting tribute to the work of the Society, still valid today: "It deserves to be remembered that agriculture is not one industry, but many industries. By assisting the urbanite to comprehend the countryside, to appreciate its achievements, the Bath & West is assisting towards a closer and more sympathetic relationship between town and country."



If members have items of relevance to the history of The Royal Bath & West of England Society, which they are willing to share, either by providing a copy to the Archive or donating the original, the Honorary Archivist will be pleased to hear. Email: colin_johnston@bathnes.gov.uk



Alan Lyons, Head of Shows.

The Dairy Show 2015

Jersey scoops the Supreme for second year running

Jersey **Jubilee Excitation Ceres 2**, owned by Mr and Mrs Dawe, scooped the coveted Supreme Championship for the second year running and the winner proved to a popular one with the crowd packed around the judging ring. The Award was presented by The Royal Bath & West of England Society President Michael Eavis. Reserve Champion went to the Holstein **Davlea Goldwyn Pledge 2** exhibited by BL Davies & Son from Ilminster.



Cattle judging at the show.

the place to be if you're involved within the dairy industry



Waiting for the result.

The Dairy Show sponsored by Micron Bio-Systems, Pearce Seeds Ltd and British Solar Renewables was the place to be if you're involved within the dairy industry, which was held at the Bath & West Showground on Wednesday 7 October.

The Show attracted over 6,500 visitors on the day and displayed the very latest in technology and services to the finest dairy cattle in the country.

milk prices

The drop in milk prices was the heated topic of the day and the much anticipated Speakers Corner held by Farmers Guardian proved to be a popular venue for farmers to voice their concerns.



Lyndon Edwards receiving the award on behalf of Nicholas Saphir from Adrian Crane of Yeo Valley.





Supreme Champion Jersey 'Jubilee Excitation Ceres 2', owned by Mr & Mrs Dawe.

The Dairy Industry Dinner was once again held on the eve of the show with 400 guests from across the dairy industry. We welcomed new sponsors Yeo Valley, Barbers, Godminster, Rodda's, Wyke Farms, Lye Cross Farm, and Crediton Dairy – all seven West Country family dairy businesses working together. The reception was sponsored by Burges Salmon. The Dairy Industry Award, this year went to Nicholas Saphir, Executive Chairman of OMSCo (Organic Milk Suppliers Co-operative).

Dairy Vet of the Future

The Dairy Vet of the Future Award, sponsored by ForFarmers was awarded to Samuel Bowker who studied at Cambridge University.

Over 310 Trade exhibitors from across the country attended the ever popular Dairy Show and it was a tight contest for the trade stand awards. Lely scooped the Gold award for the best External stand. The Internal stand award went to Sealed Air-Deosan.



Lilly Dimond taking part in her first show.

The next Dairy Show takes place – 5th October 2016.



Trade stands doing business at the show.



Getting advice.



Speakers Corner in full flow.



Rupert Cox, Chief Executive

Regeneration & Development

It is now approaching ten years since the Society first discussed the development potential on our Showground and in the intervening years many have felt that the whole idea was a mere pipedream, while some have questioned the decision. However, the need to release capital for improving facilities on our Showground were, and remain, the key driver for a decision that I know has a level of contention associated with it.

...2015 being a distinct watershed year for the future of the Society and its Showground.

In February 2012 the Society entered into a fifteen year Development Agreement with a joint venture between Sir Robert McAlpine Enterprises Ltd and London & Wharfedale Ltd called "Red Kite Securities Ltd". Since then our development partner has been building the case for commercial development on allocated areas of the Showground with 2015 being a distinct watershed year for the future of the Society and its Showground.

Successes in 2015 included:

- 1 The construction of our first investment, The Mendip Free School (MFS), was started with an anticipated opening of September 2016. The school, sited on five acres of land to the north of the Showground, will host up to 150 young people with autistic learning difficulties.
- 2 The MFS has necessitated road improvements to the Purple Entrance that will improve access to the top of the Showground and the remainder of the development area.



New horse area being prepared for the 2017 Show.



New school project underway.

- 3 Mendip District Council has allocated some of the Showground "Local Development Order" status which simply means that companies wishing to invest in that part of the Showground have a fast track into the planning process, and will receive huge discounts on their business rates for a set period. This makes the Showground a competitive site to invest.
- 4 DEFRA have recognised the Showground as a Food Enterprise Zone, and while it is unclear what this means in practice, it has opened doors for us to approach food and drink related businesses who want to be part of our evolution and access funding that could support such investments onto the Showground.
- 5 Two more strong investment enquiries are being worked up during the end of 2015 in the hope that they will come forward during 2016.
- 6 We have started to re-invest some of the proceeds from the first project into realigning where the equine activities will take place from 2017 onwards. From 2017 all equine related traffic will enter the Showground via the A37, parking in what we call Green Car Park, with the equine activities taking pride of place on entry at the Green Entrance covering nearly 20 acres of the Showground.

momentum

The momentum built up during the year we hope will feed into 2016 with the Society's 4 year business plan estimating the release of 5 acres per year for a variety of investments for long term lease or rental. This will have an effect on the layout of the Showground, but it will not affect the future of our Shows as we try to build a business model that keeps the Society at the Showground for the next 50 years.



Rupert Cox, Chief Executive



The Hills to Levels Project

funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery

The Society was very influential in supporting farmers affected by the flooding across the Somerset Levels during the winters of both 2013 and 2014. Over £333,000 was distributed to farmers facing hardship at that difficult time, but when the floods subsided and normality resumed, the Society continued to show leadership in trying to mitigate against similar events.

...set about raising funds to create a project that supported farmers...

Working in partnership with the Farm Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW), Somerset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB, the Society set about raising funds for a project that supported farmers to manage their land differently in an effort to prevent possible future flooding.

community land trusts

Funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery, the two-year £750,000 Hills to Levels project provides advice on natural flood management, as well as small capital grants to invest in land management and flood mitigation measures, such as silt traps and leaky ponds. In addition, the project is researching into the feasibility of the creation of a community land trust to manage less commercially viable land on the Levels.

During 2015, over 290 farm visits were made

by the project, with £25,000 in capital grants being allocated, so while it is early days, we see 2016 being the year when the project can really make a difference in supporting the newly formed Somerset Rivers Authority to deliver the Land Management strand of their 20-year Flood Action Plan.

influence

The Society continues to influence the strategic agenda associated with the Flood Action Plan, by working toward creating an informal Land Management Advisory Group, under the Chairmanship of Edwin White, with the purpose of reviewing, scrutinising and advising on policy development for land management in the hope that in future years we are better equipped to cope with the unmanageable flooding that the county has endured in recent years.



L-R: Edwin White (SLDF Chairman), Bryony Sadler, community flood campaigner; and members of the Hills to Levels partnership project: Catherine Page, Hills to Levels Co-ordinator at Bath & West; Catherine Mowat, Somerset Wildlife Trust; Ben Thorne, FWAG SouthWest; Phil Brewin, Flood campaigner and IDB ecologist; Tony Whitehead, RSPB; Richard Bradford, RSPB.



The support of The Prince's Countryside Fund was also an integral part of the project.

£50,000 was donated to support mapping of the optimum sites in the upper catchments of the

Somerset Levels and Moors where local flooding caused by run-off can be reduced. This enabled the targeting of potential sites for installing natural flood management features.

The mapping data has provided an opportunity to engage with landowners on the factors that contribute to run-off and develop ownership of the "catchment based approach" to dealing with water management. This targeting and scoping work will provide the evidence base for this ongoing delivery work in the upper catchment, helping to reduce the occurrence of long-term flooding on the Somerset Levels, and the amount of sediment transported from the upper catchment into the rivers.



Richard Calver, Bath & West Enterprises Board Chairman.

B&W Enterprises

2015 has been, as always an extremely busy year for Bath & West Enterprises. We have played host to back to back events that have attracted over 750,000 people to the Showground.

...we have already seen an increase in bookings for these rooms.

There has been a significant increase in midweek lettings due to an increased effort to try and host several events at the same time. This year has seen the refurbishment of the new 'Wessex Suite', the new 'Art Gallery' and the completion of the Lounge refurbishment allowing us a fantastic range of rooms and facilities to offer to current or new clients that can cater for an eclectic mix of purposes. As a result of these changes, we have already seen an increase in bookings for these rooms.



Soul Survivor.



Color Me Rad.



Carole Nash Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show.

A quote from the Soul Survivor events team...

“The Showground Staff were most helpful in the successful execution of our events and they were, as always, a pleasure to work with. There are, as with anything, lessons to learn, but we look forward to doing that together in the coming years”

- Spring**
- VMCC
 - Wedding Daze
 - Antique Fair
 - West Country Game Fair
 - Flea Market
 - Motor Caravan Show
 - Charterhouse Auction
 - Toy Fair
 - Creative Crafts
 - Model Show
 - Antique Fair
- Royal Bath & West Show**

- Summer**
- Toy Fair
 - Classic Car Show
 - Color Me Rad/ Slide the City
 - Glastonbury Coaches
 - Antique Fair
 - NASS
 - Flea Market
 - New Wine
 - Soul Survivor

- Autumn**
- Motor Caravan Show
 - Charter House Auction
 - Antique Fair
 - VMCC
 - Flea Market
 - Dairy Show
 - Toy Fair
 - Wedding Daze
 - Somerset Food & Drink Fest and
 - Somerset Art Fair

Westfest
Classic Vehicle Restoration Show
Antique Fair
Homebuilding Show
Regency Rally

'We come to many fantastic shows on the Showground throughout the year and find that you always have something to suit one of us'

(Antique Fair customer, 2015)

Winter

Flea Market
Toy Fair
Wincanton Flyers
Antique Fair
Flea Market
Vintage Tractor Show
Toy Fair
Wincanton Flyers
Classic Bike Show
F J Autojumble
Festival of Cards
Flea Market



New Wine Festival.

Our Estates Team have worked extremely hard throughout the year to enable all of the events to run so closely to each other and through a very rainy outdoor event season. We have seen members of our core team leave us during the year and with new positions being appointed, to be taken up in the new year, we are ready for the next season of events.



The Society Board of Trustees



Robert Drewett DL (Chairman).



John Alvis MBE (Vice Chairman).



Dr Lance Moir (Hon. Treasurer).



Richard Ash.



Richard Calver.



Mike Felton MFH.



Anthony Gibson OBE.



*Eleanor Matheson
of Matheson DL.*



Martin Thatcher.



Sir David Wills Bt.



Angela Yeoman OBE DL.

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

Vice Patron

HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO

President

Michael Eavis CBE

Chairman of the Board of Trustees (& Honorary Show Director)

Robert Drewett DL

Vice Presidents

Elected to Council

Elected to Council	Elected Vice President
1982	HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT
1978	HRH The Prince of Wales, KG, KT
2014	HRH The Duchess of Cornwall GCVO
1987	HRH The Princess Royal GCVO
2003	HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO
1998	ARMSTRONG, The Lord, of Ilminster, GCB CVO
2000	ARRAN, The Countess of, MBE, DL
1988	2002 BARNES, H.E.M., FCA
1998	2007 CAMERON of Dillington, Lord
	2001 CAIRNS, The Rt. Hon. The Earl, CBE
	2014 CAMPBELL, A. (ex-officio)
1984	2009 COTTON, A.W., OBE
1991	2007 DARE, M.H.
1963	1996 DAVIES, A.R., TD
	1976 DIGBY, The Lord
2001	2013 ELWES Sir Henry, KCVO
	2002 FIRTH, Brigadier, S.D.A., CBE
1974	2011 FRANKLIN, D.A.S.
	2001 GASS, Lady, DCVO
2007	2014 HUTCHEN, N.G.K.
	2005 KING, The Rt Honourable The Lord, CH
2003	2007 LANG BROWN J. MA, FICFor
1993	2003 McNAB, I., BVMS, MRCVS
2009	2015 MAW, Mrs A.R. (ex-officio)
1987	2002 PITT-RIVERS, G.A., OBE, DL
1989	2002 POOLE, Lt. Col. W.D.A.
1984	2013 POW, Mrs N.E.
	2007 PRIOR, Mrs M. (ex-officio)
	2013 PRICE, Rt Rev'd Peter B.
1994	2013 REDWOOD, Sir Peter, Bt
2004	2014 RUNDLE, A.G.
2004	2013 RUSSELL, I. C.
	2002 SALISBURY, The Marquess of, PC, DL
	1996 SELBORNE, The Earl of, KBE, FRS
1999	2003 SIMS, G.
1988	2009 SHELDON, Mrs J.
1988	1999 SOMERSET, His Grace The Duke of
1996	2005 SPEID-SOOTE, J.R.
1991	2007 STREATFEILD, Mrs A.
	2011 TROTTER Dame Janet (ex-officio)
	2012 TROUGHTON Mrs C. (ex-officio)
	1993 ULOTH, Col. A.C.
	1995 VESTEY, The Lord
1997	2007 VINTCENT, J.
1977	2005 WAITE, M.A.
	2007 WALDEGRAVE, The Rt. Hon. Lord of North Hill, PC
1984	2013 WHITE, E., FRAGS
1967	1969 WIGRAM, Lt. Col. The Lord, MC, DL
1998	2009 YEOMAN, Mrs A.B., OBE, DL

Honorary Chaplain

Rt Rev'd, Peter Hancock – Bishop of Bath and Wells

Members of Council

Ex-officio Members of Council

Presidents: Vice Presidents

Honorary Treasurer:

Moir, Dr L.

Lord Warden of the Stanneries:

BACON OBE, Sir Nicholas

Secretary & Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall:

MARTIN, Alastair

Receiver General of the Duchy of Cornwall:

PEMBERTON, The Hon. James Leigh

Members of Council:

Elected
1987 ALEXANDER, A.F., BSc, FRICS
2009 ALLEN, E.J., DL
1999 ALVIS, J., MBE
1990 ASH, R.
2009 ATKIN, D.
2007 BAKER, J., FICFor, CEnv.M.Arbor.A.
2007 BARTLETT, S.
1987 BATTEN, D.H.C.
2002 BEST, R. DL,RN
2009 BISS, P.
2002 BOUGOURD, W.R.
1987 CALVER, R.T.
2007 CHAMBERLAIN, O., QVRM,TD, DL
2013 CHAPLIN, B.
2014 COOPER, Miss J
2002 COTTON, D.
2011 DAVIES, J., MBE
2007 DERBY, Mrs A.
2014 DERRYMAN, A.
2002 de PELET, Mrs I., BEM
1984 DREWETT, R.N.F., DL
2003 DREWETT, Mrs C.
2002 FELTON, M., MFH
1989 FITZGERALD, A.F.
2009 GIBSON, A., OBE
2009 GROVES, C.
2004 HANDEL, Mrs M.
1994 HEMSLEY, Brigadier J., OBE,FRGS
1980 HINKS, G.
2008 JAMES, Mrs M., MBE
1994 LANE, Major General B.M., CB, OBE
2003 LAW, J.
2015 LOOK Mrs C.
1984 LYONS, M.R.
1999 MacDONALD, Mrs E.
2001 MacDONALD, N.C.
2007 McKAIG M.
1987 MATHESON OF MATHESON, Miss E., DL
2011 MEATYARD, P.
2014 MOIR, Dr L.
2007 MONTGOMERY, A.J.
2007 MOORE, A.
2011 MUIR MACKENZIE, Sir Alexander, Bt
2004 PALMER, P.J.
2013 PETHER, Lt Col, M., MBE
2008 PLUMMER, Mrs D.

2010 POW, Mrs R.
2007 PULLIN, M.
2007 RAWLINGS C.
2007 ROSS, C.P.
2009 SAGE, Ms R.
2004 SEDGMAN, D.N.
2013 SEYMOUR, Mrs A.C.
1999 SNELL, C.
1995 SNELL, M.C.
2009 STAIB, Mrs M.
1994 STREATFEILD, G.
2014 THATCHER, M
2001 TIDMARSH Sir James, MBE, KCVO
2014 TROTT, MRS M.E.
2001 ULOTH, A.M.C.
2001 ULOTH, R.W.
1987 WALFORD, T.R.N., MIEE, CEng
2007 WHARTON, R., TD
2012 WHITE-SPUNNER Lt. Gen. Sir Barney, CBE
2009 WILCOX, A.H.
1982 WILLS, Sir David, Bt
2007 WOOD Mrs F.

Members' Representation on Council:

Elected
2010 ALLAN, Mr N., 1 Faraday House, High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1EZ Tel: 01634 831191
2008 NOBLE, Mr R., Meadow Croft, Top Street, Pilton, Somerset BA4 4DF Tel: 01749 890614
2008 STONE, Mr A., Old Mill Accountancy LLP, Maltravers House, Petters Way, Yeovil Somerset BA20 1SH Tel: 01935 709353

Co-Opted Members to Council for 2014

Elected
1998 SQUIRES, Mrs M., MBE, Regional Director, National Farmers' Union – South West Region
1998 MORTIMER, J., Regional Director Dorset/Som./Wilts., Country Landowners' Association

Representing County Branches of the National Farmers' Union

Dorset	GOULD, P.
Gloucestershire	GUEST, A.
Somerset	BRAGG, N.
Wiltshire	SHEPPARD, J.

Representing County Branches of the Country Landowners' Association

Dorset:	WELD, J.
Gloucestershire	BIDDULP, J.
Somerset:	HIGNETT, C.
Wiltshire:	WHEATLEY-HUBBARD, Mrs C.

Representing the County Federations of Young Farmers' Clubs

Dorset:	CROAD, I.
Somerset:	WILLS, Mrs P.
Wiltshire:	POTTOW, Mrs K.

Representing Somerset Federations of Women's Institutes

Somerset:	SMITH, Mrs C., OBE
------------------	--------------------

Representing Agricultural Colleges

Dorset:	DAVIDSON, Mrs C., Kingston Maurward College
Wiltshire:	DALE, Mrs D., Principal, Wiltshire College

Honorary Council Members

2006 BUSH, J., OBE CVO
1988 CLOTHIER, L.O.
1984 COOK, A.E.
2007 CHRISTENSEN, F.
1993 EDDY, R.G., BVetMed FRCVS,
2007 FISHER, G.
2001 FULFORD-DOBSON, M., CVO KSTJ JP RN
1994 GAMMON, R.D., MBE
1994 GIBSON, MRS W.J.
1995 JOLLIFE, THE HON. JOHN
1989 LAWRENCE, MRS P.
1997 LOCK, RN, J.C.W., CAPTAIN
2008 MALTBY, MRS S.
2007 PITT-RIVERS, MRS V., CVO
2004 ROPER, M.
1993 SKIDMORE, D.M.
1994 WARMAN, J.H.
2001 WHITE, J.S.B.
1996 WILSEY, GENERAL SIR JOHN, GCB CBE DL

Trustees of the Society

Chairman: DREWETT, R.N.F., DL
Vice Chairman: ALVIS, J., MBE
Honorary Treasurer: MOIR, DR. L.
ASH, R.
CALVER, R.T
FELTON, M.J., MFH
GIBSON, A., OBE
MATHESON OF MATHESON, Miss E., DL
THATCHER, M.
WILLS, SIR DAVID, Bt
YEOMAN, Mrs A.B., OBE, DL

Other Officials

Auditors: FRANCIS CLARK
Bankers: HANDELSBANKEN
Fire Safety Advisor: WESSEX FIRE &
RESCUE SERVICES
Health & Safety Consultant: MENTOR
Honorary Archivist: JOHNSTON, C.A.,
City Archivist, Bath City Council
Honorary Editor of The Journal: ULOTH, R.W.
Honorary Librarian: JORDAN, Miss K.
Honorary Tree Conservator:
LANG BROWN, J.R., MA FICFor
AYERS, Mr B., MICFor
Honorary Warden of Waterfowl:
LAWRENCE, Mrs P.M.
Assistant Bio-Security Officer:
CLARK, P.J., BVetMed, CertBr, MRCVS
Veterinary Officers:
GORDON P. MA VetMB CertCHP MRCVS
KENWARD, P., CertBr, MRCVS
PERKINS, N., BVSC, CertCHP, MRCVS
ROBERTSON, N. BVetMed MRCVS,
The Stables Equine Practice

Society's Representatives on Governing Bodies and Committees

Association of Show & Agricultural Organisations:
HOOPER, P.J. OBE

Golden Shears World Council:

DERRYMAN, A.
RUNDLE, A.G.

National Blacksmiths Competitions Committee:

BENT, R.
STAPLES, L.R.

British Isles Shearing Competitions Association:

RUNDLE, A.G.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust:

ALVIS, J. MBE

Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth:

WHITE, E., FRAGS
FITZGERALD, A.

Somerset Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs:

SNELL, M.C.

Permanent Staff

Main Office:

Chief Executive: Rupert Cox
Society & Company Secretary: Paul Hooper OBE
Financial Controller: David Stitch
Head of Shows: Alan Lyons
PA to Senior Management Team: Mary Holmes
Senior Trade Stands Officer: Sandra Collishaw
Trade Stands & Sponsorship: James Cox
Senior Entries Officer: Sarah-Jane Chick
Entries Assistant: Erin Clothier
Marketing & Communications Manager:
Jonathan Hall, from January 2016
Shows Marketing Manager: Julie Kitching
Special Events Organiser: Rachael Hann
Show Promotions Secretary: Sophia Orttewell
Assistant Accountant: Colleen Frisby
Hospitality Co-ordinator: Kim Lester
IT Manager: Matt Johnson
**Accounts Assistant, Catering Supervisor
& Membership Sec:** Alison Fox
Show Features Co-ordinator: Josie Weller
Charity Project Co-ordinator: Catherine Page

Estates Team:

Estates Foreman: Trevor Sellick from January 2016
Estates Administrator: Kim Limb
Events Co-ordinator: Emma Anderson
**Showground Account Manager, Venue &
Events Co-ordinator:** Sarah Case
Estates Team: Barry James,
John Harris
Jan Krajewski
Barry McDonald from January 2016

The Society would like to record with sadness the following deaths over the past year:

The Earl of Devon (President 2009)
The Duke of Wellington MVO, OBE,
MC, DL (President 1978)

Life Governors of the Royal Bath & West of England Society

Mr A.P. Baker
Mrs C.M. Barrett
(* Mr B.R. Bicknell
Mrs E.C. Bullivant
Mrs S.P. Burce
Mrs R. Burns
Mr J. Carter
(* Mr P. Clark B. Vet. Med., Cert BR, MRCVS
Mr M J.L. Cobb Bsc CEng MIEE
(* The Reverend Canon R. Davis
(* Mrs R. de Pelet, BEM
Rt. Hon. The Lord Digby
(* Mrs E.E. Drewett
(* Mr M. Duffin
Mr C.A. Egremont
Mrs G. Eyre
(* The Reverend Farmiloe
(* Mr G. Fisher
(* Mr A. Gibson OBE
Mr J.R. Gibson-Fleming DL
Mr D.R. Grandfield
Mr J.C. Grandfield
(* Mrs J. Hobhouse
Mr St John Hooper
(* Mrs P.M. Lawrence
Mrs C. Look
Mr H. Mackenzie-Green
(* Mrs G. Matthews MBE
Mrs J.E. Merry
(* Mr B.M. Mills, BVSC, MRCVS
Mr J.H. Ogborne
Mrs J. Osborne
(* Miss V. Owens
(* Miss E.D. Overend
Mr J.N. Peters
Mrs J. Pimblett
(* Mr M. Pow
Mr T.J. Priscott
Dr D.T. Protheroe
(* Mr R.A. Quantrell
Mr W.S.C. Richards OBE DL
Mr M. Rutherford
Mrs J.M. Rutherford
Mr D.J. Saunders
Mr P. Saunders
(* Mrs M. Shaw
Mr F.K. Showering
Mrs R. Showering
(* Mr L.R. Staples
Lady Tidmarsh
(* Mrs J.M. Tilley
Mr C.G. Turner
(* Mr A. Vaughan-France
Mr T.J. Vaux
(* Mrs S. Whittaker
Major The Hon. Andrew Wigram, MVO
Mr F.J. Williams
(* Lady Wills
Brigadier Christopher Wolverson OBE DL
(* Mrs S. Wrixon

(* Honorary

Stewards

Members of Council are shown in **Bold** type.

ART

Mrs F. Wood (Chief Steward)
Mr J. Hooper
Lady Redwood

BEEES, HONEY

Mr C. Rawlings (Chief Steward)
Mr B. Perkins
Mr K. Tredgett

FOOD & DRINK

Mr G. Streatfeild (Chief Steward)
Mrs E.C. Kingston

BRITISH FARMING FOR THE FAMILY

Mr D.N. Sedgman (Chief Steward)
Ms R. Sage

CATERING

Mr A.M.C. Uloth (Chief Steward)
Mrs K. Bradley-Hudson
Mr J. Burrough
Mrs I. Craven
Mrs F. De Fonblanque
Mrs M. Reed
Miss C. Rice
Mr D. Speed

COMMUNICATION/

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Mrs M. James MBE (Chief Steward)
Mr N. Allan

DAIRY PRODUCE

Mr M.J. Pullin (Chief Steward)
Mrs A. Streatfeild

ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

Brigadier J. Hemsley OBE, FRGS (Chief Steward)
Mr L. Davies MBE
Mr P. Hillard
Major A. Horsey
Mr R. Smith
Dr. P. Vile

HORTICULTURE

Mrs J. Goode

Floral Art

Miss S. Bramble

HORSES

Miss J. Cooper (Chief Steward)
Mrs A. Derby (Chief Steward)
Mr M.J. Felton MFH (Chief Steward)
Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie Bt (Chief Steward)
Mr A.F. Alexander BSc FRICS
Miss B. Adlam
Major H.A.G. Baillie
Mr D.H.C. Batten (Not 2015)
Mrs J. S. Bryer
Mr M. Caine
Mr T. Clarke
Miss D. Crumpler
Mr I.M. Dudgeon
Mrs J. Garner
Miss E. Gibson
Mr W. Grant
Mrs H. Kirkland
Major P. Lawson
Mr S. Ledger
Mrs B. Montgomery
Mr R. Nuttall
Mr R. Pinney
Mr A.N. Renwick
Mr S. Somers
Ms C. Speid-Sootie
Mr C. Stanley-Smith
Mr R. Walker
Mrs C. Warman
Mr W.R.J. Yeats

Heavy Horses

Mr B. Honeywill
Mrs D. Honeywill

Show Jumping

Mrs M. Errington
Miss J. Maslin
Mrs V. Thomas

LIVESTOCK

Mr M.R. Lyons (Chief Steward)
Mr A. Cotton OBE
Mrs A. Groves
Mr G. Groves

Bio-Security

Mr P.J. Clark BVetMed CertBR MRCVS

Cattle

Mr P.D. Biss (Chief Steward)
Mr D.M. Barker
Mrs J. Biss
Mrs F. Britten
Mr R.B. Cotes-James
Mr H.G. Dart
Mrs J. Dart
Mr R. Dimond
Mr C. Groves
Mrs A. House
Miss B. Leyman
Mr R.A. Quantrill
Mr O. Simon
Miss H. Roe
Mrs M. Trott
Mr G. Twinberrow
Mr M. Yeandle
Mrs S. A. Yeandle
Mr M. Yeandle

Goats

Mrs W.E. Webster

Pigs

Mr M.C. Snell (Chief Steward)
Mrs C. Hinks
Mr G. Hinks
Mr J. Newth

Pygmy Goats

Mr P. Wigzel
Mrs K. Wigzel

Sheep

Mrs M.D. Handel MRICS, FAAV (Chief Steward)
Mrs M. Burrough
Mr C.F.B. Clark ARICS FAAV
Mr D. Rashley
Mrs G. Richardson
Mrs A. Seymour
Mrs R. Stamp
Mr S. Stamp
Mr M.E. Wall

ORCHARDS & CIDER

Mr B. Chaplin (Chief Steward)
Commander R.T. Best DL, RN
Mr M. Best
Mr M. Beresford
Mr M. Berkeley
Ms A. Farmer
Lt Col L.G. French
Lt. Cdr. M. French
Mr K. Goverd
Mr J. Hoskins
Mrs A. Hudson
Mr E. Landon
Mr N. MacDonald
Mr E.J. Pearse
Mr M. Ridler
Mr M. Rogers
Mr D. Sheppy
Commander A. St J Steiner OBE, RN
Mr A. Stone
Mr J. Temperley
Ms A. Tilly
Mr C. Vye

POULTRY & SMALL ANIMALS

Mr P. Meatyard (Chief Steward)
Mrs D. Bourne
Mr N. Collins
Mrs F. Doble
Mr J. Merchant
Mr R. Parsons
Mr F. Smith
Mrs M. Tite
Mr D. Vaughan
Mr P. Wilson

VINTAGE VEHICLES

Mr P.J. Palmer (Chief Steward)
Mr A. Bishop
Mr L.O. Clothier
Mr J. Coakes
Mrs J. Coakes
Mrs J. Inge
Mr A.G. Sugg

RECEPTION

Mr J. Alvis MBE (Chief Steward)
Major General B.M. Lane CB OBE (Chief Steward)
Rt Rev'd Peter B. Price
Col. Sir P. Redwood Bt (Chief Steward)
Sir James Tidmarsh KCVO MBE
Mr J. Vintcent (Chief Steward)

Grandstand, Cups & Trophies

Mr R.W. Uloth (Chief Steward)
Mr S. Briston
Mr W. Southcombe
Mr J. Thomas
Mr P. Thompson

Sponsors Lounge

Commodore G. Billson
Mrs R. Billson
Mr N. Evelyn (Head Steward)
Mrs S. Evelyn
Lady Stewart-Wilson

Long Service

Mr F. Christensen

Visitors' Steward

Mrs E. MacDonald (Chief Steward)
Mrs F. de Fonblanque
Mrs W.J. Gibson
Mr T. Rebeck
Miss K. Sedgman
Mrs K. Saker
Mr I. Saker

RING EVENTS

Mr C.P. Ross (Chief Steward)
Miss E. Craven
Mr T. Drewett

SAFETY ZONE – TOWN & COUNTRY

Mr S. Bartlett TD (Chief Steward)
Mr E. Croombs
Lt. Col. M.A. Langdon
Mr S. Perry
Miss Welsh
Mr P. Woodward

SECURITY

Mr E.J. Allen DL (Chief Steward)

SHEEP SHEARING

Mr A.R. Derryman (Chief Steward)
Mr A.G. Rundle
Mr A. Chick
Ms M. MacDonald
Mr R. Pullin
Miss T. Pullin

SHOEING & WROUGHT IRONWORK

Mr W.R. Bougourd (Chief Steward)

Shoeing

Mr S.R. Belasco
Mr N. Miller
Mr N. Perrott
Mr N. Phillips
Mr A. Reader-Smith

Wrought Ironwork

Mr R. Bent, FWCB
Miss A. Bent
Mr J.W.G. Blunt FWCB
Mr G. Hughes
Mr R.C. Jones A.W.C.B
Mr M. Shepherd

TRADE STANDS

Mrs M. Staib (Chief Steward)

Miss R. Dobson
Mr R. Lowe
Mr M. Wyburn-Mason

Trade Stand Cups

Mr D. Cotton

MAIN SQUARE ACTIVITIES

Mrs D. Plummer (Chief Steward)

Mr D. Dixon
Rev. T. Osmond

The Fairground

Mr J. Horton

Village School

Mrs H. Parker

WOODLAND & COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

Mr D. Atkin (Chief Steward)

Mr J.K. Baker FICFor, CEnv. M.Arbor.A. (Chief Steward)

Mr N. Atkin
Mr B. Ayers
Mr N. Baker
Mr P. Bradish-Ellames
Mr D. Frost

Mr J.R. Lang Brown MA FICFor

Mr T. Ledbury

Mr M. McKaig

WORKS

Mr R. Ash (Chief Steward)

Cleanliness of Showground

Mr M.J. Cobb BSc CEng MIEE

YARD

Mr A.H. Wilcox (Chief Steward)

Mr A. Chinn
Mr R. Clark
Mr E. Edwards
Mr E. Hale
Mr R.W. Isaac MBE
Mrs J. Lowe
Mr J. Martin
Mr J. Murray
Mr R. Oliver
Mr M. Page FCA
Mr J. Smith
Col. W.H.F. Stevens OBE
Mrs C. Tomkins

SHOWGROUND PARKING

Mr R. Wharton TD (Chief Steward)

Mr R. Abbott MBE

Mr O.J.H. Chamberlain QVRM TD DL

Lt. Col. N. Claypoole
Brig. T. Dalby-Welsh
Major D. Delius MBE
Mr R. Firbank
Mr R. Macdiarmid
Lt. Col. P. Mellor
Lt. Col. D.H. Neville
Lt Col M.J. Pether MBE

Standing Committees

The President and Chairman of Trustee Board are ex-officio members of all committees. Members of Council are shown in **Bold** type.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Sir David Wills Bt (Chairman)

Mr D. Cotton

Mr A. Gibson OBE

Mrs C. Look

Rt Rev'd Peter B. Price

Ms R. Sage

Mr E. White, FRAgS

Mr L. Davies MBE

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Mr A. Gibson OBE (Chairman)

Commander R.T. Best DL RN

Dr P.W. Brassley

Mr P. Bryant

Prof. E.J.T. Collins

Mrs L. Copas

Mr A.W. Cotton OBE

Brig. S.D.A. Firth CBE

Mr C.A. Johnston (Hon. Archivist)

Ms K. Jordan (Hon. Librarian)

Mrs K. Robinson

Mr A. Stone

Mr R.W. Uloth

SOMERSET LEVELS DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Mr E. White, FRAgS (Chairman)

Mr J. Alvis MBE

Mr R.N.F. Drewett DL

Mr A. Gibson OBE

Rt Rev'd Peter B. Price

DISQUALIFYING

Mr R.N.F. Drewett DL (Chairman)

Mr J. Alvis MBE (Vice-Chairman)

and three stewards of the show department concerned

Show Committees

MAIN SHOW COMMITTEE

Mr R.N.F. Drewett DL (Chairman)

Mr R. Ash

Commander R. T. Best, DL, RN (Co-opted)

Mr A. Gibson OBE

Mr M.R. Lyons

Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie Bt

Mr D.N. Sedgman

Mrs M. Staib

Mr G. Streatfeild

Mr A.M.C. Uloth

Mr A. Wilcox

ART

Mrs F. Wood (Chairman)

Mr M. Coreth

Mrs R. de Pelet, BEM

Mr M. Jerram

Mrs P. Harris

Mr J. Marshall

Mrs J. Moreton

Lady Redwood

Mr M. Suffield

Ms J. Thompson

Mr W. Vaughan

BEEES & HONEY

Mr C. Rawlings (Chairman)

Mrs A. Barr

Mr J. Barr

Mr P. Clemente

Mr S. Horne

Mr D. Moore

Mr B. Perkins

Mrs S. Perkins

Mrs S. Rawlings

Mr K. Tredgett

BRITISH FARMING FOR THE FAMILY

Mr D. Sedgman (Chairman)

Mr I. Dyer

Mr D. Masters

Mr A. Perrott

Ms R. Sage

Mrs P. Scadding

Mr I. Tossell

Mrs B. Wood

Mr D. Wood

Mr T. Wood

CATERING

Mr A.M.C. Uloth (Chairman)

Mrs K. Bradley-Hudson

Mr N. Evelyn

Mrs E. MacDonald

Miss C. Rice

Mr D. Speed

Mrs A. Seymour

CATTLE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr P.D. Biss (Chairman)

Mr D.M. Barker

Mrs J. Biss

Mrs F. Britten

Mr P.J. Clark BVetMed CertBR MRCVS

Mr R.B. Cotes-James

Mr A.W. Cotton OBE

Mr H.G. Dart

Mr R. Dimond

Mr P. Gordon

Mr C. Groves

Mrs A. House

Mr P. Kenward CertBR, MRCVS

Mr M.R. Lyons

Mrs K. Sales

Mr O.S.L. Simon

Mrs M. Trott

Mr G. Twinberrow

Mr M. Yeandle

DAIRY PRODUCE

Mr M.J. Pullin (Chairman)
Mr A. Barber
Mr T. Calver
Mr M. Davies
Mr J. Longman
Mr J. Longman
Mr R. Longman
Mr P. Mitchell
Mr B. Savage
Mrs A. Streatfeild
Mr J. Tunstall

ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

Brigadier J. Hemsley OBE FRGS (Chairman)
Mr L.C. Davies MBE
Mr P. Hillard
Major A. Horsey
Miss J. Rayment
Mr N. Scriven
Mr R. Smith
Dr P. Vile

FLORAL ART SUB-COMMITTEE

Miss S. Bramble (Chairman)
Mrs M. Bown
Mrs N. Chenery
Mrs D. Clark
Mrs P. Heron
Mrs C. Lane
Mrs P. Matthews

HORSES

Miss J. Cooper (Chairman)
Mrs A. Derby
Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie Bt
Mr I.M. Dudgeon
Mrs M. Errington
Mr M.J. Felton MFH
Miss E. Gibson
Ms A. Newbery
Mr R. Nuttall
Mr N. Robertson BVetMed MRCVS
Mr C.P. Ross
Mr J.R. Speid-Soote
Mr C. Speid-Soote
Mr W.R.J. Yeats
Mr J. Youngs

MAIN STOCK

Mr M.R. Lyons (Chairman)
Mr P.D. Biss
Mr A.W. Cotton OBE
Mr P. Gordon MA VetMB CertCHP MRCVS
Mr C. Groves
Mrs M.D. Handel MRICS FAAV
Mr P. Kenward CERTBr, MRCVS
Mr N. Perkins, BVSC, CERT CHP, MRCVS
Mr M.C. Snell
Mrs M.E. Trott
Mrs W.E. Webster

ORCHARDS & CIDER

Mr A. Gibson OBE (Chairman)
Mr M. Berkley
Commander R. T. Best, DL, RN
Mr B. Chaplin
Mrs L. Copas
Ms A. Farmer
Lt. Col. L.G. French
Mr J. Hoskyns
Mr E. Landon
Mr N. MacDonald
Mr M. Rogers
Mr D. Sheppy
Mr A. Stone
Mrs A. Tilley
Mr J. Temperley

POULTRY & SMALL ANIMALS

Mr P. Meatyrd (Chairman)
Mrs D. Bourne
Mr B. Linge
Mrs D. Jackson
Mr J. Merchant
Mr R. Parsons
Mr F.D. Smith
Miss S. Telling
Mr M. Thompson
Mr D. Wakeham
Mr P. Wilson

VINTAGE VEHICLES

Mr P.J. Palmer (Chairman)
Mr A. Bishop
Mr L.O. Clothier
Mr J. Coakes
Mrs J. Coakes
Mrs J. Inge
Mr T. Jones
Mr A.G. Sugg

SAFETY ZONE – TOWN & COUNTRY

Mr S. Bartlett TD (Chairman)
Mr E. Croombs
Miss P. Dawe
Lt. Col. M.A. Langdon
Ms E. Leadley
Mr S. Pinkerton-Clark
Mr N. Pearce
Mr S. Perry
Mr M. Toop
Mr P. Woodward
Miss Welsh

SHEEP, GOATS, PIGS

Sub-Committee
Mr M.C. Snell (Chairman)
Mrs M. Burrough
Mr J.A. Champion
Mr C.F.B. Clark ARICS FAAV
Mrs M.D. Handel MRICS FAAV
Mrs C. Hinks
Mr G. Hinks
Mr W. Hyde
Mr M.R. Lyons
Mr J. Newth
Mrs A. Seymour
Mrs R. Stamp
Mrs W.E. Webster
Mrs K. Wigzel

SHEEP SHEARING

Mr A.R. Derryman (Chairman)
Miss M. Amor
Mr A. Barratt
Commander R.T. Best, DL, RN
Miss H. Bond
Mr J. Branfield
Mr A. Chick
Mr R. Gardner
Mr E. Goodfellow
Mr C. Griffin
Miss A. Gould
Mr D. John
Mr R. Lee
Mr G. Mudge
Mr A. Mudge
G. Paewai
Mr R. Pullin
Mr D. Takle
Mr A.G. Rundle
Mr T. Wall
Miss N. Walters
Mr A. Wear
Mr A. Williams

SHOEING & WROUGHT IRONWORK

Mr W.R. Bougourd (Chairman)
Mr R. Ash
Mr S.R. Belasco
Miss A. Bent
Mr R. Bent FWCB
Miss M. Cole
Mr G. Hughes
Mr R.C. Jones AWCB
Mr N. Miller
Mr N. Perrott
Mr N. Phillips
Mr A. Reader-Smith
Mr M. Shephard

WOODLAND & COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

Mr J.K. Baker FICFor, CEnv. M.Arbor.A. (Chairman)
Mr D. Atkin (Vice-Chairman)
Mr B. Ayers
Mr P. Bradish-Ellames
Mr R. Buckland
Mr R. Furneaux
Mr H.F. Galpin
Mr D. Gervers
Mr B. Honeywill
Mr J.R. Lang Brown MA FICFor
Mr T. Ledbury
Mr P. Munford

Show Working party

COMMUNICATION

Mr M. James MBE (Chairman)
Mr A. Gibson OBE
Mr P. Reynolds
Mrs A. Carey Brown
Mr P. Sherborne
Mrs O. Cooper
Mrs W. Best

FOOD AND DRINK

Mr G. Streatfeild (Chairman)
Mrs A. Streatfeild
Mrs E. Kingston
Mr T. Calver

HORTICULTURE

Mr N. Hewitt-Cooper (Chairman)
Miss S. Bramble
Mrs C. Lane
Mrs K. Trippick
Mr N. Cox

MAIN SQUARE ACTIVITIES

Mrs D. Plummer (Chairman)
Mr D. Dixon
Rev. T. Osmond
Mrs H. Parker

Specialist Show Standing Committees

DAIRY SHOW, MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr R.T. Calver (Chairman)

Mr P.D. Biss

Mr A. Churchouse

Mr A.W. Cotton OBE

Mr P. Gordon

Mr M.R. Lyons (Vice Chairman)

Mr P. Kenward CERTBr, MRCVS

Mr N. Perkins, BVSC, CERT CHP, MRCVS

Mr E.J. Pearse

Mr R. Wilcox

DAIRY SHOW, CATTLE

Sub-Committee

Mr M.R. Lyons (Chairman)

Mr R. Belbin

Mr P.D. Biss

Mrs J. Biss

Mr P.J. Clark BVetMed CertBR MRCVS

Mr R.B. Cotes-James

Mr T. Garry

Mr C. Groves

Mr P. Gordon MA VetMB CertCHP MRCVS

Mr M. Hillyer

Mr P. Kenward CERTBr, MRCVS

Mr R. Osborne

Mr C.G. Parfitt

Mrs K. Sales

Mrs T. Selway

Mr G. Twinberrow

GRASSLAND UK

Mr D. Sedgman (Chairman)

Mr B.J. Bryer

Mrs K. Dunford

Mr N. Fone

Mr D. Forbes

Ms Z. Gorton

Mr R. Longman

Mr B. Paul

Mr C. Snell

Mr T. Teagle

The following are boards of the subsidiary companies of the Society

BATH & WEST SHOWS LTD

Mr J. Alvis MBE (Chairman)

Mr R. Ash

Mr R.T. Calver

Mr R.N.F. Drewett DL (Chairman of Trustee Board)

Mr A. Gibson OBE

Miss E. Matheson of Matheson DL

BATH & WEST ENTERPRISES LTD

Mr R. Ash

Mr R.T. Calver (Chairman)

Mr R.N.F. Drewett DL (Chairman of Trustee Board)

Mr M. J. Felton MFH

Mr D. Gidney

Mr E. MacDonald

Dr L. Moir (Hon. Treasurer)

Mr R. Peto

Mrs A.B. Yeoman OBE DL

Mr P.J. Hooper OBE (Company Secretary)

As at 15 December 2015

Past Presidents' of the Society

YEAR	PRESIDENT	YEAR	PRESIDENT
1970	The Lord Ashburton, KG, KCVO	1993	Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Henry Leach, GCB, DL
1971	Col. C.T. Mitford-Slade	1994	The Lord Vestey
1972	Brig. The Lord Tryon, GCVO, KCB, DSO	1995	The Earl of Selborne, KBE
1973	The Lord Dulverton, CBE, TD	1996	Mr R.W. Drewett DL
1974	The Earl Waldergrave, KG, TD, DL, GCVO	1997	The Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, GCB, CVO
1975	Col. C.T. Mitford-Slade	1998	The Rt Rev. James Thompson, The Lord Bishop of Bath & Wells
1976	The Lord Digby	1999	The Countess of Arran DL
1977	HRH The Prince of Wales, KG	2000	The Rt. Hon. The Earl Cairns, CBE
1978	His Grace The Duke of Wellington, MVO, OBE, MC, DL	2001	Rt. Hon. Viscount Cranborne DL
1979	Col. W.Q. Roberts, CVO, CBE, DSO, DL	2002	HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO
1980	Sir John Wills, Bt, TD	2003	Lady Gass, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Somerset
1981	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT	2004	The Rt. Hon. The Lord King of Bridgwater CH
1982	The Marquess of Salisbury, DL	2005	The Marquess of Salisbury, PC, DL
1983	Lt. Col. G.W.F. Luttrell, MC	2006	Lord Waldegrave of North Hill
1984	The Lord St. Levan, DSC, DL	2007	Lord Cameron of Dillington DL
1985	Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, DL	2008	Angela Yeoman, OBE, DL
1986	HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO	2009	The Earl of Devon
1987	Lord Romsey	2010	HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO
1988	Mrs Susan Williams, MBE, JP	2011	HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO
1989	Major The Lord Darling, DL	2012	Sir Henry Elwes KCVO
1990	Sir John Quicke, CBE	2013	The Rt Revd Peter B Price, Bishop of Bath & Wells
1991	Mr Marmaduke Hussey	2014	HRH The Duchess of Cornwall GCVO
1992	(Deputy President) Col. G.W.F. Luttrell, MC	2015	The Lord & Lady Fellowes

Acknowledgments

The Royal Bath & West of England Society is very grateful to the following for their generous donations, sponsorship and support of its shows in 2015.

BATH & WEST

THE DAIRY SHOW

- Micron Bio-Systems Ltd – The Dairy Show Headline Sponsor
- Farmers Guardian/Dairy Farmer – Media Partner
- British Solar Renewables – The Dairy Show
- Pearce Seeds – The Dairy Show
- Yeo Valley Farms (Production) Ltd – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- AJ & RG Barber – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- Crediton Dairy – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- Godminster – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- Lye Cross Farm – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- A E Rodda & Son – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- Wyke Farms – The Dairy Industry Dinner
- Burges Salmon LLP – The Dairy Industry Dinner Reception
- The Cornish Cheese Company – Cheese for the Dairy Industry Dinner
- Freedom Dairy Systems – Robotic Milker Feature
- AJ & RG Barber – Associate Show Sponsor
- Müller Wiseman Dairies – Associate Show Sponsor
- ForFarmers – Dairy Industry Vet of the Future Award
- Cox & Robinson Farm Direct – Show Guide
- NatWest – Interbreed Heifer Championship
- Old Mill – Cattle Pairs Championship
- Mole Valley Farmers – Showmanship and Calf Classes
- Giltspur Scientific – Holstein
- Gold Top – Jersey
- IAE – Dairy Shorthorn
- Milkrite – Brown Swiss
- NFU – Dairy Show
- NMR – Guernsey
- Santander Corporate & Commercial Banking – Ayrshire
- Farmplan – Cattle Movement Software
- Fullwood – Milking Equipment
- Deosan Diversey – Disinfectant
- Karcher UK – Lorry Wash
- NSR Communications Ltd – AV Equipment

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GRASSLAND UK

- Agrii – Show Sponsor
- Origin Fertilisers – Show Sponsor
- Galebreaker – Clamp Demonstrations
- bpi visqueen – Field 4
- Bridgwater College – Muck and Slurry Demo support, Passenger Trailer transport
- John Deere – tractor and passenger trailer (shuttle bus)/staff Gators
- Farmlink – passenger trailer (shuttle bus)
- Massey Ferguson (Highwood) – tractor (shuttle bus)
- North Somerset Agricultural Society – passenger trailer (shuttle bus)
- Same Deutz Fahr – tractor (shuttle bus)
- Santander – Stewards
- Secure Covers – Shuttle Bus
- Trident Feeds – beet
- Volac – Ecosyl additives
- Wiltshire College Lackham – plot boundaries, plot marking, stewards

ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW

- AJ & RG Barber – British Cheese Awards
- Adrian Guise – Horticultural Village
- Aggregate Industries – Show Makers
- Alvis Bros Ltd – Holstein classes
- Annandale Stud Equine – Section B Welsh Silver Medal
- Anonymous Donor – British Farming for the Family and Farm Woman of the Year
- Anonymous Donor – Floral Art
- Anonymous Donor – Special Prizes for Pig Section
- Anonymous Donor – Young Pig Handlers Competition
- Ashley Chase Estates Ltd – British Cheese Awards
- Atlas Packaging – British Cheese Awards
- Aubrey Allen – British Cheese Awards
- Avon Beekeepers' Association – Bees and Honey
- Barry Fowler – Stewards' Office for Sheep Section and Poultry Houses for Farming for the Family
- Bartlett, Gooding & Weelen – Power of the Past
- Battens Solicitors – Hand Milking Demo, British Farming for the Family
- Belton Cheese – British Cheese Awards
- The Best Family – English National Championship, Sheep Shearing
- Mr Patrick Biss – Loan of equipment
- Blue Chip Feed Ltd – Equine Section
- Bollhayes Cider – Orchard and Cider Pavilion
- Bond Dickinson – Corporate Friend
- Bord Bia British Cheese Awards
- Bradburys – British Cheese Awards
- Boulter Mead – Beef Shorthorn
- Mrs D Bourne – Special Prizes Juvenile and Juniors Poultry and Eggs
- British Cheese Board – Cheese Industry Award
- British Solar Renewables Ltd – Council Pavilion and Show Jumping
- British Wool Marketing Board – Sheep Shearing
- Brunel Microscopes Ltd – Bees and Honey
- C Hoare & Co – Shetland Gold Cup
- Cake, Bake and Food Festival – British Cheese Awards
- Care UK – Village Green
- Carter Jonas – Corporate Friend
- The Champagne Cave – Show Jumping and Show Reception
- Cheverells Stud – Equine: Section D Welsh Silver Medal
- Commercial Recycling Ltd – Pony Club Games
- Coombe Castle International – British Cheese Awards
- Cooper & Tanner – Young Farmers' Stock Judging
- Core Equipment – Orchards and Cider
- Country Baskets – Floral Art
- Cricketer Farm – Dairy Showmanship
- Cropwell Bishop Creamery – British Cheese Awards
- Mr & Mrs S Cuddy – Cuddy Supreme In Hand Championship
- D & P Mead & Co – Calf Show
- Danco Plc – Judges' and Stewards' Pavilion and Disabled Viewing Platform
- Danisco (UK) Ltd – British Cheese Awards
- EH Thorne (Beehives) Ltd – Bees and Honey
- Elanco Animal Health – Poultry and Small Animals
- Mrs D Errington – Show Jumping
- Etheridge Farm Stud – Small Hunter Brood Mare
- Federation of Small Businesses – British Food Halls
- Fernhill Farm – Novice Blade Competition, Sheep Shearing
- First Great Western – The Family Trail
- Foot Anstey – Corporate Friend
- Ford Farm – Show Map

- Fosse-way-fodder – Feed for Farming for the Family
- Fox Grant – Inter-Hunt Relay
- Francis Bugler – Aberdeen Angus
- George Mewes Cheese – British Cheese Awards
- George Mudge & Co – YFC Competition, Sheep Shearing
- Graham Walton Publishing – Heavy Horses
- HSBC – Environmental Youth Awards
- Handelsbanken – Corporate Friend
- Harvey & Brockless – British Cheese Awards
- Hayes Catering – Junior Bull Championship
- Hazlegrove – Show Jumping
- Jacksons Fencing – Horticultural Village, Equine jumps, British Farming for the Family
- James Wellbeloved – Sheep Dog Trials
- John Loader (Wessex) Ltd – Providing corn for the Poultry and Small Animals Section
- John Shepherd Feeders – Farming for the Family
- John Wainwright & Co Ltd – Roadsweeper
- Johnson Diversey – Dairy
- Julian Shave – Planting
- Junction 24 Ltd – Beef Calf Classes
- JY Farming – Main Ring: Trailer
- Karcher UK – Lorry Wash Pressure Washers
- Keenan – Devon
- Keen's Cheddar – British Cheese Awards Shelving
- Kesbury Ltd – Commercial Lamb
- Kingdown Stud – Equine: Welsh Section C Silver Medal
- The Kroger Company – British Cheese Awards
- Lactalis McLelland – British Cheese Awards
- Lawrence Fine Art Auctioneers Ltd – Visitors' Favourite Art Exhibit
- Legg Brothers Ltd – Shoeing and Wrought Iron Competitions
- Lister Shearing – Golden Shears Open Championship, loan of equipment and special prizes, Sheep Shearing
- LX Trix Ltd – Show Jumping
- Mane Event Saddlery – Show Jumping
- Marks & Spencer – British Cheese Awards
- Micron Bio-Systems Ltd – Farm Woman of the Year
- Mill Cross Stud – Equine: Welsh Section B Silver Medal
- Mogers Drewett – Show Jumping
- Mole Valley Farmers Ltd – Sheep Shearing Section
- National Association of Cider Makers – Orchards and Cider
- Natraliving Health – Irish Draught
- Norseland (Applewood) – The Family Trail
- G Northover & Sons Ltd – Shoeing and Wrought Iron
- Norton Cider Growers' Association – Orchard and Cider Pavilion
- NSR Communications Ltd – The NSR Ring
- Nuttall Equestrian – Show Jumping
- Old Mill – Cattle Presentation Award, Machinery Exhibition and New Technology Award
- OMScO – British Cheese Awards
- Osborne Refrigerators – Double Harness Scurry
- PD Hook Hatcheries – Chicken 'n' Egg
- PJ Rosewell Garden Services – YFC Tug of War
- Peter Green Chilled – British Cheese Awards
- Pilgrims Choice – British Cheese Awards Cheese Tours
- Podimore Recycling – Soil for Instant Garden Challenge
- Port Regis School – Show Jumping
- Puxton Park – Dairy Calf Classes
- RRH Ltd – British Limousin
- Rainbow Embroidery – Show Jumping rug embroidery
- Rathbone Investment Management – Art Pavilion and Art Reception with Art Sculpture Prize
- Read Agri – Loan of equipment
- Richard Ash Horse Shoes – Shoeing and Wrought Ironwork Section
- AP & PC Rose – Pig Pairs Championship and British Farming for the Family
- Mrs Anna M L Richards – Equine: Welsh Section A Silver Medal
- Rowcliffe, Anthony & Son – British Cheese Awards
- Sheppy's Cider – Orchard and Cider
- Shepton Mallet Cider Mill – Special Prizes
- Sheldrake – British Cheese Awards
- Shires Equestrian Products – Rugs for Show Jumping
- Sign of the Owl Birds – Poultry and Small Animals
- Silverline – Instant Garden Challenge Prizes
- Smith & Williamson – British Farming for the Family and Horticultural Village
- Somerdale International – British Cheese Awards
- Somerset Reclamation – Sculptures
- C Snell of Chard – Commercial Lamb
- Somerset Beekeepers' Association – Bees and Honey
- South West of England Cider Makers' Association – Orchard and Cider
- South West Tyres – Show Jumping
- Speciality Food Magazine – British Cheese Awards
- Street Theatre – Showmakers
- Ston Easton Park Hotel – Ladies Day Prizes and Farm Woman Prize
- SW Association of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society – Individual Society Silver Medals
- Tesco – British Cheese Awards
- Thatchers Cider Company Ltd – Best Cider Orchard Award, Orchard and Cider section, Showmakers
- The Abergavenny Fine Food Company – British Cheese Awards
- The Hon Mrs Townshend – Open Blade, Sheep Shearing
- The Worshipful Company of Coopers – Orchard and Cider
- The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers – Orchard and Cider
- The Worshipful Company of Woolmen – Intermediate Championship, Sheep Shearing
- Mrs M Tite – Special Prize Poultry and Eggs
- Tom Yeoman – Equipment for the Main Ring
- Toomer Farm – Show Jumping
- Tovergate Farm Insurance – Equine Ring 2
- Uphill & Son Ltd – Main Ring
- Vale Motors – Loan of vehicles
- Tony Vaughan France – Show Jumping
- Vigo – Orchard and Cider
- John Wainwright & Co Ltd – Loan of roadsweepers
- Waitrose – Thriving Trolleys
- Waldegrave Farms Ltd – Livestock section
- West Country Farmhouse Cheesemakers – British Cheese Awards
- Western Power Distribution – Children's Farm Safety Poster Competition
- Wiltshire Beekeepers' Association – Bees and Honey Section
- Wincanton Racecourse – Retraining of Racehorses Classes
- Woolley & Wallis – Hampshire Down Sheep
- Wyke Farms – British Cheese Awards, British Farming for the Family
- Yeo Valley – British Farming for the Family
- Yeovil Land Rover – Courtesy Vehicle
- Mrs A Yeoman – Pony Club Games and Main Ring equipment

ROYAL
BATH & WEST
SHOW

BATH & WEST
THE DAIRY SHOW

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Being entertained by the Band of The Parachute Regiment on the Main Square.

THE ROYAL
BATH & WEST
OF ENGLAND SOCIETY

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