

Career Interviews

Working for the Bath & West of England Society means that the Bath & West team, to some extent, work within the 'Agricultural' sector. However, we all do very different jobs! From events to finance, the Society caters for many different skills and we are very proud to celebrate everybody's strengths.

Below are some careers interviews from the Bath & West team. We hope that these will inspire you, whether you are just starting out in your career or looking for a career change.

Lucy Champion – Trade Stand Coordinator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I wasn't too sure, but maybe a teacher!

What interested you in this job?

The Royal Bath and West Show and getting experience in the events world.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I did a Business Administration Apprenticeship.

What does your current job entail?

I book all trade stands in for the Royal Bath and West Show, Dairy Show and Food and Drink Festival.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Take all opportunities that arise!



Charly Andrews - Head of Commercial Sales

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No!

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I wanted to be on the West End, or a TV Presenter! I still do deep down...!

What interested you in this job?

The huge variety of possibilities. As cliché as it sounds, people always say that no day is ever the same in the world of events, and that really is so true here at the Showground. The opportunities are endless!

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I studied Performing Arts at College then rather than going to University I went straight into working in entertainment as a singer, dancer, and compere.

What does your current job entail?

Managing and mentoring the team within the sales, events, and marketing departments, growing the events side of our business, and creating new and interesting events across the Showground.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

- Trust your gut. If something doesn't feel right then it probably isn't
- Don't be afraid to say yes to things even if you're not sure. If an opportunity lands on your lap and it sounds interesting, you can try it, it doesn't mean you have to do it forever
- You don't have to have it all figured out, but if you can then try to figure out at least what makes you happy and what is most important to you. Whether it is being around people you enjoy the company of, making a certain amount of money, making a difference, being creative, whatever it is. The sooner you figure that out, the more enjoyment you will have with your career and the more clarity you will have.



Rosie Breakwell – Marketing Coordinator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No, it wasn't!

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I wanted to work with dogs!

What interested you in this job?

The fact I could work in events and around animal's while being creative.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

Yes, I studied for a BSc Hons in Psychology at university then did a Digital Marketing Level 3 Apprenticeship!

What does your current job entail?

Everything from designing graphics to scheduling social media, creating content, organising advertisement, planning press itineraries during Shows, assisting with events, planning membership tours to editing the website! Marketing covers every side of the business so can be very varied with day-to-day life!

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Take it easy – it can be overwhelming to work in a new team, and don't expect to understand everything all at once.



Amelia Battagel - Competition Administrator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I wanted to work in the equine industry.

What interested you in this job?

The opportunity to develop new skills in areas that my previous employment didn't offer. Improved work life balance and experiencing the excitement of putting on shows!

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I Studied Equine Science at University

What does your current job entail?

Organising and completing the administration for the competitions run by the Society. Ensuring each competitive section is well promoted and provides an educational aspect during the shows.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Choose a topic you enjoy, but also choose something that fits with your life stage. How work fits with your life will change over time so be open to changes in your career as you age. You absolutely don't have to stay in the same line of work until you retire. Also, there are so many jobs out there that you just don't know exist, so be prepared to change careers if you learn of something that suits you better – you haven't failed at your previous career path, it's all just experience!



Lilanie Self - Shows & Education Coordinator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No, it wasn't!

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

A teacher!

What interested you in this job?

Having a strong interest in the Royal Bath & West Show.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I studied Business Administration Level 2 and Level 3 as an apprenticeship. I would really recommend apprenticeships!

What does your current job entail?

Coordination and administration associated with sections for the Royal Bath & West Show. Coordination of Seminars for the Dairy Show. Organising Field to Food Learning Day and producing resources / overseeing the Education Hub.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Don't panic if you don't know what to do! Even if it feels like everybody around you has it figured out, chances are they will change their mind at some point in their career. If you aren't sure what you want to do for a career, start by studying a skill that interests you (whether that's as an apprenticeship, university, or college). Or you could look into taking a gap year, they can be just as beneficial!



Coral McMeakin - Events Coordinator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No, I am very lucky that I fell into this job and I am enjoying it so much, there is never a dull day and I am always learning new things from the team and clients.

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

When I was younger, I wanted to be either a receptionist or a Suba Dive Instructor. Very different.

What interested you in this job?

Being a customer facing job and always learning how people run and set up different events.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I went to college and studied Media make-up for two years. I was then going to go on to Uni, but I needed my bookwork to have more detail, so I started a fine art course. I wasn't interested in this, and by Christmas I gave this up and went to work for a company called PGL. This is an outdoor activity centre that is all over the UK and was overseas. I worked for the company for 6 years and got to work in three different countries and met some of my best friends, and in the winter, I was doing Ski seasons in France as a nanny. I then went on to travel New Zealand and Australia and when I came back, I started work at the Bath and West Showground as Show support for the Royal Bath and West Show. This was only a temp job and when my contract was up, I then went to apply for my current job and here I am.



What does your current job entail?

I am liaising with Customers and events, trying to get people to the showground to use our venue. Doing site visits for potential clients. When they have booked, I then am the point of contact to make sure they have all the relevant paperwork needed and any additional equipment needed.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Don't give up, if this is something you want to do, you will always find joy in the little things. Also don't work yourself so hard that you can't be your best self-inside and outside work.

Rachel Freestone - PA to the Senior Management Team

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

No.

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I wanted to be a teacher like my parents.

What interested you in this job?

Working at such a lovely site and the variety of the job – no two days are the same.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

I studied French and Sociology at Liverpool University

What does your current job entail?

Supporting the SMT and the Chief Executive, working closely with the Board of Trustees, coordinating itineraries for the Presidents at the Bath & West Show, organising the Dairy Industry Dinner and a huge variety of other jobs in between!

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Keep an open mind – you may not end up working in the career that you originally chose but that's OK!



Nicole Dimaline - Event Procurement Co-Ordinator

Was this what you wanted to do when you were older?

I used to want to work in events so it's actually pretty close!

If it wasn't, what did you want to be?

I did also want to be an event rider in days gone by.

What interested you in this job?

The fact that it was in events, but I had a big interest in the agricultural side of the Bath & West Show also.

Did you go to Uni, College or do an apprenticeship? If so, what did you study?

No, I left school at 18 and went on to work on an event yard for 6 years.

What does your current job entail?

I'm on the Estates team so keeping track of the site on a day-to-day basis, scheduling services etc. The other side of my job is the procurement for our shows, so I deal with the hiring of marquees, furniture etc.

Do you have any advice or tips for somebody starting out in their career?

Take the opportunities as you never know where that could lead you.

