

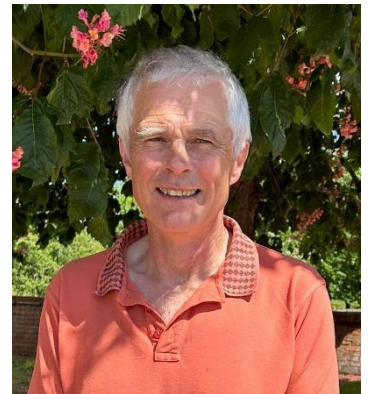
RAHSS Spring Newsletter 2024

Welcome to our second RAHSS newsletter of the year. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you at info@romseyshow.co.uk.

Our 2024 Chairman, Norton Welch

Norton can trace his family's association with The Romsey Show back to at least 1955 when his uncles, William and Robert Welch, from what was then Manor Farm Nursling, won the Champion Dairy Shorthorn Bull at the Show. Norton said he has wondered if in the post war years whether they would have walked their stock to the show along Lee Lane, or whether they would have used transport.

Norton was elected Chairman in late 2023 and assumed office on January 1st 2024, after serving 2 years as Junior Vice Chairman, and 2 years as Vice Chairman. At his election Norton said that he regarded it as an honour and privilege to be elected Chairman of an institution such as The Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show Society. His primary aim is to ensure that The Society continues to move forward, deliver an entertaining show, and improves its financial position.



Norton was born and bred in Timsbury, where he continues to live. He attended primary school in Romsey, and then moved on to Andover. Following this, he attended Shuttleworth Agricultural College for three years. After a few years working on local farms, and contract fencing, he moved into full time fencing and worked for thirty five years for a Hampshire based fencing company carrying out major fencing works around the British Isles.

With his wife, Norton has two children, a daughter who is currently based in London with The Foreign Office and is getting married in June, and a son who is based in Perth WA.

Norton looks forward to seeing you all at the show.

The Trade and Gates Committee role at the Show by Georgie Holmes, Chairman of the Committee.

"When I first joined T&G around 1985 it was Traffic and Gates, organised by the wonderful Claire Ludwell in conjunction with the Romsey Community School who provided all the gates administrative support along with around 30 teachers and 60 senior pupils plus several dozen parents to do the car parking and gates on show day. Unfortunately just prior to covid the school took the decision to withdraw from the show as it had become part of a larger entity. Most of us who remained had become involved through the school, but sat on the Committee and were passionate about the show, so decided to continue with our roles.

The Traffic and Gates Committee were responsible for the set-up of the car parking areas and access points, including main gate, together with the traffic planning and management. This proved to be too big a job for a bunch of “older” volunteers, so the traffic element has now been taken over by the Show Office and a centralised show traffic co-ordinator and the show day public parking and external traffic management is contracted out.

The committee is now Trade and Gates, which is a more manageable job. We still have a team of around 100 volunteers covering show day managed by Maureen Cardy and Margaret Moody, plus a small team of us who work for around 10 days on set up prior to show day. A group that desperately needs some new, younger blood!

Being part of T&G on show day is never boring and always manages to throw up another new incident to keep us on our toes, but we keep learning. Please come and say hi when arriving in September!”



Can you help us either on show day or in advance of the Show?

The Society is a charity and relies on help from hundreds of volunteers to put on such a fantastic day for the community. Can you or do you know anyone who would be willing to help us on the day for at least 4 hours or on the days leading up to Show day? When you aren't “on duty” you are free to enjoy the Show.



We are looking for some additional stewards to join our Countryside Area, Main Ring and Shopping Marquees. The Main Ring role involves assisting the Chief Steward in co-ordinating the entertainments taking place in the ring. In the countryside area we are looking for someone to help process the dog show entries. It is a popular event for visitors to take part in. The Shopping Marquee Stewards help our trade exhibitors within the marquees to find their pitch and with any queries they may have. For this role we would appreciate help either on show day or one of the two days prior to the show when exhibitors start to arrive.

Finally, we would appreciate some help on our trade gates, assisting our traders entering the showground early on show morning. It's a great opportunity to meet people and full training and support will be given for the roles. Our Stewards evening takes place during the evening of Thursday 12th September this year. It is a chance to understand your role, meet other Stewards and the evening finishes with a cheese supper.

If you would like any further information on helping at the Show, please email info@romseyshow.co.uk – we would love to hear from you!

Mike Nokes Memorial Award

Congratulations to Sue Phelan, who was awarded the Mike Nokes Memorial Award at our AGM last month. The award is based on the previous year and is given to a Steward for their considerable contribution at the Show. Until her retirement at the end of the last year, Sue was involved with the Society for many years, as the Chief Steward of the horse section as well as sitting on the horse committee. Sue sourced quality judges and was heavily involved in producing the equine schedule as well as helping on the day. The Society wishes to thank Sue for all her knowledge and support, plenty of equine exhibitors have enjoyed attending the Show thanks to all her hard work.

2024 Show Presidents

Congratulations to Judith Long and Jim Greenwood (centre and right) who were elected by the members at the AGM as joint Presidents for the 2024 Show period. They both look forward to meeting lots of you on Show day and we will hear more about their association with the Society in the next newsletter as we get closer to the Show. Thank you to Jeanette Kell (left) for being a fantastic President last year and for all her dedication to the Show for many years, she certainly brought the sunshine with her!



One of our regular cattle exhibitors, Jayne Potheary, gives us an insight into her life and passion for livestock showing.

"Hi, my name is Jayne Potheary, I live in Beaulieu, Hampshire. I am a New Forest Commoner, a person who has rights to depasture cattle and ponies out on the open Forest. When my cattle graze the forest they stay in the same area or "haunt" as foresters say, and return home daily for feed, so that I can keep an eye on them. I was born and bred in the area and commoning/farming is in my blood.



I left school in 1985 to milk dairy cows at Longdown Dairy Farm. Cows are my passion, and I tend to them seven days a week. Holidays? What are they? My holiday is attending a show like Romsey. My daughter Zara (14 years old) is following in my footsteps and has a keen eye for good cattle. Zara doesn't look for days out or time away, she is focussing on halter breaking her new calf 'Magnolia' already! Magnolia is a shorthorn, but I generally show pedigree Herefords. They are quiet cows, good for the forest, calve easily and convert grass into excellent meat. We have other commercial breeds like Charolais x and Aberdeen Angus x. All of my cows are named!

Photographed by Sally Fear

I began showing Friesians for Longdown Dairy Farm in 1990. In 1996 I stopped showing when the farm was taken over. After a long break I began to get the showing bug back and in 2012 I started breeding Pedigree Herefords to show. Planning never stops, you are always thinking of how to improve your stock. The aim is to breed a long square bodied cow with a strong flat top line, good head carriage, good strong feet and walks straight with presence and style. It's not easy producing the perfect show animal but it gives me extreme pride when a cow I have bred catches the judges eye.

Halter breaking starts at the beginning of the year, including clipping, to ensure the perfect hair growth. Once I have chosen my show girls, they are kept isolated from the main herd as to prevent a TB (bovine tuberculosis) outbreak if they were to contract it. Prior to showing all cattle have to be TB tested to make sure they are clear from the disease. Every animal carries a passport and the passport must be signed and reported to Defra on every movement to and from shows.

Romsey is our last show of the season but our most enjoyable. Zara normally does well showing and has been lucky enough to win beautiful sashes at Romsey for champion and reserve champion beef showman.

Zara takes great pleasure in displaying her sashes on her bedroom wall. The show rings are right in front of our cattle stalls and it is lovely to be able to watch the classes. Visitors to the show are able to view the cattle and love to stop and chat to us about our cows. It's good to be able to promote our breed. The grand parade is also held opposite our cows in the extended cattle rings, which makes it easier for us to show the cattle, so if we had a naughty one we can take her straight back to her friends.



Zara with 'Longwater Strawberry' at the 2023 show

Romsey is the show we look forward to most. The stewards are first class and it is very well organised. Long may showing continue where we can bring farming to the fore front and explain how we produce quality cattle with high welfare standards. I feel proud to be able to parade them in front of the local community and support Zara hopefully in her farming future.”



Thank you to Jayne for writing this wonderful piece, we promise we didn't pay her to say such lovely things! If you are interested in exhibiting your cattle, sheep, horses or donkeys at the 2024 show, entries will be opening shortly, check our social media and website for updates.

Welcoming back the Horse Coaching Class and Marathon to The Romsey Show

Returning to The Romsey Show after 30 years, the Coaching Class and Marathon is a prestigious event involving magnificent coaches pulled by four horses. Callum Feltham has worked hard to bring this wonderful class back to the Show and below he describes how the class and marathon works on the day. Thank you Callum for supporting the Show, our visitors are in for a treat!

"The class itself consists of "Prejudging" taking place in the main President's Ring where the competitors give a demonstration to the judge and exhibitors of their turnouts moving, then stationary. Whilst stationary in the centre of the ring the judge will inspect each turnout for correctness and cleanliness (best turned out) which also includes an interior inspection assisted by the headroom or nominated person. Once the judge is satisfied the coaches have one or two more laps of the main ring before heading out for the "Marathon".

The coaching marathon isn't actually a marathon, it's traditionally nine miles or as it was called years ago a 'stage' hence the term "stage coach" which is what these vehicles technically are. The coaching marathon is to prove that the horses are fit for the job (9 miles or in Romsey's case 6.. perfectly adequate) and an opportunity for the judge to ensure the coachmen are well versed in the challenges "The Road" may have to offer, the judge will often park themselves on a tricky bend to see how well they handle the reins and their animals. Approximately half way the coaches will draw up at a designated stop for refreshments (horses included) before heading back to the Main President's Ring for the judges decision.

Once back in the ring the competing teams will circle, line up and then be asked to give an individual demonstration, a last opportunity to maybe sway the judges decision with the action of your lovely horses or beautiful rein handling. Finally, with the convoy circling once more the class winner is chosen."



An example of a Coaching class.

Improving access...thank you to Gemini Scaffolding Division Ltd

We want to say a huge thank you to Kieran Yandell at Gemini Scaffolding Division Ltd who responded to our request for support in the previous newsletter. Through their sponsorship of the show this year Gemini Scaffolding will be installing a ramp from our main visitor car park down the bank by the main entrance. This should make access easier on the day for visitors with mobility issues or pushchairs.



The Brewin Dolphin Countryside Ring

We are thrilled to welcome Brewin Dolphin as the 2024 Sponsors of the Countryside Ring.

The Countryside Ring will host several exciting displays throughout the show including South Wilts Falconry, Misselchalke Gun Dogs and the family dog show at 2:30pm.

Brewin Dolphin have said "The team of Directors at RBC Brewin Dolphin in Winchester are delighted to sponsor The Romsey Show this year. We are wealth managers based in Winchester and help people to save, plan and invest for their futures. Being a part of our local community is important to us and we are thrilled to support the Romsey Show and the important work that they do."



Left to right:

Joy Moir – Investment Manager,
Wendy Mortimer – Office Manager
Adam Jarvis – Head of Office and Investment Manager
Kirsty Simpson – Financial Planner
Alice Proctor – Investment Manager
Matt Lyth – Investment Manager

The Stockman's Breakfast by Annie Carder

"Little did I realise when I retired as Romsey Show Secretary that I would be getting up even earlier on the second Saturday in September than I used to for show day, now to do Stockman's Breakfasts.

Thanks to a happy band of early risers; some more naturally so than others who require coffee on arrival; we provide breakfasts for stockmen, judges and stewards along with show presidents, chairmen and secretaries, the grounds team plus some extras which vary annually. Breakfast fare includes tea/coffee, sausages, bacon, eggs, bread, butter and marmalade; although we are on the look out for a large toaster as that, we feel, would complete the experience!

A huge thank you to our sponsors who provide much of the ingredients for this repast, without you this would not be possible. Previously this has included eggs supplied by Claytons, Owtons sausages and bacon from The Farmers Butcher.

Historically the breakfasts were introduced by Chris Bailey for the farm stewards with a camping stove and 'bring your own ingredients' as they arrive really early on show day. This was then set on a slightly more formal footing when Jude Long persuaded her neighbour Viv Hancock to carry on the tradition.

Like all good things the remit expanded, the benefit being that we are able to supply a substantial start to the day for folk who may have camped overnight to care for livestock and for those who have had a really early start and are unlikely to stop until well after the show officially closes at 6pm.

The volunteer breakfast team are phenomenal, arriving bright and breezy ready to begin cooking by 6 am, with service starting at 7 am. You may have heard that the theme of this year's show is a Celebration and

Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D Day. In the true spirit of the group we hope to don the relevant dress of the period, wrap around pinnies anyone? I can not thank this gang of volunteers enough for giving up their time, energy and enthusiasm to provide this much appreciated facility, a brilliant and happy crowd. Thank you."

Don't miss Romsey Old Cadets in the Main President's Ring this year!

We are thrilled to announce that the Romsey Old Cadets will be joining us on show day for two performances in the main President's Ring. They are a very popular carnival band with an emphasis on fun, entertaining crowds for 60 years. The band have a new costume theme each year and we can't wait to see what it will be on show day!



If you are interested in sponsoring the Old Cadets display on show day, please get in touch.

Membership & Premium Parking

Payments for membership are due now for this year. This can be done online via our Showing Scene Portal for returning and new memberships.

www.romseyshow.co.uk/membership

Benefits of membership include:

- To receive a membership badge which provides admission to the Romsey Show (Saturday 14th September 2024) and the Members' Enclosure. The Members' Enclosure includes a bar, café, VIP loos and seating around the Main President's Ring and within the marquee.
- Entitlement to Members' forward parking near the admission gate at the Show.



- The option to purchase guest badges to introduce friends to the members' Enclosure (show admission tickets still required).
- To receive a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts and vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- Attend Society functions including the AGM, Farm Walk and other social events at discounted rates.
- Be entitled to reduced Class entry fees for equine and livestock classes.

Premium Parking price: £45

Benefits of Premium Parking include:

- Guaranteed reserved parking bay within premium car parking area on show ground.
- Arrange to meet and greet friends / families at your vehicle. Non-members can access the car park on foot from the show ground.
- Generous parking bay with room for picnics at rear of vehicle.
- Adjacent to the Members Area.
- If a member of your party enjoys a "retail " experience able to easily access your vehicle to store purchases
- Worried about the weather? No problem bring as much alternative clothing / footwear as you want.
- Dedicated Premium Parking show ground vehicle entrance / exit, which allows for easy exit from Broadlands.

Please note: No vehicle movement is permitted between 11am – 3pm.

Vehicles are restricted to cars and 4 x 4s.

All vehicle occupants will be required to have valid show ground entry tickets or badges.

Rotary CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
TRUST FUND REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1029525

EARLY BIRD OFFER
SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

WALK THE TEST WAY
FOR YOUR CHOSEN CHARITY

SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Register online at
walkthetestway.org.uk
scan our QRcode

@WALKTHETESTWAY