



RAHSS Summer Newsletter 2024

Welcome to our Summer RAHSS newsletter. Show day – 14th September is fast approaching, advance ticket sales are live and the show programme is being finalised. Visit our website www.romseyshow.co.uk for the most up to date information and we hope you enjoy this newsletter!

Our 2024 Show Presidents, an Interview with Jim Greenwood and Judith Long

Our Secretary and Chairman visited our 2024 Show Presidents, Jim Greenwood and Judith Long, at their home on the edge of the New Forest for a chat about the history of their involvement with the Show Society and what they are looking forward to at this year's Show.



Q. How did you first get involved with the Romsey Show Society?

Judith: I have a photo of me at 12 years old in my Guide uniform carrying a cup around the Main Ring for the Grand Parade, that was my first time being involved in the Show. I did however attend the Show as a visitor since I was a toddler as we lived within walking distance. I then got involved again when I was in the Young Farmers, in my early 20's. The Young Farmers were invited to send two representatives to attend Council meetings and I was one of them. I have remained on it since and have probably been on Council for around 50 years! Once you get involved in The Romsey Show you never leave, when I started with the Show I was involved in the farm side with Chris Bailey. He started illegal breakfasts in the tent behind the cattle tent and it grew each year. Once discovered it became official and that was the start of the Stockmen's Breakfast. John Robinson the butcher from Stockbridge, who had a stand in the Hampshire Harvest Tent, used to bring us a bag of sausages and bacon and we gave him and his staff a breakfast in return.

Jim: I started going to The Romsey Show with the Romsey Young Farmers in around 1966 but I wasn't heavily involved until Judith roped me in around 33 years ago. I started as a cattle steward but for the past 20 years I have been the President's chauffeur.

Q. Judith, you have done many roles over the years haven't you?

Judith: Yes, after helping in the farm area we used to have lots of rural crafts such as a thatcher within the farm area and I organised that. Following this I was Chief Steward of the Members Enclosure and in turn I became the President's Steward. I then took over organising the Food Zone, which I have been doing for around 20 years. In more recent years Jim suggested I took on the public catering in-house for the Show in order to improve the quality of food available to eat at the Show. The Show has to have a balance of types of food on offer to suit all visitors. The larger units have their place for the volume of visitors but lots of people do also appreciate the more bespoke food on offer from smaller producers.

In between all of this Judith was also Show Chairman in 1995/96 and 2018.

Q. What is your favourite thing about the Show and being involved?

Judith: Friday, the day before the Show is my favourite. The atmosphere is fantastic and first thing on the morning of the show as well. Show day itself is so busy you don't really take it all in. I find it hard to imagine what it feels like being in the Office and working so hard for the Show to be on for only one day, but the atmosphere makes it worth the effort. I also love meeting people, people who you now consider friends. You meet people from different walks of life and backgrounds, who you may not usually meet in everyday life.

Jim: That is what these type of events are about, the people. In my role as President's Chauffeur I have met lots of interesting people. One of the main reasons I think it's lovely to be a joint President with Judith is that we can split up for some of the day, meaning we can visit more people, particularly those who work hard to put on the Show. I think people appreciate being visited. The livestock is my favourite part to visit as that is my background.

Q. What aspects of the Show do you think have changed the most since you started being involved?

Jim: The decline of agricultural focus and related businesses such as tractor dealerships. There are fewer of them and they cover a much wider area of the country. The rise in costs for them as well as the changes in how they operate.

Judith: It's not for want of trying to keep the show more agricultural it is just the way the area is. The other thing that has changed so much is health and safety. It has increased the costs of putting on the Show phenomenally. A lot of people don't realise the hoops Show organisers now have to jump through. It affects everyone attending the Show, such as exhibitors and contractors as well.

Q. Outside of the Show, what do you enjoy doing?

Judith: I am involved a little in The New Forest Show, I do some voluntary work with the NHS, cookery demonstrations, food related judging at other events, gardening and I love reading. I was a Home Economics teacher, which then became Food Technology, at a school in Fordingbridge for 34 years and was Head of the Technology Faculty for some years before I retired.

Jim: I am a New Forest Commoner, keeping cattle and ponies. I spend a lot of time riding in the forest, looking after the animals we have here and I still work in a consultancy capacity for a local estate where I have been employed for over 50 years. I love growing vegetables and there is nothing better than having a meal that was completely home produced. I am a former Verderer and have a keen interest in the forest. Being a New Forest Verderer is a voluntary position, they employ the Agisters to manage the stock on the ground, contribute to the management of the forest and protect it from inappropriate development.

Q. What are you most looking forward to in your role as Presidents at this year's show?

Judith: Being able to go around and see all the Show. I don't normally get the chance to see the cattle or trade stands, I usually just pass by. I am also looking forward to spending time in the Members Enclosure during Show Day afternoon and seeing friends and chatting to them. There always used to be a buzz in the Members Enclosure at that time of day when I used to steward there and I'm hoping it's going to still be there.

Jim: I hope to bring perfect weather! Judith is also a prolific (almost official) cake and biscuit maker for the show.

The last sentence we can all agree with! Judith is famous at The Romsey Show for her legendary bakes, which have kept many volunteers going during Show week and are very much appreciated by all. Thank you to Jim and Judith for their time and for everything they have done for the Society. I am sure lots of people reading this will join us in wishing them an enjoyable show day.

Bookings now open for Members Lunches

South Coast Parties will be providing the catering in the Members Area at the show again this year. To view the menu and book, please visit www.romseyshow.co.uk/membership.

Book now and collect on the day between 11am – 3pm.

Options this year include the picnic boxes, as well as new offerings for groups to share including the sandwich, savoury and sweet boxes.

For all enquiries, please email Teresa@southcoastparties.co.uk

Congratulations and welcome to our new Junior Ambassador, Lucy Houghton

We are thrilled to announce that our Presidents have selected Lucy Houghton as the Society's 2024/25 Junior Ambassador.



Lucy grew up in the village of Awbridge and has attended the show regularly for her whole life, describing it as a permanent fixture in her calendar, Lucy even made sure her upcoming wedding didn't clash with the Show date!

In her ambassador application Lucy recalled how one of her earliest memories of the Show was when she went into the Fur and Feather tent with her pocket money and came out the proud owner of a hamster she called Caramel. Later on in her teenage years Lucy has supported the Show through helping within the car parks as a Prefect of Romsey School, playing at the Show as part of Michelmersh Silver Band and helping within the horse section with rosettes.

In more recent years Lucy was a teacher of Geography and Environmental Science in a secondary school and this year she started her current position within the Environment Agency, a role which enables her to contribute towards improving the environment in a new way. We look forward to welcoming Lucy to the team, she will be joining the Presidents on show morning, visiting various sections of the Show and in the meantime she is looking forward to promoting the Show to a new audience.

New to the 2024 Show – MUNCH

Munch CIC is a social enterprise based in Winchester. They offer corporate and events catering which supports their Community Cooking Programme. They work with disadvantaged groups, including families on low incomes with children and adults with learning disabilities. Their main aim is to help people develop the skills and confidence they need to be able to cook from scratch, while teaching them about healthy eating, food labelling and sustainable nutrition. Munch also work with children and young people in schools and community settings.

At the Romsey Show Munch will be doing children's salad building workshops, and encouraging children to learn about farm to fork, seasonal eating and healthy food. Children will have free reign to build their own food creations and have lots of fun while doing so! Visit them on show day within the Food Zone area, next to the Skills Kitchen.



D-Day 80 Special Events – By Chris Barrington-Brown

“As you will know, this year marks the 80th Anniversary of one of the defining moments of the Second World War – D-Day. Broadlands was one of the camps where troops did their final preparations before heading to Southampton to embark for Normandy. To celebrate the role which Broadlands, Romsey and Southern Hampshire played in the invasion there will be a D-Day flavour through this year’s Show.



A special marquee will provide a venue for both a series of six short (20 min) talks on aspects of D-Day in the local area, and some ‘pop-up’ museums and exhibitors. Talks will be on the hour from 10 until 4, less 1pm. Subjects include the New Forest Airfields, plus one of them in particular, the contribution of Lepe to the construction of Mulberry Harbours, Embarkation and PLUTO, what happened in the Romsey area, and how so many men, vehicles and their supporting supplies were controlled and marshalled through Romsey down to Southampton.

Each of the speakers will have a stand in the D-Day marquee to enable visitors to ask more questions, or, if they miss a talk, to find out about the subject. In addition to bringing plenty of historic artifacts, one of the museums will enable visitors to fire World War 2 weapons modified to be safe in an enclosed area.

We have requested a flypast by the RAF’s historic Dakota, which was the type used to land paratroopers and tow gliders 80 years ago. There will be a ‘memory wall’ of local reminiscences of 1944, and various civil and military vehicles of the period will be parked nearby. Finally, the Show will be closed with a flag-lowering ceremony and the playing of the Last Post, in memory of those who left Southern Hampshire and never returned. We will remember them...”

Special Guests

We have Lt Col N Twumasi-Ankrah MVO, RHG/D (an equerry to the Late Queen) taking the salute at an enhanced Sunset Ceremony to close the show. The Canadian Defence Adviser, Brigadier General Dwayne Parsons, will also be in attendance and we have extended an invitation to the French and American Defence Attachés to attend.

D-Day 80 Memory Wall

We are still looking for quotations for our D-Day 80 Memory Wall which will be displayed at the Show. If you, or any friends or relatives, have any memories of D-Day in Hampshire that you would like to share with us please email info@romseyshow.co.uk.

World War II Military Vehicles

We are still looking for World War II Military vehicles to join us on show day with a static display and taking part in the Sunset Ceremony in the Main President’s Ring from 5pm.

If you are interested please email info@romseyshow.co.uk, vehicles must be on the Showground from 8am – 6pm.



Food Zone Trader Exhibitor & Sponsor, New Forest Shortbread

We welcome a number of trade exhibitors from the local area to the Show, many have interesting stories to tell about their business and we are looking forward to sharing the spotlight on some of these businesses through our newsletters. In this newsletter we are sharing the story of New Forest Shortbread.

“New Forest Shortbread has been delighting visitors to the New Forest National Park since 2015. With years of experience, our owner Tracy Thew is dedicated to the fine art of shortbread baking. What began as a personal pursuit has blossomed into a thriving local business where lovingly handcrafted batches of dough are baked and packed into boxes of award winning flavoured shortbread.

Tracy leads her team of talented local staff, working together to carefully create delicious shortbread that tastes good and melts in

the mouth. Since 2017, New Forest Shortbread has been a proud member of the New Forest Marque which is recognised for supporting producers of authentic New Forest fare of the highest quality and supporting traditional country ways in our unique and special landscape.



We are deeply committed to our homegrown brand. Set deep in the heart of the New Forest National Park, we ensure a conscious concern for the food we produce, the welfare of our fellow team members, our working environment and the important relationships with our local suppliers, businesses and friends. We support retail outlets within the National Park by offering our products to sell, helping link farm shops, hotels and other accommodation providers within the wider community who use our genuine local product. Our all butter New Forest Shortbread is not mass-produced or impersonal but crafted with care and a sense of heritage. We have enormous pride in what we produce and appreciate the feedback from customers who enjoy them.

We source our ingredients from Harvest Fine Food, a local wholesaler that buys in Arla butter made in Westbury, especially for us to use. Arla pride themselves in using milk from local dairy herds. We sell at local shows such as Romsey, as well as sponsoring the dairy classes which we see as a link to supporting the local production of butter. We have further teamed up with our friends the New Forest Tea Company, Mozzo Coffee and Hampshire Lavender Fields to create delicious recipes using their unique locally produced products.

Our distinctive and customary approach to production ensures an intentional and wonderful array of shapes and colours, providing an exclusive artisan experience with every bite. Our commitment to sustainability is evident, sealing our shortbread in recyclable bags on the day they are baked. We package them in boxes and recently Snack Packs featuring beautiful illustrations by local artists and stories about our wonderful New Forest National Park. We love to share little nuggets of local information and conveying details about this special place to enhance readers' understanding of this special region; changing our stories annually to cover subjects of interest.”

Thank you to New Forest Shortbread for supporting the Show and we look forward to seeing them on Show day in the Food Zone.

The Main President's Ring Timetable

(Times may be subject to change)

8:30am – 11:30am: Welsh & New Forest Equine classes

11:30am: Coaching Turnout Class & Marathon – Pre-judging

12:15am: Romsey Old Cadets

12:45pm: Parade of Vintage Machinery & Classic vehicles

1:45pm: Hampshire Young Famers Challenge

2:30pm: Coaching Turnout class & Marathon – Final judging

3:10pm: Presentation of Long Service Awards and Award of Merit

3:15pm: Romsey Old Cadets

3:45pm: Heavy Horse Turnout & Parade

4:30pm: Hampshire Young Farmers Challenge finale

5pm: D-Day 80 parade & sunset ceremony



Coaching Turnout Class & Marathon – Meet the Team

In our last newsletter we introduced the return of the Coaching Class and Marathon after 35 years, coming to the Main President's Ring on Show Day this year. Several Coachmen attending the Show have featured in the Netflix hit series Bridgerton, including the Horse Master of the whole production. In this newsletter we welcome back marathon organiser Callum Feltham to find out a little more about the horses and the team that makes up the coaching turnouts.



“Within the turnouts the individual coaching teams may well use a different breed of horse to another coaching team, however within each team of four horses they will be of matching breed and carefully selected to look similar in colour, stature and action. Predominantly the Dutch Geldlander is the best suited coach horse the world has to offer today and four out of the five coaching teams attending The Romsey Show will use Geldlanders and interestingly each competitor uses a different colour variation of the breed (personal preference). The last competitor will either bring his Hungarian Lipizzaner team which are only bred grey, or he'll bring his Friesian team which are only bred in pure black with no other markings.

The vehicles attending are all categorised under the coach umbrella, to be specific the five attending vehicles will be 'Park Drags'. Park drags are the private versions of the "Road

Coaches". The road coaches were sign written, took passengers and luggage all over the country back in the 1800's. Whereas park drags were probably only used for Sunday best, organised sporting drives and entertaining guests, certainly never really used for travel, think of a Park Drag as something you'd show off round the Park on.

On a drag you can have up to 10 passengers or a minimum of 6. You'll always have the 'coachmen' also known as the 'driver' or 'whip', a coachman will always have a lady next to him and a coachwoman will always have a gentlemen next to her. A coachmen will always be accompanied by his/her grooms who sit on the back, their job is keep the horses in check when stationary, to assist the passengers with refreshments or any other job the coachmen might need. You will always have a 'headgroom' and a 'junior groom', and if one of the grooms is musically talented then they can entertain the guest by playing the 'coach horn'. Everybody else on the drag are guests. Traditionally on a sign written road coach you'd have your driver, his two grooms and everybody else would've been paying customers."

Don't miss this spectacular attraction in the ring at 11:30am and 2:30pm on Show day!

We are pleased to be welcoming the following attractions to the Brewin Dolphin Countryside Ring on Show day:

- Misselchalke Gun Dogs
- South Wilts Falconry
- Flyball demonstrations
- The Rare breed Spaniel group
- South Downs Bloodhounds
- The Family Dog Show – enter by the ring from mid-morning.



Thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring the displays in the Countryside Ring this year – Alma Road Surgery, Annuity Advice Co., Bells Solicitors, Kimbridge on the Test, Mainstone Vets and Security Supplies. We really appreciate your support towards the Show.



1970's & 80's Romsey Young Farmers Reunion

We intend to hold a reunion of "old" Romsey Young Farmers from the 1970's and 80's in the President's section of the Member's Marquee at 3.30 pm on show day. Please spread the word to anyone you know who should be attending. The aim is to have at least 100 "old" members attending. If you were involved, please renew your Romsey Show membership and we hope to see you there.

Show E-tickets on Sale now

Save 20% on entry price for standard show tickets

Visit www.romseyshow.co.uk/the-show/buy-tickets/

Enhance your show day experience with Membership & Premium parking

Prices start from £40 for adult membership.

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 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.