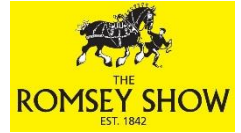


# RAHSS Autumn Newsletter 2024



Welcome to the autumn Romsey Agricultural & Horse Show Society newsletter, following the Romsey Show on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September and our smaller event, the Winter Fayre on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**For your diary: The 2025 Romsey Show is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

## 2024 Romsey Show Report

For those of you who were able to attend the show, either in the capacity of an exhibitor, competitor, paying guest, sponsor or volunteer, on behalf of the Show Council I hope that you enjoyed your day, and we thank you for your support. We welcomed approximately 17,000 people to the show.

The Show was blessed with fine weather, not only on show day but also, and as importantly, in the week preceding the show, and in the week after during the take down period.

The show featured the return of the four in hand coaching class and marathon, with five immaculate teams keenly competing for the Chamberlayne Macdonald Cup. The competition featured the initial judging in the President's Main Ring, followed by a six mile marathon along private tracks within the Broadlands Estate, where they were observed for coach and horsemanship, followed by the final judging again in the President's Main Ring. The Chamberlayne Macdonald Cup, and a magnum of champagne was presented to the winner by The Countess of Lindsay. The winning exhibition team was led by Max White. Thank you to the Cranbury Foundation for supporting the Coaching class and marathon and to Winchester Bar Company for the Champagne.



Another unique feature was our marquee showcasing the build-up to D-Day within the local area, featuring six stands and a lecture area, which was so popular that there was standing room only! This was supplemented by a collection of WW2 vehicles from the military, agricultural and commercial sectors.



The cattle and sheep lines were well supported. The Supreme Beef Champion was a Charolais exhibited by Sarah Jackson from Goscombe Farm in Hampshire. The Senior Dairy Female Champion was awarded to Richard Norman from Somerset. Charmain Plummer from Dorset won the Overall Sheep Champion with her Dutch Spotted Sheep, whilst Nicole Farmer from Berkshire took the Reserve Champion place with her Oxford Down sheep. In the equine section from 17 champions, the Supreme Champion was awarded to Richard Burge

with Mynyddgraig Alarch and the Reserve Champion went to Gavina Semonella, exhibiting Forlan Honey Monarch. The Donkey Champion was Aria exhibited by Jade Weaver and the reserve place awarded to Mr McLaren and Miss Chilton exhibiting East Lodge Orinoco. Finally, congratulations to the Heavy Horse Turnout winners Jon Mitchell and Charlotte Webb. There are so many championship winners of all the classes taking place on the day, it just isn't possible to list everyone! Congratulations to you all and thank you to all our livestock and equine exhibitors for supporting the Show along with the sponsors. A lot of time goes into preparing the animals for show day and we are so grateful to everyone that takes part on the day. We were pleased to welcome several newcomers to the showing world this year as well.



Photographs of the coaching and sheep class by Lynne Harles – Alton Camera Club

We had all the traditional favourites return to the Show this year including the falconry, gun dog and flyball displays in the RBC Brewin Dolphin Countryside Ring, as well as the popular

Family Dog Show. Other attractions included the BMX Stunt display ring, the Sheep Show, mobile farm, Scotty's Circus and we were also pleased to be able to welcome the Romsey Old Cadets, who brought their unique style of music playing and entertainment to the show.

The food zone was as popular as ever, with plenty of local produce, the Beggars Fair stage and picnic area, as well as Hampshire Fare's Skills Kitchen featuring the local chefs and producers, the honey tent and beautiful floral art displays.

### **Trade Stand Award Winners**

A number of businesses join us each year, promoting their services and selling their products at the Show. The Show is a great opportunity for businesses to say hello to previous customers as well as meet new faces. Many exhibitors put a huge amount of effort into setting up their space for visitors to enjoy. As this is done before the show opens people may not be aware how many hours this can take. Each year the Show invites a guest to judge the trade stands at the show. There are various categories of trade space (as per the classes listed below) and the judge will place exhibits based on how the trade space is presented and laid out as well as the impact and overall impression the judge gets from visiting the stand. Congratulations to the following 2024 trade stand winners:

#### **Best outside stand with a frontage of over 9m**

- 1st Place – Ace Liftaway
- 2nd Place – Rod Gaskin

#### **Best outside stand with a frontage of 9m and under**

- 1st Place – Tools for Self Reliance
- 2nd Place – P&L Metalworks

#### **Best Charity Stand**

- 1st Place – Jane's Charity Shop – Romsey Cancer Support Centre
- 2nd Place – Romsey Carnival

#### **Best Trade Stand Undertaken by a Youth Group**

- 1st Place – Romsey Rugby Club
- 2nd Place – 1st Chandler's Ford Scout Group

#### **Best Rural Industries stand**

- 1st Place – Bianca Williams Design
- 2nd Place – Bursledon Brickworks

#### **Best shopping stand – located in the shopping marquees**

- 1st Place – Cyril's Soap Shed
- 2nd Place – Pilgrims Pantry



## **A huge THANK YOU to our Volunteers**

A significant number of people put in a lot of effort pre show in the set up and assist with the post show take down and clear up, as well as all our valued volunteer stewards on show day. Without the support of these volunteers quite simply The Romsey Show would not happen, we express our appreciation to all concerned. If you feel that you would like to help next year please contact the office, we have roles for every area of the showground.

### **Award of Merit Winner – Tommy Russell**

The Award of Merit is presented by the Show Society to someone who has given outstanding service and contribution to the Show and lives within a 30-mile radius of Romsey.

Tommy Russell was presented with the award at this year's Show by our President Judith Long. Tommy has organised the fairground at the Romsey Show for decades. He is a familiar face in the Show Office in the weeks leading up to the Show and spends hours preparing the plots for the showmen attending the Show as well as collecting all the health and safety paperwork associated with the rides. Tommy has also supported our steward volunteers with refreshments vouchers and treats on show week alongside his son Bailey Russell. Thank you to Tommy for all his support and we look forward to many more shows with the Russell family.



### **Junior Ambassador's Highlights by Lucy Houghton**



*"I want to start by saying what an absolute pleasure it was to be the Junior Ambassador of the Show this year! My Show started on the Thursday evening when I received my badge from Norton, the Chairman, and I helped set up for the Steward's supper. What was clear from this moment was firstly, how delicious the selection of Lyburn Cheese was, and secondly, the passion that everyone brought into the tent. The people who I spoke to had decades of experience amongst them, and we were all hopeful it would be a successful day – it felt lucky that that evening we were blessed with a bright rainbow across the whole site. Friday for me was a bit of a blur, assisting with any handy jobs I could, from putting up fire exit signs in the shopping marquees to helping man the gates, but at least the sun shone throughout. I feel like it gave me a behind the scenes snapshot into the complexity of everything it takes for the Show to happen.*

*On Show Day I was on-site around 6.30am, dewy grass, sun slowly warming and excited to meet as many people as possible. Over the twelve hours of my day, I did around 13,000 steps which I think is quite impressive since most of the morning I was being driven around in the*

*luxury of the President's buggy as we toured around the Show through each of the zones. Whilst I won't describe every hour and step in detail, I've chosen my five highlights of the day to give you an insight into why I think it was my favourite Romsey Show in years.*

*1) I started my day with the Presidents and seeing all corners of the Show but the best start was having a stockman's breakfast behind the cattle lines and being able to get an insight into getting a showing animal ready. It was exciting to watch various cattle being made to look their best by blowing them with air, brushing them and even adding talc powder to them.*

*2) I loved sitting at the side of the Main Ring watching the beautiful horses' step in time and pull in a wonderful selection of coaches for us to watch. It was the first time in over 30 years that the coaching class was on display, and it really felt like a treat. The amount of effort that goes into an event like this was clear from the outfits of those sat on top of the carriages, to the shine of the coaches and the neatness of the horses. You could really imagine that you were back in time and waiting on your ride home from a ball.*



*3) As a fan of history and knowing that 80 years since the events of D-Day is a significant landmark, I was grateful to be able to attend the final talk of the day by Chris Barrington-Brown about the build-up to D-Day that happened around Romsey. It was fascinating to learn just how many troops there would have been marshalled in the fields and local towns that many of us know and to learn about what evidence is available through maps and photos.*

*4) It was a real privilege to be able to walk out into the Main Ring and take part in the sunset ceremony. The weather was gorgeous all day and the golden glow as the sun was going down really highlighted how lucky we were. We had WWII Military vehicles, standard bearers, a parade marshal and dignitaries giving a salute which gave the end of the Show a very honourable feel.*

*5) And lastly, overall, I thoroughly enjoyed talking to a range of people, but especially the parents of young families and a few young farmers about what they want from the Show. I really valued gathering everyone's ideas and I hope to continue to support the Show and see what happens in the future.*

*So, having read the above, I hope you will all agree it was a wonderful day and that if you came you also thoroughly enjoyed it! I look forward to helping to select the next Junior Ambassador and seeing what moments we can make happen in September 2025.*

*Wishing you all a pleasant winter!"*

The Show Society would like to thank Lucy for being our Junior Ambassador this year, in particular for all her help prior to Show day and for her feedback from her experience of the Show this year. If you are interested in applying for the Junior Ambassador role in 2025 please get in touch. More information will be in our next newsletter.

### 2024 Winter Fayre Report



We had another successful year hosting our Winter Fayre, which takes place in November each year in the Crosfield Hall. We welcomed an excellent selection of exhibitors to the hall and ran the popular café selling local and homemade produce again this year. This fundraiser has raised over £2,500 for the charity. Thank you to our Social Group and their volunteers for all their hard work organising and promoting the event.

Special thanks as well to the Romsey Ukulele Group and Glenn Dutfield for entertaining our visitors on the day.



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Thank you for reading our last newsletter of 2024. We want to thank everyone involved in supporting our events. They are only possible due to the time and dedication of our volunteers, members, sponsors, exhibitors, judges and of course visitors and guests.

We hope you enjoy December (is it too early for Merry Christmas?!) and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.