



Saturday 12th September 2026
Broadlands, Romsey
www.romseyshow.co.uk 01794 517 521
COUNTRYSIDE * FOOD * ENTERTAINMENT

The Summer Newsletter 2026

Welcome to our summer newsletter. This edition includes an interview with our 2026 Presidents, a feature on the upcoming Romsey Beggar's Fair, meet our Horse Secretary and a report from our Passion for the Saints fundraiser.

Show Day - Saturday 12th September 2026

2026 Advance Tickets & Membership

Tickets are on sale now, there are two options which provide entry to the Show:

Standard entry tickets – purchase either in advance or on the day

OR

Society Membership – Includes enhanced benefits - purchase in advance

For both options, children 11 years and under are free and don't require a ticket

Standard tickets can be purchased in advance with up to 20% off the Show day price. Adult tickets start from £20. Prices increase a week before the Show. Visit our website for more information:

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

Premium & Ringside Parking

Premium and ringside parking are available to members and sponsors for £40 for premium & £70 for ringside. Access your vehicle throughout the day, bring a picnic & meet friends.

Premium parking – Reserve a space in a small car park behind the Members' Enclosure. Cars must be parked by 11am and cannot leave until 3pm. Standard ticket holders can also access your space from the main showground. Everyone entering in the vehicle must have an advance ticket/badge.

Ringside parking – Reserve a space overlooking the Main Ring. Cars must be parked by 10:30am and cannot leave until the Show closes at 5:30pm (or otherwise instructed). Everyone entering in the vehicle must have an advance ticket/badge.

Email info@romseyshow.co.uk to book, spaces are reserved on a first come basis with full payment.



THE
ROMSEY SHOW
EST. 1842

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER | 8AM - 5:30PM
A great day out!

Coaching Class
& Marathon

Shopping &
Craft Stands

Vintage Vehicles, BMX
Display & Steam Engines

Falconry, Ferrets,
Dogs & Reptiles

Food Zone, Floral Art
& Live Music

Children's Activities
& Fun Fair



Horses, Donkeys
& Farm Animals

MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE
FOR ENHANCED EXPERIENCE

UNDER 12'S GO FREE

Romsey
SO51 9LQ

FREE
PARKING

DOGS WELCOME
ON SHORT LEADS
DISCOUNTED TICKETS
ON SALE NOW



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An Interview with our 2026 Presidents Mike & Judy Smales

Our Secretary, Alexa and videographer, Phil recently visited Lyburn Farm to spend the afternoon with our 2026 Presidents, Mike and Judy Smales. The visit included a tour of the cheese making side of the business and we had a chat about this year's show.

Mike and Judy farm in partnership with their son Jono at Lyburn Farm in Landford. The farm started off as a dairy, which they since added value to through the cheese making and growing of organic vegetables on the land. They are still actively involved with the farm and following a long period as tenant farmers purchased the farm two years ago, which they described as essential to the business and a proud moment for the family.



As part of our conversation, Judy told us about her early life:

“I grew up in Houghton and lived at Houghton Farm all of my life until I got married and my grandfather and then my father farmed the land. My father went on to manage Bossington Estate. I love that area and the river Test, I feel very local. Mike and I met at young farmers, as a lot of our friends did! We have been married for over 50 years.”

Mike: “My family moved to West Tytherley in 1953 and moved to a farm called Little Buckholt Farm and put in a dairy there. In the 60's and 70's we were milking around 120 cows. We also had about 10,000 laying hens. Over a period of time it wasn't big enough for two families, so we took Lyburn Farm over in 1969. We put in a new dairy unit for around 200 cows and around 5-10 years later we started growing vegetables. We have the sort of ground that can accommodate growing vegetables, whereas at West Tytherley we were on the chalk and the soil was too thin there. We now run 170 cows and make roughly 2 tonnes of cheese a week. The vegetables we grow include broad beans, runner beans, courgette, squash, sweetcorn and a lot of pumpkins. We principally supply Abel & Cole, Riverford is our biggest customer and also Waitrose via Barfoots.”

Mike and Judy have been involved with the Romsey Show as part of their business for many years. What is your earliest memory of the Show?

Judy: “I think I have been to most Romsey Shows the whole of in my life. Our treat when we were children was going to Romsey Show, we always went to Romsey Show. And many years ago I was the Assistant Secretary. I had only just finished a secretarial course and in those days we didn't have printers. The minutes had to be done on skins and if you made a mistake you had to put some horrible pink stuff on it. I did that for six months and it was a good way to learn about how the Show runs. It was a long time ago, things have changed a bit since then.”

Mike: “I think I have probably only missed one Show since around 1953. I remember coming with my parents and we had a ringside slot for years. It was a big treat. This was when the show was back where it is again now on Broadlands. It was more agricultural back then with the machinery stands. I can still remember the CA King & Son, animal feed supplies and salesman Eric Gear, he was a character.” Judy added: “Mike's mother ran the floral arranging tent for years before Maureen Lawes took over from her.

She did it for years and years. I also used to help steward in the Food Zone with Judith Long which included decorating the picnic area.”

We had a chat about how Shows have changed over time. Mike said: “Shows have changed a lot in the last 20-30 years. We used to go to the Royal Show at Kenilworth in Warwickshire which is no longer running. Shows are also just so reliant on the weather. In the past, people just put on their coats and went out if it was raining, but now the weather can influence people and affect attendance. I remember around 2008 when we pulled every vehicle in and out at Romsey. The ground conditions were dreadful. I was driving one of Ian Nelson’s big Massey Fergusons and had hitched onto a guy with hoop ducks. He told me where he wanted to go and when I stopped, he said the unit needed to be square on. It just wasn’t possible to straighten it up. He wasn’t happy and demanded to leave the site, I just left him there and he was still there the next morning. However, the next morning the weather turned, the sun came out, the ground dried and the show went on, we got away with it!”

The Romsey Show is a charity and a huge number of volunteers plan and run the show. Mike said: “The make-up of the board of trustees would be predominantly farmers in the past, this has changed for a lot of shows around here as it isn’t as rural as Cornwall, Devon or Somerset. In this area farming is on a much smaller scale now.” Judy added: “A lot of the work on the farms now is done by big machinery. When my Dad was farming the land there were a lot more people. We only had 150-200 acres but there were so many people working there. There were more rural contacts and people to help out at the shows, and support them. It is a shame but everything has changed”.

What are you most looking forward to about being the Presidents this year?:

Judy: “Meeting lots of people. You meet lots of people when you sell cheese but it’s different to when you are relaxed and meet people in a different role. It will be lovely. I am looking forward to seeing another side of the show that we didn’t necessarily know existed. We want to try and get round as much as we can.”

Mike: “I think with the cheese stand, we do meet a lot of people and people come and find us, we might only see them once or twice a year. People know about us because of the cheese and we enjoy meeting people and will enjoy that on show day.”

What do you like to do outside of life at the farm? Judy: We have just come back from Denmark, we like travelling. Mike has family in Australia so we like to go over there every couple of years. We also like the garden. We have a big garden and spend a lot of time there. Mike likes the straight lines in the lawn! I also do floral arranging.

Mike: “We don’t play golf or ski! With the cheese we get invited to go to nice places. Eating out is important for us and we are fortunate to get lots of opportunities.”

Judy: “I am involved in a small committee called Friends of St. Andrews Church and we are trying to raise funds for St Andrews Church at Landford. It’s in need of some renovation work. I enjoy meeting some new people and we have events in the village hall to raise money for the church. When I was working in the cheese room and doing all of the accounts, I didn’t really have time for things like that. I still do some of the farm accounts with help from other members of the family.

Finally, we spoke about the future of farming and Lyburn. Judy said: “We have family wanting to carry on which is lovely; some farms don’t have that. Kate, Jono’s wife helps in the cheese room. Our eldest

grandchildren are interested in farming. Our granddaughter Julia is currently training to be an agronomist with Bartholomews and our grandson Jan is in his final year of his apprenticeship with Hunt Forest to be a technician. Charlie is 14 and still at school but there's a good chance he will also do something linked to farming as he has an interest."

We look forward to welcoming Mike and Judy to the show as our Presidents and look out on our social media our Lyburn cheese tour posts.



Trade Stand Applications Are Still Open

If you are interested in promoting your business or selling products to a large audience at the Show we would love to hear from you. We welcome a range of existing and new exhibitors to the Show every year. Please visit our website for more information or to book a space. We have several areas including the outside stands, Shopping & Craft Marquee and the Food Zone. Spaces are limited with applications accepted on a first come basis. For food/drink suppliers, please email info@romseyshow.co.uk first to check availability.

www.romseyshow.co.uk/trade-stands/booking



Meet Our Horse Secretary – Steph Janaway

“Hello, I’m Steph Janaway, and I’m proud to be the Horse Secretary for this year’s Romsey Show.



I am a qualified APC BHS Stage 3 equestrian coach and currently coach at Ampfield Riding Stables, who will once again be performing their popular drill ride to music displays at the show. Alongside this, I run my own freelance business, SLJ Equestrian Coaching, where I work across a variety of yards including dressage, showing, livery and riding schools. This diverse experience has given me a broad base of knowledge which I bring into both my coaching and my role at the show.

I have a real passion for dressage, both competing and judging, and have been involved with Romsey Show for many years as a competitor. When I was approached to take on the role of Horse Secretary, I jumped at the chance to be part of such a well-loved and established event.

My aim is to help build on the show’s success while also modernising and developing it for the future, ensuring it continues to thrive for competitors, exhibitors and visitors alike. I’m very much looking forward to this year’s show and to seeing everyone there.”

Thank you to Steph for all her hard work with the equine section. We will be putting out our schedule and information regarding our procedures in relation to equine flu shortly. If you have any queries regarding the equine section, please email Steph at horse@romseyshow.co.uk.

Passion For The Saints – Society Fundraising Event

Thank you to everyone who supported our Passion for the Saints event at the Crosfield Hall in April. We hosted a fantastic evening with Dave Merrington, Matt Le Tissier, Francis Benali and Adam Blackmore. Comedian Mike Osman also made a special appearance on the night. The feedback from the event has been really positive and we are pleased to announce we made a profit of just under £8,000, which we split with Testwood Baptist Church.

A huge amount of time and planning goes into these events and we couldn’t do this without our dedicated team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone from the front of house and VIP event team to the catering, bar and main hall volunteers, as well as the technical teams producing the show and lighting. The Crosfield Hall was transformed for the evening.



Special thanks to our Presidents Judy and Mikes Smales for the floral displays and the cheese hampers from Lyburn Farm. Finally, a big thank you to the panel for giving up their time to support the show society and entertain our guests, there was certainly plenty of laughter in the hall during the evening!



To everyone that attended or shared the event, thank you!

If you have any suggestions for any fundraisers the society could host to raise funds for the charity, please do get in touch with us.

Romsey Beggars Fair - Saturday 11th July 2026

The Romsey Beggars Fair team provide musical entertainment at the Show in the Food Zone picnic area on show day. The line up for 2026 will be announced soon, with bands and solo artists entertaining visitors from 10.30am to 4:30pm on the day. Grab a bite to eat, a chair and enjoy the music!

The Romsey Show is just a small part of their calendar each year. Currently the Beggars Fair team is busily planning for its next annual free summer music festival on Saturday 11th July!

Now in its 32nd year, the event will feature some 150 acts across over 25 venues in, or close to, the town. Uniquely, it is run solely for and managed by the local community. Recent events have seen some 7,000 people through the streets, with amazing feedback received from all ages.

The best of local musicians will bring you an eclectic mix of folk, jazz, blues, soul, rock, bluegrass, classical and world music. Together with colourful dance displays and children's entertainment, there is plenty of entertainment on offer.



The Beggars Fair began in 1993 when a group of local musicians and performers organized an event called Folk in Romsey. They arranged concerts, a dance, and a road closure in the Cornmarket for dance displays. However, it was noticed that no Romsey-based artists were involved, and there were gaps between the dance performances. It was decided to fill those gaps with free music events.

The event was very well-received, so it was decided to host it again the following year. This time, they needed to come up with a name. They chose Beggars Fair, inspired by a 17th-century Romsey Beggars' Badge that was issued in 1678 by local magistrates to identify licensed beggars, distinguishing them from

others. One of these badges is on display at the Tudor House Museum in Southampton. The name seemed fitting because the event was free, with contributions collected to fund it. The event has always looked to encourage new, young talent.



The Beggars Fair is organised by a small, dedicated team plus a group of volunteers who join in on the day, working with Test Valley Council, the Police and local businesses. A number of town centre roads will be closed for the day; the website will have full information about access and parking nearer the time.

If you have a talent, skill or just enthusiasm that could benefit the team in organising future events or would like to help, then email volunteers@beggarsfair.org.uk for further information. You will be very welcome and no previous festival experience is necessary! Visit

www.beggarsfair.org.uk for more information and thank you to the team for supporting The Romsey Show.

2026 Show Photographer

Paul Turner Photography will be joining us at the Show again this year, taking photos on the day.

Paul covers all aspects of photography, (portraits, commercial, events, weddings, pets etc.) and he also offers a service for people who may have a lower income but still want some great-quality photographs for their event. Paul can tailor a package to suit you, so that you can still have an amazing day with amazing photos whilst only paying a fraction of the cost. He has done wedding ceremonies for £100 previously as well as a number of free charity projects, such as The Romsey Show.



Thank you to Paul and Kelly for supporting the Show again this year, we are so grateful.

Check out Paul here on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PTphoto/>

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to contribute towards future newsletters, please email us. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.