

Society Matters Newsletter

Summer Edition : June 2024



**Newark
& Notts**
Agri Society



A Message From Society President, Bob Sheldon

It was a privilege, honour and pleasure to be the 2024 Newark and Notts Agricultural Society President, alongside my wife Anne, and what an incredible day we had at the Show!

Throughout the years the Show has evolved to stay relevant and reflect the changing times we have and continue to experience. Today, as an agricultural charity, we have an important task to keep people, particularly youngsters, updated on where their food comes from and how our farmers produce it and I believe we were successful in achieving this.

I hope you got the opportunity to see the incredible effort that goes into keeping our countryside thriving and the opportunity to learn and appreciate the vital role farmers play in maintaining our environment, from the demonstrations to workshops to displays on Show day.

I also hope you enjoyed the Show, the animals, small and large, the tractors and machinery, old and new, and that you continue to attend and support the Show and help the Society showcase the best of farming, farmers and our wonderful countryside.

Meeting so many of you on such a sunny day was a genuine pleasure and I hope to see you again next year!

In this issue:

Success at this year's County Show

[See page 2](#)

Summer at the Showground

[See page 3](#)

Strong exhibitor support for MMS

[See page 4](#)

Members pictures

[See page 7-8](#)



Success at this year's Nottinghamshire County Show!

The opportunity to get close to animals and enjoy fantastic entertainment in the main ring, food & drink stalls, trade stands, music and a wide range of community initiatives brought thousands of people, especially families, flocking to the Newark Showground on Show day!

☀️ **Sunshine from dusk to dawn**

🐷 **663 livestock, 567 horses and 93 rabbits on the Showground**

🍰 **Record-breaking entries in Floral Arts and Make, Bake & Grow classes**

🏆 **Over 50 hours of judging across 20 rings**

👤 **More than 550 winners recognised**

🐾 **9.5 hours of Main Ring entertainment**

🎓 **28 student education grants awarded**

🏆 **10 individuals recognised for their Service to Agriculture**

👤 **More than 230 judges, stewards and volunteers who kindly gave their time to make the Show a huge success**

Show Chairman, Des Allen, said it more than achieved the aim of encouraging more farming involvement this year, helped by the increase in participation across the board.

The Society also handed out grants to agriculture students as part of its annual awards event, which is an important part of the day.

He said: "It was a wonderful occasion on Saturday, but what stood out to me was how many more people were taking part in the many competitions. The competition element is at the heart of what the County Show is all about, so the fact that so many people, especially younger people, were willing to participate indicates how important the Show is to the local farming community.

"The membership of the Society is also rising, we had more trade stands than before and the Showground was really full and remained busy all day, so all in all, there were plenty of healthy signs which can only be good for the event in the long term.

"It was my first year as Show Chairman and I had a fabulous day. The team worked extremely hard to organise everything and it was great to see their efforts rewarded."





Summer at the Showground

Our Showground never ceases to amaze the team with the eclectic mix of events that we host here, and this Spring was no exception. The County Show, Partizan Games (tabletop simulation and war games), a motorbike ride in remembrance of Nottinghamshire student Grace O'Malley-Kumar, a garden show, horse events including Mounted Games Association with fast-paced horse action, a wedding, numerous dog shows including the ever popular All About Dogs Show and many more.

Without pausing to draw breath, the team here are moving on to our Summer events calendar which sees the return of many favourites. We will be hosting car events including a Land Rover Show and a Young Driver training day where young drivers receive tuition and gain experience driving in a safe and controlled environment. Local horse-riding club, Norton and District, have returned with a full equestrian events calendar including show jumping, showing and dressage, and team building events taking centre stage with an 'It's a Knockout' event for Big Rail Diversity.

In June, we celebrated and supported local businesses and schools. We hosted and sponsored the annual Newark Business Awards, where local business people enjoyed an evening in the Lady Eastwood Centre to recognise and celebrate business success and individual accomplishments. We also looked forward to seeing young students celebrate their academic achievements at their school proms.

The full schedule of events is too extensive to list here, so please keep an eye on the "What's On" page on our website – www.newarkshowground.com, to help you plan your summer activities!



Simon Eccleston, CEO presenting the Agricultural Awards



New Member's Area a Hit!

We have received great feedback from our Members about our new 'Member's Area & Ringside Marquee' at the Nottinghamshire County Show, which provided a larger prime location overlooking the Main Ring and in the Cedric Ford Pavilion.





Strong exhibitor support as Midlands Machinery Show gears up for 10th anniversary

Midlands Machinery Show exhibitors are demonstrating strong support for the event's tenth anniversary with 150 stands already booked at the Newark Showground this November.

The topics that matter most to those working within farming and the agricultural machinery sector will be well reflected at this year's event, including consideration about what impact the result of the general election is likely to have over the next five years.

With a huge amount of focus being placed on the Sustainable Farming Incentive and new opportunities for farmers to use their land's natural capital, the National Farmers' Union will again host an Environment Conference on the first day of the Show.



The safe operation of machinery, both in the field and on the road, will be covered by experts from LANTRA, Western Power and Lincolnshire Police. Advice will be on hand for operators and employers to help them stay safe and on the right side of the law.

Long-standing exhibitors – some who have been part of the show since its inception in 2014 – will contribute to a diverse range of stands.

One of the many companies returning is Witham Group, which has exhibited its range of lubricants and paints at the Midlands Machinery Show since its inception and will again be here in November for the two-day event.

"We are proud to support the Society in its work to champion agricultural heritage and modern progress across the Midlands region," says Nigel Bottom, Managing Director of the company.

"The Midlands Machinery Show is an ideal Show that combines agriculture and technology and showcases all the very best in farming and land-based products, services and machinery innovations. We are delighted to support the Show again in November and can highly recommend this event."



Other popular staples of the Show include:

- 4x4 and HGV driving experiences
- A busy schedule of activities in the demonstration ring.





Six Simple Steps to Regenerative Agriculture

Whilst there is no universally agreed definition for “regenerative agriculture”, there are 5 core principles:

1. Limit soil disturbance
2. Keep the soil surface covered
3. Increase the diversity of plants
4. Keep living roots in the soil
5. Integrate livestock into the system

By implementing these principles, the aim is to:

- Regenerate the health of soils
- Regenerate the land and ecosystems
- Generate knowledge, collaboration and relationships
- Generate healthy and resilient food and farming solutions
- Generate value
- Generate climate change solutions

The 6th principle – ‘context’ is increasingly being included and indeed, the ‘site specific’ nature of farming underpins LEAF’s IFM approach. Context recognises that each farm is unique and must be managed according to specific conditions, needs and goals. This principle is critical for ensuring the success and sustainability of farm management practices, as it emphasises the importance of considering the unique conditions of each farm and tailoring management practices accordingly.

To read more about regenerative agriculture and to see the full LEAF booklet please visit:

https://issuu.com/linking-environment-and-farming/docs/six_steps_to_regen_issuu?fr=xKAE9_0-CdUIBEIAB



Blue Diamond Community Garden Competition

Inspired by our RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden, the Blue Diamond Garden Group are offering financial support to five community garden projects in the UK.

Blue Diamond will offer a total of £10,000 worth of plants and garden care products equally split across the five community garden projects chosen, along with six hours of expert help and advice.

Blue Diamond will follow their progress over the next year, and it is hoped that these gardens will help to give the ‘healthy gift of air and the joy of plants and flowers’ to the communities surrounding them.

To be in with a chance of winning, you will need to demonstrate that;

- Your community garden project will increase the biodiversity in your neighbourhood, improve resident well-being, and provide an immersive space where people from the local community can reconnect with nature.

Then to apply, please complete the application form by the deadline of midnight on the 30th June 2024.

Once all applicants have been thoroughly considered, based on their merit and ensuring that they satisfy the criteria listed above, Blue Diamond will announce the winners on the 12th July 2024, on Blue Diamond’s website and across all Blue Diamond’s social media channels.

www.bluediamond.gg/community-garden-application-form



www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/eton-mess-scones

Local farm shops for fresh strawberries:

- **Hardy's, Farndon** – Kind sponsors of the County Show
- **Maxey's, Kirklington**
- **Hill Farm, Kirklington** – strawberry picking
- **School Farm, Retford** – strawberry picking

Eton Mess Scones

Take the classic strawberry, clotted cream and meringue combo and serve it on easy-to-make scones– irresistible

Prep 20 mins / 15 mins to cook

Serves 12

Ingredients

- 400g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g butter, cut into cubes
- 3 tbsp caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 200ml buttermilk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 5 tbsp milk, plus extra for brushing
- good handful small strawberries, halved
- small jar good strawberry jam
- 2 meringue nests, crumbled into chunks
- 200ml tub clotted cream

Method

- 1 Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Mix the flour, salt and baking powder together in a large bowl. Rub in the butter or whizz the lot in a food processor to fine crumbs, then stir in the sugar.
- 2 Warm the buttermilk, vanilla and milk to hand temperature, then quickly stir it into the flour mixture with a knife. Using your hands, bring the dough together, being careful not to overwork the mix.
- 3 Turn dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and pat out to a 2.5cm thick round. Stamp out 12 x 5cm rounds, dusting the cutter with flour as you stamp – you'll need to re-pat trimmings to make 12. Put the rounds onto floured baking sheets, brush the tops with milk and sprinkle with a little more sugar. Bake for 12–15 mins until golden
- 4 To serve, lightly mash the strawberries with the jam, and fold the meringues into the clotted cream. Dollop some strawberry mixture onto each split scone, and top with a dollop of meringue cream.

Members – Caught on Camera







Diary Dates

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1 July | Runway Monday |
| 7 July | 'Normous Newark Autojumble |
| 12-15 July | Unity Fest |
| 4 August | The Newark Arms, Armour, Medal & Militaria Fair |
| 4 August | The European Performance Car Show 2024 |
| 8-9 August | Newark International Antiques & Collectors Fair |

For more event information in June and July, go to: newarkshowground.com



Midlands Agricultural Engineering Apprentice Awards – applications now open!

Applications for the 2024 Midlands Agricultural Engineering Apprenticeship Awards are now open.

The apprentice awards were originally launched by MMS show organisers, Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society, in a bid to support and inspire young apprentices in this key sector.

We are searching for the next generation of agricultural engineering apprentices to apply for the awards. We are looking for apprentices who are working and/or studying based in the Midlands. Each successful applicant will receive a total grant of £500 over 2 years, funded by NNAS.

For more information about the awards, the selection criteria and how apprentices can apply, please visit: midlandsmachineryshow.com



Thank you to all Stewards & Volunteers

The Show Team would like to express their gratitude to all the stewards and volunteers who have dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Without your unwavering support and hard work, the Show would not have been possible. Our stewards and volunteers play a crucial role in helping to organise and manage various aspects of the event, from assisting with set-up, running sections and of course, Show day.

Thank you for all that you do to make our Show a success and we look forward to working with you again in 2025!



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



9 & 10 Nov 2024
Newark Showground

There's something for every generation exploring one of the largest collections of vintage tractors, machinery, commercial vehicles & much more! So, rev up your engine for a journey through time!

**ENTRIES
NOW OPEN!**

To see the full schedule please visit our website

www.newarkvintagetractorshow.com

CLUB STANDS ALSO WELCOME!