



A note from our Joint Chairmen December 2024



EDENBRIDGE & OXTED

AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Celebrating the country way of life since 1837



With Christmas upon us already, we're looking forward to a little respite and family time to recharge the batteries after a long and particularly soggy Autumn season.

Whilst we want to look forward and tell you with excitement and enthusiasm about the plans for our 2025 event, as an agricultural show with farming at our heart we must first acknowledge that it's been a challenging slog for our farmers and smallholders in recent months. The prolonged rain has meant many had to move into winter routines sooner than they would have liked, adding cost and pressure on feed and bedding supplies. Accessing fields to harvest late autumn crops has been difficult too, with yields certainly not their best. Movement restrictions due to the risk of Bluetongue in livestock are still expanding weekly, continuing to impact the sector and avian flu is rearing its head in some parts of the country once again.

These circumstances alone would challenge even the most resilient of farmers, but add to this the huge uncertainty now hanging over the sector following the recent budget announcement and its proposed changes to agricultural and business property relief which are so crucial to farms continuing through the generations. The vast majority of exhibitors at our show are from family farm businesses and there's much concern about how they can move forward to continue farming in the future without being forced to sell the land they have worked to protect. Those that rely on a strong farming sector such as machinery and equipment suppliers, feed and seed merchants and those providing livestock services are already finding farm investment plans curtailed and their outlook for 2025 is uncertain. Many of these are trade stand exhibitors and sponsors at our show.

Our rural communities are well known for their resourcefulness and resilience and they'll certainly need buckets full of both for what looks like a tough year to come. We believe this will mean that shows such as ours will have a renewed sense of importance and focus in 2025. The farming sector needs to continue to address misconceptions that persist, to communicate well and to

keep public support. We can't outsource food security, we need to keep good food affordable and we need to support those that work so hard to produce it.

For years we've asked people to 'back British farmers'. Perhaps now it's time to show the extent to which farmers are backing Britain! We will be celebrating farming at our 2025 show, providing a platform for the sector to show itself at its best.

We'll be keeping farming front and centre with the much-loved JCB brand filling our Main Ring in 2025! We are tremendously proud to announce that the world famous official 'JCB Dancing Diggers' have agreed to perform for us in a very special appearance. You absolutely won't want to miss their wonderful displays. We're so grateful they've selected our show for a rare outing in their 80th celebration year.

However it is that you and your families are celebrating Christmas, we hope that on your festive tables you'll enjoy delicious food, produced with so much care by British farmers.

On behalf of the trustees, volunteer committees, contractors and staff of the Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show, we thank you for your continuing support and wish you a happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2025.

Bill Peters &
Holly Taylor,
Joint Show Chairmen





Announcing...
The JCB Dancing Diggers!

Performing live at
the E&O Show!

24th & 25th
August 2025

They've been described as a 'down to earth version of the Red Arrows'; they've curtsied for the King; pirouetted for TV and thrilled thousands all over the world.

Although in great demand, the Dancing Diggers limit their appearances to just three or four shows a year.

Don't miss your
chance to see this
exclusive performance!

