



Supporter News December 2025



EDENBRIDGE & OXTED

AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Celebrating the country way of life since 1837



Whilst it's been feeling pretty mild outside, the unmistakable aroma of pigs in blankets, mince pies and mulled wine tells us that Santa is packing the sleigh ready for the big day.

We've been out scrumping holly for the Christmas table centres (what a fabulous year for berries it's been!) and we're now searching sprout recipes for some festive inspiration. There's a fine selection of local cheeses to savour and we promise to take a walk or two over the festive period to offset all the treats!

If you too are thinking of a stroll this year then why not look for your local Boxing Day meet to see the hounds and enjoy a traditional seasonal spectacle and walk? There's a handy map and listing for our region's trail hunting packs here: www.countryside-alliance.org/boxing-day

Our office activities might be winding down for the holidays now but we've made the most of recent weeks, planning some 800 competition classes and contacting over 100 judges. Our newly-upgraded online system is now accepting trade exhibitor and catering applications and we look forward to releasing the competition schedules in the Spring.

There are meetings galore for our committees over the winter months so we can review and plan ahead, with so many exciting and positive elements coming forward for our 2026 show. We can't wait to share all that with you!

Together with our trustees we'll be raising a glass of something local and bubbly to thank you for your support in 2025, to remember absent friends who are much missed by our show community, and to look forward to a successful 2026. We wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Judy & Alice
Show Office

Save the dates!



Just in case you haven't put much on your 2026 calendar, can we offer a couple of dates to mark?

Saturday 28th February – Countryside Race Day at Lingfield Park Racecourse. More details to follow...

**Sun 30th & Mon 31st August
SHOW DAYS!**

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Company Registration: 04682208



In Champions' Row this year was this 2023-born Limousin heifer from W J & M Mash Ltd. Selected by judge Drew Coppinger from Shropshire as his overall pedigree beef champion, Brockhurst Upandcoming travelled to compete with us from Chesham in Buckinghamshire. Many thanks to Warners Solicitors for kindly sponsoring our beef championships!

Announcing... The Knights of Middle England!

Professional horsemanship, fast horses, colours and costumes all make for a thrilling, interactive **BRAND NEW** show. The whole family will be cheering and stamping their feet for the brave knights competing for valour and glory!

KNIGHTS OF MIDDLE ENGLAND

30th & 31st
August 2026

Live and unleashed at
the E&O Show!

See swords, shields and flames
in this high speed action show,
topped with a soundtrack of
medieval & modern day music!



Who's Who - our show's leadership team for 2026



It is a huge undertaking to lead a charity of our complexity and profile, and to do so in a voluntary capacity. The people leading our show are here because they genuinely care about its purpose, its character and its success.

Recent years have seen us with key roles such as Show Chairman shared between two trustees. This model has worked really well, bringing added skills, experience and more sets of shoulders to lean on!

John Downing – Joint Chair

A third generation dairy farmer with 375 acres near Edenbridge, John and his wife Rachel are the proud owners of the Wintersell Herd of Holstein cows. With family history at the farm stretching back to 1919, they are a leading milk supplier to Marks & Spencer. John's grandmother Florence won classes at our show with her prize black and white Friesians, and coming full circle, his cows were in the ribbons once again at our 2025 show.



Passionate about education and public engagement, John kindly also brought two milking cows along to our show this year, giving milking demonstrations that helped bring that farm to fork story to life for our visitors.

After being a past President of our show, John continues his long association in this new capacity, combining his farming background, local knowledge and business experience to help lead the next steps for our charity.

Holly Taylor – Joint Chair

A previous Show Chairman, Holly has agreed to serve another year alongside John in a Joint Chair capacity. Having grown up just a short hop from the showground, her family's farming roots stretch back far into Tandridge & Crowhurst history.



A keen member turned leader in the Young Farmers movement, Holly has built her career in recent years as an HR specialist. Her involvement with the E&O Show stretches back to childhood, having spent many years supporting her

mother Wendy who oversaw the catering and Members' Marquee.

Holly is looking forward to helping us deliver some much needed updates to our governing documents in the coming months.

Jo Masters – Joint Vice Chair

Heading up our Sheep section, Jo is well-known in the Kent and Sussex agricultural community having been a lifelong supporter of the region's shows.

Jo supported her husband with his work for the renowned Trottenden herd of Sussex cattle for many years; they focus now on their own flock of pedigree North Country Cheviot and commercial sheep.

Jo's career was in banking before she retired to spend more time with her family (and sheep!).



Alastair Roberts – Joint Vice Chair

Whilst new to our office-holder positions, Alastair is by no means new to our show; he has been an active supporter of the event across many years and is familiar with all its committees.

His professional background in farming and estate management is going to be particularly important in our next chapter as we work hard to ensure we take care of our showground in the best way we can.

His experience with business management and finance also stands us in good stead as we continue to grow.

A resident of Tandridge, Alastair is another local person contributing significant time to the benefit of our charity.



Don't forget to check your food labels this Christmas. British farmers are grateful for your support!

Showground Updates



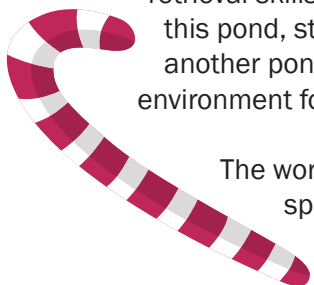
The showground site at Ardenrun spans some 130 acres. We keep it down to grass and have an agreement with a grazier whose sheep are cheerful woolly residents when we're not in full Show Mode. But there's still lots we can do to benefit the land for its soil health, its hedges and wildlife.

We entered into a Sustainable Farming agreement on the land which has seen us investing in seed, with agreed plantings to improve the soil health. Our inner showground area had a legume mix sown into the existing grass sward.

Legumes take nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it into a form that enriches the soil through root nodules. These roots typically go deeper into the soil too, improving the water filtration, helping it aerate and drain better. They taste great to the sheep, they add another easily-digestible and protein-rich element to their diet, and can even help reduce internal parasites. This year's extended dry summer hasn't been ideal for these legumes to establish themselves but we're keeping a close eye on how they have established and may add more in the spring.

Our car park areas have had similar treatment but with even more mixed into the seed. We've planted a herbal ley to the car park areas. This mix has similar benefits to a legume mix but with even deeper root structures. For our site which floods easily after heavy rainfall, we hope this will be a natural way to help break compaction in the soil, increase the organic carbon level, increase resilience to flooding and reduce soil erosion. The herbs in the mix will be a great new source of pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and hoverflies, as well as providing an enriched habitat for bugs and small mammals.

If you walk the footpaths on our land then you may have seen work under way to a pond in the area used for working gundog displays. This pond was dug in 2019 to help create a new wildlife-friendly feature in a more 'untouched' area of our site that would happily also provide a place where the gundogs could show off their water retrieval skills. We've undertaken some work with the help of our contractor, S C Burgess, to re-shape this pond, stabilise its water level and improve its resilience. They kindly also helped by de-silting another pond near our livestock gate which will again improve drainage and provide a more beneficial environment for wildlife in the years to come.



The work area has already recovered well and we can't wait to see how it comes to life in the spring. A cheeky heron and a couple of ducks were spotted there only this week.

Woolly Winners 2025!



It won't be long now until our sheep competitors are looking nervously at lambing cameras and ensuring they're ready for sleepless nights and crazy days. Please do share a thought for those out lambing if you're sitting cosy by the fire of an evening through the winter months!

Those dry summer days when we were praying for rain feel like a world away now! Did you see all our 2025 sheep champions? Here's a little reminder of the tremendous quality of the sheep we were treated to at our show.

Our Supreme Champion Sheep was a pedigree Southdown sheep, competing in our Shearling Ewe category. She was exhibited by Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer, whose Offham Farm Shop near Lewes (www.offhamfarm.co.uk) is where you can find and purchase their home-reared meat. Judge Robert Hopper from Devon selected her as his champion. Our thanks to BTF Partnership for their kind sponsorship of the pedigree championship classes.

Congratulations also to J&S Bull whose Texel cross pen of 3 butchers' lambs won the overall commercial breeding championship, kindly judged by Jason Wareham and sponsored by Hobbs Parker.



Champion Pair -
Hampshire Downs
from Ali Tory



Champion Group of Three - Blue Texels from Sam Hale



Supreme Champion sheep
for 2025

Members & Sponsors Marquee

We need to say a big thank you to all those who completed the survey we sent around during and after the show this year.

There were some really constructive and helpful bits of feedback. Every response matters and we've read and discussed them all.

You told us that...

Whilst the catering staff are very widely praised for being really helpful and courteous, there were not enough bar staff at peak times which meant that queues for the Members' Bar were far too long this year.

We saw this at first hand and will be working with our lovely caterers to fix this resourcing issue in future. We don't want you to be spending your time standing in a queue when you should be socialising and enjoying your day out.

You want a better selection of non-alcoholic options at the bar, and there's a lot of demand for Larkins to return as a second local ale.

Good points, with easy fixes to make!

The overwhelming majority of you like the food on offer in Members, and you think it's good value for money. Those that tried the new breakfast offer seemed to like it.

We need to look at introducing children's portions/meal options and will continue to offer breakfast options in Members.

Moving the President and Sponsors' area next to the Members' Bar this year introduced some issues, mainly from it being such a popular area and simply not being big enough to accommodate all the people!

There are changes in discussion with our marquee provider and our Members & Sponsors Committee who oversee this area. Everyone should have an amazing experience for all the right reasons and we want to fix this issue so that everyone gets to enjoy their day with great service and in a comfortable environment.

To thank those who responded to our survey we offered a beautiful, special edition framed print as a prize for a randomly-selected survey submission. The print was from a stunning painting of a cock pheasant by artist Kay Johns, kindly donated by our sponsor The Event Gallery Fine Art.

Many congratulations to our winner, Mr H, a Governor member from Copthorne, on whose wall this beautiful bird now sits!

