

Windsor Horse Show Offer 13th – 17th May

After the success of last years offer the organizers of The Royal Windsor Horse Show would like to offer all Members complimentary parking at the Show, please apply to the Show office on 01635 247111 or office@newburyshowground.co.uk before 24th April.

For further show information please visit www.rwhs.co.uk

Double Celebrations Mark 2009 Show *continued...*

Livestock is expected to attract a higher number of entries than ever in 2009. The show will be host to the National Show for the Aberdeen-Angus breed. There will be new classes for Devon cattle and in addition, Sunday will see the South West Holstein Calf Championships as Holstein UK also celebrates its centenary this year.

Pig classes are also expected to receive growing support as the championships for the Tamworth breed conclude over the weekend.

As well as the regular showing classes, equestrian enthusiasts will be able to enjoy national jumping classes in the main arena.

For gourmands, this year's food fare, under the new chairmanship of Rosemary Balsdon, will be a feast for the taste buds with an extra emphasis on championing the cause of local foods and cutting food miles.

The show starts early for gardening enthusiasts who will have the chance to quiz celebrity gardener Pippa Greenwood at a special Gardeners' Question Time on Friday evening (18th September).

The now traditional spectacle of the mass balloon ascent will ensure that the show ends on a high note on both Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Review of Winter Activities

Meet of the Hounds

The Vine and Craven held their annual meet on the Showground on Tuesday 17th February. The Palmer Marlborough Beagles were able to join us too which was a first to have a foxhound and beagle pack meeting together at the Showground. Some 15 mounted followers were joined by 90 foot followers.



Annabelle Channing won the Jim Balsdon Trophy for the best turned out junior.



Members of the Society enjoying the Meet.

Ploughing Match

Around 1000 spectators gathered for Newbury & District Agricultural Society's (NDAS) Annual Ploughing Match which took place at Barn Elms Farm, Bradfield on Saturday 18th October, hosted by the 2008 Chairman of the Society, Mrs Rosemary Balsdon and her husband Jim.

Visitors enjoyed demonstrations of horse and plough workmanship, ploughing by vintage tractors and modern machinery. One of the best-loved aspects of the match is the sight of the gentle giant Shire horses in action.

Competitors come from across the country to take part and there was a strong representation from local competitors.

A special presentation was made to Jim Brown from Leckhampstead who has achieved a notable milestone, possibly one that is unique in the country. He has driven a combine harvester for 65 consecutive years 1944 to 2008.

Christmas Carol Service

The Society held its annual Carol Service at Chieveley Church in December; the evening was well attended by members, friends, and members of the Chieveley congregation. The service was led by the Vicar of Chieveley assisted by The Society Chaplain John Townend, and the singing led by the church choir who were able to sing the Chieveley Carol for the first time. We all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies after the service, a great start to the Christmas festivities.

Preview of Summer Activities

Rogation, 17th May

This year our Rogation service will be held in the parish of St Mary's Streatley on 17th May. Traditionally Rogation was used to bless the crops and redefine the parish boundaries. We are fortunate to be able to travel round Richard and Ed Bishop's farm seeing everything from the Thames to the wide ranging views across Wittenham Clumps and beyond. We will bless sheep, poppies and crops. Tea will be provided at the home of our Chairman, Simon Carter, with help from the local Parishioners. A collection will be made for the local Church.

Royal Farms Windsor, 3rd June

We are very privileged to be able to visit the Royal Farms at Windsor for our first Farm Walk in June. We will leave the Showground at 9.15 am and have a guided tour of the Farm for approximately two to two and a half hours. We can picnic after the tour which will be at the York Club in the Great Park. Please bring your own picnic. There will be shelter if it is raining. We will need the full name and address of all guests for security purposes. Cost £9.50 per person to cover the cost of the coach. Numbers are restricted and allocated on a first come first served basis.

Summer Party, 20th June

We would be delighted if you could join us for our annual summer party on Saturday 20th June which will be held in the magnificent gardens of West Woodhay House, by kind permission of Harry and Sarah Henderson. Their gardens are outstanding and our party is the weekend of the biannual West Woodhay Garden Show. Any Member wishing to attend the Garden Show – definitely not to be missed – can get £2 (30% reduction) off the show entrance price. Why not visit the Show in the afternoon and stay for our party starting at 6.30 p.m? You will be able to visit the gardens during the party but the trade stands will not be open. There will be a strict ticketing policy for entrance to the party. Waitrose will be supporting the event by providing the food and drink from their party range of products; Waitrose Entertaining. Timings are 6.30 pm – 9 p.m. Tickets cost £15.

Race Evening, 23rd June

Newbury Racecourse evening – the popular reciprocal ticket arrangement with Newbury Racecourse continues this year and the Racecourse look forward to welcoming Members on Tuesday 23rd June. Free admission tickets for the Premier Enclosure are available to Members of the Society for their own use and can be ordered on the attached booking form. The first race is at 5.50pm and gates open at 4.30pm.

Waitrose Farm Walk, 26th June

We have a complete day's itinerary for the Waitrose Farm Walk, departing from the show ground at 9.30 a.m. We will visit Boreland Farm, Upper Woodford, Salisbury – a 700 sow outdoor breeding unit plus separate 750 place straw nursery indoor site. We will be taken by trailer to the sow field and tour the nursery units. A hog roast lunch will be provided. We can accommodate 100 people. At the end of the day, one coach will visit Waitrose in Newbury for a branch tour and return to the showground for approximately 6.15 pm. The other will return to the showground for 4 pm.

A day not to be missed so please book early indicating whether you want to stay for the branch visit – this will be done on a first come first served basis. Cost £11.50 per person to cover the cost of the coach.



The Junior Countryside Day, 5th August

This will again take place at Barn Elms Farm Bradfield. Five or six activities will be on offer. Air Rifle Shooting at Targets, Clay Pigeon shooting with Robin Dunkley of Greenfield Entertainment simulating flights of different game birds, Falconry by Hawk the Walk including Harris Hawk, Barn Owl and Snowy Owl, Ferret Handling by Doug Monday, Fly Fishing by Barn Elms Trout Fishery, Gun Dog handling by Jane Trowell and her team of Black Labrador retriever dummies and a display. A mini Berkshire game fair for young people. All instructors will be fully qualified and insured. A packed lunch will be required. Wonderful value at £20.00 for the day. Sign up now and bring your friends. Age 8 - 16.

Stable Tour, 3rd October

We are delighted to be able to visit National Hunt Trainer Charlie Mann's race stable in Lambourn on 3rd October. Full details will follow in our next edition.

The President 2009

As the Society celebrates its centenary the members are honoured to have as their President, Charlie Mayfield, a person whose family has had a long association with the local area and whose business is focused on providing food from and to our country.

Charlie began his career as an officer in the army, and joined SmithKline Beecham in 1992 becoming Marketing Manager for the Lucozade brand, before moving to McKinsey & Co in 1996, where he worked with consumer and retail organisations.

He joined the John Lewis Partnership in 2000 as Head of Business Development, responsible for business strategy and development for both John Lewis and Waitrose. He subsequently joined the Board as Development Director in 2001 and was responsible for developing the Partnership's online strategy. He became Managing Director of John Lewis in January 2005 prior to becoming the 5th Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership in 2007.

All 69,000 permanent staff are Partners who own 27 John Lewis department stores, 200 Waitrose supermarkets, an online and catalogue business www.johnlewis.com, a direct services company Greenbee, a production unit and a farm with a turnover of £7 billion last year. Partners share in the benefits and profits of a business that puts them first.

Waitrose, formed over 100 years ago, works with producers and growers, pioneering local and organic products and championing sustainable sourcing, building a planned network of well over 200 shops around the UK known for the freshness, quality, safety and provenance of the food it sells. The provenance and traceability of the food is vitally important. Their buyers are experts in their own fields and spend much of their time with farmers, growers and suppliers, building relationships based on trust and respect with the people who produce the high quality food and unusual ingredients their customers eat.

Waitrose was voted Britain's favourite shop for the second year running in the UK's biggest survey of high street shops by the consumer magazine 'Which?' in 2009.

Charlie is married with three children, and he enjoys skiing, sailing and running. He greatly looks forward to his involvement with the Society during its centenary year, particularly so given the theme of 'Good British Food'.



The Chairman 2009

Simon Carter is the 3rd generation of his family to be associated with the Society. His grandfather, Paget Carter, attended the first Show 100 years ago when the family firm started exhibiting. His father, Peter Carter, has been a Governor and Trustee and was Chairman in 1979.

Simon's involvement has been continuous since attending his first Show in a pushchair! He has been involved in Trade Stands Publicity, Sponsorship, Events, Communications and PR Committees and more recently the proposed Society Building.

He was born in Reading. After leaving Bradfield College he became the 7th generation of his family to join the business, Carter and Son (Thatcham) Limited, in Reading where he is now Managing Director. In 1999 he undertook an MBA at Warwick University. The business focus is two fold: the manufacture of tarpaulins and canvas products and the outdoor shop which specialises in ski equipment. For countless years the family firm have been generous sponsors of the Society, in particular the wonderful display of Hot Air Balloons.

Simon has been responsible for developing the theme of this year's Show 'Good British Food' which he is keen to promote. He looks forward to the presence of the Royal Navy at the Show as they celebrate 100 years of air power. The Navy have a quote "Good food, fit to fight" and will be bringing a working field kitchen. Morgan cars will also be present and celebrate 100 years of excellence in engineering.

The Carter family is particularly looking forward to the many Society events throughout the year. The Rogation Service will take place in their home village of Streatley. Simon is strongly supported by Susan in both work and Show activities. She started stewarding at the Dorset County Show as a small child! Their children, Rex and Lucy, love the Show and help with stewarding, take part in Junior Fun activities and various Society events. Simon is a highly accomplished skier and enjoys shooting, walking, reading and developing their garden which is close to the Thames.

