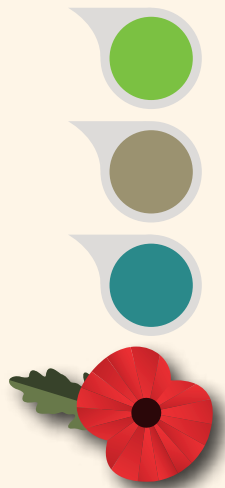




Society NEWS



News and information for members of the **East of England Agricultural Society**

**Promoting Agriculture
in the East of England
and Beyond**

**Expansion in our
Educational Offering**

**Protecting the future
through education**

Kids Country

Over 100 children
become potato farmers

Marshal Papworth

17 Marshal Papworth students
met Her Royal Highness the
Princess Royal

East of England Agricultural Society Scholars Programme

New Scholar programme has been
launched to grow and develop careers



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For future news and updates go to our website www.eastofengland.org.uk and our social media platforms.

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Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2023 edition of the Society News

Welcome to what will be the final print version of Society News. As part of our ongoing drive to cut our operating costs, the trustee board have decided that we will in future publish news and updates about the Society via our digital platforms, also more timely than a bi-annual magazine. I do hope that you will continue to follow progress on our website, through our social media channels and via our monthly e-briefings. If you have previously supplied your email address to the membership department you will already receive our e-newsletters. For those not currently connected to the East of England, I urge you to register by sending an email to membership@eastofengland.org.uk. Details on our web address and social media platforms are also at the footer of my welcome page.

aim of identifying and prioritising our programme of activities for the next few years. The focus of the day was very much on making sure our funds are directed effectively and we deliver charitable outcomes that are in line with the aims and objectives of the Society. With the end of events at the showground, it is essential that we find ways of maintaining our relevance through our links with agriculture and horticulture in the region and also build upon our successful track record of promoting educational programmes that are relevant to our local populations. These proposals are being worked upon and stress tested and I will be able to deliver more information to Members of Council at their next meeting.



The future of the Society will be more financially secure once the sale of the showground completes, but we will still need to continuously recruit and refresh the membership of our trustee board and the various committees which are involved in running the organisation. I am particularly keen to increase our diversity and gather new ideas and perspectives from across our region, so I urge anyone who is interested and feels able to give time to get in touch. We need expertise in education, technology, PR and marketing (including social media).

Charlie Reynolds
Chairman,
East of England Agricultural Society

At some point in the not too distant future, we will need to leave the site at Alwalton so that the planned development can take place but we are extremely conscious of our long history at the showground and the need to leave behind a positive and lasting legacy of the Society. Amongst our deliberations, are whether it is feasible to relocate some of the structures such as the Coates Barn, the clock tower, foxhound enclosure and other key assets as well as various plaques and memorials that recognise past members.

The last few months have been very busy and I am delighted to report the recent successful launch of the scholarship programme, which was kindly hosted by British Sugar. We are now inviting applications from students who can satisfy the criteria for funding to support learning opportunities. For more information see our website or email scholars@eastofengland.org.uk

In September, the trustees met for a full day strategy review with the

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k i d s

Country



Easier than ever for East of England schools to learn about food and farming in the classroom in the next school year

We have launched our 2023-24 academic year events calendar, with all events now run on-site in schools. Over the past few years we have listened to teachers who have identified travel costs as a real barrier to more children accessing our events, which focus on bringing hands-on learning experiences that help Key Stage 1 and 2 children (age 5-11) to understand things such as where

food comes from, the value of eating nutritional in-season produce grown here in the UK, food miles, and keeping safe in the countryside.

For the 2023-24 school year ahead, we are offering a more flexible approach, with our whole events programme re-worked to deliver our usually fully booked events into the playground and classroom. Teachers don't need to worry about stretching the budget

to coach costs, and we hope this will help even more children experience Kids Country events.

Please look at our events calendar on page 8 for upcoming events and availability, and have a read through what we have been up to in schools in the summer term to give you a flavour of how Kids Country workshops positively impact children across the East of England.

Peterborough primary schools become potato farmers with Kids Country

Over 100 children from Peterborough schools – Newark Hill Academy, Orton Wistow Primary School, and William Law CE Primary School – harvested their potato crops in June and July, a school project that they began with Kids Country back in April.

Supported by Burgess Farms and Co-op Central England, we helped the children, in Key Stage 1 & 2, to plant their new potatoes in the Spring, providing them with advice on how to look after their plants over the coming months.

With prizes for the biggest harvest at each school, the winners were:

Newark Hill Academy
Theo – 255g

Orton Wistow Primary School
Mantas – 454g

William Law CE Primary School
Sophia – 207g

As well as the all-important harvest, children also had the opportunity to taste some potato products, including

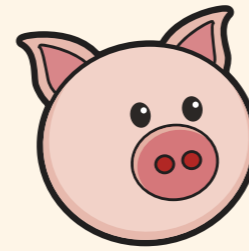
potato salad donated by Co-op Central England, helping to complete that field-to-fork journey, before taking their potatoes home to eat with their families.

Melissa Goodman from Burgess Farms said: "It is great to help support the education of young children to provide the experience of growing their own potatoes and understand the positive health benefits. Showing how fun it is to grow your own produce with the hands-on activity and the excitement from the children to see their very own potatoes they had grown was wonderful to see."

"This event is an essential initiative which helps build the knowledge of growing produce for our next generation, of which we are extremely proud to be a part of."



Laura Tompson-Wright, Key Stage 1 teacher at William Law CE Primary School, said: "It was great to link the activity to our science curriculum objectives, observing closely the key features of plants to identify the plant correctly and describe how to care for it. We are looking forward to next year!"



Learning about nature is easy bee-sy for Peterborough school with Kids Country

Over 60 children in Year Two at Hampton College Primary Phase, Peterborough, learnt all about bees in a bespoke afternoon workshop that we delivered to support the school's ongoing 'The Scented Garden' project in class.

Kirsten Hodgson, Key Stage One team leader and Year Two teacher at Hampton College Primary Phase, said: "The children at Hampton

College Primary Phase had a fabulous time during their bee workshop this week. They got to learn lots of facts by following a trail to answer questions about bees. The honey tasting was a firm favourite and liked by all!

"The children loved having the chance to look at live bees in their hive and dressing up in bee suits. We incorporated this into our topic 'The Scented Garden' and have spent time with the children talking about the importance of bees. Following the workshop, we have been able to do lots of follow-up work in class."



The afternoon included learning all about bees with Richard from Peterborough Beekeepers, including why we need bees, what bees do, and their three-week life cycle. Children were able to look at an old straw 'skep' – the first beehives that man built – and try on a bee suit, before searching a glass-fronted hive for the Queen bee.

The workshop also included a bee trail and quiz, before tasting three different types of honey. Children were able to draw on their maths skills to examine the benefits of the hexagonal cell shape within honeycomb, as well as learn how to help bees at home and school – including how to make a simple bee bath, bee houses out of bamboo canes, and the best types of flowers to grow. The classes even had a go at doing the bee 'waggle dance'.

Open Farm Weekend at Park Farm Thorney

In June, we had the pleasure of returning to the annual Open Farm Weekend at Park Farm Thorney. Welcoming hundreds of children and families, we were on hand with a range of fun activities for children to take part in, including making biodegradable plant pots,

planting lettuce plug plants and designing a plant label. It was great to engage with families to help them understand where their food comes from, focusing on seasonality and the benefits of eating locally produced in-season food.



Follow us on our social media channels to stay up to date with the latest news on how you could get involved with Kids Country, whether as a volunteer, exhibitor, sponsor or school!

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A berry nice morning for Hampton College Primary Phase with Kids Country and Hill Farm

Children at Hampton College Primary Phase, Peterborough, enjoyed a Summer Berries workshop with us and Paddy from Hill Farm Pick Your Own, Chesterton. Children were able to enjoy a wide range of berries kindly supplied by Paddy and tasted the difference between British strawberries grown year-round in a tunnel compared to in-season in the fields.

Children also explored the different parts of a strawberry and raspberry plant to tie in with their science curriculum.

Teacher Rebecca Bosworth said: "We had a lovely workshop where we got to learn all about how strawberries and other berries were grown! We had a wonderful time, thank you so much Kids Country and Hill Farm."

It was great to bring a new summer berries workshop into Hampton College Primary, and we are delighted it has been such a success. Our thanks to Paddy for giving up his time and berries to helping these children to learn and taste firsthand the value of in-season British produce, and how it is grown so carefully in the East of England region.



Summer holiday clubs

New for 2023, we were delighted to join Thomas Deacon Academy and Fulbridge Academy in Peterborough for holiday club workshops. We were supported by friends from AM Fresh, BASC East, Flamingo Horticulture, G&J Pecks Ltd, PECT, Peterborough Beekeepers, and our amazing individual volunteers to deliver holiday clubs with a difference, focusing on hands-on experiences with bees, fresh produce, tractors and wildlife! We hope this is something we can roll out more as time goes on, so please do get in touch if you think your school would like to be involved.

Farm-twinning programme update

The first stage of our farm twinning programme will take off in primary schools this year as we begin to match up schools with a local farm. During the year the farmer will visit the school, and in time there will also be opportunities for the school to visit the farm and see how crops are grown and livestock reared. This is a great chance to build a relationship with a local farm, helping your students to create a better understanding and appreciation of food and the countryside, and if you are interested in twinning your school.

Calling volunteers

As we look forward to an exciting year ahead, with all events now being delivered into schools, we are calling out for any volunteers that could help. If you are interested, please get in touch— we cannot do it without you and volunteering offers excellent personal and career development benefits, whether you're an individual with half a day spare or a company looking to engage at a corporate social responsibility (CSR) level.

School Talks

The Kids Country team delivered more school talks than ever in the summer term, with visits including Great Casterton Primary School, St Botolph's Primary School (Peterborough), and Croyland Primary School (Wellingborough) supported by Burgess Farms, Farmer Peter (Sharpley) and Farmer Luke (Abblitt). Thank you to our volunteers for helping bring the field-to-fork story to life for more children.

Looking ahead 2023-24 schedule

We continue to work hard to deliver our planned programme of events. Coming up we have plenty of events already fully-booked and with availability:

- Autumn Apples – 3-6 October 2023 – **fully booked**
- Breakfast with Kids Country 7-10 November 2023 – **fully booked**
- Breakfast with Kids Country 23-26 January 2024 **spaces available**
- Grow Your Own Produce – planting 5, 6, 8 March 2024 – **spaces available**
- The Beekeeper and Pollination 9th, 14th, 16th, 20th, 22nd May, 5th, 11th, 13th, 17th June 2024 **spaces available**
- Seasonal Summer Fruits June-July 2024 – **spaces available**
- Grow Your Own Produce – harvesting – 9, 10, 12 July 2024 **spaces available**
- Breakfast with Kids Country 5-8 November 2024 **spaces available**

Don't forget we can bring a tailor-made event to your school, we don't restrict ourselves to what is on our events programme – just get in touch to discuss.



Record year for the short course!

We were delighted to welcome a record fifteen students from eight developing countries to our 10-week scholarship in sustainable farming at Harper Adams University this summer.

The university's Vice Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan greeted the students: "This is such an important programme, both to the Marshal Papworth Fund but also to Harper Adams University. We always had a mission to make sure we secure the future of agriculture and the fact that we can do that by connecting people from different countries and continents is absolutely wonderful."

The students from Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, were selected by our charity partners including ADRA Ghana, Hands Around The World, Leprosy Mission, Ripple Effect, Teyapi4Peace and Tree Aid. We work closely with these partners in country to identify lead farmers, teachers and trainers who are already so committed to helping their communities to farm more productively and sustainably, thereby ensuring that we have students on the course who are going to really take this practical farming course back and make a real difference.

The conclusion of the programme was celebrated in the usual way, with the 15 short course students joined by



Students are joined by Professor Ken Sloan, Sandra Lauridsen and Tom Arthey from the Marshal Papworth Fund, and Harper Adams University course leads Ed Mashatise and Mitch Crook

our six Masters scholars in a special student certificate presentation ceremony at Haddon Church, where we were joined by our patron, the Rt. Reverend Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely, as well as the Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Her Honour Mrs Gillian Beasley, and a congregation of East of England Agricultural Society members, Marshal Papworth Fund committee members, representatives of the Marshal Papworth Fund's partner charities, and local farmers and food producers.

This was followed by an event at Harper Adams University in July, where students were presented with their course completion certificates by Professor Ken Sloan. The day also included the students presenting their plans for a project that would use all

their experiences and learnings from their time on the sustainable farming course to improve agriculture in their communities at home. These projects included themes of improving use of biological fertiliser and organic manures, modernizing pig farms in schools and for smallholders, how to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in agriculture, sustainable charcoal briquette production, leveraging aquaculture amongst young farmers, intercropping in maize for pest control, tropical forage grasses, introducing more productive sheep breeds, and helping school farms become more productive.

In Rwanda, Polyphile Ndayisenga, is a teacher in Bugarama, where he works with one of our partner charities, Hands Around The World. Polyphile is responsible for the school farm, he said: "I know how difficult it is to teach a hungry child, and I know how hard it is to teach as a hungry teacher. It is part of the Rwandan government strategy that every child must be fed in school – we have school farms for that purpose – and with my time at Harper Adams University, thanks to the Marshal Papworth Fund, I will be able to make the feeding programme at my school more sustainable and roll it out to other schools in the area. Attendance and attainment rates both increase hugely when school feeding programmes are in place, so there is an opportunity to change the lives of the next generation."



Royal visit enhances the power of life changing sustainable agriculture scholarships

Seventeen of our students met Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal at a sustainable farming seminar at Harper Adams University in July. The students also had the opportunity to meet with the High Commissioners for Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The students were accompanied by Fund co-ordinator Sandra Lauridsen, Fund chairman Tom Arthey, and East of England Agricultural Society Chairman Charlie Reynolds. HRH the Princess Royal, who is also the Chancellor of Harper Adams University, was joined by the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ken Sloan.



Professor Ken Sloan commended the 15 Marshal Papworth students for "filling me with optimism that solutions to providing equitable sustainable food and water to everyone will be found."

He continued: "The Marshal Papworth Fund students teach us to share our learnings, and to listen and learn from them and their challenges. My deepest thanks to the Marshal Papworth Fund, the East of England Agricultural Society, students and all charity partners."

One of this year's alumni, Isaac Vanderpuye, from Ghana, said: "Words cannot express the feeling of our encounter with Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. I was honoured to meet her with a handshake and to be able to engage her in a short and memorable dialogue. I believe the knowledge we have gained from this course, supporting field visits, and the privilege of meeting Her Royal Highness will help transform our communities and the countries we live and work in at large."

Tom Arthey, chairman of the Marshal Papworth Fund, said: "It was an honour to be able to address such distinguished guests, including Her Royal Highness, at the Sustainable Agriculture Seminar at Harper Adams University, alongside our sustainable farming students, who have made the incredible commitment to the sustainable future of their communities by travelling here from India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana and Burundi."

Marshal Papworth Fund scholars awarded prestigious bursaries at Harper Adams University

Two Marshal Papworth Fund Masters scholarship recipients were awarded prestigious bursaries during their studies at Harper Adams University. Yetunde Durojaiye received the £5,000 John Oldacre Foundation bursary, whilst Faith Mohammed was awarded the £4,000 Bayer MSc scholarship.

Yetunde and Faith, both from Nigeria, have been studying for an

MSc in Agricultural Sciences and Production Systems, after securing a Marshal Papworth Fund scholarship for their year's course. Beating off hot competition for the two academic prizes, both Faith and Yetunde demonstrated a commitment to their studies, which will go on to help communities in Nigeria and worldwide as they tackle the food security and climate crises.



Reflections on Marshal Papworth short course from 2022 scholarship recipient in Kenya

We have received an update from one of our 'class of 2022' short course scholars, Everlyne, who works with our partner charity, Ripple Effect, in Kenya.

Everlyne said: "I am currently engaged in a project focused on the empowerment of smallholder farmers, particularly women, in using smart agriculture. To address this objective, my approach has revolved around organising and conducting training sessions for farmer groups. These sessions are not only educational but also incorporate practical demonstrations, providing participants with hands-on experience and a comprehensive understanding of smart agricultural practices."

Everlyne, who took part in our short course sustainable agriculture scholarship at Harper Adams University, continued: "Reflecting on the 10-week training programme facilitated by Marshal Papworth, I can confidently assert that it has significantly enhanced my ability to execute my project. The program has been instrumental in refining my facilitation skills, allowing me to effectively convey complex agricultural concepts to diverse audiences. Moreover, the networking opportunities provided during the training have enabled me to establish valuable connections within



the agricultural community, fostering collaboration and the exchange of innovative ideas.

"Specifically, the practical skills I acquired during the course have been seamlessly integrated into my project. The ability to meticulously plan a farm layout has empowered me to optimize land usage and resource allocation. Additionally, I have been able to make informed decisions regarding seed selection, ensuring the use of appropriate varieties for optimal yields. Employing an integrated pest management approach has allowed me to effectively control pests while minimizing the environmental impact, contributing to the overall sustainability of the project."

What's coming up next?

We are looking forward to the arrival of our Masters scholars this autumn and will be sharing updates of their studies in the coming weeks. Follow us on

- Facebook: @marshalpapworth
 - Twitter: @marshalpapworth
 - Instagram: @marshalpapworth
 - LinkedIn: marshalpapworth-fund
- to receive updates and also help us spread the impact of the Marshal Papworth Fund scholarship programme.



East of England Agricultural Society Scholars Programme



The East of England Agricultural Society has launched a pioneering new Scholars Programme that is awarding £30,000 to people to grow and develop their careers.

The Scholars Programme has been designed to inspire, develop and nurture future leaders within the sector, by awarding funds to anyone looking to strengthen their knowledge and skills. In turn, successful applicants get to share their new-found learnings with others through the Society's programme of knowledge exchange activities.

"This is a superb opportunity for people with agriculture, food, farming and rural affairs backgrounds to get some financial help to springboard their careers by paying for courses and experiences," said East of England Agricultural Society Chairman, Charlie Reynolds.

"Anyone is eligible to apply for funding subject to becoming a member of the East of England Agricultural Society," enthused Charlie. "We're proud of our heritage of delivering knowledge exchange as part of our charitable aims, and we look forward to successful applicants sharing their insights and learnings with other members."

The Scholars Programme has been borne out of the ideas and inspiration

of four of the Society's members – Anna Goodall, Tom Martin, Tom Arthey, and Rob Wilkinson, who have all played active roles in other East of England Agricultural Society initiatives: The Marshal Papworth Fund; Farming Conference; Kids Country and Cultiv8.

Applications are now open for anyone to apply for a share of the £30k fund in its inaugural year.

The Society is offering up to a maximum of £2k per person or 80% contribution of course or experience costs. It is anticipated applicants will use the funds to attend some key events in the Agriculture calendar, both here in the UK and overseas.

Such events could include Semex International Dairy Conference in Glasgow, the AHDB Professional Management Development Scheme, the Royal Agricultural Societies of the Commonwealth Conference in Edinburgh next year, the Worshipful Company of Farmers Advance Course in Agricultural Business Management, Fruit Logistica in Berlin, No Till on the Plains Conference in Wichita, or the Institute of Agricultural Management Leadership Programme.

For more information visit www.eastofengland.org.uk/scholars



Call for more farmers and growers to try TIAH online service

The new Chief Executive of Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH) has renewed the call for farmers and growers to try out its new online skills and careers service.

Stephen Jacob, who joined TIAH from BASIS earlier this month, says he is very encouraged by the interest in the new service since it was launched in May, with nearly 250 users signed up to date. Stephen is inviting more people to register for free access to tailored advice and practical tools to support their professional and career development.

He said: "Since the test version of the online service went live in May, we've been pleased to see increasing interest from farmers and growers. We are receiving a wide range of feedback around content and usability which is helping us develop and refine the service ahead of launching TIAH membership. Many users have told us the service is useful in helping them find training and learning opportunities to build their skills, and to record their CPD in their own personal hub."

Farmers and growers have been giving TIAH their thoughts on features including a training providers directory and course finder; resources to

help employers and supervisors retain staff; and an upcoming section offering information and resources on mental health and wellbeing. Farmers and growers have also responded positively to industry and careers information to inform and attract new entrants.

Liz Haines, a tenant dairy farmer in Staffordshire. A member of AHDB's Dairy Sector Council, Liz farms in a joint venture with her husband and two business partners, with around 400 crossbred cows. Liz has been using the online service and thinks it is a useful resource for the industry. She said: "I've been impressed by the breadth of resources available on the TIAH online service, and it's very handy to have them all gathered together in one place. The opportunity to dip into training and

other learning materials at our own pace will be invaluable for our staff. I'd urge others to try it out as it offers a range of very helpful resources."

Looking ahead, Stephen Jacob is optimistic about TIAH's role as it supports individuals and the wider agriculture and horticulture industry:

"As TIAH reaches its second anniversary this week, I have joined at an incredibly exciting time. In addition to opening our online service, we are seeing gathering momentum on the important cross-industry careers action plan with the support of partners including Lantra, LEAF and NFU. The aim is to ensure the industry's wide range of exciting careers is recognised by new entrants. It also involves supporting agricultural and horticultural business to find and retain as workforce in the right numbers and with the right skills.

"In both areas, the key to success is TIAH working in partnership with farmers, growers and industry partners so that, together, we can support skills development, careers and professionalism of everyone working in pre-farm gate agriculture and horticulture."

To find out more visit <https://tiah.org/>



Stamford Young Farmers Tractor Run - Donation to Society

Earlier this year, Stamford YFC raised £1500 in a tractor run in memory of a former member, Jake Hankins, who was at Brackenhurst College studying agriculture and sadly died in a car accident.

The Young Farmers Club kindly donated this money to the East of England Agricultural Society who are working with Jake's family and Brackenhurst College to make sure this legacy can be used in a way that will help enrich the student experience.



Photo credit - Jennifer Dancy



The East of England Agricultural Society

Are pleased to be hosting

THE PETERBOROUGH DINNER

this year at a NEW venue

BISSONSBARN

The venue is a purpose-built farm diversification enterprise, built with the wedding market in mind, providing a smart venue for this year's dinner. The caterers have produced a mouth watering menu and have been busy finding locally produced, quality ingredients for us. We also welcome local farmer Luke Ablitt as our after dinner speaker, and we look forward to presenting the 2023 recipient of the Tony Whitsed Award.

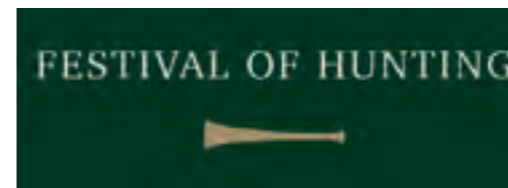
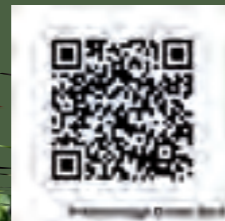


Thorney Road
Peakirk
Peterborough
PE6 7NT

On the 9th November 2023

Email membership@eastofengland.org.uk

for more information



Key sponsor



Historic 135th Peterborough Royal Foxhound Show draws the crowds at Festival of Hunting

Large crowds delighted in over 20 packs of Modern Foxhounds and 11 packs of Old English Foxhounds as they took to the rings at the 135th Peterborough Royal Foxhound Show alongside the Festival of Hunting, held at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, on Wednesday 19th July, supported by key sponsor, the Countryside Alliance.

The Peterborough Royal Foxhound Show Society welcomed visitors from America, New Zealand and Tasmania, and Foxhound packs from across the United Kingdom, including the Flint and Denbigh, making the journey from Wales to the highlight of the Foxhounds summer show season, 'Peterborough'.

This year, the Duke of Beaufort's, Heythrop, and Vale of the White Horse (VWH) took home the leading titles. 'Singer' secured the Best Stallion Hound for the VWH, with the Heythrop taking the Champion Dog Hound title for a second year, this year with 'Grappler', after 'Raffa' took the title in 2022.

The bitch foxhound classes were led by Duke of Beaufort's 'Careful' who went on to take the Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Champion Bitch Hound after first being tipped in the Best Brood Bitch class.

In the Old English Foxhound classes, it was a double win for the North Shropshire, with the Champion Dog

Hound title to 'Blandford', whilst 'Arkle' was given the nod in the Champion Bitch Hound class.

Away from the foxhounds, the Festival of Hunting is one of the largest shows of working scent hounds anywhere in the world, with packed crowds around the ring for Beagles, Harriers, and Basset Hounds classes. In the Beagles ring the Best in Show went to Dummer 'Whinchat', the breed's Champion Bitch Hound, whilst the Champion Dog Hound was tipped to Christ Church and Farley Hill 'Musket'.

In the Harriers, Best in Show was awarded to the West Country Harrier Bitch Hound Champion, North Norfolk 'Blossom' from Waveney and Norfolk.

The Basset Hound Supreme Champion title went to their Champion Bitch Hound, Westerby 'Lateness', with the Champion Dog Hound title to East Lincs 'Voter'.

Barry Todhunter, huntsman of 50 years to the Blencathra Foxhounds was welcomed to parade and talk about his Fell Hounds before lunch, whilst the Sealyham Terriers and Sight Hounds also paraded earlier in the morning. The West Sussex Working Teckels were a popular addition to Ring 1 between lunch and the commencement of afternoon classes.



Champion Dog Hound, Heythrop 'Grappler'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener



Best Brood Bitch & Champion Bitch Hound, Duke of Beaufort's 'Careful'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener



Old English Champion Dog Hound, North Shropshire 'Blandford', and Champion Bitch Hound, North Shropshire 'Arkle'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener



Harriers Best in Show, Waveney and Norfolk, North Norfolk 'Blossom'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener



Basset Hound Supreme Champion, Westerby 'Lateness'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener



Beagles Best in Show, Dummer 'Whinchat'

photo credit: Tim Scrivener

Beyond the hound classes, the grassroots Hunt Staff Benefit Society Young Handler Class returned for a fourth year with a record 17 entries to be judged by Mrs George Gemmell (nee Farquhar). The popular next generation class, with the highest number of entries seen across the hound show circuit this summer, was won by Sophia Bland, 10, who was awarded the perpetual trophy, the Captain Farquhar Cup, and a signed copy of his recently published book, 'The Way It Was', along with a hunting horn donated from Hunting Kind in memory of James Barclay, and goody bags from the Hunt Staff Benefit Society.

Sophia, who follows the Vale of Lune Harriers both on foot and horse, showed 'Fenwick', with whom she had also won the Young Handlers Class at the Great Yorkshire Show in 2022. Praised by Mrs Gemmell for her "impressive knowledge and fantastic bond with Fenwick", Sophia plans to study to become a vet specialising in hounds, focusing on investigating their unique bloodlines and physical traits, which are "so different to domestic dogs and really interest me."

For fans of the other four-legged stars of the hunting community, the grounds around the Inter Hunt Relay competition were the big draw, with a total of 38 teams entered across the Junior and Senior it's a knockout-style competitions to find out the quickest and most skilful team of four. Sponsored by Honri Hats, in the junior section the championship went to the Grove and Rufford Hunt: Ella Hoyland, 14; Harriet Woodcock, 9; Eve Pawson, 16; Lexy Adlington, 13. In the senior section the Quorn Hunt team came out on top: Timmy Dobson-Seaton, Oliver Woodland, Philli Sheppard, Izzy Nowicki. Our congratulations go to all teams that entered for their horsemanship and nerve!

Whilst the VP's Marquee remains a coveted lunch ticket, if you were wondering where everyone else nips off to for lunch, the hunt lorry park picnics are the hot spot, where the annual Hunt Picnic Competition was judged by The Field editor, Alexandra Henton, local award-winning food writer and East of England Agricultural Society member Jenny Jefferies, and Octavia Pollock, chief sub-editor of Country Life magazine.

Over 10 picnics were judged with the Wheatland Hunt awarded the first prize of the Stirrup Cup basket of port for their opening meet, donated by the East of England Agricultural Society, and copies of Jenny Jefferies' books. The judges also noted the wonderful effort put into the tailgate picnics in the VP car park – one to watch for next year!

Spearheaded by Mrs Sula Baugh, the Wheatland picnic was commended by the judges for its delicious local food, wonderful provenance and stories behind every speciality on the table, and community feel, as well as table decorations that included a centrepiece using 'Hounds' magazine, which is printed in Wheatland country.

Mrs Baugh said: "We were surprised to win the hunt picnic competition on our first attempt but really thrilled, as so many people had put so much effort into cooking and preparing the food and the layout for the picnic. We will use some of the wonderful 'stirrup cup' for our opening meet and look forward to sharing around the four cookery books which were part of the prize."

Highly commended went to the Fitzwilliam for their 'harvest picnic' theme, the Hurworth for their delicious local pork pies, and the Hampshire for their local sparkline wine.



Sophia Bland, Hunt Staff Benefit Society Young Handler Class winner



Jenny Jefferies, Octavia Pollock, Mrs Sula Baugh, Mrs Julia Foster MFH, Alexandra Henton

photo credit East of England Agricultural Society

The 'local larder' food and drink court was on hand to refuel the crowds during the day, whilst the bar in the Hunt Marquee was as always, the place to be at the end of the classes, with crowds spilling out into the last of the day's sun. The ample retail stalls were popular too – with the emergency purchase of kit ahead of the Inter Hunt Relay classes spotted on more than one occasion, whilst many shoppers delighted in taking home a local pie or bottle of gin to continue the festivities.

Ruth Trolove, show manager, said: "It is wonderful to see the Festival of Hunting grow year on year, with so many hunts taking the time to skilfully prepare hounds and attend on the day, alongside scores of Inter Hunt Relay teams, and the Young Handlers Class, which we are really proud of as encouraging the next generation to keep the rich heritage of hound bloodlines and showing alive."

"As the crowds around the rings, down the retail aisles and in the hunt lorry park picnics are testament to, the breadth of activities at the Festival of Hunting means that it is a wonderful day out for anyone in the rural community, not just avid hound followers."

Alison Queenborough, Secretary of The Peterborough Royal Foxhound Show Society, said: "We are looking forward to the Festival of Hunting going from strength to strength and welcoming crowds also to the 136th Peterborough Royal Foxhound Show on Wednesday 17th July 2024.

Best in Show

Mr B Deegan and Miss A Grainger's St Bernard, Ch Chandlimore Heart Beat from an entry of 6610 dogs entered at the show was declared the Best in Show 2023.

Moving the Championship show to Rutland showground was a great upheaval for the committee also worrying times that the exhibitors may not like entering at a new venue. As it turned out everything was well received by all, the show was held completely under canvas and had a new layout which the exhibitors appreciated, also the campers had an enclosed field for dog walking, which was appreciated, as they could allow free running of their dogs.

The championship was run without benching, and the Kennel Club sent their representative to make sure everything run correctly, and the exhibitors were receiving a good experience, at the end of the four days the show received an excellent from the Kennel Club for the running of the show.

Weather for most of the show was warm and sunny but we had one or two torrential showers which sent everyone under the tents for shelter,



In all everyone appreciated the venue change and a big sigh of relief was given by the committee.

This was the last show East of England would hold and it certainly went out on a high, with lots of exhibitors congratulating the Society and also saying how much the show would be missed in the Show calendar. The Royal Kennel Club have now officially deregistered the Championship Dog Show.

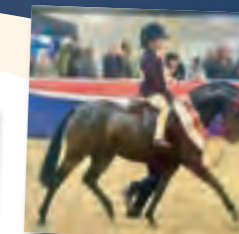


Photo of Louis Curtis riding Littleton Louis



Equifest 2nd – 5th August 2023

Equifest 2023 saw many big changes – the most notable being the change of venue to Arena UK, Grantham and no longer being organised by the agricultural society. As with all changes, this took a bit of re-organisation and much discussion, but with the support of the East of England Agricultural Society and the team at Arena UK, the event went surprisingly smoothly. Sadly, the weather, was not at its kindest and we had the wettest Equifest that we have ever experienced, but thanks to so many rings being on a surface and a lot of hard work, the show went ahead with all classes being held as scheduled.

We scheduled a show of a similar size to the last Equifest held at the East of England Showground in 2022, with 14 rings and over 600 classes. Arena UK coped very well with the challenges that Equifest poses, and despite some early worries, we managed to get all of our exhibitors in on Tuesday morning with no large queues and without traffic backing up on the roads – which was one of our main concerns.

We were able to have the Evening Performances inside again, which was a popular move, especially with the uncertain weather, and we had three very busy evenings with a variety of different classes and championships. The Evening Performances are the highlight of Equifest and the crowds are supportive of all riders, giving an electric atmosphere. Saturday, was sadly very wet all day, which caused us to move as many classes as possible onto a surface. Despite the weather, a large number of competitors still competed and stayed for the Evening Performances. Our Home Produced Supreme Championship is one of the most competitive of the week and was won by a very happy Emily Whalley and her 8 year old son, Curtis riding their own pony "Littleton Louis". Saturday evening culminates with the Supreme Champion of Champions which this year were judged by Robert and Sarah Walker – both well known Showing Professionals. They had the task of selecting their winner out of a total of 14 horses and ponies. They chose as their Supreme Champion a beautiful Dartmoor Lead Rein pony, Seves Stand And Deliver, owned by Emily Lawrence and ridden by Margo Newman.

The organisers of Equifest are now looking ahead to 2024, which again will be held at Arena UK, running from the 1st – 4th August. Full details will be available on our website – www.equifest.org.uk

Queen Mother's Handwriting Awards

The Queen Mothers Handwriting Awards, organised and managed by the Agricultural Society since 1977, returned to schools across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk and Northamptonshire earlier this year.

The handwriting awards are open to all students in Key Stages 1 – 3. The panel of three judges, all past headteachers, select the poems challenging the students across a range of criteria that includes correct copying of the poem, letter shape, punctuation, positioning, and the overall presentation, with the winner of each class awarded a pen engraved with their name.

Competition co-ordinator, Gemma Killingworth, said: "The 2023 competition saw over 2,500 children from across the region enter, with an amazing 24 schools entering for the first time. The Awards have a rich history that we are very proud of, and the sheer volume of entries shows that the Queen Mother's initial aims are as valued today as they were back in the 1970s."



Pictured from left to right:
Class 2: First place, Ugne Murnikaite;
Class 1: Third place Emma Csozor;
Class 2: Second place Muhammad Adyan Ibsan

We are delighted to be able to announce the placings for this year's awards:

- CLASS 1** First place, Theo Rivers-Smith
Second place, Sofia Zapodeanu
Third place, Emma Csozor
- CLASS 2** First place, Ugne Murnikaite
Second place, Muhammad Adyan Ibsan
Third place, Bethany Cowley
- CLASS 3** First place, Maxine Borpim
Second place, Chloe Guy
Third place, Maggie Kitson
- CLASS 4** First place, Joshua Thomas
Second place, Callum Wilkes
Third place, Benjamin Tulloch
- CLASS 5** First place, Thomas Burrows
Second place, Connor Baillie
Third place, Ida Grove

photo credit: Tess Cadman Country Photography



Senior champions – Quorn, Junior champions – Grove & Rufford

Spotted in the Media

Cultiv8 visited the Rutland Vineyard back in June 2022. At the visit Tim and Zoe Beaver talked the group through the journey they had taken to getting the vineyard planted up and the challenges they'd faced along the way.

It was great to spot on social media that the team have just celebrated their first grape harvest in early October!



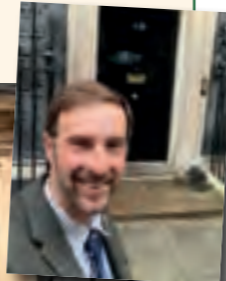
Local Farmer and committed Kids Country Volunteer, Luke Abblitt was invited to 10 Downing Street with NFU Education in October. The team delivered a Farming STEM work shop where children designed and made a canape that could be served at No 10 events.

We are delighted that Luke will be joining us as guest speaker at the Peterborough Dinner in November.

To see all the good work Luke is doing online, look up www.facebook.com/downondaintreefarm

twitter.com/Ondaintreefarm

Instagram - @DownOnDaintreeFarm



Congratulations to William Haupt of Woburn Farms, Bedfordshire on winning the Farm Manager of the Year Category at the 2023 Farmers Weekly Awards



Lutton Farm, near Peterborough are involved in Fox Robotics, FLEXBOT project. The project involves the use of 'Hugo RT', an autonomous all terrain robot (pictured) that can aid in various tasks such as off-season work like mowing grass, transporting soil, and handling delicate seedlings to the demanding in-season tasks of transporting harvested produce.



There were also local winners at the British Farming Awards! Congratulations to Jack Marlow of Moulton College Farm for winning Silver in the Farm Worker of the Year category, Cambridgeshire farmers Helen Parr & Daniel Fabb who won silver in the Beef Farmer of the Year Category and the Lines Family for their Silver Award in the Sustainable Farmer of the Year Category.



Doctor turned landowner wins prestigious Bledisloe Gold Medal

A doctor who took over the running of his family's 2,500-acre estate ten years ago has won the prestigious Bledisloe Gold Medal for Landowners.

Dr Johnny Wake, Managing Partner of Courteenhall Farms in South Northamptonshire, was presented with the award at the Royal Windsor Estate in early September.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) recognised six members of the agricultural community for their outstanding contributions to farming for food, people, the environment and profit at the annual RASE Awards Day.

This year, the Bledisloe Gold Medal, which is supported by Evelyn Partners, was awarded to Dr Wake in recognition of his management of Courteenhall, a diverse rural estate business which has grown substantially over the past decade.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, David Grint, CEO at RASE, said: "Bringing people together to celebrate the leaders in the industry and to be inspired by what can be achieved is what these awards are about."

"Each winner has contributed to the agricultural industry by pushing the boundaries of what is possible to farm in a way that is sustainable, viable and profitable, which enables others to prioritise the future while farming today."

"The Bledisloe Gold Medal is awarded to a landowner who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the successful land management and development of an agricultural estate in England."

"Dr Wake puts community, sustainability and legacy at the heart of every decision made, demonstrating an exceptional model of best practice and one which sets examples for estates across the whole of England."

"We are most grateful to the award supporters and also The Crown Estate's Windsor team for hosting such an inspiring day to celebrate the best achievements in agriculture."

Courteenhall Farm is a diversified rural business which sustainably farms beef and arable crops. It has a large and pioneering renewable energy portfolio and is leading the way on carbon in agriculture.

Dr Johnny Wake, whose family has been in South Northamptonshire since the 13th century and has been farming at Courteenhall for over 350 years, said: "It is a real honour to be awarded the Bledisloe Gold Medal for Landowners and it's a testimony to the hard work of the whole team at Courteenhall."

"We're a family-run business committed to farming as sustainably as possible, working with and protecting the environment, and pushing the boundaries so we can be at the vanguard of positive change."

"We work hard to build a wide variety of diverse and sustainable practices across our farming activities, from investing in cutting-edge technology, increasing biodiversity and our dedication to soil health to maximising our use of natural fertilisers and re-introducing traditional Hereford cattle and Rare Breed sheep to our land."

"We have a long and proud legacy to preserve, and we're passionate about supporting the local community and protecting the environment for future generations."

RASE is an independent charity dedicated to the application of science and technology to optimise agriculture and food resources to ensure a secure global future. It was granted its Royal Charter in 1840 by Queen Victoria.



The judges looked at a number of Courteenhall's projects including:

- Installing a variety of renewable energy technologies including multiple Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps, rooftop solar arrays, solar thermal arrays and a high-tech energy monitoring portal.
- Membership of the Government's Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Planting 3.5km of new hedges, laying 14km of existing hedges and planting 1,500 trees to help sequester carbon and support and preserve wildlife.
- Installing a new rainwater harvest system.
- Part of two pioneering pilot schemes to accurately measure and improve soil carbon.
- Implementing stewardship options across 56% of the Estate's land to promote habitat, food sources for red-listed species, carbon capture, improve water and soil quality and prevent flooding.
- Reintroducing a herd of Traditional Hereford cattle to the parkland at Courteenhall who graze naturally all year round and support the soils, before being sold to The Ethical Butcher.
- Building a broiler chicken farm which is heated with Ground Source Heat Pumps.
- Founding the Tove Valley Cluster Farm which delivers cooperative benefits for nature on a landscape scale.
- Putting community at the heart of the vision for Courteenhall with a strong corporate social responsibility (CSR) focus and programme of activity.
- Outside of Courteenhall, Dr Wake sits on the CLA's national Policy Committee, is a Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, on the committee of Wildlife Farms and Estates England, Patron of HomeStart Daventry and South Northants and a Governor of St Andrew's Hospital.





Dr Alastair Leake receives National Agricultural Award for leading the Allerton Project

The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) has awarded its 2023 National Agricultural Award to Dr Alastair Leake, the Director of Policy at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). The award recognises his outstanding contribution to British agriculture through his work leading the Allerton Project, a research and demonstration farm in Leicestershire that showcases how commercial farming and high levels of biodiversity can co-exist.

Dr Leake received the award from Andrew Wraith, Head of Food & Farming at Savills, at a ceremony held at the Royal Windsor Estate, courtesy of His Majesty the King. The award is given annually to an individual who has made a significant impact on the advancement of agriculture in the UK.

Dr Leake has been at the helm of the Allerton Project for 22 years, overseeing and leading ground-breaking research on the effects of different farming methods on biodiversity. The Allerton farm is one of

the Defra Sustainable Intensification Demonstration Platforms and has attracted thousands of visitors, including farmers, policymakers, researchers and students, who have learned from its innovative practices.

The award judges praised Dr Leake for his tireless efforts to discover and communicate how agricultural production systems can allow for high levels of food production and biodiversity to occur simultaneously. David Grint, CEO of the Royal Agricultural Society, said: "We were delighted to present Alastair with the RASE National Agricultural Award. He has made an extraordinary contribution to British agriculture through his work leading the Allerton Project, which has done so much to pioneer and popularise ways of farming with nature."

At a time when intensive agriculture has too often been associated with environmental degradation, Dr Leake has shown how farming with nature can benefit both farmers and wildlife.



Image credit: Gill Heppell

Dr Leake said he was "humbled, honoured and thrilled" to receive the award. "I have been fortunate to have worked alongside some outstanding colleagues through my 30 years of involvement with agricultural and environmental trials," he commented. "The incredibly generous gift of the Loddington Estate by the late Lord and Lady Allerton and their vision for the Allerton Project has inspired all of us. Never before has it been so important for us to find ways to grow our food and protect nature and the environment simultaneously."

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Amanda Retiring

At the end of 2023 we will be saying goodbye to Amanda Rodziewicz, as she retires after 11 years working for the East of England Agricultural Society which, up to 2021, included Showground Services (Peterborough Arena).

Job Title – PA to Chief Executive & and latterly also PA to Chief Operating Officer. Additionally, Amanda supports the Chairman in office and co-ordinates all areas of HR.

What has been your favourite event to work on?

Each event holds such memories but if I had to choose, my top three favourites would be:

The Autumn Show – this really ticked all my boxes – it had everything from fowl, feathers, fur, wool, beaks, livestock, sheep racing and who could forget the giant vegetable competition!

Festival of Hunting – this one-day show boasts the greatest gathering of hounds in the country. I have a soft spot for the Old English hound as I have been an Admin Steward for that ring for some years. To my mind this event is quintessentially part of England's rural heritage.

Winter Stock Festival – I helped with the College Challenge and it was so reassuring and comforting to see the enthusiasm of the future generations who chose agriculture as their career.

I should also add that the numerous Board and Council meetings I have attended gave me the opportunity to meet such a wide range of wonderful and interesting people.

What has been your greatest achievement so far?

Professionally – probably too many it may sound the least likely plus it was a team effort and not just mine – but the move to FitzRoy House involved the clearing and sorting of over half a century of documents, show programmes, photos and old accounting ledgers and other memorabilia stored in the Admin building – much of which was in the loft!! – now that was an achievement.

Do you have a favourite memory from working at the Showground?

There are so, so many memories that still make me chuckle as in –

When a couple of colleagues would purchase chickens at the Autumn Show and then try to work out how they can smuggle them into the chicken coop at home without anyone noticing!

I also chuckle when I remember clambering in the Admin building loft to reset the clock in the tower!

I would like to also say I have been very fortunate and privileged to have worked and become acquainted with such a blend of kind, funny, generous and knowledge/memory sharing people from Society members through to the Society Chairmen – with a special thank you to everyone in the office for making my work life both interesting and enjoyable.

11 years – where has that time gone! – as they say time flies when you are having fun.

What are you most looking forward to about your retirement?

Not being ruled by the clock or phone! Spending more time with my grandchildren, travelling and generally spending more time with those close to me.

What are your passions and hobbies, will you be taking up a new hobby in retirement?

Taking up crafting again, indulging more in fine wine and dining. I can see myself becoming involved with the local history society and visiting all those museums and places of interest I often drive by thinking 'I must pop in there one day'!

Welcome Leah!

As Amanda retires, we are delighted to welcome Leah Smith on board! Leah joined the Society in June as PA to the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, she was dropped straight into the deep end, starting just as the build up to Festival of Hunting kicked off, but has since had the time to start a hand over period with Amanda. Welcome to the team Leah!

Support your local Farm Shops this Christmas!

The following are all now taking Christmas meat orders

- Beds – Woburn Country Foods www.woburncountryfoods.com
- Cambs – Johnsons of Old Hurst www.johnsonsofoldhurst.co.uk
- Northants – New Lodge Farm www.newlodgefarm.co.uk

Stocking fillers - Drinks

Cambs – Roundwood Gin www.roundwooddistillery.co.uk



Beds – Warden Abbey Wine www.wardenvineyard.org.uk



Northants – Saxbys Cider www.saxbyscider.co.uk



Cambridgeshire Non-alcoholic Breckland Orchard Posh Pops www.brecklandorchard.co.uk



Mary's floral display at the Festival of Hunting

Mary Allen is one of our longest serving event suppliers, having produced floral arrangements for our events for years. We were delighted she could join us at the Festival of Hunting to close the chapter on events at the Alwalton Site.



Photo credit – East of England Agricultural Society

Apple Crumble Recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 650g Bramley cooking apples, peeled, cored and diced into small chunks
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 110g self-raising flour
- 40g demerara sugar, plus 1 tbsp for sprinkling
- 40g cold salted butter, diced
- 2 tbsp rolled oats
- custard, cream or ice cream to serve



METHOD

Heat oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C.

Place the Bramley apples, caster sugar, vanilla and 1½ tbsp of water in a saucepan and gently cook for a few minutes until the apples have softened. Taste and add a little more sugar if needed, depending on how tart the apples are. Transfer to a greased ovenproof dish.

Place the flour, demerara sugar and butter into a mixing bowl and rub with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the oats. Scatter onto the apples and then sprinkle the extra sugar on top. Bake for 40–45 mins until golden and bubbling. Serve with custard, cream or ice cream.

CEO'S UPDATE

As I am writing this update, we are awaiting the determination of the two planning applications on the showground site. The first, a policy compliant application for 650 residential dwellings and the second, an application for up to 800 further dwellings, together with 50 acres of leisure development which includes the upgrade and expansion of the Peterborough Arena, plus a care facility and hotel. At this stage, the masterplan and proposed layouts are indicative only with final configuration to be agreed and subject to a full planning application at a future date. The sale of the showground is timed to coincide with outline planning approval and following a structured and transparent selection procedure, the trustees are currently selecting their preferred buyer.



Peterborough City Council has gone out to 43 consultee parties to seek their views of the proposed development. Most have responded and there are a number of objections on the basis more detail is required but the consultation process did not make it clear that it is an "outline" application only and so many of the responses have asked for information

that is not necessary for the application as submitted.

Many of the concerns raised via the Peterborough City Council planning portal and to myself directly have related to the loss of Peterborough Speedway, which has operated on the showground for a number of years. Whilst

this is undoubtedly a disappointment to speedway fans, it has been on the cards for a number of years and was initially scheduled to cease at the end of 2021.

On a more positive note, our promoter AEPG has commissioned an independent economic impact assessment which demonstrates that the future development of the Alwalton site will create up to 1000 new jobs and contribute more than £50m each year to the local economy.

The East of England Agricultural Society will benefit from a capital receipt from the land sale and as you will have read in the chairman's address, the trustee board are determined to make sure that these funds are well invested and continue to support the charitable aims for future generations.

Alistair Beattie
Interim CEO

We would like to share our condolences to the families of Society member Mr George Riddington and former employee Mr Tim Winham

Mr George Riddington peacefully passed away on 6th June. George's connection, support and member of many Society committees began with the Peterborough Agricultural Society that was then based in Priestgate, Peterborough.

Mr Tim Winham passed away in May 2023 aged 81. Tim started work with the Society in 1965 as Showground Manager and retired as the Society's Operation Manager in 2008. Not only was Tim widely known within the Society he was also a recognised face by visitors to the Showground.



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Peterborough Dinner Menu Sponsors

AEPG (Asset Earning Power Group) are proud sponsors of this year's menu at the Peterborough Dinner. Since becoming the land promoter for the East of England Agricultural Society back in 2021, AEPG have been delighted to attend the Peterborough Dinners. The future developments of the Peterborough showground are now taking shape and are set to deliver a fantastic legacy for future generations and prosperity for the Society. It is great to support this event at a new venue. Privileged to be able to attend, the team at AEPG look forward to meeting and engaging with all attendees and will join the Society in congratulating long service members and supporting the future of agriculture.



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