

EDENBRIDGE & OXTED

AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Celebrating the country way of life since 1837

Update for Members, March 2021

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health, and that after what feels like a long, wet winter in lockdown you're enjoying watching spring unfold around us.

After such a difficult year, with unpredictability a constant theme, there's a certain reassurance about the familiar routine of countryside and agricultural life. Many of our members are busy in the lambing pens and looking after young calves.

We've been working very hard to plan the next steps for the Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show. A loyal and committed base of members and volunteers stands behind us, and we know everyone is very much looking forward to a return to 'normal' activity if we can do so safely after coronavirus restrictions are lifted. The announcement of the route out of lockdown was very welcome; if all goes to plan then it looks like a full show – an event that looks and feels like the E&O Show as we know it – can take place.

To this end, you'll find us making every effort to release the competition schedules shortly, to grow our supporter base by recruiting new members and sponsors and to work closely with our health and safety advisors

to make sure everyone can be confident we have a robust set of plans in place.

Updating our management system has been an ongoing project over recent months. We'll be launching a new website and online process for entries, trade stands and membership very soon. The expectation is that you'll find it much easier to use. By moving more things online we'll be much better able to operate in a cashless environment and we'll improve our efficiency too. It should be a smooth transition across to the new system, but your understanding and patience is appreciated!

There are a number of questions about the Show this year which we've tried to answer in this newsletter. If you need more information, if you want to offer suggestions or to ask any questions then please don't hesitate to contact us.

Judy & Meghan
Show Office

Subscription Payments

We are holding the 2021 membership fees at the same rate as last year.

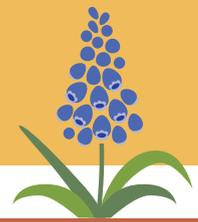
For those who pay for their membership by standing order, your payment for the 2021/2022 year will be made at the beginning of April by your bank as normal. You don't need to take any action.

Members who normally pay by cheque or online each year will need to renew their subscription by completing the 2021 membership form. This can be found on our website at www.edenbridge-show.co.uk and it will be attached to any email that accompanies this newsletter.

Members who paid 2020 subscriptions before the event was cancelled were given the option of donating their membership fee to the charity for the year or of carrying their membership forward. If you carried your membership forward then you don't need to take action and we'll be in touch with your event passes in due course.

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COVID-19 and Events

You'll undoubtedly have heard of the sad cancellation of many other shows like ours for 2021, usually where their show falls in the earlier part of the calendar. Our event falls late in the season and if the UK lockdown release plan goes to schedule then there are a full 10 weeks between the lifting of all restrictions and our Show. We are therefore working with our various contractors to plan for a full show.

It's very different to how we've operated in the past. Even if all the restrictions are lifted, we're still reliant on local authority approval to proceed. We're certain that certain risk factors will need to be managed but that by planning for this now we have the best chance of success.



All our trade stands will need to complete a new COVID risk assessment as well as their usual documentation. We'll be reviewing these with our H&S consultants to ensure they're up to scratch. Changes to the layout of the showground are also being discussed so we can remove what we know to be points of congestion and improve the flow of people. Where we have marquees then we may need to control capacity somehow, and all our tickets will need to be pre-sold so we have full 'test and trace' capability for everyone on site.

The early signs are all so positive – the vaccine roll-out is ahead of schedule and infection rates are falling fast. Tickets for the public will be released in stages starting in early May.

It's still possible that we may be capped on visitor numbers. For this reason, to guarantee your tickets please don't delay on renewing your membership subscription. We know how much the public are keen to get back to events like our Show and as the first bank holiday we'll have out of lockdown then it's likely to be a busy weekend.

If the route out of lockdown is beset by problems and it becomes necessary to cancel our Show, we will offer to defer tickets and membership again until the next year's event.

Meet the Team

Have you met Louise Young, our Chairman for 2021? Louise is a local farmer whose family's involvement with the show stretches back over generations.

Whilst the family home is her mixed farm in Lingfield, she also maintains strong links with Cheshire and is the agent for NFU Mutual in Nantwich. Also involved with the Cheshire and Surrey county shows, Louise is keen to adopt fresh ideas and positive change and that we should provide the perfect platform to show off the talents of local food and drink producers.

On those rare days when she's not rushing around Louise is a keen rider and hunts regularly.

The Chairman's role is unpaid. Louise and the 24 other trustees of the Edenbridge & Oxted Show are all volunteers.



Solutions for local businesses

It's not just individuals who can join us as members. Businesses can take out membership too and share the benefits with colleagues and customers.

Businesses can also work with us to tailor a sponsorship package. Increase your visibility, entertain guests and make the most of your local show.

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Discount for Members

Has your vegetable garden been freshly-dug for planting this year? Are you a dab hand with the dahlias? Perhaps it's time to see just what a judge might make of your young horse in the showing ring.

There are so many ways to get involved in the Show, and members receive a discount on many of our entry fees. The competition schedules will be released in the coming weeks. They contain all the information about how to enter our classes and the regulations they follow.

We'd love to see some new faces and everyone's very welcome. Please do get involved in some good-natured competition. Keep an eye on our website and social media feeds to see when the schedules go online.

Be first with the news!

We want your photos! We love to share pictures in our social media feeds and stories to help our audience see more of all aspects of life in the countryside and on the farm.

Please tag us in your pictures so we can spread the word. Social media is the quickest and easiest way for us to share our news too. Please make sure you're following us so you don't miss out on hearing news about your Show first.



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Our horticulture tent is packed with colourful displays from hundreds of entrants. Joining in with the competition is great fun and there are children's classes too.

Wildlife Watching

With so many trees, hedges and ponds on our land at Ardenrun, it's home to a broad population of birdlife.

If you walk the footpath then you might be lucky enough to spot the very distinctive, bright yellow head of a yellowhammer or two. They're on the RSPB's 'red list' of bird species that are at risk from declining numbers.



Photo from www.birdspot.co.uk

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