



HEATHFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Press Release No: 232

Heathfield Agricultural Show: What you can expect this year?

The Hurricane is coming and its got nothing to do with windy weather! The RAF Battle of Britain's Memorial Flight will be flying a Hurricane over the Showground on Show Day. We have yet to be advised of the timings and, of course, it will be subject to weather conditions and flight availability, but it will be spectacular. Timings will be posted on the Show web page as soon as they are known and we will be managing events around the Showground to coincide with the flypast.

The Cranwell Wealth Solutions Shetland Pony Grand National is a high-speed dash, a blur of coloured silks, flying manes and tails and the roar of the crowd – all the excitement of a day at the races condensed down to Shetland Pony size! Blink and you'll miss them. These pint-sized ponies and jockeys are fiercely competitive as they gallop over miniature steeplechase fences, exactly like their larger counterparts in the Grand National. Set up a sweep stake with your family and friends to add to the excitement.

Broke FMX is another main ring attraction on Show day. The formula is simple. The thrill of athletes jumping 35 feet in the air whilst on their quad bikes, pulling acrobatic stunts over gaps approaching 100 feet, is a sight to behold and challenges the very senses. The stunt display team are dedicated to electrifying crowds of all ages. The team also provides an informative on board commentary with the riders even talking to the crowd while performing their tricks. Between displays the public are invited to the interactive stand where they can get a closer look at the bikes and meet the riders.

Around the Showground are activities all day long. The Education area will offer hands on entertainment in the form of an interactive milking parlour from the Plumpton team. The Young Farmers are bringing their tractor simulator. South Brockwell Farm are offering a story telling session with real

animals! In the livestock area will be live commentary on the Cattle, Sheep and Pig classes informing the audience what the judges are looking for and why they have chosen specific animals to win classes. Mark Cleverdon will re-enact a live Ashford market auction selling off some of the cattle – I challenge you to keep up with what he's saying as he sells the beasts to the highest bidder!

Ashdown Poultry Club will be on hand to give advice to budding poultry owners and, Avian flu allowing, will have examples of various birds and information about why they are popular and what their strengths and weaknesses are. We are looking forward to welcoming them back to the Show after many years absence. Over in Country Ways there will be displays of traditional Country Crafts. It would be unfair to single any of them out here but, I have to say, Dougie Andrews's Wheelwright display is one of my favourites. There will also be a Chainsaw Carver and a live birds of prey display (avian flu permitting).

Visit the Vintage Tractor area and choose from the lines of old machines which one you like the best and cast your vote. The winner is awarded the Vickery Challenge Cup during the tractor parade in the Main Ring. The Arts & Crafts marquee is always a favourite, particularly with the recent resurgence of interest in crafting at home, and the nearby WI marquee is definitely worth a visit.

Local schools and flower clubs participate in the Flower Show competition. Pay this marquee a visit to see your friend, neighbour, child's contribution to the wonderful arrangements, the smell of the flowers as you enter the marquee is incredible.

In addition to all this you have Trade Stands, food outlets, the Micro Brewery and so much more to see. Come and enjoy the day.

Tickets for the Heathfield Show, on Saturday 28th May, are available on line via the Show's web site: www.heathfieldshow.org.

For more information contact Nicola Magill, Show Organiser: 01435 86587