

WELCOME TO THE FIRST OF A NEW SERIES OF MEMBERS' NEWSLETTERS!

Incorporation of the Society

At the AGM in 2018 the members agreed to the Society undergoing the process of incorporation. We are pleased to report that this process should be completed by the end of December. This will mean that the Society will become a limited company whilst still retaining its charitable status. As part of this process, we will be inviting all members to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to agree the transfer of assets from the current Society into the new entity. We anticipate that this EGM will be held in December. Our normal AGM will then be held in March.

In terms of impact on members, there is one significant change that incorporation will bring. Becoming a limited company means the Society will have new bank accounts so we will be writing to members in early January to explain what action needs to be taken to continue making your membership payments. Please do not change anything until we advise you!

Future Events

We are planning a series of talks and discussion forums at the Showground for members, guests and friends. Our plan is to have regular meetings, which would cover topical farming and rural issues as well as having events that appeal to a broad audience of people interested in agriculture.

Next Event - Monday November 25th - The Butterfly Brothers & Jim Egan

Our first talk will be on Monday 25th November at 7pm and will be focussed on wildflower gardening, a topic that we hope will appeal to many members of the Society. We have invited the well-known wildflower garden designers Jim and Joel Ashton (the Butterfly Brothers) to present along with Jim Egan who works for Kings seeds, part of Frontier Agriculture. The event is free to all members and £5 for non-members - but you must book your ticket in advance by contacting the Society Secretary on 01572 757110 or email office@rutlandshowground.com. The ticket includes a complimentary glass of wine & mince pie.



The next talk/discussion will be held in February and will focus on Conservation. The event will be led by Dr Alastair Leake - one of our trustees and the Director of the Allerton Project. Date to be confirmed.

On 6th May 2020 we have booked a visit for members to visit Daylesford Organic Farm at Kingham in Gloucestershire. "For more than 40 years, Daylesford has been one of the most pioneering and sustainable farms in the UK. They farm responsibly and mindfully, holding themselves accountable for their ethical and environmental standards. They grow their produce and raise their animals with the greatest care and consideration, in a way that respects the environment". To find out more about the farm, go to www.daylesford.com. Details about the trip will be sent to members in the New Year.



Rutland County Show 2019

The 187th annual Rutland County Show was a huge success with record entries for Sheep, Poultry and Cattle this year along with more than 50 Heavy Horses in attendance. The show had something for everyone and provided, yet again, an excellent family friendly day out. As visitors entered the show there was no mistake that it was an agricultural show



as they were met with a very impressive array of the latest tractors and combines, which had taken days of hard work and preparation by the companies concerned to ensure they were all presented perfectly. The Midlands and Southern Highland Cattle Club held their Annual Show, bringing over 30 beautiful



Highland cattle. The Vintage field was buzzing with activity. The rural crafters and the farriers hard at work were accompanied by the raucous sounds of the chainsaws being used to create impressive artefacts of wood art by the Wye Valley Axemen.

There was plenty of opportunity for some retail therapy with over 200 trade stands near to the main ring, many of which were local businesses, offering everything from artwork and clothing to food, drink and gifts. If that wasn't enough retail therapy,



then the pavilion was full of craft stands, which provided a welcome retreat when the rain arrived late afternoon. There was lots of entertainment not involving animals at the show. Live music was provided all day long by local bands such as the Rutland Concert Band, Funked Up and Rutland Big Band. In addition, it was lovely to hear the impressive acapella singing of the EAGA gospel choir. A star attraction for this year's show, for adults as well as children, were the giant tortoises but they were not, however, as handsome as the young Highlands or as loveable as the Angora goats and meerkats.

Dogs are always welcome visitors to the show and there were plenty of demonstrations of dog agility on offer this year.



The show continues to grow year on year. Preparations have already begun in earnest for next year's show. We will be looking to improve members' facilities following the feedback we received and intend to present our plans in the February Newsletter. In addition, we



are working hard to improve the flow of traffic in and out of the showground and will update you further on our progress in the next newsletter. We are already crossing our fingers for good weather at next year's show on May 31st 2020!