

May 2020

## Rutland County Show

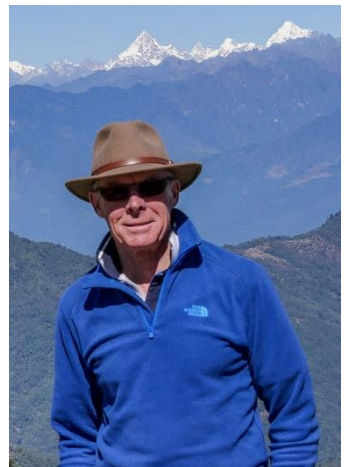
It was very disappointing to cancel the Rutland County Show this year, but we have begun planning for next year already. The date is set as Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021. We are hoping to have over 100 heavy horses at the show, a new horticultural marquee to include the “Garden in a Wheelbarrow” Primary Schools’ Competition and the Atkinson Horses will perform in the main ring.

## Online Zoom Talks



Whilst we are not currently able to have any gatherings, the Society has looked for new ways to deliver its charitable objectives and provide events/activities for members. We have begun by running live Zoom talks/discussions online. Robert Miles, one of our Directors, has setup and hosted three sessions so far, which have been attended by over 50 people each time. The first talk was entitled “Four weeks on the Farm” and looked at the importance of spring field work in the agricultural calendar, focussing on farming in the local area.

Following the success of this, Allan Grey (another Society Director) gave a contrasting talk entitled “Much Happiness in Bhutan”. Allan gave a fascinating presentation on his trip to Bhutan, making reference to the culture, geography and Gross National Happiness of this amazing country.



The most recent talk saw Robert Miles in discussion with Robin Buck, one of our Rutland farming members. The duo discussed “Growing your five a day!” and looked at the issues and processes behind producing a wide variety of crops on Robin’s East of England farm.

**The next Zoom talk is scheduled for Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> – more details to follow by email**

## Future Events

We anticipate that our Zoom talks will continue into the autumn, and probably beyond, as many members have commented that online events are much easier/convenient for them to attend. If you have missed these talks, they were all recorded and can now be viewed on the following Society webpage: <https://www.rutlandshowground.com/courses-and-education/> If you have not been receiving emails about these talks, which will provide you the link to attend, please email the RAS secretary so that you can be added to the mailing list: [office@rutlandshowground.com](mailto:office@rutlandshowground.com)

Once it is deemed safe enough for us to begin meeting again, we will be able to plan a new program of talks/events at the Showground as well as trips for members. We will rearrange the trip to Daylesford and Hidcote and look at the possibility of organising a trip to the Allerton Project at Loddington hosted by one of our Directors, Alastair Leake.

## Rutland Showground

The Showground is very quiet this summer, but in the absence of activities, we have taken the opportunity to make various improvements to the site. The main showground area has been reseeded, new water points installed across the site, areas of wild flowers have been planted thanks to a generous seed donation from Kings and we have been upgrading the shower block for the benefit of future events. We are still able to host regular blood donor sessions and we are pleased to be able to periodically accommodate Covid-19 testing, which will no doubt continue to occur regularly over the next few months.



### Farming Support

As a Society we have been looking for ways that we can support our local farming community. We have identified lots of sources of help that are available, which we have detailed on our Society website at [www.rutlandshowground.com](http://www.rutlandshowground.com)

Key support organisations include:

**NFU** [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com) The regional office in Uppingham is currently closed, but you can still contact them via 01572 824250. The regional adviser is Harriet Ranson on 07771 626081.

**RABI** [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk) A charity offering short and long-term financial support. 0808 289490

**Farming Community Network (FCN)** [www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk) A charity offering personal and business help. 0300 011 1999 or [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)

**Farming Help** [www.farminghelp.co.uk](http://www.farminghelp.co.uk) 0300 111999 - run by the Farming Community Network

**Princes Countryside Fund** [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/) This charitable organisation is providing emergency funding to farming and rural community support groups.

### Colours in the Countryside

Inspired by the wonderful blue field of linseed already in flower just south of Rutland Water dam, we invite you to share the colours you encounter in Rutland this summer. Farmers, walkers, runners and cyclists, please let us know where you can see impressive countryside colours and send us a photo to share with others on our website blog.



Linseed is the obvious crop (most fields will come into flower in June/July rather than May). Spring sown rape can produce superb vistas in July and pea crops can be stunning with a blur of white in the green colour of foliage and developing pods. No need to limit yourself to crops – any plants that add a great contrast to the predominantly green countryside would be lovely to see.

If you would like a challenge, can you photograph a full rainbow of colours to share on our website and for us to use in a collage for a new society homepage (currently under development for launch this autumn). Keeping to an agricultural theme, the set of rainbow photos could be anything from crops to animals to machinery or even farm buildings.



Please send location details and photos to: [office@rutlandshowground.com](mailto:office@rutlandshowground.com)

**Enjoy the full rainbow of colours in the countryside this summer!**