



COUNTDOWN TO THE 2016 THE KENT COUNTY SHOW JULY 2016

Organisers of the Kent County Show on 8, 9, 10 July 2016 are delighted that HRH The Duke of Kent, KG will be attending the Show. The Duke of Kent became Patron of the Kent County Agricultural Society in 1975 and has been a firm supporter over the decades, attending the Show on numerous occasions. They are also happy to report a high number of online advance ticket sales.

Kevin Attwood, Chairman said, "Each year the Kent County Show team strive to bring more excitement, entertainment, educational displays and demonstrations for our thousands of visitors. This year we are delighted to welcome the Bolddog Lings Motorcycle Display Team which will certainly give people a thrilling and dramatic display".

Entertainment throughout the Showground, is high on the agenda this year, in addition to the Bolddog Lings, the Show has hundreds of other activities, workshops, demonstrations, displays, exhibits and competitions to delight visitors.

The Kent County Show are also delighted to announce that 2016 will see the return of a marching band. This year The Royal British Legion Band & Corps Of Drums Romford, one of the longest running independent youth bands in the country today. The band consists of approximately 45 members with an average age of 16 years and was the first ever youth band to appear at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The band has won numerous competitions over the years and plays a wide range of music to match any military band.

In contrast to the tradition and majesty of the 'Marching Band', Titan the Robot will return to entertain the crowds that form around the giant robot. His hilarious antics leave the crowd amused as he works through the highly polished and unique routine.

One of the highlights on all three days at 12.30pm will be The Kent Spitfire known as 'Spirit of Kent' from the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar. The display commentary will take place in the main Astor Ring but the iconic aircraft can be seen and heard over the entire Show. Other attractions in the main ring will be the Grand Parade of Livestock, Parade of Hounds, Heritage Vehicle display, Double Harness Scurry and Show Jumping.

The Kent County Show has a number of different areas to visit from vintage vehicles to food & drink. One of the most popular and memorable is always the Agricultural Area which boasts large displays of cattle, sheep and goats as well as a large Poultry and Egg show, livestock competitions, sheep shearing demonstrations and a wonderful Dog and Duck Show. This year, following the livestock competitions, will be Joseph's Amazing Racing Pigs. Six rare breed pigs will fill the Cattle Ring with their amusing antics. The handlers all dressed in country style outfits will encourage them down the track by shaking a bucket of food. Visitors will be able to watch the pigs hurl themselves over the hurdles in their rush to be the first to the bucket!

The large Kent Young Farmers area at the main entrance to the Showground will be full of young people aged 10 to 26 showcasing their livestock skills. There will be two large marquees housing animals from clubs based in Kent, including cattle, sheep, pigs and small animals - fur and feather. The classes start first thing in the morning and continue throughout the day, with hundreds of youngsters competing over the three days. The group will also have an entertaining fancy dress competition on Saturday at 4pm where the handler and a lamb compete for the best dressed. The Young Farmers area will feature a spectacular display to celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday and a photography display entitled 'Selfie with an animal'.

A favourite area on the Showground is the Food Tent. Over 40 stands will bring the best local, national and international food to Kent. Some of the other food and drink

highlights include the Wine and Cheese Tent which brings the finest wines, ciders, juices and of course cheeses from across the country to the Showground. The large Produced in Kent area allows visitors to purchase local food and hand-made crafts. Unique to the Show and probably the world is the Cherry and Soft Fruit Show. Showcasing top quality fruit, the area boasts of royal connections with a basket of the prize winning fruit sent to the Queen each year.

Not to be missed is the Honey Tent and Kent Beekeeping. One of the hidden gems of the Kent County Show is the Kent Beekeepers display of beekeeping and honey which can be found in the large marquee with adjacent apiary near Murrain Wood.

The Why Farming Matters Cookery Theatre in the Clive Emson Conference Centre on Saturday and Sunday will see a full line-up of local chefs organised by local radio and farmers market regular, Matthew Kearsley-Lawson. On Friday the main event in the area is the Kent is Delicious competition organised by the Diocese of Canterbury. The competition, which started in 2012 is made up from the finalists chosen from three local schools who will compete in creating three tasty after-school snacks using as many locally grown, sourced or produced ingredients as possible.

At the weekend visitors will have the opportunity to watch a variety of chefs cooking the finest Kent produce. This year there is a full programme with demonstrations from various food producers specialising in bread making to how to make Indian cuisine. There will be demonstrations from chefs from local successful businesses showing visitors how to make tasty dishes.

The cookery theatre will also host the 'Omelette Challenge' which first took place last year and proved so popular that it is being hosted again in the morning on both Saturday and Sunday. The challenge is open to individuals and teams who would like to compete with others to see who can make an omelette the fastest and win the prize!

The Kent County Show provides visitors with a chance to see top class competitive show jumping in Kent this year. With a prize fund of over £24,000, many of the top riders in the country will take part. Our equine classes include a large number of

showing classes, farrier demonstrations, heavy horse turnouts and the fast paced scurry driving competitions, many of these are qualifiers for both the Horse of the Year Show and the Olympia Horse Show.

Elsewhere on the Showground there is plenty for everyone to see and take part in from the popular Flower Show to the beautiful woodland area. Vehicle lovers can stroll round the Heritage section to marvel at the beautiful steam engines or concourse standard vintage cars then on to the modern car stands to look at the new models for 2016.

Other parts of the Show include the wonderful Country, Game and Canine Area featuring the Husqvarna 25m UK Pole Climbing Championships. The 25m poles have been erected and the climbers will ensure that this amazing spectacle is something visitors to the annual Kent County Show, will not forget in a hurry.

Two enthralling areas of the Kent County Show are the Woodland Area and Flower Show. Murrain Wood is a small woodland on the Kent Showground site. This beautiful, quiet and shady area will be home to working horses, woodland craft, archery and forestry school. The skill and dedication of the craftsmen in the area is well worth seeing as is the large area run by the Girlguiding Kent and Kent Scouts who bring a variety of activities for both young and old to enjoy.

The large Flower Tent will feature a traditional tea room for 2016 and NAFAS will be providing adult and children's workshops. The Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies will co-ordinate their incredible displays and competitions within the space along with a full itinerary of keynote speakers on the Gardening Roadshow Stage.

During the Kent County Show there will be a number of major sporting events taking place across the UK and Europe. Wimbledon sees the Ladies Final taking place on Saturday 9th and the Men's Final on Sunday 10th. The British Grand Prix at Silverstone takes place over the three Show days and football's big Euro 2016 final takes place in Paris on Sunday 10th July.

These hugely popular competitions need not be missed, the new 'pop-up sports festival' means visitors can enjoy these sporting moments whilst spending the day at the Kent County Show.

The online ticket system is now open to purchase discounted tickets for the 2016 Show. A family ticket will cost £43.20 in advance or £48 when bought at the gate. The family ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children aged between 5 and 15 a full day entrance. Children under 5 go free and parking is free. Adult tickets are £19.80 in advance and £22 on the gate, a child ticket is £5.40 in advance and £6 on the gate.

The Kent County Show starts at 8am and stays open until 6pm although there is no rush to leave as some of the food stands stay open later. The Show has over 140 different activities, workshops, displays and competitions which run throughout the day and are often repeated daily.

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Kent County Show – 8,9,10 July 2016

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