



June 2016

For immediate release.

## **HRH THE DUKE OF KENT TO VISIT THE 2016 KENT COUNTY SHOW**

The Kent County Show are delighted that our Patron, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG will be attending on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

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. His last visit in 2014 saw the Duke officially open the Maidstone Exhibition Hall and helped celebrate the Kent County Agricultural Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Kent Showground in Detling.

The Duke of Kent will be met by Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle and introduced to a number of Kent Officials including; Kathrin Smallwood, High Sheriff; Cllr Derek Butler, Mayor of Maidstone; Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council; Tom Gates, Kent County Council Chairman and Helen Whately, MP for Mid-Kent and Faversham.

The Duke will be accompanied on a tour of the livestock and farming areas of the Show, including the Jacob Sheep Society and Kent Young Farmers. The Duke of Kent has visited the young farmers on previous visits and has always commented about how impressed he is with their presence at the County Show.

The Duke of Kent will then embark on visits to a number of organisations that are of interest to him; Campaign to Protect Rural England, Dogs Trust and Guide Dogs. The official tour will then go to the Woodland Area to visit Kent Scouts in his capacity of President of the Scout Association and also meet members of the Woodland Trust.

The Duke of Kent will be escorted to the Kent County Agricultural Society drinks reception to watch the Kent Spitfire display on the Members Lawn, where he will be presented to Members of the Society and invited guests.

Kevin Attwood, Chairman said, "We are delighted that HRH The Duke of Kent will be visiting the 2016 Show, his enthusiasm and interest in the County Show is heartfelt and it is a wonderful opportunity for him to see the excellent work that goes on in Kent. His knowledge about the rural and farming community makes his visits very special for the people he meets."

HRH The Duke of Kent will be guest of honour at the President's Lunch sponsored by Brachers LLP and Savills. This will be Lord Colgrain's first Show accompanying the Duke on a tour of the Show since he became President in 2015.

Another important guest, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan will also be attending the 87th Kent County Show on Friday 8 July.

He will visit the NFU and CLA stand to deliver a Keynote Speech following the result of the EU Referendum on 23rd June. He will then be joined by CLA Deputy President Tim Breitmeyer and NFU President Meurig Raymond for a question and answer session from invited members of the two large rural organisations. Phil Hogan will then present awards for contribution to conservation and woodland management in the County.

The European Commissioner will be escorted to the Kent Young Farmers Area to meet Chairman, Joe McAuley and the Kent County Show livestock area to be introduced to Terry Whitehead, Chief Steward of Livestock. Phil Hogan will be the guest speaker for the President's Lunch.

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. Multiday tickets cost £50 and are only available in advance.

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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For more information and images contact Lucy Hegarty, Show Manager

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Kent County Show – 8,9,10 July 2016

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