

**For immediate release**  
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## **AGRICULTURAL CHARITY STEPS UP TO KEEP BIDDENDEN TRACTORFEST ALIVE**

The Kent County Agricultural Society has today announced that it will facilitate the continued running of Biddenden Tractorfest, with the event set to continue at the original Woolpack Corner site on the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

After this year's event, Sue Boon, Chairman of Biddenden Tractorfest, and the organisers agreed that the event had reached a scale that could no longer be run efficiently by volunteers alone and that sadly it would not be held in 2020. Following talks with the Kent County Agricultural Society, it was agreed that the Society could take on Biddenden Tractorfest, aiming to continue the event in keeping with the idea of how it was originally set up with existing volunteers still forming much of the organising committee.

The Kent County Agricultural Society already run four agricultural events throughout the year including their showcase event, the Kent County Show, as well as the Heritage Transport Show.

Julian Barnes, Vice Chairman of the Kent County Agricultural Society, owner of Biddenden Vineyards and resident of the village said, "When I heard that Sue and all the volunteers felt they could no longer continue to organise Biddenden Tractorfest along its current lines, I knew that we needed to find a way for this important event in Biddenden village to continue. The aims of the volunteers that set up the event are very much in line with the charitable objectives of the Kent County Agricultural Society, so it made sense for the two to discuss the opportunities available."

Sue Boon and her committee have endorsed this move which they feel will offer visitors to the much-loved event an opportunity to enjoy it for years to come.

The Kent County Agricultural Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since its foundation in 1923. It provides grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs and offers university scholarships to students wishing to study in related fields. The Society also provides free education on farming to children through the 'Farming in the Classroom' initiative & the Living Land event, whilst supporting the county's agricultural and land-based industries & workers through recognition awards along with its trade show, Farm Expo.

Stand applications for Biddenden Tractorfest are open now, with tickets going on sale early in the New Year. More information and updates may be found at [www.tractorfest.co.uk](http://www.tractorfest.co.uk)

**-ENDS-**

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**Notes to the Editors:**

*About the Kent County Agricultural Society (Registered Charity Number: 1001191)*

The Kent County Agricultural Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since its foundation in 1923. It provides grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs and offers university scholarships to students wishing to study in related fields. The Society also provides free education on farming to young children through the 'Farming in the Classroom' initiative and the Living Land event.

The Society's headline event is the Kent County Show; the region's showcase event for farming, countryside, and rural life. The three day show in July brings together the best food, animals, and entertainment that Kent has to offer and reveals the true spirit of "The Garden of England."

Alongside its work in supporting education in agriculture for young children and students, the Society also supports the county's agricultural and land-based industries and workers through recognition awards and its trade show, Farm Expo in March.

More on the Kent County Agricultural Society's work and how to support this local charity can be found by visiting [www.kentshowground.co.uk](http://www.kentshowground.co.uk).

*About Biddenden Tractorfest*

Biddenden Tractorfest and Country Fair was created by Sue Boon and began in a small way in 2013 on the recreational fields in Biddenden. It then transferred to land just outside the village on the road to Sissinghurst. It grew substantially year-on-year and moved in 2018 to larger fields beside Woolpack Corner on the road to Tenterden.

The event was run entirely by volunteers, with aims to stage an annual event that was fun and affordable for the whole family. All proceeds were donated to local Clubs, Associations, Societies, Groups, Amenities and Registered Charities. In October 2019, the volunteers made the following statement:

*As organisers of Tractorfest, we feel that the show has become a victim of its own success and has outgrown our ability, as a group of volunteers, to continue running it efficiently. It is therefore with regret that we are announcing that the 2019 event was the last year for the show. We wish to say a very big thank you to all our sponsors, supporters and the many volunteers from Biddenden and beyond.*