

2016 PROGRAMME**July 2nd - 3rd****Smallholders Show**

South of England Showground,
Ardingly,
West Sussex.
RH17 6TL.

smallholdersshow.co.uk

August 20th - 21st**Tractorfest & Country Fair**

Beech Lane Field,
Sissinghurst Road,
Biddenden,
Kent.
TN27 8EX

tractorfest.co.uk

August 20th - 21st**International Horse Trials**

Firle Place,
Firle near Lewes,
East Sussex.
BN8 6LP

firleplaceevent.co.uk

November 18th - 19th**Cooden Beach Hotel****Christmas Fair**

Cooden Sea Road,
Bexhill-on-Sea.
TN39 4TT

thecoodenbeachhotel.co.uk

December 8th**Battle Late Night Shopping**

Memorial Hall,
High Street,
Battle,
East Sussex.

For contact details for all events
keep an eye on the [Events Page](#)
of our website

Two events on the same day

Just prior to our AGM I put out an email with regard to the Firle Summer Show and Tractorfest which due to no fault or ours are on the same weekend – August 20th/21st. To see which event would be our choice to attend.

You were very good in replying fast and within four days I had equal numbers requesting both events. We managed to get two of our members to take up the challenge and they stated they would run the events, order marquees etc.

To date we are very low on numbers taking up places, we need at least another 5/6 people who had stated their preference to book a pitch at each event.

So please if you are one of those who stated they would like to attend and have not done so please book now.

Do not forget to use your vouchers when booking, £5 off the booking fee.

Chairman's Notes

What a start to the Season of events.

Our first show of the season was the Firle Spring Garden Show, a three-day event at the end of April, what could be better. We set up on the Thursday a nice sunny day and we even sat outside the marquee drinking coffee and taking in the rays.

'What a difference a day makes' as the song goes. Friday morning was very cold, to say the least and as the day went on got colder. This was to continue for the next two days as well and it was strange to see, each morning, the stall holders arrive and start putting on extra layers of clothing to try and keep warm.

Over the three days we had a good footfall and the show ground was well laid out with a great variety of crafts and if you are a keen gardener you should attend this show without fail next year. The majority of our members did reasonably well. It was nice to see Jean Hardy come and visit us so soon after her bereavement, for it was Jean who had done the majority of the work in setting up the event.

Our second show was Heathfield Agricultural Show and if you ever want to test out your wet weather gear at the start of the season, book a day at this show. It kept up the tradition of soaking all and sundry and then drying out the rest of the day. We did start to resemble a cow shed, at one point when large amounts of straw were laid to combat the water flow. There is one thing that you cannot say thou 'The weather affects the crowds' because they seem to come in their thousands. All round another good day at Heathfield weather station.

Firle Spring Garden Show

This had to be the coldest three days in April on record. But the atmosphere inside the Weald Craft Marquee was on fire, Weald Craft has never tried this event before so it was all very new to us Weald Crafters but what a lovely, friendly, busy show it was. I have no idea on footfall but it has to be thousands.

Held on the beautiful grounds of this wonderful house, our marquee was close to the entrance and, despite the weather being really, really freezing, there were people queuing to get into the show on all three mornings. The whole show had a vast array of goods to tempt one and all, not only from our marquee but various vendors around the site, from the purchase of a few pea sticks to an outside hot tub – everyone was catered for. Sussex food and drink, shrubs, tools, flowers, seeds, pots, tubs all well displayed and on offer to the public. Amusements for the children included a circus clown instruction school (great fun for the youngsters).

I think everyone did reasonably well in our craft marquee, selling their wares. A couple of the organisers popped in now and again and commented how friendly we all were and were keen on talking about our craft skills which is always nice to hear.

Would I do it again? Where do I sign!!!!

Graham Pollard



Heathfield Agricultural Show

The Heathfield Agricultural Show, and its inclement weather, lived up to its notorious reputation once more. We were promised sunshine all day with the slight possibility of a shower.

Off to a dry start but, by 9.30am, the crowds were flooding in to get out of the rain. Rivulets of water were streaming through the marquee. No sooner than remedial measures were taken than everybody was coming into our marquee to get out of the heat!!! All in all, we cannot complain. Children were, once again, admitted free so the attendance was very good and probably in excess of 18,000.

To the question "How did you fare" most members responded in a non-committal fashion. "OK, will come again but they are still not dipping too far into their pockets". One or two said "Best year ever" though. I let their tyres down.

Peter Castle

