

ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Supporting and promoting  
the Island's rural economy

# ANNUAL REPORT

The Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society  
&  
Isle of Wight County Show Ltd

For the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has once again been a busy one for the Society, with the County Show uppermost in our activities. Despite the extremely hot weather over the weekend, the Show was again very successful. Whilst visitor numbers were down due to the heat, most comments were positive as to how well the Show is progressing. Membership continues to rise, which is a clear indication that we are on the right track and I would like to thank you personally for your own membership of the Society.

Each year we use some of the profits from the Show to support our Rural Careers Fund and this year, despite profits being down, we have still been able to help two students supplement their funds whilst at college and we wish them well in their future careers.

Thanks go to all our helpers and volunteers, particularly the Show Committee who dedicate so much of their free time throughout the year to ensure a successful Show outcome.

Education of the younger members of our community in all things to do with the countryside has been one of my key objectives this year. I am very pleased to say that we held a very satisfying 'taster' day at the showground in the summer, hosting over two hundred primary school children who all seemed very pleased to meet the various members of the show team and their animals up close. The tractor rides to the woodland were much anticipated and did not disappoint. The event was hugely successful and the resulting feedback means that this day will become an annual event.

I am pleased to say that the Society is just about to embark on some much needed showground improvements, which will enhance the use of our wonderful facility and make it available to an even wider audience.

Finally, this year our President retires from that position with the Society and I would like to thank him on your behalf for his personal involvement in the Society's activities, despite his somewhat heavy work schedule over the last few years.

**David Groves**  
Chairman

**Year 2018**

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr & Mrs J W Attrill  
Mr & Mrs D Ballard  
Mrs F D Brown  
Mrs P Collins

Mrs R Edwards  
Mr I Jackman  
Mr J Lockhart  
Mrs S Moody

Mr P Robinson  
Mr & Mrs D R S Russell  
Mr G S Sibbick  
Mrs R T U Taylor  
Mr & Mrs P Warren

**PRESIDENT:** Maj Gen Sir M S White CB CBE JP

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr D Groves

**VICE-CHAIRMAN & HON TREASURER:** Mr G Biss

**HON SECRETARY:** Mrs R Edwards

**MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Current Members:**

J Ball

R Edwards

S Groves

**J Lockhart**

G Biss

B Gibbs

**D Horne**

D R S Russell

R Brown

J Griffin

J Heather

D J S Russell

P Cracknell

D Groves

G Kennett

**Members eligible for re-election:**

**2018**

D Groves

S Groves

J Heather

G Kennett

D J S Russell

**2019**

G Biss

R Brown

P Cracknell

B Gibbs

J Griffin

**2020**

R Edwards

D Horne

DRS Russell

The enclosed Nomination Form for election as an Officer of the Society or to serve on the  
Executive Committee must be returned to:

**RIWAS, Shide Meadows Centre, Shide Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1HR**

**By noon on 28 November 2018**

**NOMINATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE AGM**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 6.30 pm**  
Bluebells, Briddlesford Road, Wootton, Isle of Wight

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies (Please advise the Society office if unable to attend)
2. Chairman's Welcome
3. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 14 December 2017
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Royal Isle of Wight County Show
  - b. Rural Careers Fund
  - c. RIWAS Wight Marque
5. To receive the accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018
6. Election of Officers for the year 2018-19
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice-Chairman
  - c. Honorary Secretary
  - d. Honorary Treasurer
  - e. Executive Committee Members
7. To confirm 30 June 2019 as the date for the 121<sup>st</sup> Royal Isle of Wight County Show.
8. Any Other Business (To be received, at the RIWAS office, in writing by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. No questions will be taken from the floor on the evening.)
9. President's closing remarks and Life Membership Award 2018.

By Order of the Executive Committee  
Mrs Rosemary Edwards  
Hon Secretary

Registered Charity Number: 249519

President: Maj Gen M S White CB CBE JP

Chairman: Mr D Groves

Vice-Chairman: Mr G Biss

Honorary Secretary: Mrs R Edwards

Shide Meadows Centre, Shide Road, Newport PO30 1HR. Tel: 0845 226 9098

Web: [www.riwas.org.uk](http://www.riwas.org.uk) e-mail: [riwas@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:riwas@naturalenterprise.co.uk)

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Bluebells, Briddlesford Road, Wootton - 6.30pm**

**Attendees:** Maj Gen M White, President Mrs B Walters, Chairman, Mr G Biss, Vice Chairman Mrs R Edwards, Honorary Secretary, Mr P Margham, Mr & Mrs R Brown, Mr J Attrill, Mr M Haestier, Mr R Edwards, Mr R Nobes, Mr D Rance, Mrs C Underwood, Mr M Legge, Mr S Read, Mr M Morris, Mrs J Morris, Mrs G Kennett, Mr A Turner, Mr T Marsh, Mr P Marsh, Mr DJS Russell, Mr DRS Russell, Mr M Poland, Mr B Gibbs, Mr P Robinson, Mr D Groves, Mrs S Groves, Mr P Griffin, Mrs P Collins, Mrs J Griffin, Mr R Griffin, Mr N Hayward, Mr J Ball, Mr J Lockhart, Mr I Eaton, Mrs N Eaton, Ms L Marsh & Miss K Bucci, minute taker.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs R Edwards opened the meeting with membership apologies and a minute silence to remember Mr Mew who had died during the year.

Apologies: Mrs B Wilkins, Mrs J Williams, Mr B Rouse, Mrs L Rouse, Mr & Mrs Byman, Mr D Tromans, Mr & Mrs Ballard, Sir Guy & Lady C Acland & Mr G Mason

**2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman gave her welcome and referred to her report in the Annual Report which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 13.12.2016**

Proposed by Mr G Biss

Seconded by Mr I Eaton

Unanimously approved.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Royal Isle of Wight County Show – presented by Graham Biss**

Feedback received about the 2017 show had been overwhelmingly positive, attendance was just over 10,000 people.

Since 2012, when the new committee was established, we have set out to rejuvenate the show which has successfully been achieved. We now want to continue to showcase the Island. We are in an excellent position to promote Island agriculture, food, craft, arts etc. In essence Isle of Wight PLC. The future is about taking what we have achieved but make it better. There is no complacency and it is important the show continues to move forward.

Great thanks must go to the members of the Show Committee, who work tirelessly, our many sponsors and supporters.

**Rural Careers Fund – presented by Belinda Walters**

The Rural Careers Fund is helping to increase skills across the rural sector. To date £22,500 has been awarded in the form of bursaries and scholarships. This year £3,750 has been awarded to 4 young people, all in attendance at the AGM.

One of the successful scholars Rory Nobes provided an update on his studies. He reported that college was going well and he is learning lots. Enjoying proper agricultural style lectures. He has become more involved with the college and has been offered paid work on the college staff. He intends to encourage the College to attend the County Show.

The 2018 Rural Careers Fund scholarship nomination period opened at the AGM. Members asked to spread the word.

**RIWAS Wight Marque – presented by Graham Biss**

Wight Marque now has over 30 food sector members covering 500 individual products. The focus to date has been on auditing but moving forward the aim is to lift the profile of local food and to raise awareness of the scheme.

Vanessa Langley was introduced. Vanessa has taken over the running of the Wight Marque scheme, with the aim to move along the food chain to recruit more retail and hospitality members.

The Food Pavilion at County Show is a fantastic gathering of Wight Marque members and demonstration of the sheer quality of Island food.

**5. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

During the year the Executive Committee had strengthened the Society's reserve policy. This now ensures 50% of the cost of the next County Show and the notice period for the office contract are held in Reserves. The financial aim for the County Show is to provide a return of 3% to 5%.

The 2016/17 Annual Accounts had been made available and with no questions received they were presented for approval.

The Annual Accounts were unanimously approved.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2017 – 2018**

CHAIRMAN – Mr D Groves

VICE-CHAIRMAN – Mr G Biss

**ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARY** - Mrs R Edwards

**ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER** - Mr G Biss

**ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The following members were re-elected to the Executive Committee:

Mrs R Edwards  
Mr J Lockhart  
Mr DRS Russell

The above Officers were all unanimously elected en-bloc.

Mrs Walters the retiring chairman was presented with some flowers and Mr D Groves, the new RIWAS Chairman, thanked Belinda for her tremendous work, she would be a difficult act to follow. His focus will be the Rural Careers Fund and trying to get into schools to promote the industry. David would like to see the County Showground used more

**7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

Harrison Black to be asked to continue as Auditors

Unanimously approved

**8. DATE OF 120<sup>th</sup> SHOW**

Because the IW Festival has moved its date, we are moving our show date to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. We hope to move back to our normal end of June date in 2019.

The 8 July 2018 was confirmed as the date for the 120<sup>th</sup> Royal Isle of Wight County Show.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was received.

**10. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS & LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2017**

Major General Martin White, President of the Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society, congratulated David Groves on his appointment as Chairman and extended his thanks to Belinda & all those who have contributed to another successful year for the Society. He also thanked Graham for all he does for the Show, Wight Marque, and Bursaries etc.

The Life Membership Award was presented to Mr John Lockhart. John is a well-respected, long standing committee member and master cattle showman. He first began showing cattle at the County Show at Nine Acres in 1947, exhibiting a Guernsey bull when he was only 13 years of age.

For over 50 years he has been a valuable and knowledgeable member of the County Show committee and an extremely loyal servant to the Society's aims and objects.

**RIWAS Membership 2019**

<i>Member /Joint Membership</i>	<i>Young Members (under 21)</i>	<i>Corporate Member</i>
<b>£30 / £52</b>	<b>£17</b>	<b>£152</b>
<b>Members who pay by Standing Order will receive a £2 discount.</b>		
<p>Entry to Royal Isle of Wight County Show and the Members' Pavilion. Further tickets can be purchased at a 20% discount in advance of the show.</p> <p>Members' forward car park ticket.</p> <p>Use of the Members' Enclosure with excellent views of the Main and Showjumping Rings.</p> <p>Discounted Members' Lunch ticket.</p> <p>Opportunity to reserve a table in the Members Pavilion for lunch to include pre-advised guests.</p> <p>Priority and reduced entry fees into Equine and Livestock classes.</p> <p>Right to attend and vote at Society's AGM.</p> <p>Receive the RIWAS Newsletter and other updates.</p> <p>Priority booking to other Society events e.g. Harvest Supper, Winter Seminar, Annual Dinner.</p> <p>Concessionary Wightlink ferry tickets and other membership discounts.</p>	<p>Young Members receive all the benefits of Membership at a discounted rate.</p>	<p>Entry to Royal Isle of Wight County Show and the Members' Pavilion for five people. Further tickets can be purchased at a 20% discount in advance of the show.</p> <p>3 x Members' forward car park tickets.</p> <p>Use of the Members' Enclosure with excellent views of the Main and Showjumping Rings.</p> <p>Opportunity to reserve a table in the Members' Pavilion for lunch to include pre-advised guests.</p> <p>Display of a corporate banner around the Main Ring at Royal Isle of Wight County Show.</p> <p>One advert in the Royal Isle of Wight County Show programme.</p> <p>Receive the RIWAS Newsletter and other updates.</p> <p>Priority booking to other Society events e.g. Harvest Supper, Winter Seminar, Annual Dinner.</p> <p>Concessionary Wightlink ferry tickets and other membership discounts</p>

**Please Note – Life Members are entitled to the benefits of Membership**



### RIWAS Gift Membership

Give the gift of an RIWAS membership this Christmas, perfect to show support for the Island's rural and agricultural sector.

All members will receive free entry to the Isle of Wight County Show 2019 as well as all the other membership benefits.

The gift membership and card can be sent to you to pass it on, or sent directly to your recipient.

#### Your details:

Your name

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Your address

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Your membership number

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#### This is a gift membership for:

Name

---

Address

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**Type of gift membership required**

<input type="checkbox"/> Full	£30
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint	£52
<input type="checkbox"/> Young	£17

**Do you want this sent to the recipient directly?**

Yes, send it to them.

No, please send it to me.

**Total amount payable**

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#### Method of Payment (please tick)

Cheque (made payable to RIWAS)

BACS

Details for BACs payments: Natwest Bank – a/c 05019192 – s/c 54-10-34

#### RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Shide Meadows Centre, Shide Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1HR

Tel: 0845 226 9098 e-mail: [riwas@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:riwas@naturalenterprise.co.uk)