



Driffield Agricultural Society Newsletter



Autumn 2006

Issue 17

The Society's retiring President Derek Megginson writes,

It has been a great honour to spend a year as President and to take a view of our work from a different perspective. What is most rewarding is that it reinforces my opinion of the immense amount of good work we undertake on behalf of the agricultural industry.

To some we are just Driffield Show, which alone is something we can be proud of and has been achieved by the work of a lot of committee members and stewards over a long period of years.

The Society's wider role in education in its many and various forms continues to expand and earn the appreciation of all whom it reaches. The Farmers Market continues to broaden the role of marketing, to the mutual benefit of producer and consumer.

The Championship Dog Show continues to thrive, and we must never forget the immense financial contribution they have made to the Society over the past 30 years. I am sure they are as proud to be connected with the Driffield Agricultural Society as we are for what they do under the Driffield Banner.

We tried two small new ventures this year in the Members Farm walk and the Harvest Festival. My thanks to the few who supported them, and hope it will lead to discussion on whether they have a future.

A very sincere "Thank you" to all members, committee and stewards for your contribution to the Society's success, and on behalf of Trish and myself thank you for your hospitality at various events during the year, and Show Day in particular.

Driffield Farmers Market



As many of you will have seen during the November market, we had a visit from our associated body, FARMA. We invited them to join us to conduct a Health Check on all aspects of the market, to ensure we are serving the local community as fully as possible and that our stallholders are delivering the goods you want.

Postcodes were recorded, footfalls were counted and all manner of questions were asked about the public's opinions, all this information will be collated by Lloyds Europa and then delivered back to us to ensure the continued success as the leading Farmers Market in the region.

Driffield Show 2006 Review

This year's Show Day was supposed to be the hottest day on record since 1911 and with weather forecasters discouraging people to go out this was reflected in the gate numbers of approximately 20,000, but a good day was had by all that attended with a cooling breeze drifting over from Kelleythorpe. Overall the livestock and horse classes were very well attended, with a high standard of turnout throughout all sections.

This time, with the Enterprise Village in its fourth year we were again able to support 30 new businesses, offering them training and an opportunity to showcase their products to a massive audience. The Cookery Marquee demonstrations using produce sourced from businesses at the Show, had a new chef this year in Linda Latus from Bishop Burton College. The British Sweet Pea Society held their National Show for the first time in 20 years at Driffield, complementing our own horticultural displays for a fantastic floral extravaganza. Thanks must be offered to all the companies that support the Show either by sponsorship or simply by attending on the day.



Long Service Awards

Every Drifffield Show the Society ask the membership for names of individuals that are nearing retirement age, that have given many years of continuous and loyal service to a farm or organisation. If you can think of anyone in a similar position then please contact the Society office with their details.



Mr. Dennis Harrison

After 40 years service to JSR Farms, Dennis is still as committed today as he was back in 1966. In this time he has been a loyal employee and has adapted to the enormous changes in agriculture over this period. His first job was hoeing lines of sugar beet by hand and

today he drives a 275bhp crawler tractor with a 6 metre drill with enough electronics to baffle anyone!

Mr. Herbert Harper

Mr Harper started work back in April of 1966 with Mr John Caley. His first job was to dig a hole for a concrete gatepost that still stands opposite the farm to this day. Herbert attacked this with such enthusiasm that this second job was to fill half the hole back in again, as it was twice as deep



as necessary! When asked about his working life, most days are remembered fondly, working as part of a team to get the job done, but he will remind you of the harder days loading 40 tonnes of potatoes on to a lorry by hand, after a days work.

Mr. John Makey

Mr. Makeys first job was transporting potatoes for THF Ltd back in July of 1965, John worked mainly in the workshops maintaining and fabricating all manner of pig equipment and farm implements. He survived working with 6 managers on the farm and at least as many on the pig unit, and is described as a man of many talents and

totally un-flappable, John would tell you of the time he re-fitted a rear tractor tyre with the workshop flash light inside the casing! Mr. Makey saw many changes on the farm over his 41 years, most of all the change of equipment that took place.



Drifffield Show 2007

Plans are already well underway for **Drifffield Show 2007** on the **18th of July**, tradestand forms will be going out in January to all previous and prospective exhibitors.

The Society plans to build on the success of the new Avenue of 2006, which added 3,000m² to the Shows footprint, by introducing an Environmental area that can showcase all issues relating to both town and country alike, solar power, biomass and carbon neutral fuels will all hopefully appear as will farm waste recycling and recycling for the home.

Livestock meetings will go ahead shortly to set the classes and schedules for next year and 2007 will see the arrival of the alpaca to the Showground with an exhibition introducing these animals to the East Riding.

History of the Society

The Drifffield Agricultural Society has existed for over 150 years and during that time many changes have happened in not only farming but every walk of life. Back in 1973 a book was written about the Society and it is now time for an update. If you have any interesting information or would like to be involved in this process then please contact the Society office.

Society Membership

It is again time to renew your Membership of the Society and we enclose the relevant form with this newsletter. For you to have full voting rights at the coming AGM you need to complete this form and have it back to us as soon as possible.

As a member of the Society you receive an exclusive invitation to many events throughout the year, including the members farm walk, the members evening which will be held in March of 2007 and of course Show Day which will be on 18th July 2007.