THE NEWBURY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NADAS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

NADAS - Registered Charity (1003898) aiming to promote and enhance agriculture, horticulture, forestry, rural crafts and skills and to the benefit of the countryside and the general public.

What an amazing Spring we've had, few of us would have guessed how warm and dry the weather would be. Even less would have thought that we'd be so desperate for rain, particularly after the last three years of watery records being broken! Staff and volunteers have been taking full advantage of the weather conditions with lots of work completed on the Showground as well as all our ongoing maintenance to help enhance all our varied activities throughout the year.

THE SOCIETY FINANCES

The finances of the Society remain stable. With the Showground now fully open for letting the coming year is forecast to be the busiest ever. Funds have been put aside to carry out some essential repairs and current forecasts are for the Society to make a small surplus.

SHOWGROUND USAGE

The S106 Agreement and the Society Building:
Good progress has been made with West Berkshire regarding the winter use and expanding the days available for certain activities. We now have an agreement in principle, subject to completion and a final legal agreement. This is potentially a great outcome for the Society and everyone involved as it gives us the opportunity to offer far more benefits and choice to local communities, with the more efficient use of the assets we have.

SAVE THE DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 19th June 2025 at 7pm in the Society Building.
The minutes of the 2024 AGM are available on the website and an agenda will be distributed in due course.

NEWBURY SHOW 2025
Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September
Gates open 8.30 am. Tickets are now available on the website for non-members.

PLOUGHING MATCH 2025
Saturday 18th October 2025.
This years NADAS Ploughing Match will take place at The Sutton Estate, by kind permission of Sir Richrard Sutton Ltd. The location is close to the Kintbury Crossroads on the A4 between Hungerford and Newbury. A schedule of classes will be available on the website soon. If you would like to be involved in helping, volunteers are always very welcome, please contact Julian Plank julianplank19@gmail.com

EDUCATION UPDATE

Since the previous newsletter, there has been lots going on with Education! The final of the Debating competition was held with very considered arguments being debated about the place of AI and Agriculture. It was a close finish but Kennet School were announced the winners.

The Design, Make and Market Challenge was held at BCA and five teams entered, with some original ideas. The judges deliberated long and hard before choosing the team from Little Heath School for first place, with their Peace Pods – a quiet area for students to take time out of the busy day, all designed with sustainability at the forefront.One of the BCA teams were runners up, with their Chicken Gym intended to exercise and engage the birds.

The Agricultural Challenge for Special Education saw a record seven teams enter at Arlington Arts Centre and the judges again took a long time to select the overall winner, which this year was Reading College.

You may be aware that an advertisement was placed for an Assistant Education Officer to take up post in September. They will not be directly assisting Jan but will have their own brief – initially to take out into schools a wooden sheep and chicken.Thanks to the efforts of Geoff and Susan Layton, the animals are now cut out and awaiting “dressing”. The standard of applicants was very high and the chosen candidate should be a great asset to the Society and the Education programme, resulting in even more children being educated about food and farming and all things agricultural. More about this in a future newsletter!

IN THE OFFICE

Susan Layton has left us to pursue a new career but we are very pleased to announce that Angela Plank will be taking over from her. Angela is a strong supporter of the Society and has supported and volunteered over many years.

We would like to thank Susan on behalf of the Society and everyone involved for all her invaluable help and hard work over the last 16 years. Susan has been a tireless support and has always gone over and beyond in her work to aid and help the board and the Society in general, through both good and tricky times. She will be very much missed.

All of us wish Susan a very happy and successful future in her new venture.

LOCAL FARM COMPETITIONS

The Local Farm Competition juding is now underway with Sheep, Cattle and grassland judging already completed and the crop judging due to start on the 16th June. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to steward/drive the judges. If you would like to volunteer to assist please get in touch with Nicki in the office.

There has been a good entry this year but there is still time to enter Threshed and Foraged crops along with nominations for Long Service Awards. The Farm Competition Schedule is available on the website (https://newburyshowground.co.uk/).

MEMBERS OFFER

We are pleased to announce we are working with events using the showground and will publish discount codes as they become available.

We have secured a discount with Young Driver who are the UK's biggest under 17 driving school with over 75% of the under 17 driving market and have just delivered their 1,500,000th driving lesson! **Please use code: YDNSG10 for a 10% discount on each booking.**

Taking lessons with Young Driver before you turn 17 at Newbury Showground reduces the number of on-road lessons you will need later on, increases the chance of passing your test and most importantly makes you a safer driver. (Young Driver pupils have 80% less accidents when they take to the real roads).

They have automatic cars fitted with hand controls available on every one of the days at Newbury Showground, which enable them to cater for local youngsters with a wide range of additional needs, from wheelchair users to those with neurodivergence.

The professional driving instructors are approved by the government and specially trained to work with under 17s.

Lessons at Newbury Showground for 9 – 17 year olds start at £46.99

For more information on dates and availability, please visit www.youngdriver.com or call us on 0333 5779010. When booking please use code:

EST. 1909

NEWBURY SHOW

SHOW NEWS 2025

As you can see we have had a rebrand for 2025 with a modern twist on the original logo which is clear and features an historical element.

With little over 3 months until the 2025 show, plans are coming together for an updated layout and new attractions. We have an additional Demonstration Ring for 2025 which will be accessible from the Members Enclosure and will feature displays such as vintage tractors, mini steamers and some new machinery being displayed. We are excited to announce we have Lawn Mower racing this year which will be located at the end of the Lew Spencer Avenue down by the Livestock area. We hope you get a chance to go and cheer them on.

In the Main Ring we will have the traditional crowd pleasers including Pony Club games, Scurry, Heavy Horses, Hounds and the balloons (fingers crossed the weather is kinder than the last 2 years). Our main machinery demonstration will be “Sprayers Through The Ages”.

We have listened to the feedback and have all of the equine rings in use all weekend. One will house the Heavy Horse villlage while the other rings will play host to a Shetland Pony show, Working equitation and further classes that are still to be announced.

The Cookery Theatre will be renamed as the Show Theatre which will host demonstations including cocktail and cooking alongside interactive panel discussion and many more.

We are bringing back a Fruit, Veg, Flowers and Home Produce Competition which will be housed in the larger Produce and Harvest Centre marquee. It would be great if this had the support of the membership this year to have a good show and encourage even more entries for 2026. Please use this link to take a look at the schedule: https://showingscene.com/events/newbury-show-2025-sep-2025/produce-fruit-vegetables-cakes-etc

We are still seeking stewards in a couple of areas and would love to have a chat if you or someone you know might be interested in helping out.

The Showground works and Volunteers:

Our teams of Volunteers have been busy, taking advantage of the weather. There's been new hedge planting in the Red car park, running parallel to Priors Court Rd. The Lake/Pond in the Countryside area has been dug out, with the removal of silt and the reinstating of the clay lining. There's also been the building of a rather luxurious 'Bug Hotel' and the building of a 'dead hedge' around part of our 'dipping pond', this is to help with bio-diversity by creating new and different habitats.
Fence repairs around the Showground are on going and all livestock avenues and fence lines have also been sprayed. Damaged trackways and access points around the White carpark have also been largely repaired and reinstated, again with the much valued help of volunteers.

If you would like to be part of our terrific team of volunteers please contact Mick Crockford: mickthepig@btinternet.com or Nicki Head: nadas@nadas.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

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