



2025 SHOW PROGRAMME

Sheep Judging • Sheep Demonstration
Farmyard Circus • Funfair • Displays
Morris Dancing • Barn Dance • Live Bands
Food Stalls • Beer Tent • Country Crafts
170 stalls ...and many more attractions!

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SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025
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findonsheepfair.org.uk



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FINDON SHEEP FAIR & VILLAGE FESTIVAL 2025

*Welcome to the annual Findon Sheep Fair
& Village Festival 2025!*

The Sheep Fair has been running for over 250 years and takes place every year during the second weekend of September on Nepcote Green in the village of Findon, West Sussex.

This year the Sheep Show featuring dancing sheep returns, as well as the popular Farmyard Circus. Other attractions include the Dog & Duck Show and a Mock Sheep Auction.

There are approximately 170 stalls, several food outlets, many selling local produce and a beer tent. There are also country crafts and demonstrations and as always, Harris Brothers have brought along their traditional funfair.

As well as providing a good day out, we also promote the importance of sheep farming in the UK and encourage younger generations to get involved.

Without the help from volunteers and sponsors, the future of this historic event could not be safeguarded. Their support is gratefully appreciated.

We hope you all have a very enjoyable day!

Simon Stace (Findon Sheep Fair Chairman)



THE WATTLE HOUSE

The History of Findon Sheep Fair

1261

An annual 'three day fair' was allowed in Findon by royal charter in 1261.

1785

The official 'Sheep Fair' was started by George Holford on Nepcote Green. A lamb sale was held annually in July, followed by 'The Great Fair' - as it was formally known, and was always held in September.

1896

The first sheep auction sales started. Prior to this, sheep had only been sold in private deals. At its peak, over 15,000 sheep were auctioned on the day of the fair.



1925

Sheep were taken in large flocks over the downs to Steyning railway station for delivery, but this was stopped when the Steyning line was closed in the 1960's. Lorries took over as transportation for the sheep and they were no longer delivered on foot.

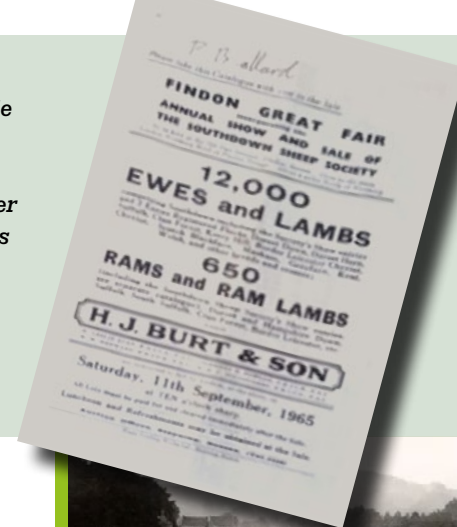
1940

The Sheep Fair was moved by order of the War Office. It was transported by the traction engines of the Harris Brothers Fun Fair to West Grinstead.

1950

There were many changes to the Sheep Fair on its return to Findon after the war. The date was altered to the second Saturday in September.

The distinctive building on Nepcote Green is the Wattle House, built some 200 years ago to store the 'wattles' within which the sheep were housed prior to auction. There has been a recent resurgence of wool usage after 20/30 years of decline. We have shearers and spinners at the fair as well as fleece competitions. There will also be people on hand to give advice on how to get started yourselves as well as fleeces and ready made items to buy.



1971

The July lamb sale was discontinued. Wooden hurdles were replaced by more hygienic metal ones.

2001

Due to the nationwide Foot & Mouth epidemic the show did not occur. During that outbreak the committee acknowledged the tradition of sheep on the green by having a plastic ewe positioned on Nepcote Green!

2002

The organising committee (a sub-committee of the Parish Council) set up a village festival and sheep judging show/demonstration to sustain the 200 year tradition, and so the Findon Sheep Fair, in the form that it now is, was born.

2008

The sheep judging competitions were introduced.

2020

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Sheep Fair was unable to go ahead for 2 years.

2022

The Sheep Fair returned, despite the death of Her Majesty the Queen on the Thursday before. As a great supporter of country events, it was considered the Queen would have wanted it to go ahead. The show attracted over 10,000 visitors.

2024

Of the 60 breeds of sheep in the UK, 27 of them were entered with approximately 300 sheep present. There was also a 'Mock Auction' providing a flavour of how things were all those years ago.





**TAKE A
PEEK**
AT WHAT'S ON

Programme of Events

Friday 12th September

18:30pm

The Harris Brothers Funfair

*Come and experience the infamous
South Downs Galloping Horses!*



19:30pm

Family Barn Dance

The Shenanigans

Celtic Party Band

-
Licensed Bar

Entry by ticket only

Saturday 13th September

10:00am: Sheep Show (next to main arena)

11:00am: Dog & Duck demonstration (main arena)

11:00am: Mock Sheep Auction (next to sheep judging arena)

11:30am: Punch & Judy (next to the pond)

11:45am: Farmyard Circus (next to the pond area)

12:45am: Sheep Show (next to main arena)

12:15pm: Punch & Judy (next to the pond)

13:00pm: Mock Sheep Auction (next to sheep judging arena)

13:30pm: Dog & Duck demonstration (main arena)

14:15pm: Sheep Show (next to main arena)

14:45pm: Punch & Judy (next to the pond)

15:00pm: Sheep Parade (main arena)

15:30pm: Mock Sheep Auction (main arena)

15:45pm: Farmyard Circus (next to the pond area)

North Verge: Pony rides | Vintage Cars

19:00pm : *Party on the Green!*

Murdoch's Crazy Eyes, supported by Blue Dakota
Licensed Bar | Entry by ticket only



**MURDOCH'S
CRAZY EYES**

Sunday 14th September

14:45pm : Songs of Praise Salvation Army Band
with St John the Baptist Church, Findon



Main Event Attractions



SHEEP SHOW

thesheepshow.co.uk

The Sheep Show introduces onlookers to 9 different breeds. Each has a story to tell with interesting facts and figures relating to their variety. Each taking their place on stage accompanied by their very own theme tune. This is followed by a live shearing display accompanied by an informative explanation on the reasons we shear the sheep and about the complexities of types of wool.



DOG & DUCK SHOW

dogandduckshow.co.uk

The highly popular Dog and Duck show team use both trained and untrained sheep dogs to herd ducks and sheep, amusing and educating the audience about common dog behaviour issues and about how these can be resolved. The show demonstrates how untrained and poorly behaved dogs still have a programmed natural instinct, giving the audience a new understanding of the way of the dog.



FARM YARD CIRCUS

farmyardcircus.com

Farm Yard Circus began working together in March 2019. They are a company of 9 circus performers and musicians from the south west of England, focused on creating outdoor circus theatre performances set and based around life on a farm. This will be their 3rd year at Findon, back by popular demand.



MOCK SHEEP AUCTION

The mock auction is run by 'Mossy', an auctioneer based at Hailsham Livestock Market in East Sussex. With the help of some volunteer sheep and members of the audience, Mossy demonstrates and explains how sheep were auctioned in the past and up to 25 years ago in Findon. The mock auction debuted last year and proved very popular and informative.



SHEEP PARADE

At the conclusion of the Sheep Judging Competition, there is a presentation of trophies in the main arena, which involves many sheep being walked to the arena from the sheep area at 3pm. This is an opportunity for visitors to see the many breeds of sheep at the show, and also the best of breeds on the day.



PUNCH & JUDY

mrpunchandjudy.co.uk

Presented by Ben Bamboozle, this traditional show is for modern audiences. Featuring all of the classic characters and Mr Punch's distinctive 'swazzle' voice. Using the finest hand carved puppets and housed within a traditionally painted booth, it's action packed from start to finish.



MOBILE BELFRY

mobilebelfries.org

The Mobile Belfries Trust, promotes the historic art of church bell ringing through the use of mobile belfries. For the first time they will be bringing along their Charnborough belfry. As well as regular chiming throughout the day, visitors be able to have a go at ringing the bells themselves.

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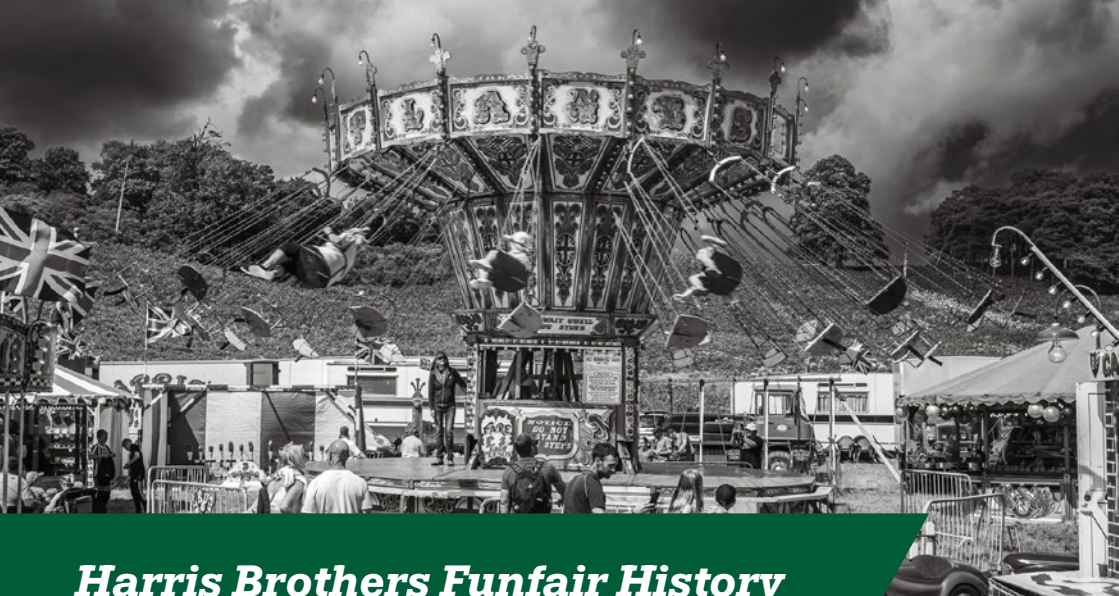
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Harris Brothers Funfair History

The Harris family has been operating fair ground equipment in Sussex since the 1880's.

Since the 1950's they have been operating as more of a traditional old time fairground with rides and attractions that cater for all ages of the family. They can be found throughout the year at various locations across Sussex, under the shadow of the South Downs.

The Story of Harris's Old Tyme Amusements can be traced back 6 generations to John Harris of Cuckfield. Known as Jack, he was born in Waldron, East Sussex in 1833. In 1855, he married Mary Matilda Light and they went on to have 10 children.

In 1875, John was listed as a "Coconut Man" but soon travelled a pony powered Swing out Roundabout as well. In the 1880's, he had it converted to

Steam power making it one of the first Steam Roundabouts to be travelled in Sussex. He also purchased a Burrell SCC Showmans Engine to travel from fair to fair, taking over from the horses previously used.

Some years later, the Swing out Roundabout was converted into a full set of Gallopers. The Gallopers eventually passed on to his son Fredrick when John purchased another set of Gallopers. After John's death in 1901, these passed on to son Christopher, who also travelled them.

With war looming, Fred's sons were called up to war and during this time, the Gallopers were sold off. But when the younger generation returned from active service in the Great War, Fred and his sons bought the parts to build a set of gallopers. Some parts were sourced but most were made locally or in their yard at Ashington.

Of the 30 horses on the new ride, 21 were made by Lines Brothers and the outside row, which are unique as their ears go backwards as if the horse is galloping at speed, were made by a small factory firm called Smiths of London.

Two carved wooden dragon chariots were made in Guildford by a local craftsmen as well as all the carved work on the rounding boards. A local village blacksmith made all the metal work for the ride and the step boards were made from a tree felled from Wiston Estate, who's trunk had grown to the same curve as was required, making the grain curve with the ride!

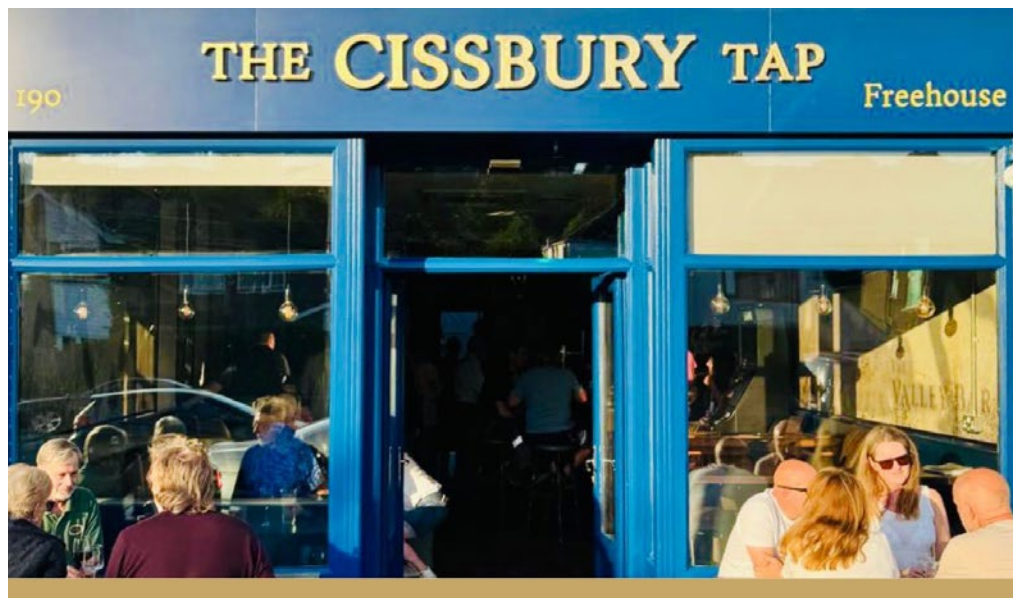
Being built in Sussex, in the shadow of the South Downs, it was only fitting to name the new ride the South Downs Galloping Horses and it has often been said that throughout their whole life, only really a handful of times have they ever been opened in such a place that the South Downs could not be seen!

In 1968, the Gallopers were removed from storage, having been displaced by Dodgems and restored back into use where they have been in use ever since. In 1969, Fred Harris passed away leaving the business to be run by the Harris Brothers who still run it today.

After over 140 years travelling a Fairground around Sussex, through deaths, depressions, World Wars, global pandemics and heavy legislation, they are still doing what they have always done, in almost the same way they have always done it.

harrissoldtymeamusements.co.uk





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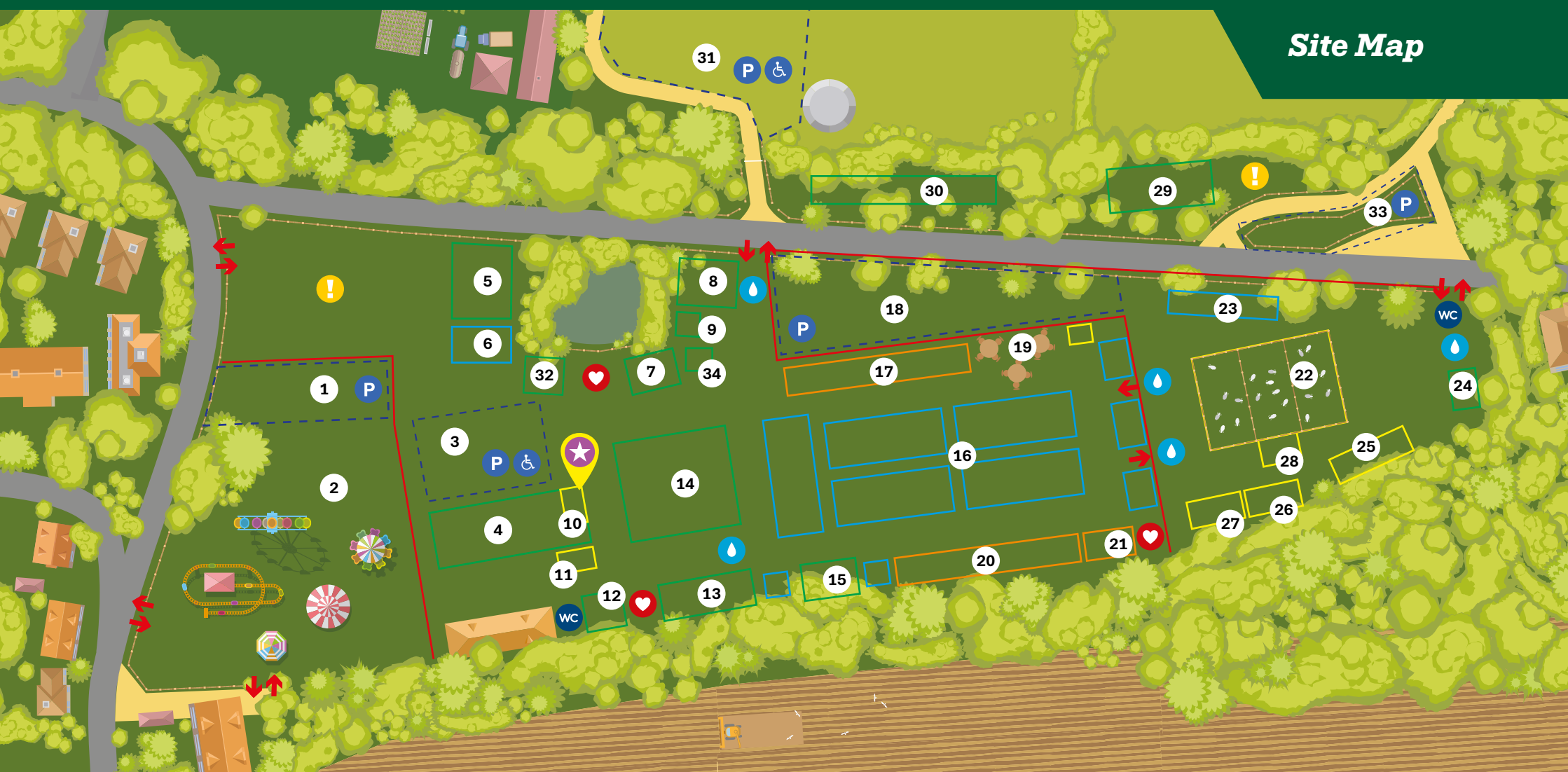
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- 6) South Downs Leisure
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- 8) Agricultural Circus
- 9) Punch & Judy
- 10) Events Office
- 11) WSCC Fire Service
- 12) Worthing Beekeepers
- 13) Sheep Show

- 14) Main Arena
- 15) The Village Store
- 16) Stalls
- 17) Food Area
- 18) Farm Vehicle Parking
- 19) Seating Area
- 20) Food Area
- 21) Beer Tent
- 22) Sheep Judging Area
- 23) Livestock Related Stalls
- 24) Sheep Shearing
- 25) Stewards Office & Judges
- 26) Mock Sheep Auction

- 27) Fleece Tents
- 28) Sheep Office / PA Booth
- 29) Pony Rides
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- 32) Mobile Belfry
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- 34) Face Painting



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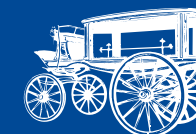
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Welcome & Thanks

We would like to give a very warm welcome to judges, farms, sponsors, stewards, volunteers and members of the public to this year's sheep judging competitions. This is the 19th year since sheep have returned to Nepcote Green for Judging after the auctions stopped in 2000.

It is amazing the support we have received with more and more farms returning each year and judges prepared to come, some many miles, to support the Fair which is well known around the country.

At last year's show, we suddenly lost approx. 12 farms in the last couple of days prior to the fair because of the spread along the East coast of Blue Tongue disease amongst both sheep and cattle. Restrictions prevented livestock from leaving their farms. At the time of going to press we have heard there are no restrictions this year and there is again general movement of sheep across the country, so that is very good news. In Sheep farming you never know what is around the corner, so we are very grateful to the farms that bring their sheep forward in large numbers to Findon.

There are over 60 breeds of sheep in the United Kingdom, last year we had 27 different breeds represented and we hope for a varied number of entries again. Please view the sheep breed board at the entrance to the sheep section, which is a real education for many members of the public.

We would like to say a very big thank you to all our sponsors, some who have been supporting the fair for many years and the new sponsors who have recently come forward.

The sheep judging sub-committee is very dedicated to providing an enjoyable visit to the sheep section. Without the many volunteers we wouldn't be able to put this show on, so to them a big thank you for giving up their time during the weekend.

Please see the planned timetable for the judging sections which will start from 9-30 am. We like to keep to the timetable but if there are any changes, these will be announced over the public address system. The end of the judging finishes with the Grand Parade where all the winners and competitors walk their sheep down to the main arena by the marquee at 3pm.

Finally, we are again planning to have the 'mock sheep auction' as a reminder of yesteryear when sheep were sold on Nepcote Green.

We hope you enjoy your day.

Graham Langford



“We would like to say a very big thank you to all our sponsors, some who have been supporting the fair for many years and the new sponsors who have recently come forward.”

Sheep Judging Schedule

TIME	LOCATION	STEWARD	CATEGORY	JUDGE	SPONSOR
9:30-10:45	Ring 1a & 1b	Hilary Langford	Romney	Julie Lukehurst from Kent	Findon Place
9:30-12:00	Ring 6	Gwyneth Frost	Shetland	Sue Watson from Somerset	Holmes Construction
9:30-10:45	Ring 7	Dawn Jones	Kerry Hill	Kate Esler from Somerset	Findon Place
9:45-12:00	Ring 2a & 2b	Judith Davies	Downland	Matt Legge from Isle of Wight	Jane & Ken Elliott
9:45-12:00	Ring 3a & 3b	Susan Olsen	Border Leicester	Robert Whitcombe from Hampshire	Abigail Holmes
9:45-12:00	Ring 5a & 5b	Sara Baird	Rare and Native Breeds (Shortwool)	Anne Lambert from West Sussex	Margaret Bamford
9:45-11:00	Marquee	Lol Harries	Fleece Competition	Susie Parish from Hampshire	Findon Place
9:45-11:00	Pens	George Derrick	Butchers Lambs (under 120 kilos)	David Fenner from East Sussex	The Gun
10:45-12:00	Ring 1b		Rare and Native Breeds (Longwool)	Alan West from Kent	Margaret Bamford
10:45-12:00	Ring 4a & 4b	Gill Gostick	Continental and Foreign	Viv Miles from East Sussex	Southern Co-operative Funeralcare
10:45-12:00	Ring 7	Dawn Jones	Coloured Ryeland	Steve Briggs from Stoke on Trent	Findon Village Gardens Association
12:00-13:00	Rings 5a & 5b	Sara Baird	Young Shepherds	Steffi Georgetti from Kent	Sue Biddle
			Young Shepherd up to age 8		Nanny Sue's Best Eggs
			Young Shepherd age 9 - 11		Jerry Culp
			Young Shepherd age 12 - 18		
12:00-13:00	Judges Tent		Lunch for Judges & Stewards etc	[excluding Young Shepherd officials]	Cissbury Barns
13:00-13:20	Rings 1a & 1b	Gwyneth Frost	Wool on the Hoof (Longwool)	Susie Parish from Hampshire	
13:20-13:50	Rings 5a & 5b	Gwyneth Frost	Wool on the Hoof (Shortwool)	Susie Parish from Hampshire	
13:50-14:00	Rings 5a & 5b	Gwyneth Frost	Wool on the Hoof Championship	Susie Parish from Hampshire	Green Wright Chalton Annis
14:00-14:45	Rings 5a & 5b	Geoff Parrish & Dawn Jones	Supreme Championship	Head Judge (Matt Legge) and other Main Section Judges	Green Wright Chalton Annis
15:00-16:00	Main Arena		Grand Parade & Presentation of	Trophies to Championship winners	
			Most Successful Young Shepherd:	(Hawthorn Flock Cup)	The Black Horse
			Most Successful Farm:	(Janice Oakes Cup)	Abigail Holmes

Volunteers

The popularity and success of the Sheep Fair could not be achieved without all the volunteers who get involved over the weekend.

In 2024 we had about 120 volunteers who helped with a whole range of roles and activities: filling in rabbit holes; erecting fencing and pens; setting up the traffic signs and cones around the village.

On the day of the sheep fair at the sheep end volunteers are welcoming and overseeing the farmers and their sheep and ensuring safety and hygiene rules are followed; looking after the judges; organising prizes.

At the arena end volunteers are greeting and organising stall holders arriving and later leaving the site and at both ends providing information and a reassuring presence for the 7000 visitors to the fair to ensure they find their way round all the activities and stay safe during the day.

We have many volunteers who have been helping out for many years but every year we also welcome new residents of Findon who want to get involved in this unique event.

If you'd like to get involved next year come and talk to us at the site office, talk to any of the volunteers wearing their high viz jackets or get in touch with us on volunteers@findonsheepfair.org.uk

“

“As a first time volunteer I would like to say how welcome I felt and was taken in by the relaxed way everybody just knew what needed to be done which must be down to the competence of many that have organised this event for years and carried with them the wisdom of experience.

I look forward to helping out again next year.”

Health & Safety



Emergencies and Concerns

Speak to any member of the Sheep Fair team who wear blue reflective jackets and name badges.



Please Wash Your Hands

Be aware of the potential risk of illnesses from contact with animals. Hand wash stations and soap dispensers located at the entrance/exits to the sheep pens area.



No Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any buildings, tents, marquees or open spaces on the green, due to the risk of fire.



Caution Moving Vehicles

Beware of moving vehicles, especially in the car parks and supervise young children at all times. Strictly 5 mph in all areas.



First Aid

Our Medical Support team are located against the flint wall opposite the arena.



Lost Children

Seek assistance from the Sheep Fair team located in the end of the Marquee.



Toilets

Situated next to the flint Wattle House opposite the Marquee.



Dogs

Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a short lead (lock extending leads at a short length). Please clean up after your dog. Do not leave pets in cars.



Rubbish

Please put your waste in the wheelie bins and skips provided. Waste is sorted for recycling and energy recovery at the skip material recovery facility.



Michael
Jones

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