

FINDON SHEEP FAIR

Village Festival 2026



SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026
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WELCOME TO

The Annual Findon Sheep Fair & Village Festival 2026!

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 we welcome back the Camel Demonstration which was very popular 3 years ago. Other attractions include the Dog & Sheep Show, Archery, a Mobile Belfry, Pony Rides and Birds of Prey, among others.

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)



findonsheepfair.org.uk


Charters
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**MAIN EVENT
SPONSOR**



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.

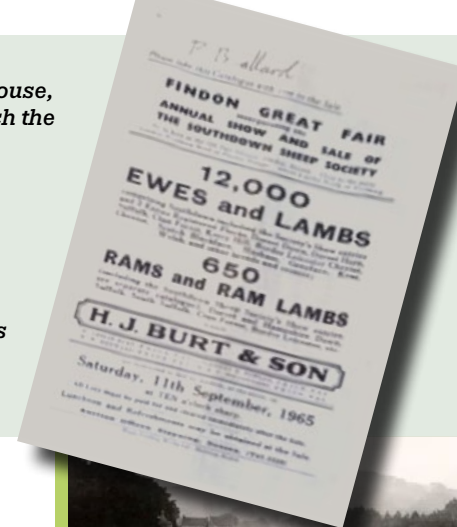
1950

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.

A family lived in this building until the 1970s, since then it has mainly been used as storage for the Sheep Fair. An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is in process to protect this unique and historic building.

This will restore our local heritage; enhance the building's historic character whilst enabling long-term sustainable community use.



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.



The Wattle House : help shape it's future

The Wattle House Community Heritage Project - join us to share your thoughts and see how we plan to keep our rural traditions alive for tomorrow, and how this building can be a valuable asset to our community.

We need you to help bring our restoration project to life!

- Get involved - we need passionate people to help influence the project.
- Share your skills - have you ever undertaken a project of this type?
- Do you have restoration or conservation skills?
- Can you bring creativity to the project?

If you miss us on the day: Scan the QR code to complete the online form.

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**



WORDSEARCH

L	T	L	N	F	S	E	D	I	R	Y	N	O	P
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SHEEP.

Sheep. I hear them here, I hear them there, on Saturday the 12th, I'll hear them everywhere.

The Sheep Fair held here for over 700 years, farming peers, awarding sheep and sipping beers.

The volunteers so masterfully curated, weaving in and out of visitors stimulated, by all the sights and sounds and smells, the food, the stalls, the ringing bells.

A country show, with local wares, jars of honey, sweets to share.

The sheep show, camels, birds of prey, ponies and funfair, we hope for a day, with glorious, blue sky and September sun, to help us all enjoy the fun.

Hats off to all who preserve this tradition, the charter of 1261 deserves recognition.

There would be no Sheep Fair without all those, who give up their time to put together this show.

So, with grateful thanks, we say to you, we are hugely appreciating of all you do.

- Kelly Dean

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TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S ON

Programme of Events

Friday 11th 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 12th September

All the below are being held in the main area -

- 10.00 - 10.45am** : Dog and Sheep Show
- 10.45 - 11.15am** : Hawking About Birds of Prey
- 11.15 - 11.45am** : Joseph's Amazing Camels
- 11.45 - 12.15pm** : Ben Bamboozal Magic Show
- 12.15 - 13.00pm** : Lunch
- 13.00 - 13.45pm** : Dog and Sheep Show
- 13.45 - 14.15pm** : Joseph's Amazing Camels
- 14.15 - 14.45pm** : Hawking About Birds of Prey
- 15.00 - 15.30pm** : Sheep Parade
- 15.30 - 16.00pm** : Ben Bamboozal Magic show

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 13th September

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



Main Event Attractions



CAMELS

Joseph's Amazing Camels return to Findon Sheep Fair with a fascinating and entertaining demonstration. See these magnificent animals in the main arena, learn more about their unique characters and enjoy a memorable spectacle from the UK's leading camel specialists. A rare treat for visitors of all ages.

jacamels.co.uk



ARCHERY

Come and test your aim with Lodge Hill's exciting archery activity. Suitable for beginners, the session can be tailored to individual strength, with bows available for different ages. Improve your stability and coordination as you take aim and try to hit the gold. The activity can also be adapted for wheelchair users.

lodgehill.org.uk



HAWKING ABOUT BIRDS OF PREY

The Birds of Prey display is not only educational but there is also an element of entertainment combined with an interaction with spectators. They fly mainly native birds including a Barn Owl, Kestrel & Peregrine Falcon. Hawking About also offer Medieval style displays or a more traditional feel across the whole of the UK.

hawkingabout.com



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.

findonsheepfair.org.uk



PUNCH & JUDY

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. Ben can also be seen in the main arena presenting his Magic Show.

mripunchandjudy.co.uk



MOBILE BELFRY

The Mobile Belfries Trust, promotes the historic art of church bell ringing through the use of mobile belfries so that visitors can experience bell ringing at first hand. As well as regular ringing demonstrations throughout the day, visitors will be able to have a go at ringing the bells themselves with 1:1 tuition.

mobilebelfries.org



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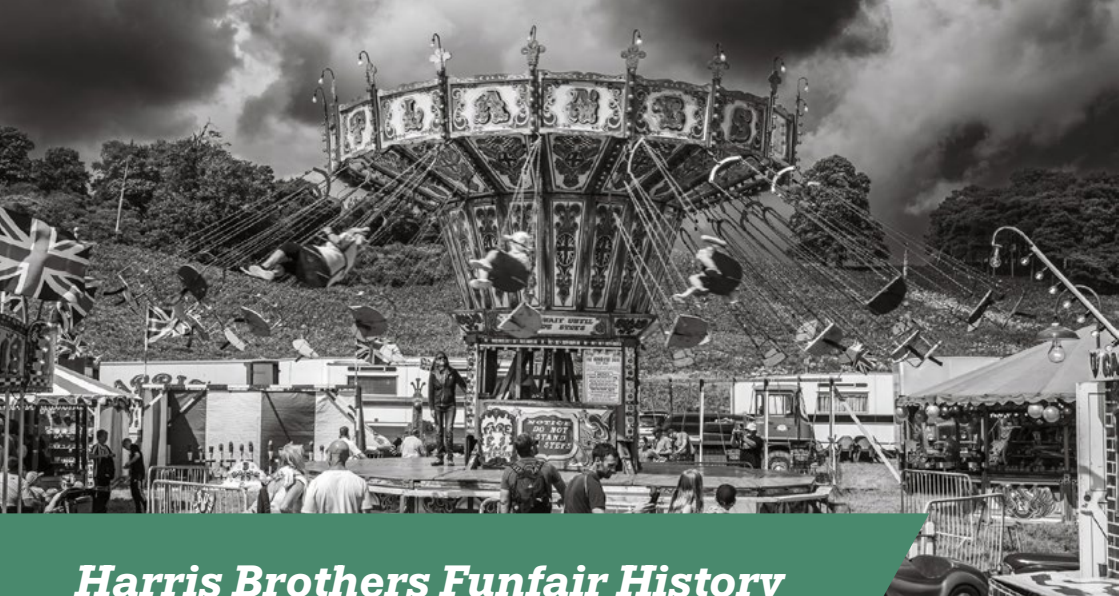
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Harris Brothers Funfair History

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

Since the 1950s 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 1880s 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 Showman's Engine to travel from fair to fair, taking over from the horses traditionally used.

Some years later, the 'Swing out Roundabout' was converted into a full set of Gallopers. These Gallopers passed on to his son Fredrick when John purchased another set of Gallopers and 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 for service 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 another 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 craftsman, 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 from a tree felled from Wiston Estate, whose 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

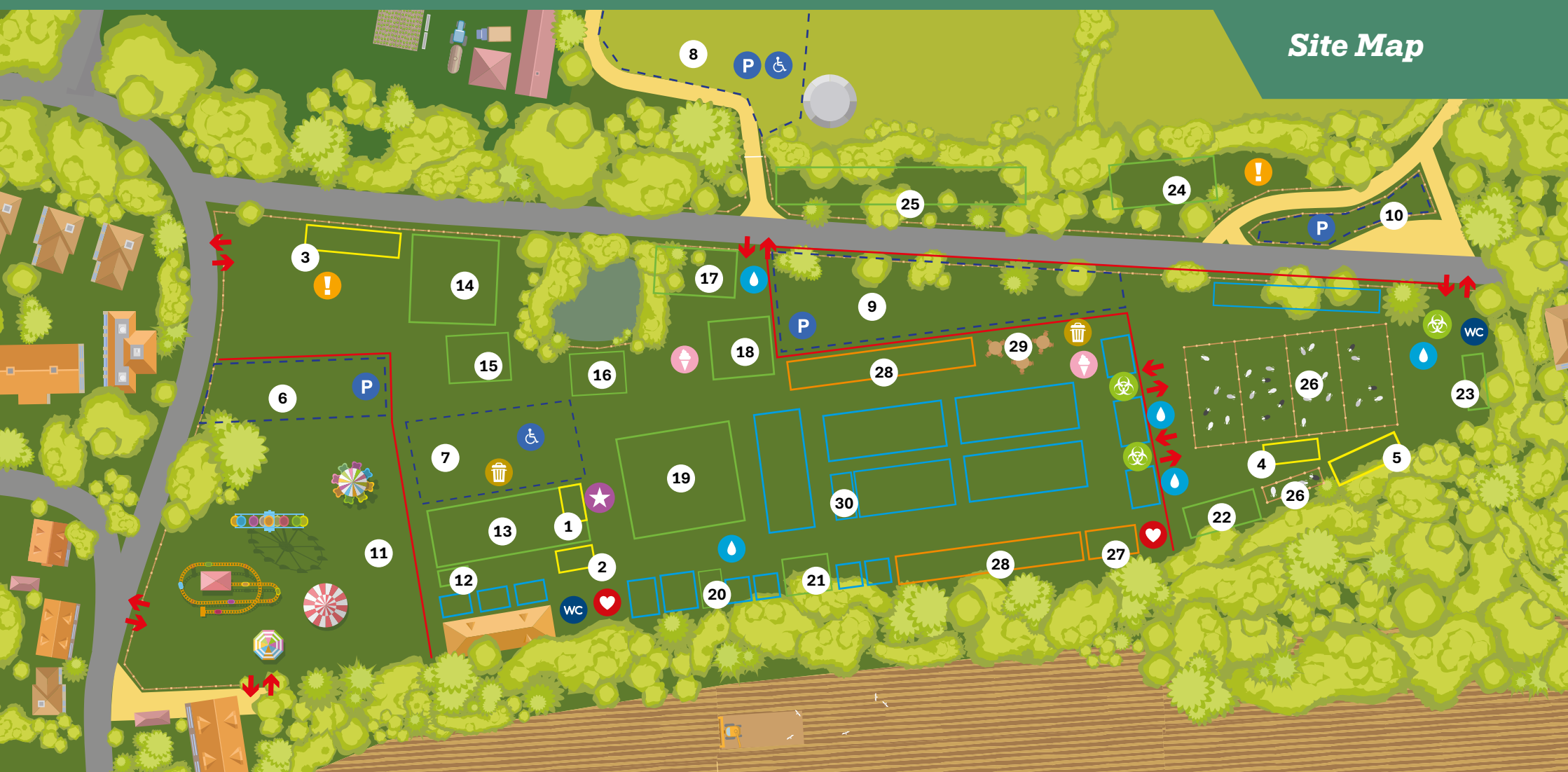


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- 10) Sheep Judging Parking Only
- 11) Fun Fair
- 12) Face Painting
- 13) Marquee
- 14) Archery
- 15) Bell Ringing

- 16) Circus Skills
- 17) Medieval Village
- 18) Camels
- 19) Main Arena
- 20) Punch & Judy
- 21) Dog & Sheep
- 22) Fleece Tent
- 23) Sheep Shearing
- 24) Pony Rides
- 25) Classic Cars & Tractors
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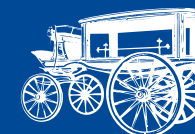
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Welcome & Thanks

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 20th year since we got sheep back onto Nepcote Green in 2007 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.

With over 60 breeds in the United Kingdom, we have had approx. 35 of those breeds coming to the sheep fair over the years and we hope for a varied number of entries again in this year's judging competition. Please view the sheep breed board at the entrance to the sheep section, which is a real education for many members of the public.

To be able to have sheep attend the Fair every year, we have to obtain a Defra Licence and this year because of the Bird Flu (which is now under control in this part of the country) we have had to obtain a licence for having poultry again at the show.

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 end subcommittee is very dedicated in providing an enjoyable visit to the sheep section. Without the many volunteers we wouldn't be able to put this show on, so a big thank you to you for giving up your time during the weekend.

Finally, the sheep end subcommittee are looking for new people to take judging forward in future years, please do give this some thought, we will be happy to discuss this with you.

We hope you enjoy your day.

Graham Langford

Counting Sheep? Listen To This Instead!

We are delighted to have started series of Podcasts in 2026!

In the series we will be celebrating the farmers, the volunteers and all the Fair has to offer. We will also tell a few stories to capture the spirit of the fair as well as looking forward to how this community event will continue to be part of the village community for generations to come.

We have more episodes being planned, so watch this space! We have produced three podcasts so far relating to the fair, its history and being a volunteer, you can listen to these by scanning the QR codes below or visiting the website: www.findonsheepfair.org.uk/podcast/

Episode 1

From Flock to Festival



Episode 2

It Takes A Village



Episode 3

The Living Spirit
of Fair & Field



TIME	LOCATION	STEWARD	CATEGORY	JUDGE	SPONSOR
9:30-10:45	Ring 1b	Susan Olsen & Andrea Wheeler	Rare and Native Breeds (Longwool)	Anne Lambert from Rusper	Lycett Insurance Brokers
9:30-12:00	Ring 4a & 4b	Gill Gostick & Tessa Ormond	Continental and Foreign	Matt Legge from Isle of Wight	Vale House Lodges
9:30-12:00	Ring 5a & 5b	Judith Davies	Downland	Hannah Turner from Reigate	Jane & Ken Elliott
9:30-12:00	Ring 6	Gwyneth Frost & Janette Johnson	Shetland	Hazel Syme from Fyfe	Holmes Construction
9:30-11:00	Marquee	Lol Harries	Fleece Competition	Sheila Leach from Kent	Vale House Lodges
9:45-12:00	Ring 7	Julie Dunsmore	Rare and Native Breeds (Shortwool) including Kerry Hill	Gail Gribble from Kent	
9:45-11:00	Pens	George Derrick	Butchers Lambs (under 120 kilos)	Keith Manning from Worthing	The Gun
10:45-12:00	Ring 1a & 1b	Tessa Ormond	Romney	Alan West from Kent	
10:45-12:00	Ring 2a & 2b	Andrea Wheeler	Border Leicester	Benn Lugsden from Suffolk	Abigail Holmes
10:45-12:00	Ring 3	Dawn Jones	Coloured Ryeland	Alex Hext from Somerset	Findon Village Gardens Association
12:00-13:00	Judges Tent		Lunch for Judges & Stewards etc	[excluding Young Shepherd officials]	Cissbury Barns
12:00-13:00	Rings 5a & 5b	Susan Olsen	Young Shepherds	Viv Miles from East Sussex	Sue Biddle
			<i>Young Shepherd up to age 8</i>		Nanny Sue's Best Eggs
			<i>Young Shepherd age 9 - 11</i>		Jerry Culp
			<i>Young Shepherd age 12 - 18</i>		Vale House Lodges
13:00-13:20	Rings 1a & 1b	Dawn Jones	Wool on the Hoof (Longwool)	Sheila Leach from Kent	
13:20-13:50	Rings 5a & 5b	Dawn Jones	Wool on the Hoof (Shortwool)	Sheila Leach from Kent	
13:50-14:00	Rings 5a & 5b	Dawn Jones	Wool on the Hoof Championship	Sheila Leach from Kent	Green Wright Chalton Annis
14:00-14:45	Rings 5a & 5b	Geoff Parrish & Richard Bell	Supreme Championship	Head Judge (Matt Legge) and other Main Section Judges	Green Wright Chalton Annis
15:00-15:30	Main Arena		Grand Parade & Presentation of	Trophies to Championship winners	
			<i>Most Successful Young Shepherd:</i>	<i>(Hawthorn Flock Cup)</i>	The Black Horse
			<i>Most Successful Farm:</i>	<i>(Janice Oakes Cup)</i>	Abigail Holmes

Sheep Judging Schedule

Sheep Entries

Take a look at our farmers, and where they have travelled from.

WEST SUSSEX

Angela Beamish	<i>Steyning</i>
Lizzy Burnage-Robinson	<i>Billingshurst</i>
Mike Franks	<i>Worthing</i>
Andrew Harwood	<i>Horsham</i>
Amy Howard	<i>Plaistow</i>
Janet I Knight	<i>Haywards Heath</i>
Anne Lambert	<i>Rusper</i>
Richard Marks	<i>Midhurst</i>
Jo Shippam	<i>Arundel</i>
David & Kirsty Tester	<i>Arundel</i>
Ruby Tizzard	<i>Chichester</i>

EAST SUSSEX

Lucy Andrew	<i>Battle</i>
Judy Blackman	<i>Bexhill-on-Sea</i>
Charles Bull	<i>Rye</i>
Hannah Francis	<i>Lewes</i>
Mark Goodman	<i>Bodiam</i>
Isabel Harvey	<i>Uckfield</i>
Hazel Hobbs	<i>Lewes</i>
Owena Lewis	<i>Lewes</i>
Julia Slocombe	<i>Heathfield</i>
Ellie van der Meer	<i>Ashburnham</i>

KENT

Jessica Bull	<i>Folkestone</i>
Linda Coleman	<i>Tonbridge</i>
Jade & Tanya Davies	<i>Ashford</i>
Steph Dean	<i>Ashford</i>
Hannah Delaney	<i>Wittersham</i>
Stefanie Georgetti	<i>Tenterden</i>
Sophie Hulse	<i>Folkestone</i>
Harry Lucas	<i>Maidstone</i>
Phil Martin	<i>Sittingbourne</i>
Viv Miles	<i>Cranbrook</i>
Holly Mitchell	<i>Cranbrook</i>
Outteridge Primestock	<i>Ashford</i>
Ali Parsons	<i>Sittingbourne</i>
Sue Petrie	<i>Tunbridge Wells</i>
Adam Rawlinson	<i>Cranbrook</i>
Emily Wood	<i>Cranbrook</i>

SURREY

Olivia Soulsby	<i>Newdigate</i>
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HAMPSHIRE

Countryside Education Trust	<i>Beaulieu</i>
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SUPPORTING YOUR GROWTH

Volunteers

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

In 2025 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, and 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



“

It's lovely to be there at the quiet times, when it's just you walking around before the public join in.

Then when the public have arrived, you're sharing their joy and their interest and their excitement at the Sheep Fair, so you're looking at it from a different point of view.

Anything that you can do to help them enjoy their time, to stay safe, and ensure that they know where everything is. That's the joy of being a volunteer on the day.

”

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

No Smoking on the field or in the car parks. 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 with hazard lights on.



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. Wristbands for children are available from the Events Office so parent's phone details can be provided.



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.



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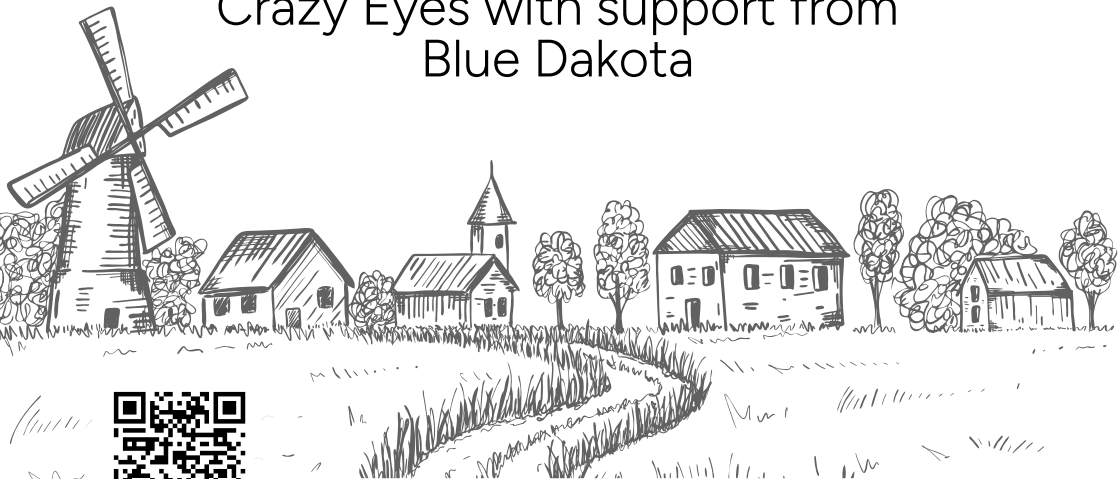


Friday 11th September 2026

Barn Dance with Shenanigan at 7.30pm

Saturday 12th September 2026

Party on the Green with Murdoch's
Crazy Eyes with support from
Blue Dakota



findonsheepfair.org.uk