

End of an era with final Royal Show

Hit by falling visitor numbers, the 160th Royal Show was the last in its present format. Less than 20 years ago the event was the agricultural highlight of the year, with 250,000 people flocking through the gates. There were 160 shows in 170 years, interrupted only by war and foot and mouth.



"For my family it is the conclusion of a very long and close association," said Joe Harris, chairman of Pentalk. "My grandfather was elected to represent Cumberland in 1905, my father succeeded him in 1927, myself in 1957 and my son John in 1984. I served on the council for 50 years. We all held senior positions as stewards, I personally as senior sheep steward, honorary show director from 1978 to 1982 and deputy president in 1987, and was appointed a trustee of the society. So it is very sad to reminisce on Royal Shows, when there was a waiting list for trade stand space and for stalls in the cattle section, to this year's show where two thirds of the space was unoccupied and the whole style and buzz lost, although there were excellent entries in the cattle and sheep classes. Did the Society not realise how much agriculture was changing? "But the RASE is more that the Royal Show. There is still the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh and I am confident that the Society will rise from the ashes and continue to be a positive influence in the future of rural life in the UK and internationally".

Cross-breeding cattle

DairyCo are organising a series of meetings in this area to discuss the benefits of cross-breeding of cattle. The first one is to be held at the Stoneybeck Inn, Penrith, on Thursday, 23rd July, at 10.45am for an 11am start. Speakers will include Andy Dodd, of DairyCo, and dairy farmer Mark Shadwick, of Dalston. Lunch will be provided, and there is no charge. To reserve your place, e-mail postcard@dairyco.org.uk or telephone 01285 646517.

Are you ready for the switchover to digital television?



The analogue BBC2 signal from Caldbeck is now switched off and the remaining four channels will follow in a month. Cumbria's switchover affects more than 300,000 households across the county and South West Scotland. Several hundred households have yet to convert their televisions. Look at: www.digitaluk.co.uk

Skelton Show date change a winner!

Skelton Show committee bravely changed the date of their event following a few years of rain and mud on their traditional date in August. They were rewarded with fine weather and a great turnout.



Joe, on a Massey Ferguson tractor, and Ernie chat at Skelton Show.



Congratulations Emily!

Emily Fisher, aged 10, won the Tinkler Perpetual Trophy for gaining most points in school years 3/6. She is pictured with her mother Susan. Father Jim is part of the moderating team for www.britishfarmingforum.co.uk a busy well-known website.

COMING SOON...

Cumberland Show Saturday, 18th July

This year in the main ring will be Tom Longton, an internationally famous sheepdog handler who has won the "One Man and His Dog" title. There will also be the Adrenalin Tour, who perform on quad bikes and motorbikes, as well as the Kangaroos Gymnastic Display Team.

www.cumberlandshow.co.uk

Penrith Show Saturday, 25th July

This year's show will be held on Saturday 25th July at Brougham Hall Farm, with the Sheltand Pony Grand National, Marie Booth Dancers' version of Mama Mia and the Twirling Tractors performed by the Eden Valley Combustioners

www.penrithshow.co.uk

Check show dates

Cumberland Show – 18th July
 Penrith Show – 25th July
 Ambleside Sports – 30th July
 Cockermouth Show – 1st Aug
 Dalston Show – 9th Aug
 Rydal Sheepdog Trials – 13th Aug
 Gosforth Show & Appleby Show – 15th Aug
 Brough Show – 20th Aug
 Ravenstonedale Show – 23rd Aug
 Ennerdale Show – 26th Aug
 Grasmere Sports – 30th Aug
 Keswick Show - 31st Aug
 Hesketh-new-Market Show – 5th Sept
 Loweswater Show – 6th Sept
 Westmorland Show – 10th Sept
 Eskdale Show – 26th Sept

The Big Lunch

The Eden Project, based in Cornwall, are asking the people of Britain to stop what they're doing and sit down to lunch together on 19th July. The aim is to put a smile back on Britain's face.

To find your nearest Big Lunch: <http://www.thebiglunch.com>

Livestock Movements

From 13th July the rules governing multiple pick-ups and drop-offs of livestock in England have changed. There will be no need to have Defra's prior approval to operate as a multiple pick-up/drop-off site. All pick-ups and drop-offs can be made providing they take place on the perimeter of holdings either by tail-gating or the use of pens or

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temporary pens. Check general licences for animal movements at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/index.htm.

Pentalk Archive Exhibition now at High Head

The Pentalk Archive Exhibition is showing at the High Head Sculpture Valley, Ivegill, until Tuesday 11 August. Future exhibition dates are: Alston Town Hall, 13th Aug-15th Sept; Brockhole, 16th Sept-1st Nov; Tullie House, 12th Dec-10th Jan; Harbour Gallery, Whitehaven 16th Jan-27th Feb



Wall maintenance by Pentalk member Jill Robson, from Ivegill

CPRE Call to get 'food web' on the map

Farmers in the Penrith area are being urged to get involved in a national initiative, led by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), to help promote local food producers. The 'food web' will map the local producer network and demonstrate what a valuable role it plays in the wider community. Phone Helen Meade on 07833 250134 or email helenm@cpre.org.uk

YFC field day

More than 200 Cumbrian YFC members travelled to Thirsk for their northern area field day. They took part in 43 competitions against teams from Yorkshire, East Riding, Lancashire, Northumberland, Durham and the Isle of Man. Yorkshire A won overall and Cumbria B came second.



For results check out the website: www.cumbriayfc.co.uk

Save money with the new NFU travel service

The NFU has joined with Thomas Cook to offer NFU members a new benefit -- the NFU travel service. This is exclusive to NFU farmer and grower, countryside and pro members. Call the NFU travel service helpline on 0844 897 8077. <http://www.nfuonline.com>

FOR SALE

Pentalk cameras

Pentalk is disposing of three of the good little cameras it bought with project funding because they are rarely used. One would be a good present for someone just starting out. In perfect order with lots of accessories. £30 each. Canon Ixus 500; Nikon Coolpix 7900 and Sony Cybershot DCS-P12. First come first served. Please ring 01768 840500 if you are interested.

New website for Lleyn Sheep Society

Pentalk co-ordinator and webmaster David Knowles has been designing a new look site for the Lleyn Sheep Society www.lleynsheep.com Guess who? Check the British Blue judge at County Down Show <http://www.castlewellanshow.com>

New Pentalk show gallery

Send your photos of the shows to david@pentalk.org and they will be added to the gallery. Please include your name, image title and at which show the photo was taken.

McKaskie v Cameron case (cows with calves in fields with rights of way)

Following this well publicised court case we have received numerous inquiries regarding the legality of keeping cows and calves in fields with footpaths running through them.

The judge found that, on the facts of the case, the farmer did have a liability in respect of the injuries Ms McKaskie suffered and ordered that damages be paid to her. Please be aware that the fact the farmer in this case was found to be liable does not, in the NFU's view, mean farmers can no longer put cows with calves in fields with public rights of way running through them.

The decision of the judge was based on the particular facts and evidence presented in the case before him. The NFU produces guidance for its members on livestock kept in fields through which there are public rights of way, as does the HSE. To download these documents please visit: www.nfuonline.com or www.hse.gov.uk

NEWS FROM ABROAD

But could it happen here?

Authorities in Kenya's capital say they have unearthed a syndicate stealing the city's water to irrigate farms. Nairobi City Council says nearly half the capital's water was being diverted by dealers working with officials at the water distribution department.

Mbaruku Vyakweli, of the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, told the BBC: "There has been widespread rationing across the capital in recent weeks. Health officials have warned that Nairobi may soon experience outbreaks of water-borne diseases. Earlier in the week, the board of the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company was sacked for mismanagement. The BBC's Anne Waithera, in Nairobi, says water sellers have been making a huge profit.

"We sell around 400 litres a day," one water seller told the BBC. A 20-litre jerrycan of water sells for between 50 Kenyan shillings and 100 Kenyan shillings (\$1.30). Residents in BuruBuru, a suburb in the east of the city, have had no water for three weeks.

A reporter says the severe water shortage has been compounded by low water levels in the Ndakaini dam, which feeds the city with water.

Environmentalists are attributing the low water levels to the failed rains and the destruction of the Aberdare forest catchment area in the country's Central Province.

Mr. Vyakweli said the only hope for Nairobi is that the short rainy season expected in September and October will be plentiful.

Story from BBC News:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/africa/8144415.stm>

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