

NEWBURY SHOW

Newbury's big weekend of farming, food and fun

Growing crowds enjoy two great days out at Chieveley showground

By TRISH LEE
trish.lee@newburynews.co.uk
@trish_nwn

NEWBURY & District Agricultural Society certainly delivered on their promise of a big weekend of farming, food and fun at Newbury Show.

"Smaller, but better" was the verdict of many Newbury Showgoers. At around 35,000, attendance was still short of pre-pandemic figures but numbers are growing.

The heavens opened up, as forecast, late afternoon on Saturday and saw people shelter under the nearest awning before heading home, while Sunday's crowds enjoyed a sunny, if somewhat chilly, day.

There was plenty to entertain the crowds, focusing on farming, food and rural pursuits at the Chieveley showground.

For adrenalin junkies, the fast-paced equestrian sport of scurry driving, a demanding test of precision, speed, and teamwork. The daredevil aerial stunts of the motocross Bolddog FMX Team had the packed the main arena



Hawk Walk

Ref: 39-0425D

grandstand both gasping and cheering in equal measure and the high-octane British Lawnmower Racing Association who have discovered karting on a budget by modifying garden lawn mowers tore up the track, hitting speeds of around 50mph.

There was muscle power aplenty... the clanging hammers forging metal into shape as blacksmiths and farriers competed to shoe a horse in double quick time, as axemen chopped and chainsawed great

trunks of timber. Muscle too in the parade of livestock, judged on Saturday, with awards for the very best of breeds.

The turnout of heavy horses, magnificent gentle giants, in bygone days used for ploughing, logging and other heavy farm work and for hauling brewery delivery drays owing to their great pulling power, were immaculate with their shining brasses and tack and wagons and a firm favourite in the ring.

The advent of steam

machines were a significant technological advancement in agriculture, replacing manual labour and animal power and the static display of lovingly restored historic engines and demonstrations were impressive – they even held the honours in a whistle blast to officially open the show.

Then there were the awesome beasts of the modern generation of farm machinery – tractors and combines that can equal the pulling power of up to 1,000 horses.

We were reminded that every plate of food starts with a farmer and as usual the Food Hall and its offering of the best of British produce was doing brisk business. Customers were taking away bags of goodies, from pies to pastries, arrays of cheeses, pork, sausages and honey.

There were viticulture and horticulture pitches, cooking demos, shouts out for local youth activities with Berkshire Youth, Waterside Centre and Young Farmers, school projects in the education tent, ferret racing and for those seeking quieter pursuits, fly fishing in the countryside area, falconry



Crowds stream into Newbury Show

Ref: 39-0825Z



British National Scurry Driving

Ref: 39-0525O

and more arts and crafts than you could shake a dressed stick at, including Newbury's own artists collective and the Kennet Valley Spinners, Weavers and Dyers.

All this was interspersed with trade stands offering bar-

gain buys of clothing, tools, animal supplies and tack. And when showgoers started to flag, there was a delicious choice of 'fuel', from bacon baps and fish & chips to noodles and Greek gyros.

A great day family day out.



FRIDAY 10TH - SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

**NATURE ■ HISTORY ■ LITERATURE ■ COMEDY
THEATRE ■ DANCE ■ MUSIC ■ ART & CRAFTS**

There's something for everyone with a wide range of events, from live music, talks, and guided walks to children's storytelling, craft workshops, and art exhibitions.

To find out more information or book tickets, visit the website or use the QR below.



thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival/



Sponsored by



**THE BIG THATCHAM
FEST-OFF**

**SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER,
4.30PM - 9PM**

THATCHAM HIGH STREET

**LIVE + GIFT & STREET + BEER & SILENT
MUSIC * CRAFT STALLS * FOOD * GIN * DISCO**

