

Press Release – Usk Show Saturday September 9th.

A record crowd of over 24 thousand visitors once again supported the ever increasingly popular Usk Show on Saturday Sept 9th.

The Organising Committee of volunteers are all delighted that once again their efforts in producing a truly farming Show have paid off.

The forecast as the weekend approached was very favourable, and the build up to the Show had been so much easier with the dry week. Gate takings indicate another excellent result, better than ever. People seemed to flock in all day, with some coming as early as 8 am, and then others leaving it until mid-afternoon to arrive at the gates. Usually the Show closes around 6 pm, however many visitors enjoyed the evening sunshine and sensibly waited until the traffic had eased off a little.

The most magnificent display of Monmouthshire's agriculture was seen at Usk Show. All the entries in the agricultural section have to be from the old county of Monmouthshire and it is a wonderful testament to the farmers of the county that the quality and number of exhibits on show was simply superb, said Caroline Turner, Livestock secretary.

With over 60 dairy cows and a similar number of Beef cattle the public were treated to an outstanding showpiece. The sheer number of different breeds of cattle from the Holstein Friesians and Jerseys down to the diminutive Dexters in the dairy section. While in the Beef classes we saw the powerhouses of the Belgian Blues; the native Welsh Blacks and the traditional Hereford's.

The sheep section has now fully recovered from the ravages of Foot and mouth. Again the breeds on show were varied from the Suffolk's to the continental breeds of Texel's and Charollais. The Rare Breeds section continues to thrive with the Lincoln Longwools and the Dorset Downs. Obviously the Welsh breeds remain important with a good entry for our native breeds.

All the exhibits, cattle and sheep, showed the hardwork and dedication involved and Usk Farmers Club is privileged to be part of it.

Throughout the day the agricultural section was thronged with the public all eager to see and learn more about the animals. As always the Grand Parade was the climax of an amazing day - there are few places where such depth of quality can be seen. A fantastic day for exhibitors and visitors alike.

Fiona Jenkins, General Secretary, said she was very pleased with the standard of Traders this year, and there were more Agricultural suppliers than ever. More and more traders want to come to Usk Show, and we do our best to provide a wide variety, that appeals to all ages. Some of the new traders this year were Clothiers, Joules and Fenmill and local Agricultural traders Ross Farm Machinery and Frank Sutton.

There were also more local traders in the Food, Craft and Shopping Marquees than in previous years. The Usk Country Markets had their own Marquee this year and an addition was the Adventa "Made in Monmouthshire" Marquee, with many local producers, displays and demonstrations.

There is so much to see at the Show and everyone always remarks at how friendly it is. We have tremendous support locally, and our last minute local advertising campaign is undoubtedly beneficial.

The Horse and Showjumping Classes were bigger than ever this year, and it was noticeable that so many people flocked to watch the judging around the 9 Horse Section Rings. While the championship was being judged in the Main ring, local children had a chance to chat to the commentator and talk of their achievements.

When the popular Horse judging had finished in the Main Ring, the public were treated to a fine display of Vintage Machinery, along with small steam engines. Gwent YFC organised a tractor

pulling competition, which was hugely popular. There was plenty of loud support for everyone's favourite team, with girls teams, and 50'somethings, all adding to the hilarity. All sections of the Show were very well supported, with Horticulture and Homecrafts no exception. There were marvellous Floral displays, despite the season having been so dry. Entries were very good and the standards high, with many locals winning classes. The local Schools Challenge Shield was won by Raglan V.C. Primary School.

Families enjoyed the small animals, with Poultry, Cage Birds, Rabbits and Dogs, all adding to their enjoyment. There were over 200 Poultry Exhibits and a similar number of Rabbits. The Countryside Area, was hugely popular this year, with displays in the Rural Crafts Marquee, as well as Falcons, Working Gundogs, Shire Horses, Beagles and Working Farm Machinery. It was a noticeably busy area, and traditional crafts such as hedge laying and dry stone walling were of particular interest to the public. We were very fortunate in having pigs at the Show this year, which were a great attraction. Pigs have not been exhibited at Usk show since the late 1960's.

The Steam and Vintage Sections are always popular amongst enthusiasts, with excellent entries this year. The Steam Section ran their model railway for young children to have a ride and also brought along their pool with radio controlled boats.

Everyone who visited the Show, will no doubt have enjoyed their day, and the Management Committee thank all the Section Secretaries for their hard work, and also the general public who all make Usk Show such a friendly and important day in Septembers' Calendar.

Fiona Jenkins
Secretary
01291 690889