

ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE YEAR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

THE GAME FAIR

GWCT SCOTTISH GAME FAIR

GWCT WELSH GAME FAIR
CELEBRATING THE COUNTRYSIDE

REVIEW | 2023

THE GAME FAIR

DON'T MISS OUT! TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW FOR 2024! [THEGAMEFAIR.ORG](https://thegamefair.org)

VOL. 2

Featuring...

LIVELY DEBATE
NEW KIT
WILD FOOD
FAMOUS FACES
COUNTRY STYLE

+

And the winner is...

Results from the gundog, fishing and shooting competitions

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIRS

The ultimate celebration of the game fair season

LOOK INSIDE!





42



24



29

THE GAME FAIR 2023 Contents

Editor: Martin Puddifer
Photographers: Matt Kidd, Sarah Farnsworth & Solent
Director: James Gower
Sales: Jacob Holmes

06 Laughter and Tears:

The Countryside Gets Theatrical A recap of events at the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre. By Charlie Jacoby.

10 The Game Fair Who's Who

The numerous famous faces who graced The Game Fair with their presence.

13 - 16 Glorious Game Fair Gundogs

A round-up of the various domestic and international competitions at Ragley Hall.

17 And the Champion of Champions Is...

Charting the fly casting championships across the three game fairs.

18 Masters of the Countryside

How the INEOS Grenadier Quartermaster is embracing the needs of country people.

20 More Than Just Moneymakers

Why The Royal Mint does more than just produce the UK's currency.

22 Thousands Get Hooked on Fishing

at The Game Fair A round-up of the fishing activities across the three game fairs.

24 Words From the Whitehouse

Highlights from Gone Fishing's Paul Whitehouse's appearance at the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre.

26 Airguns and Gear at The Game Fair

A round-up of the top airgun kit on show at Ragley Hall. By Mat Manning.

29 Cutting a Dash

A celebration of the creativity and style on show at Ragley Hall.

30 Busy BASC

What BASC got up to during another busy game fair season.

33 + 35 Shooting For Glory

A round-up of the clay shooting competitions at Ragley Hall.

36 A Golden Year

Why it was another extremely busy year for the good people of Clogau.

39 The Country Food Trust Raises £3,000

at The Game Fair Find out where and how the generous donations will be spent.

40 A Profitable Partnership

Whisky Partners on why whisky is an attractive alternative to stocks and shares.

42 Squirrel Burgers, Anybody?

Farmer Gareth Wyn Jones is on a mission to save reds by eating greys.

44 Back to the Future

James Gower looks ahead to The Game Fair at Blenheim Palace in 2024.



The Game Fair 2023 Overview

The Game Fair, the GWCT Scottish Game Fair and the GWCT Welsh Game Fair are three of the most eagerly-awaited events in the countryside calendar. When combined, these stellar events bring together hundreds of thousands of passionate and like-minded people, all of whom are keen to celebrate and experience the best the countryside has to offer in stunning surroundings.

Like the events themselves, we know there will be something over the following pages of this review for everyone to enjoy, from fieldsports and wild food to debates and world-class competitions.

We have round-ups of the renowned clay shooting and gundog competitions that took place at The Game Fair, along with the results of the fly casting championship that spanned all three events.

Charlie Jacoby shares his recollections from another entertaining - and at times dramatic - series of debates from The Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre, and Welsh farmer Gareth Wyn Jones explains why using grey squirrel as a food source is vital for the resurgence of its red counterpart in North Wales.

There's also room for a word or two from our sponsors. INEOS Automotive explains why the Grenadier Quartermaster is made for country people, and Whisky Partners



The Game Fair is a fantastic place to socialise, as well as learn, shop or simply soak up the atmosphere.

explains why casks are a fantastic investment alternative to stock and shares. The Royal Mint celebrates its own diverse portfolio, while Clogau takes a look back at another busy year.

Signing things off, James Gower, the MD of organisers Stable Events, pays tribute to Ragley Hall and explains why he's looking forward to The Game Fair's return to Blenheim Palace in 2024.

Enjoy the review.

Martin Puddifer, Review Editor

“We know there will be something over the following pages of this review for everyone to enjoy.”

Laughter and tears: The countryside gets theatrical

A weekend of guests brought joy and anger to the audience in one Game Fair tent. Charlie Jacoby rounds up the line-up at the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre 2023.

Photographs by Sarah Farnsworth and Matt Kidd

What was troubling the countryside in July 2023? What was pleasing country folk? The job of the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre is to bring together three days' of guests in 20-minute slots, interspersed with the occasional one-hour panel discussion, to present this to the people of the countryside. After all, it's their show.

The line-up included politicians, celebrities, ordinary people caught up in the issues of the day and personalities from my own Fieldsports Channel.

I host the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre as a three-day chatshow, with guests

made to answer my questions while sitting on the extraordinarily uncomfortable Fieldsports Channel 'butterfly' chairs. It's good for them: keeps them concentrating.

We used to have sofas on the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre stage but celebrity ferreter Simon Whitehead almost fell asleep on one of them a few years ago. This year, Simon came back to talk about ferreting and mental health. You will hear music biz people saying earnestly, "It's just possible that fly fishing saved Eric Clapton's life". In the same way, ferreting has brought Simon back from the edge and he told us how and why.

Plugging books was at the lighter end of the theatre programme. The more serious stuff involved politicians, especially with a possible change of government in 2024. Politicians queued up to come onto the stage and be interviewed...all politicians but one.

The Mail on Sunday picked up the story with the headline 'After Liz the Lettuce, it's Coffey the Cauli! Environment Secretary gets the vegetable treatment'.

DEFRA secretary Thérèse Coffey was due on the stage on the Sunday of the Game Fair. All weekend, politicians from both the Conservative and Labour parties had been giving me ideas for questions for her. At the time, DEFRA was under fire for being the 'department for losing the rural vote', with a series of decisions, including banning the release of pheasants near European-designated Special Protection Areas in autumn 2023 because (seriously) of the bird flu situation in autumn 2022. She didn't turn up. As the Mail on Sunday reported, 'Thérèse Coffey has been portrayed as a cigar-smoking cauliflower for allegedly snubbing a major countryside pursuits event. Enthusiasts at the annual Game Fair took revenge by dressing the vegetable in her thick-framed glasses. It echoes last year's mockery of Liz Truss, when it was predicted a lettuce in a wig would outlive the ex-prime minister's tenure in Downing Street.' That'll learn her.

The shooting organisations have been no slouches when it comes to reacting to the situation that DEFRA created over the GL43 bird release scandal. I had two chats

with BASC staff Gareth Dockerty, Ian Bell and Dr Marnie Lovejoy on the stage. Between the three of them, they explained what GL43 is, how the system of general licences has lost trust with its client base, the people who live in the countryside, and how DEFRA is doubling down on getting it so badly wrong. They covered the GL43 licensing framework, how many shoots are affected and how they are affected. Interesting stuff.

Ian explained releasing on protected sites and pointed out that this is the third time the government has pulled the general licences since 2019.

Gareth is on the front line, dealing with shoots. He talked about what the shoots are saying to him and on what passes for the appeals process with DEFRA. He also discussed the social cost to the countryside of DEFRA's actions and whether shoots will survive.

BASC is taking legal action against DEFRA. It has a judicial review underway,

especially on the subject of the process, the lack of consultation, and details such as why DEFRA is using avian influenza figures from 2022 to make decisions about bird release in 2023.

A PLACE TO DEBATE IMPORTANT ISSUES

Tory MPs Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown and Greg Smith lined up to criticise DEFRA, not Labour. Greg lammed into Natural England and sneaky civil servants who have an anti-shooting agenda.

Meanwhile, Labour environment spokesman Daniel Zeichner MP was surprisingly positive about shooting sports. This is Daniel's third visit to The Game Fair in all. He came in 2021, 2022 and in 2023 he took to the stage to explain Labour's policies on shooting (there is no current need for regulation, he said), trail hunting (he said he will do his best for it) and trophy imports and exports (there is nothing that he can do).

“And did I mention we had Paul Whitehouse on the stage? He was superb. Rowley Birkin QC, Ted the handyman from the Fast Show – I put it to Paul he hadn't come to The Game Fair for his love of fishing.”

Pigeon shooter, game shot and deer-stalker Nicole Moore, known on Instagram as 'Shooting Girl with an Afro', told me about her love of the countryside and shooting sports. She talked about what she gets judged for. Now, do you think that's being black, being a woman or how she shoots? The last one is the correct answer. The countryside is not, she asserts, 'institutionally racist', whatever the presenters from BBC Countryfile may tell the media.



Host Charlie Jacoby with Paul Whitehouse and John Bailey.



Chris Horne from GunsOnPegs.



Former F1 team principal Ross Brawn.

A major issue facing country people simply trying to carry out either wildlife management or their pastimes of clay and game shooting is the failure of the UK's gun licensing services.

It is up to individual police constabularies to issue gun certificates. Some forces, such as Devon & Cornwall, have seen their firearms licensing units go into corporate meltdown. For others, such as Lincolnshire, it's been business as usual, despite both covid lockdowns and confusing guidance from then Home Secretary, Priti Patel. Three firearms licensing officers came to the stage of the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre to make the case for how well they are doing. They are Chris Downs from the Metropolitan Police, Adrian Davis from Warwickshire Constabulary and Paul Quinton from Essex Police. If you were present, you may have agreed or you may have disagreed with them.

The Game Fair is a place to discuss ideas and to launch initiatives. The Countryside

Alliance launched Action for Hunting this year, with Polly Portwin explaining it in the theatre. It recognises the threats facing trail hunting. It highlights how hunts and supporters can take action to help secure hunting with hounds for many generations to come.

Then there were the big-ticket debates. This year, the two we chose to cover were big bag days – a rerun of a debate we held before lockdown and with almost the same panellists – and the idea promoted by the government and the conservation industry that there are '2 million deer' in the UK. For big bags, (then?) Shooting Times Editor Patrick Galbraith went up against sporting agent Mark Osborne in a one-hour debate, while the GWCT's Roger Draycott provided the voice of reason and I tried to stop them from fighting about the topic on the stage.

Meanwhile, the enthusiasm of British politicians for massacring British deer is starting to worry deer managers. Five

guests on the stage discussed the animal's future in the UK. They are deer experts Niall Rowantree and Martin Edwards, Mark Russell from Carter Jonas, whose clients deal with deer management, top venison chef José Souto and the Bedfordshire-based deer manager and sporting agent Paul Childerley.

It wasn't all hunting, stalking and shooting. There was plenty on fishing, too, including the countryside's condemnation of water companies that dump sewage into Britain's rivers. Among guests, James Wallace of River Action spoke about his pressure group's work fighting the water companies and cleaning up British rivers.

And did I mention we had Paul Whitehouse on the stage? He was superb. Rowley Birkin QC, Ted the handyman from the Fast Show – I put it to Paul he hadn't come to The Game Fair for his love of fishing. He was here for research. I made him laugh... and now I can retire.

Thank you.



Buchan's Kennels & Structures Ltd

We specialise in manufacturing and supplying **Quality Professional Kennels**. We manufacture all of our kennels ourselves in the UK.

Buchan's Kennels and Structures strive to offer both **value for money and high quality** products for both the **professional and domestic user**.

Tel: 01782 566 677
Email: sales@buchanskennels.co.uk
Web: www.buchanskennels.co.uk







COTSWOLD COUNTRY

Based in the south/west midlands, Cotswold Country are one of the largest stockists of air rifles, pistols and accessories in the area.

Our friendly and knowledgeable team have over 30 years experience in the gun trade and are always on hand to offer expert advice and guidance, whether you are new to the sport or a seasoned pro.

- ⊕ Air rifles
- ⊕ Air pistols
- ⊕ Pellets
- ⊕ Scopes and sights
- ⊕ Night Vision
- ⊕ Shooting Accessories

T: 01285 657527 E: gunroom@cotswoldcountry.co.uk
W: www.cotswoldcountry.co.uk








The Game Fair Who's Who

The numerous famous faces who graced The Game Fair with their presence.

Photographs by Sarah Farnsworth, Matt Kidd and Solent

The Game Fair has long been the second home for famous country folk who love to share their passions. The 2023 fair was no different, with everyone from celebrity chefs and social media influencers to fashionistas and fishing aficionados making an appearance.



Lord Hertford was front and centre of the salute that opened The Game Fair.



James Martin oversaw culinary proceedings in The Enclosure.

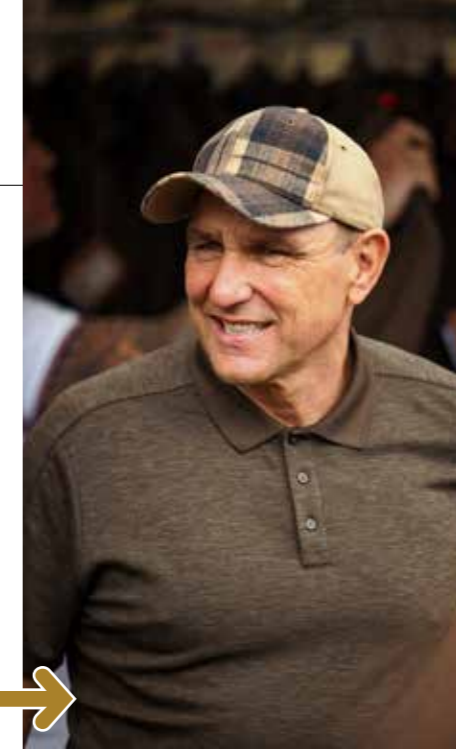


Paul Whitehouse, Jim Murray and John Bailey were popular fixtures in The Fishing Village.



Tony Singh added spice to demonstrations in the BASC Wild Food Theatre.

Footballer turned actor Vinny Jones is a passionate countryman.



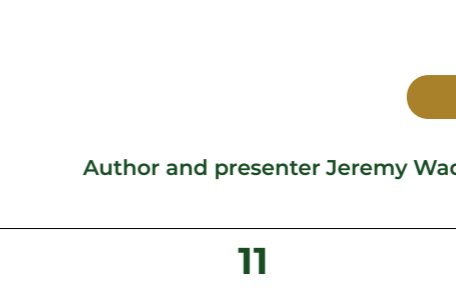
Writer Charlotte Reather, Countryfile's Adam Henson and fashion designer Jade Holland Cooper.



All smiles from blogger Nicole Moore.



War Horse author Michael Morpurgo.



Author and presenter Jeremy Wade.



JLS star JB Gill shared his passion for wild food.



Farmer Gareth Wyn Jones with Stable Events MD James Gower.



The amusing stand-in for Thérèse Coffey MP during the theatre debate.



Fishing instructor Marina Gibson wowed the crowds during her demonstrations on the lake.





As our farmers know all too well: no pain, no grain.

They say nothing worth having comes easy. Unfortunately for our farmers that's true of the barley we use to brew our beers. We use a classic variety called Golden Promise, grown to our own unique specification. The biscuity, golden malt it produces is the perfect partner to our natural spring water, and is



vital to Landlord's depth and delicate balance of flavour. It's also a type of barley that's notoriously hard to grow, and our exacting specification makes it even more difficult. Which makes it a costly ingredient and a real challenge even for experienced farmers. Luckily we can offer some liquid therapy.

All for that taste of Taylor's

The Euro Challenge is won by.. ITALY



Team Italy won The Euro Challenge on the second day of The Game Fair. The winners lifted the trophy for the second consecutive year with an impressive score of 622, achieved following two days of intense competition at the Hertford Arena, with teams representing The Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Sweden, Germany and Belgium all in action.

Each individual country enters a team of three different breeds for The Euro Challenge, comprising a labrador, a golden retriever and a minor breed. This year saw a Chesapeake Bay retriever and flatcoated retrievers entering the competition.

Team Germany were runners-up with a score of 607. Sweden came third with a score of 598. Team GB came fourth with a score of 589. Belgium came fifth with a score of 588. Switzerland came sixth with a score of 576. The Netherlands came seventh with a score of 498.

The Euro Challenge, sponsored by Skinner's, Härkila and Dog & Field, is unique to The Game Fair.

Devised by the late and very much-missed Graham Cox over 20 years ago, the competition sees handlers and their dogs complete six different tests, involving memory and blind retrieves. Despite being a hotly contested test of the ability of working dogs from across the continent, the Euro Challenge is known for fostering a supportive and friendly environment for its competitors.

German Jennifer Hirschfield's labrador Kehrwieler Blakeney Point won Best Labrador and Top Overall Dog, with a score of 214. Fellow German Kathrin Golz's Chesapeake Bay retriever picked up the Commentator's Choice award. Top Golden Retriever was won by Bruna Cavaletti's River Soul Amazing Diego, with 211 points. Top novice went to Ronny Rayen's flatcoat Flatgold's flatcoat Nothing Else Matters Nash, also with 211 points.



The Euro Challenge was judged by John Stubbs and Graham Stanley. The conditions were varied over the two days, with drizzle, sunshine and blustery spells, but overall cool and ideal for working dogs.

Italy team captain Chiara Berzazola commented: "What an amazing thing it is to win this competition two years in a row! Thank you so much to The Game Fair, the sponsors, the judges and all the volunteers for putting the competition together. I'm so proud of the team, for two of them this was the first time they have competed here at The Game Fair and even their first times in England, and they coped so well. I knew the dogs were very promising and trusted them to get it right."

Chief steward Abbie Reid commented: "It's been an excellent renewal of the Euro Challenge and it was a privilege to run it again. The dog work standards were so high and the handlers so cool, calm and collected even under pressure. Well done to all."

The Game Fair's Gundog chairman Francesca Prentice commented: "This is always such an exciting event. The scores were tight, the competition fierce and it was evident that all the competitors had been training hard and brought their A-game. It's always such a pleasure to see three different breeds working together as a team.

"I must also mention the Commentator's Award, dedicated to Martin Deeley, who was such a stalwart of The Game Fair's gundog rings. His commentary is sorely missed but, thanks to this trophy, which has been donated by his good friend Steve Grutter from Switzerland, his contribution will never be forgotten."

After the scores were announced, the event concluded with Ewen Steel from sponsors Härkila, Ben Skinner from sponsors Skinner's and Tom Uglow from sponsors Dog & Field assisting with the prize giving. Help was also gratefully received from Riverlily Working Dogs.

Ireland completed a clean sweep of the team titles in the 2023 Home International at The Game Fair



Team Ireland were crowned the overall victors at the 53rd Home International competition at The Game Fair at Ragley Hall. Ireland's decisive victory to retain The Shooting Times Trophy followed their success in the 2022 event, and was backed up by a clean sweep of wins in the 2023 Top Retriever Team and Top Spaniel Team Categories.

The Home International gathered together spaniel and retriever teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales at the International Gundog Arena at Ragley Hall for two days of action-packed competition, with the scores being announced on Sunday afternoon as The Game Fair drew to a close for another year.

The Home International has been held every year since 1969 (other than 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic) and is a highly-anticipated contest for gundog enthusiasts from Great Britain and Ireland. It sees the four nations compete against one another in a series of demanding tests designed to test each of the dog's abilities.

Each individual team works five spaniels and five retrievers during the event, with their points contributing to an overall final team score. The spaniels were judged by Jeff Rayner and Ivan Wilson, and the retrievers were judged by Judy Rainey and David Logan.

Ireland, led by Declan Boyle, came first in the team competition with an overall combined score of 982. England finished in second place with a combined score of 959. Scotland came third with 874 and Wales finished in fourth position with 858.

Ireland also took the Top Retriever team title and the Dover Street Trophy thanks to a score of 519, 13 points ahead of second-placed England on 506. The team completed a clean sweep of the team titles by also winning the Top Spaniel team competition, and the Wilson Challenge Shield, with a score of 463, 10 points ahead of second-placed England.

Top Overall Dog and the Wilson Challenge Trophy went to Ireland's Declan Boyle and FTCh. Jake of Blackburn with 115 points. The partnership also took The Game Fair Trophy for Top Individual



Retriever, The Corlett Trophy for Top Irish Retriever and The Joe McGrath Memorial Trophy for Top Irish Dog.

Scotland's Alan Clouston's Mickleburn Dark Island was named Top Spaniel Dog with 101 points to take home the Gamekeeper & Countryside Trophy and also took the Neil Lamb Trophy for Top Hunting Spaniel with 51 points.

The Skinner's Millennium Trophy for Top Marking Retriever went to Ireland's John Dawson with Balleyvalley Riley with 39 points. The Drummond-May Trophy for Top Irish Spaniel went to Ireland's Trevis Crothers with Rytex Rie on 100 points.

The chief steward for the spaniels was Mark Clifford, while the chief steward for the retrievers was Karen McCarthy.

Ireland captain Declan Boyle commented: "I am absolutely delighted to lead Ireland to win again this year. The team have worked so hard over the past few months and I honestly could not be prouder of them all.

"For Ireland to win at The GWCT Scottish Game Fair just a few weeks ago and then come to Ragley Hall and do the same just proves that the way we select the team is working and that we are bringing the best dogs/handlers from Ireland.

"The team spirit is at an all-time high and it feels an absolute privilege to captain the team. Huge thanks to all the organisers and the other teams for making this such a great competition to be a part of."

Francesca Prentice, The Game Fair's Gundog Chairman, added: "The Home International never disappoints - the skill of the dogs and handlers rightly draws a big crowd, and the format makes for an exciting climax to The Game Fair's gundog competitions.

"Congratulations to Team Ireland for their win and to everybody who picked up individual awards. I'd like to thank everyone whose hard work made this competition possible, from the judges, the arena stewards, their amazing teams of volunteers, the many helpers in the background to The Game Fair's team organisers themselves, who are so very supportive of all the gundog events. Special mention must also be made to our competition's sponsors who enable these events to take place - huge thanks to Skinner's, Dog & Field and Härkila. I'm looking forward to next year already."

England wins HPR Home International for the third consecutive year



England won the HPR Home International, which took place on the opening day of The Game Fair at Ragley Hall, for the third year in a row.

Teams of four dogs and handlers from England, Great Britain, Scotland and Wales showcased the best Hunt, Point, Retrieve (HPR) breeds from across the UK. Team Great Britain took part in place of the usual team Ireland and comprised representatives from all the four home nations.

Team GB was put together when the Irish contingent faced challenges in gathering enough dogs to make a team of six. The dogs were tested on their hunting, steadiness to shot and marked and blind retrieval skills on a challenging course, organised by Howard Kirby for The Game Fair, in mixed conditions including drizzle, bright sunshine and brisk winds.

The event was first held at the 2021 Game Fair as interest in HPR breeds was recognised by the organisers. Now in its third year, this popular competition drew plenty of spectators.

England took first place with a score of 423, Great Britain were second with a score of 367, Scotland were third with a score of 302 and Wales were fourth with a score of 295.

England team captain Suzi Burton was handling her five-year-old bitch, Northern Arrows Merry Maus von Trubon, who also took Highest Scoring Retriever Dog with a score of 112x112.

Scotland's Katarina Wilkinson took Highest Hunting Dog with Zarozinia Sidh Chaillean on 110 points, while Guns' Choice was picked up by England's Tristan Gale handling Cadanbyrig Khamsin.

Team England captain and overall individual winner Suzi Burton commented: "I am so proud of the team, and they really held it together over a tough couple of courses after lots of hard work and training. The result is three wins in three years

"I am so proud of the team, and they really held it together over a tough couple of courses after lots of hard work and training."

for the team and for me, and you can't really say more than that!

"I'm also so pleased with my dog, Maus, and it was touch and go whether I'd be able to bring her or not, so it's amazing to win with her. She picked up an injury during the last shooting season and it was a race to get her sorted in time. Maus then came into season not long before The Game Fair - thankfully, she was back on top form in time!"

Elsewhere, Team Scotland captain and handler of Highest Hunting Dog Katarina Wilkinson said: "I am over the moon to have won the "Best Hunting Dog" at The HPR Home International at the Game Fair 2023 - it was a fantastic competition with a well thought out arena. We had a lovely cheek wind to hunt through a mix of different cover.

"Teasel is far more at home on a Scottish grouse moor, but she adapted well and worked the wind beautifully with real drive and enthusiasm covering all the ground within the arena. As Scotland captain, I am

immensely proud of both my own efforts and that of our team.

"Thank you to the judges, all the competitors and to Howard Kirby and his team along with the Game Fair for putting on a fantastic competition, and to our generous sponsors, without which we wouldn't have the event.

"Well done to Suzi Burton on her own achievement and to Team England for winning the Quintana Cup. Finally, thanks to everyone that has supported both me and our team."

The judges were Jennifer Hurley and Larry Wilks, and the competition was organised by Howard Kirby with Jonathan David the head steward.

Afterwards, Howard Kirby commented: "We'd like to thank The Game Fair for the opportunity to showcase the very best of the UK's Hunt Point Retrievers. The Home International promotes everything that is excellent about the gundog world. It also serves to develop and encourage a greater interest and awareness of the HPR group."

Irish water spaniels and Clumbers win big at the inaugural Minority Breeds Gundog Challenge



The first ever Minority Breeds Gundog Challenge took place on the final day of The Game Fair and saw the Irish water spaniels and Clumber spaniels taking the top spots in the Retriever and Spaniel categories respectively.

The Minority Breeds Gundog Challenge was dreamt up to celebrate the rich heritage of working dogs from lesser-known breeds and show off their skills to a wider gundog audience and was run by the Working Minority Retriever Club.

The competition saw teams of four Nova Scotia duck tollers, curly coated retrievers, Irish water spaniels and Chesapeake Bay retrievers compete in the morning, completing blind and memory retrieves and dummy shot retrieves over jumps, under the watchful eye of judge Di Stevens.

The same format then followed in the afternoon, but with three teams - Clumber spaniels, Welsh springers and lagotto romagnolos. The spaniels were judged by Tom Sheppard and followed the same format, with blind and memory retrieves and dummy shot retrieves.

The Irish water spaniel team came out on top with a score of 310 after a hotly-contested morning session. The Chesapeake Bay retrievers took second with 263, the Nova Scotia duck tollers third with 225 points, and the curly coated retrievers took fourth place with 215. John Bint took the Top Retriever spot with his Irish water spaniel Diddymowg Xmas Cracker on a score of 111.

After a short break for chief steward Judy Hempstead, the afternoon spaniel competition kicked off. With plenty of spectators watching from grandstand and ringside, the Clumber spaniels took the top team spot with a score of 219. The Welsh springers took second with 161 with the lagotto romagnolos in third with 155. Top Spaniel was taken by Kate Hodgkinson-Rutherford and her Clumber spaniel



Morning session



Afternoon session



Parkforth Rock n Roll, on a score of 81. Kate commented about her individual win and on behalf of the winning Clumber Spaniel team: "I was so pleased with his hunting as there was a lot going on when it was our turn! He was so fantastic throughout the competition this afternoon, and I loved every moment."

"This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our minority breeds and I hope it draws more gundog fans into our world!"

Gundog chairman Francesca Prentice added: "I am thrilled with how the inaugural competition went. We were starting from the ground up and I was so impressed with the number of teams wanting to be involved. We welcomed seven breeds to compete here this year and we hope to attract more as we develop this competition over the coming years."

"Huge thanks must go to the Working Minority Retriever Club for organising this and running it so well today, as well as all the judges, volunteers and, of course, the competitors for helping to make the competition such as success."

Working Minority Retriever Club secretary Debbie Herring finished by saying: "We've been working very hard for many months to plan this competition and it was such a pleasure to see it all come together. The standard of the competition was so high, and it was incredibly rewarding to see not just the dogs working here at The Game Fair, but also so many people coming to watch."

"We're already looking forward to next year and taking this competition forward and raising the profile of our minority dog breeds."

And the champion of champions is...



An overview of the fly casting championships that spanned the game fairs at Scone Palace, Ragley Hall and Vaynol Estate.

Visitors to all three game fairs were invited to stretch themselves to the limit to become the ultimate fly casting champion.

To qualify for the grand final, staged on the final day of the GWCT Welsh Game Fair at Vaynol Estate, participants were challenged over three key disciplines: salmon and trout distance and a fly casting accuracy contest.

Run in conjunction with the British Fly Casting Club, each event across the game fairs ran to official rules.

Entrants could compete on any day at any of the events in each discipline, with individual prizes and trophies on offer for each discipline in the mens, ladies and juniors categories.

The top competitors were each invited to the GWCT Welsh Game Fair to be crowned the champion of champions and take home a specially commissioned trophy. After a lot of fantastic fly casting, the results were as follows...

GWCT SCOTTISH GAME FAIR MENS

- 1st James Evans
- 2nd Blaine Lyon
- 3rd Robert Reid (2022 Champion)

JUNIOR

- 1st Cammy Craik
- 2nd Jack Gow

THE GAME FAIR MENS

- 1st James Evans
- 2nd Steve Parkes
- 3rd Nick Moore

JUNIOR

- 1st Henry Cullen
- 2nd Matthew Edgerton

GWCT WELSH GAME FAIR OPEN SENIOR*

- 1st Tracy Thomas
- 2nd Stewart Ross
- 3rd Callum Mathewson
- 4th Callum Bright

OVERALL CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS OPEN SENIOR CHAMPION**

- 1st James Evans
- 2nd Steve Parkes
- 3rd Tracy Thomas
- 4th Callum Mathewson
- 5th Robert Reid
- 6th Callum Bright

OVERALL JUNIOR CHAMPION

- 1st Jack Gow
- 2nd Mathew Edgerton
- 3rd Henry Cullen



Overall senior champion James Evans.



Overall junior champion Jack Gow.

*The trials at the GWCT Welsh Game Fair were held as an 'open' event as Tracy Thomas had no ladies to compete against. Tracy won the ladies events at Scone Palace and Ragley Hall

**Blaine Lyon, Nick Moore, Stewart Ross and Cammy Craik did not attend the grand final

Met the INEOS Grenadier Quartermaster, the newest member of the Grenadier family. The all-new double cab pick-up from INEOS Automotive, which has been developed and built alongside the multi-award-winning Grenadier Station and Utility Wagons, delivers the same uncompromising off-road capability, utility and dependability as its stable-mates. Available in the same standard, Trialmaster and Fieldmaster trims as the Station Wagon, the Quartermaster carries the commercial N1 vehicle classification in the EU.

Aptly named after the senior military officer responsible for the management of barracks and the supply and distribution of provisions, the Quartermaster

shares most of its architecture and components with the Station Wagon, but its strong and rigid box-section ladder frame chassis is 305mm longer, making it the largest model in the line-up. This results in a large and versatile load bay, measuring 1,564mm long and 1,619mm wide,



which is large enough to carry a standard 1,200mm x 800mm Euro pallet with ease.

With a payload of up to 835kg and the same 3,500kg towing capacity as the Station Wagon, the Quartermaster is capable of carrying five people and their bulkiest of loads, making it the ideal pick-up for people working and living in the countryside. Its everyday cargo-lugging versatility is assured by four tie-down rings in the load space (Utility Rails optional), a 400W power take-off, an integrated mounting bar, and a wide 1,280mm tailgate that can support up to 225kg when open.

The Quartermaster boasts class-leading off-road ability, unrivalled by any other series production pick-up. With 264mm of ground clearance, an 800mm wading depth and approach, breakover and de-

parture angles to match those of the Station and Utility Wagons, it is the perfect companion for those all-terrain adventures.

As with all Grenadier models, a wide range of tailored accessories will be available for drivers looking to customise it to their specific needs. The cargo bay can be fitted with a robust frame and waterproof canvas canopy, a lockable roller tonneau cover or cross bars, for example, while a roof rack further increases carrying capacity and can host a wide range of mounts to carry expedition essentials such as jerry cans, sand ladders and shovels.

Similarities with the Grenadier Station Wagon extend to the powertrain, with the two sharing BMW 3.0-litre turbo-charged inline six-cylinder petrol and diesel

engines with an eight-speed ZF automatic transmission that delivers seamless shifts between gears for smooth progress under all engine speeds and loads. A centre differential lock and a two-speed transfer case are fitted as standard (front and rear diff locks are optional). The Quartermaster also rides on the same heavy-duty five-link front and rear suspension and is fitted with Carraro-supplied solid beam axles complemented by powerful Brembo brakes and a durable recirculating ball steering system.

While the Quartermaster is a rugged and hugely capable off-road vehicle, the high levels of refinement, comfort and versatility that it shares with the Station Wagon make it accommodating and

easy to use on-road as both a daily driver and a long-distance traveller. Key to this refinement is the engineering integrity, solidity and build quality of the chassis and its suspension design, featuring progressive coil springs and robust anti-roll bars. Together, these combine to provide dynamic handling and a comfortable ride, whatever the load or road.

No matter the journey that lies ahead, the Quartermaster's combination of a spacious and airy cabin, intelligently configured controls, excellent visibility and comfortable Recaro seats, coupled with a large and versatile load bay, make it the pick-up of choice for any adventure – on road or off it.

To find out more about Grenadier prices, technical specifications and options, visit [ineosgrenadier.com](https://www.ineosgrenadier.com)

Masters of the countryside

How the INEOS Grenadier Quartermaster is embracing the needs of country people.

THE STORY OF THE GRENADIER

Back in 2017, INEOS chairman Sir Jim Ratcliffe, a motoring enthusiast and experienced adventurer, identified a gap in the market for a stripped back, utilitarian, hard-working 4X4 engineered for modern day compliance and reliability.

The idea to manufacture a vehicle from scratch was developed by Sir Jim and some friends in their favourite pub, The Grenadier in Belgravia, London, which inspired the vehicle's name. INEOS Automotive Limited was formed and a senior team of automotive professionals

assembled to bring the vision to reality with a fresh perspective of 4X4 development and manufacturing. Since then, the Grenadier has come to life, combining rugged British spirit and design with German engineering rigour.

The team has not wavered in its focus on remaining true to Sir Jim's original vision. The Grenadier line-up provides best-in-class off-road capability, durability and reliability to those who depend on a vehicle for work, adventure or leisure, wherever they are in the world.



More than just moneymakers

The Royal Mint sponsored the LAPADA Pavilion at this year's Game Fair at Ragley Hall. If you thought the Llantrisant-based firm existed to produce the UK's currency, you'd be well wide of the mark...

With its 1,100-year heritage dating back to the reign of Alfred the Great, The Royal Mint is one of Britain's oldest organisations and the official maker of UK coins.

Throughout its history, The Royal Mint has made intricately designed coins and medals to mark important milestones in British history, from coronations to commemorations. It has been trusted to produce the coinage of each British monarch, as well as currency for countries around the world.

For more than 500 years, The Royal Mint was based at the Tower of London, where 'Mint Street' can still be found today. It was during this time that Sir Isaac Newton was appointed Master of the Mint, a position he held from 1699 until his death in 1727. Thanks to his vision, coins made by The Royal Mint remain unrivalled in their intricacy and accuracy to this day.

By 1812, The Royal Mint had outgrown the Tower and relocated to premises on London's Tower Hill. It moved once more in 1967 to a highly secure site in Llantrisant, South Wales, to accommodate the striking of the UK's decimal coins. Over the last 50 years, it has grown to become the most technically advanced minting facility in the world.

THE ROYAL MINT TODAY

The Royal Mint continues to be a world leader in numismatic art and design, whilst successfully expanding into new areas linked to its expertise in precious metals and British craftsmanship.

In recent years, the business has expanded into new divisions, grown internationally, and maintained its position as one of the largest manufacturers in the UK. Today, The Royal Mint operates as a portfolio business, offering commemorative and historic coins, precious metals investment opportunities, jewellery and luxury collectables.



The Royal Mint has grown to become a leading producer of bullion coins and bars for investors globally. It also offers a range of digital investment opportunities, including online gold savings accounts, gold for pensions and wealth-management options.

With a commitment to becoming a pioneer in sustainable precious metals, The Royal Mint is set to open a multimillion-pound factory in late 2023 to recover gold from electronic waste (e-waste).

Using patented chemistry, it will recover precious metals from circuit boards at room temperature, helping to reduce the

carbon footprint of e-waste, whilst supporting a circular economy in the UK. The Royal Mint is already using the first of this recovered gold in its luxury jewellery range that forms part of the impressive 886 by The Royal Mint.

The impressive site in Llantrisant is also home to The Royal Mint Experience, an award-winning visitor attraction where thousands of visitors explore its history each year.

For more information on The Royal Mint, visit royalmint.com

THOUSANDS GET HOOKED ON FISHING AT THE GAME FAIR



CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF THE FISHING VILLAGES AT RAGLEY HALL, SCONE PALACE AND VAYNOL ESTATE.



THE GAME FAIR REVIEW 2023

Get Into Fishing at The Game Fair provided a major boost to the Fishing Village, encouraging newcomers to the sport, offering advice and tips to existing anglers and showcasing new gear, while celebrities and guest speakers discussed key issues surrounding fishing and our waters, writes John Hunter.

Get into Fishing at The Game Fair – which was backed by UK industry body the Angling Trades Association (ATA) – also provided the perfect launch event for both National Fishing Month and Take A Friend Fishing 2023 summer campaigns, encompassing the many aspects of angling that make the pastime what it is.

With a huge attendance at The Game Fair, the GWCT Scottish Game Fair and the GWCT Welsh Game Fair, it also represented the ideal opportunity to put angling in front of a vast new audience of non-anglers, something that the trade is keen to focus on to safeguard the sport for future generations.

With backing from key ATA member brands including Pure Fishing, Shimano, Daiwa, Dinsmore, Reuben Heaton, Thomas Turner and Simda Rods, exhibitor numbers at Ragley were boosted to over 30 stands, the largest footprint in many years.

The stunning estate lake played host to a string of displays from the likes of River Monsters star Jeremy Wade (pictured, who also signed copies of his books and met countless visitors to the DHP magazine stand) Marina Gibson, Hywel Morgan and Brian Skoyles.

Meanwhile, the nearby Landing Stage theatre provided the chance to watch fishing and conservation films or discuss key issues. Prominent speakers included comedian and Gone Fishing star Paul Whitehouse, The Crown actor Jim Murray and angling royalty in the form of John Bailey and Marina Gibson.

Conservation matters were tackled by the Atlantic Salmon Trust, Beneath British Waters and the Anglers' National Line Recycling Scheme, David Lyons from Tackling Minds outlined why fishing is now being prescribed on the NHS for health reasons, while antique tackle expert Victor Bonutto offered advice on the value of visitor's old rods and reels.

Every aspect of fishing was represented during the Ragley Hall event. The Canal & River Trust provided coarse angling tuition,

backed up by a series of talks and demonstrations on various coarse methods at both the Landing Stage theatre and on the lakeside pontoons.

Good fishing conditions over the weekend saw all of those who booked taster sessions catching several fish during the half-hour slots. Tuition and advice were also provided for those wanting to try fly casting courtesy of the Association of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructors (AAPGAI) and fly tying by leading materials supplier Turrall.

There were prizes up for grabs for experienced fly casters from around the globe who converged for the British Fly Casting Club competitions at all three Game Fairs. Brian and Martin Skoyles from Daiwa offered visitors the chance to try accuracy casting while offering carp fishing advice, and there were also predator and sea fishing boats on display, courtesy of Gary Palmer and Ross Honey from the World Predator Classic and Sea Angling Classic competitions.

For those wanting to find out even more about what is in our lakes and rivers, the Environment Agency – the body which oversees our waterways and fisheries, as well as handling rod licence sales in England and Wales – brought along a tank full of native coarse fish for visitors to view.

Elsewhere, the Institute of Fisheries Management's interactive display revealed many of the invertebrates and other life in our waters, as well as offering information on careers in the industry.

THE GWCT SCOTTISH GAME FAIR

Demonstrations were given by a team of professional game anglers throughout the fair. Being a Scottish event, they mostly featured double-handed casting instructors like Glenda Powell, Andrew Toft and Scott Mackenzie, writes Alberto Laidlaw.

Professional casting instruction was given on grass for single-handed fly casting and on the River Tay for double-handed fishermen. These were attended by approximately 190 pupils over the weekend.

A large outdoor screen in the fishing village showed fishing videos throughout the weekend and this proved to be exceptionally popular, too.

The fly-tying marquee featured demonstrations and instructions from 12 Scottish

and English fly dressers. They covered a spectrum of flies, from trout wet and dry flies, salmon flies along with pike and sea flies. A feature of this marquee included junior come-and-try events where youngsters could design and make their own fly or lure under expert supervision. A daily prize was given to the junior who was judged to have made the most fishable-looking fly of any style.

There was a daily fly casting competition for senior men, senior ladies and junior entrants. A daily prize was given along with an overall winner for the weekend. There were competitions for single-handed distance and accuracy casts and double-handed distance casting. The overall winner for the weekend was then invited to attend a UK Game Fair Grand Final at the GWCT Welsh Game Fair.

There was also a daily casting competition for the under 10s using Orvis practice rods. Entomology and pond dipping were conducted twice daily. In the River Tay, river dipping exercises were held to identify the insect life present.

THE GWCT WELSH GAME FAIR

This year's show built on last year's success and was a massive draw for all visitors, writes Hywel Morgan.

Youngsters were given free fly casting lessons by Seiont and Gwyrfaeu Angling Association and the adults were able to have professional instruction by AAPGAI. The Teifi Coracle team were busy all weekend giving demonstrations as well as running the ever-popular Coracle experience where members of the public were allowed to have a go on the lake in these ancient craft.

The fly tying marquee was busy all weekend and flies that catered for all aspects of fly fishing were on display. The fly casting demonstrations featured the AAPGAI team doing a salmon casting demonstration and I demonstrated my skills with a single-handed rod. The final of the Game Fair Championship in fly casting was held on Sunday, where the top competitors from Scone Palace and Ragley Hall were against the winners from the Welsh and we crowned the second-ever UK Game Fair Champion.

Thanks to Garry Evans, who sponsored all the competitions and to all the volunteers who helped throughout the weekend.



WORDS from the Whitehouse

A selection of quotes from *Gone Fishing*'s Paul Whitehouse during his appearance at the Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre, including everything from working on the hit show to his approach to environmental activism.

“He’s a legend in the angling world, John. You know, well, he is in his own house! John is my fishing guru...when we started developing *Gone Fishing*...I’m nothing more than an enthusiastic amateur, and so I needed someone who has a lot of contacts within the angling world and somebody with whom I could discuss tactics and venues. John came to mind because I know John’s work, I’ve read a lot of his books over the years and I know his reputation as an all-rounder is pretty good.”

*On *Gone Fishing* co-star John Bailey*

“ISN’T IT WEIRD THAT SOMEONE AS INEPT AS BOB HAS BECOME ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN ANGLERS IN THE COUNTRY! HE’S KIND OF INEPT...BUT HE’S GOT QUITE A GOOD FISHING BRAIN. HIS ENTHUSIASM IS INCREDIBLE, AND HE NEVER WANTS TO STOP.”

*On *Gone Fishing* co-star*

Bob Mortimer

“It’s not really a fishing show, or rather it has many other elements, and they are as important. So often when we’re fishing, we’re dragged away from the actual fishing to go and pretend to be friends somewhere, and explore accommodation or capture a shot of a bee or a tree. But, you know, all that stuff is easily as important as the fishing.”

*On how *Gone Fishing* is compiled*

“It’s a fine line, isn’t it, between protest that is productive and protest that alienates the population, but certainly at some point we’ve got to...it’s the government, you know, that’s where the buck stops not necessarily with the water companies.. obviously, it’s their practices are nefarious...but they (the government) need to be taken to task. So we just need to keep the pressure up. It’s already becoming a tier-one issue.”

On activism to improve Britain’s rivers

“Fishing is something I’ve done all my life...Bob used to go fishing as a kid and he wanted to rekindle his obsession with it. It took me 25 years and open-heart surgery to get around to doing it and start, so as part of his rehab I started taking him fishing and I think it really helped. When you’ve had a serious heart issue [like we did], Bob, I think it affected him quite deeply as it would, because any sort of thing with your recovery when you feel anything with your heart you think, “Oh this is it”, so I think it was quite a slow recovery and he hid away at home. I lured him out while he was vulnerable and said “be my friend” and we started going fishing together.”

[*Gone Fishing*] came out of real life and out of a genuine friendship and love of the countryside. So, in a way, fishing gives us the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful places without it being contrived”

*On how Paul and Bob became “fishing buddies” and how *Gone Fishing* was subsequently born*

Airguns and gear at The Game Fair

BIG-HITTING COMPACT

Airgun shooters were flocking to the Sportsman Gun Centre stand to see the new FX Dynamic. As with many of its stablemates, this FX comes in numerous configurations and is capable of huge power output.

Judging by the crowds it was drawing, the Compact Take Down version looks set to be a big hit with UK airgun shooters. Just 77cm long when assembled, this tiny PCP breaks down even smaller to pack into a super-compact carrycase.

Despite its diminutive proportions, the Dynamic Compact Take Down returns hundreds of shots at full output in its sub-12ft/lb guise and features an innovative plenum housed at the base of the shroud to give rigidity to the barrel.

OPTICS AND MORE

There was more than just rifles to attract airgun shooters to the Sportsman Gun Centre stand, which was also showing off a host of exciting optics and accessories. One of the most exciting riflescopes was the eagerly anticipated HYPR-7 prismatic sight from Element Optics. This remarkable optic pairs with your phone for easy operation and also connects to a rangefinder and uses its own ballistic calculator to make adjustments to zero in order to ensure precise shot placement at any given distance.

Airgunners looking for rock steady support for their rifles were also showing a lot of interest in the Bog Death Grip Infinite Aluminium Tripod on the stand. This model combines the stability and versatility of the original model with new weight-saving features to deliver an easy-to-carry gun support that steadies aim from virtually any stance.

TAKEDOWN BREAK-BARREL

The new Black Bunker BM8 raised a few eyebrows when it was unveiled on the ASI

stand. This amazing takedown break-barrel folds and dismantles into a tiny package that can be carried in one hand. Breakdown and reassembly both take just a matter of seconds, as demonstrated by ASI's Edward King.

Tough, accurate and producing power up to the 12ft/lb UK legal limit, this tactical-styled gas-ram is available in .177 and .22 calibres and retails for under £300. Apart from its remarkable takedown mechanism, the BM8's features include open sights, Picatinny-type scope and accessory rails, a muzzle brake and breech protection cover.

ELECTRONIC EXCELLENCE

Another head-turner on the ASI stand was the new Skout Epoch. This PCP air rifle boasts big magazine and air capacity as well as an electronic trigger for super-sensitive shot release. Those electronics also double as a safety mechanism as the Epoch won't fire unless it's switched on.

This stubby tactical bullpup promises a very refined shooting experience, enhanced by lots of adjustment in the rear section of the stock. Other features include an ergonomically contoured pistol grip, silencer, Picatinny-type scope rail and carbon barrel shroud and cheek support.

TOP-NOTCH SPOTTER

Airgun shooters tasked with after-dark pest control are embracing thermal technology to make the task easier and more efficient, and the Pulsar Telos XP50 on show at the Thomas Jacks stand should be a very useful tool for those who can stretch to its £3,099.95 price tag.

This high-quality thermal imaging spotter is very compact at just 238mm long and 680g in weight, yet packs a host of top-end features into its small frame. They include a 640x480 thermal sensor, 50Hz frame rate, 1024x768 HD AMOLED display, stadiametric rangefinder and 2.5-10x

Mat Manning rounds up some of the top airgun kit on show at The Game Fair at Ragley Hall.

zoom. Detection range goes out to a very impressive 1,800m and its battery pack gives a run time of up to 8.5 hours.

POCKET-FRIENDLY THERMAL

The diminutive Thunder TE19 2.0 was attracting a lot of attention on the Hikmicro stand. Retailing at around the £1,000 mark, this thermal riflescope delivers serious performance at an extremely competitive price. Designed for airgun and rimfire shooters, and fitted with Hikmicro's 256px, SUB 35mK NETD sensor, the Thunder 2.0 has a detection range of up to 1,000m.

The Thunder TE19 2.0 comes supplied with a mount and its raft of features includes video recording to 16Gb onboard memory, one shot zero, picture in picture function, four colour palettes, a run time of up to 10 hours and access to the Hikmicro Sight app, which allows you to stream and control the unit directly from your smartphone.

ALL BASES COVERED

The team over on the Scott Country stand let us have a sneak peak at the Pard TD32-70 Thermal Night Vision LRF Scope. This remarkable optic is set to retail at £3,425 and does it all. It's equipped with an impressive thermal imaging camera and also boasts infrared night time viewing, a full-colour day time image and a laser rangefinder.

Elsewhere, the TD32-70 utilises a 1,440px day sensor and 12-micron 384 thermal sensor, both of which can be viewed on the same screen. Its centralised reticle feature means that your aimpoint will always be at the centre of the screen, while its 1,200-yard laser rangefinder works with ballistic software to overlay the reticle with an aim marker for rapid precision aiming based on the weight, speed and ballistic coefficient of your ammunition.



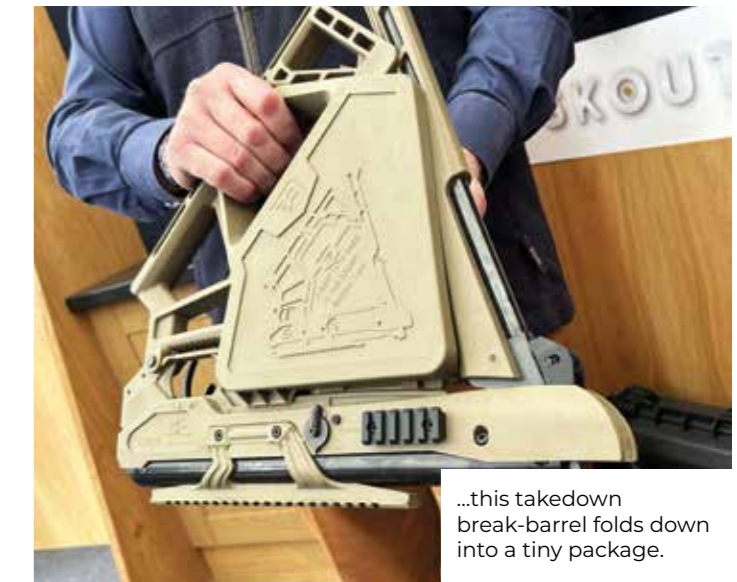
Airgunners were flocking to the SGC stand to see the new FX Dynamic.



SGC were also showing the HYPR-7 prismatic sight from Element Optics.



The new Black Bunker BM8 raised a few eyebrows on the ASI stand...



...this takedown break-barrel folds down into a tiny package.



Another head-turner on the ASI stand was the new Skout Epoch.



The Pulsar Telos XP50 on show at the Thomas Jacks stand - a very useful tool.



EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS AND ENTRY TO LEADING EVENTS

FIGHTING FOR SUSTAINABLE SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

BECOME A MEMBER AT BASC.ORG.UK



CUTTING A DASH

The Game Fair has long been a place where stylish country folk can express their sartorial creativity. Hats are a key component of many a country wardrobe and there were plenty of ladies sporting colourful and characterful headwear at Ragley Hall. Here's a selection of the ones that caught our eye...

Photographs by Solent

Not strictly a hat, but this colourful item certainly got our attention!



4x4 TYRES & WHEELS

It was a pleasure to meet so many 2023 Game Fair Visitors in Scotland & Warwickshire

- Operating in the 4x4 market for over 40 years
- UK's largest network of specialist 4x4 tyre centres
- Official distributors of BFGoodrich, General Tire, Falken, Fulda, Comforser, Insa Eco and many more brands
- Offer expert technical advice to ensure right fit for your vehicle
- Work closely with manufacturers on product development



www.4site4x4tyres.co.uk | 08701129410

BU^BSY BASC

BASC was once again at the front and centre of game fairs in 2023, with plenty to offer its members and the broader shooting community.

Photographs courtesy of BASC



1

BASC greatly values our partnership with Stable Events. It allows the UK's largest shooting organisation to engage with our membership, as well as the broader shooting community and key stakeholders across the UK, at a variety of vibrant shows and game fairs.

Reflecting on the past year, we began with the Northern Shooting Show in Harrogate back in May. BASC members were offered complimentary entry to the show for the first time, resulting in over 8,000 of them attending the two-day celebration. Across the busy weekend the BASC team provided over 120 shotgun coaching lessons, hosted a trade BBQ and encouraged over 800 people to join the "ACT NOW" campaign following the Welsh Government's proposal to ban game bird release.

The BASC stands were a hive of activity, providing bespoke advice to members while ensuring that the benefits of sustainable shoots are understood. As always, wild food is an important part of our story and the crowds gathered in to watch game cookery demonstrations throughout the weekend, taking home recipes, tips and leaflets to inspire them.

July becomes a celebration of all things Scottish as we head to the GWCT Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace. This provided an important stage to celebrate the long service and retirement of our former BASC Scotland director, Collin Shedden, as he reflected on the work he had carried out for BASC over the past three decades. While we considered the journey from the past, it was excellent to see investment in the future of our community, as 140 youngsters took part in the Junior Macnab Challenge. This was supported by BASC, the Scottish Youth & the Countryside Education Trust (SYCET), and many others. The Junior Macnab Challenge is about encouraging young people to discover and develop their countryside skills. This forms part of BASC's wider UK education and outreach projects which engaged with over 44,000 youngsters in 2023 alone.

While it is important to take time to celebrate our achievements and culture at the game fairs, there are always important objectives and key messages. In Scotland the political landscape is focused on the governments "Grouse

Bill" and the ongoing process of licencing grouse shooting and grouse moor management. The BASC stand provided the perfect opportunity to host SNP members to ensure they understand the importance of grouse shooting for communities, nature and the economy. There was even the opportunity for politicians to try shooting for the first time with guidance from a BASC coach.

BASC then headed to Ragley Hall and The Game Fair, the centrepiece of the season. We created a main stand filled with information and advice for our members and the general public to benefit from. BASC members enjoy complimentary entry to The Game Fair and they turned out in their tens of thousands. Our staff and volunteer expertise was on show across the full spectrum of our sport, providing 470 shotgun coaching lessons, 641 airgun experiences and 310 entries to our gundog scurries. The Game Fair has also become an increasingly important opportunity to launch and host key events, such as our new BASC Wildlife Fund, which offers financial support to shoots, clubs and syndicates for hands-on conservation initiatives and sustainable land management. We also launched our new vision for Women in Shooting, hosting a broad demographic of women from across the shooting community. It is also the perfect platform to recognise the commitment of our many volunteers and individuals within shooting through our annual honours and awards for outstanding service to shooting and conservation.

A key workflow for BASC in 2023 has been the General Licence fiasco for shoots in Special Protection Areas and the chaos caused by DEFRA's lack of consultation on withdrawing General Licence 43. The Game Fair provided the perfect opportunity to meet with 25 MPs, ensuring they understood the impact of Defra's decisions and the real prospect of job losses and financial ruin. This included a meeting with Trudy Harrison MP, the DEFRA Under Secretary of State and Minister for Natural Environment and Land Use.

Members of BASC were fully involved with the Carter Jonas Theatre throughout the weekend, debating key topics from deer management and the



2



3

1: Talking to politicians including Trudy Harrison MP was a key part of the game fair season.

2: BASC coaches were once again on hand to guide novices through the basics.

3: The BASC stand was always a hive of activity.

proposed trophy hunting bill to the broader impacts of increased regulation. The Game Fair provides the perfect backdrop for the team to work hard, build key relationships and ultimately influence decision makers for the benefit of sustainable shooting.

The season was then capped off in September with the GWCT Welsh Game Fair in North Wales, with important information on the Welsh Government ban on snaring and the impact this will have on key conservation species such as the iconic curlew. Along with our usual mix of information, advice and shooting opportunities, it was fantastic to host Virginia Crosbie one of the local MPs in the area, who managed to hit five out of five clays on the shooting line and commented on the excitement of trying shooting for the first time.

Now is the time to reflect on the events of the past year and ensure that we challenge ourselves to improve and work with the Stable Events team to deliver for 2024 and beyond. There will be ongoing challenges for our community and the hard work must continue, however, the important role that the multiple game fairs play in our work has not diminished, in fact, it is probably more important than ever before.

SWATCOM™

Hear and be Heard



CUSTOM FIT EAR PLUGS

SWATCOM offer custom ear mould headsets that fit uniquely to your ears, offering a comfortable, subtle & secure level of hearing protection. Available in a wide range of colours and models, from electronic in-ear headsets to re-usable filtered ear plugs that will keep your ears protected.



SC20-E/SC20-N

- Battery life: 80+ hours
- Module size: 13mm x 11mm
- Microphone: Omnidirectional
- Operating temperature: -20°C to 50°C
- Battery: size 10 zinc air hearing aid battery
- Level dependent electronic hearing protection
- SNR: 24dB with foam eartips, 23dB with silicone eartips

Natural Enhanced

EARTIPS

Ear canals are sensitive and each one is unique so we've provided a selection of sizes and materials. There are six eartips to choose from to help you find the best fit for your unique ears. It will be necessary to change the eartips from time to time. Never used a damaged eartip.

ACTIVE8 Headband/Neckband

- Waterproof sealed military spec, electronics, microphones and battery compartment, submersible to 1 metre for 30 min
- ASIC digital electronic sound reproduction compresses impulse noises to ensure true life stereo sound reproduction
- 600 hours battery life (2 x AAA) with battery save function



www.swatcom.com



+44 (0)1243 373708
info@swatcom.com

THE GAME FAIR REVIEW 2023

Nick Portlock is the CPSA Champion of Champions!



Gloucestershire-based clay shot Nick Portlock was crowned Champion of Champions on the second day of The Game Fair.

Nick beat off stiff competition to secure first place in the five-man final, recording a score of 22x25, one ahead of second place Aaron Harvey (Suffolk) and two ahead of third place Nathan Skinner (Kent).

The CPSA Champion of Champions clay shooting competition invites top shots from across England to compete for the title. Each CPSA County Committee puts forward their County Champion to test themselves on The Game Fair sporting course. The top five scorers from all the County Champions are then invited for a spectacular shoot-off in the arena.



Winners receive a prize from Eley Cartridges, Sunglasses for Sport and a free one-year CPSA membership.

Photograph courtesy of the CPSA

John Porter wins the 2023 Colts Challenge at The Game Fair

Suffolk-based John Porter, aged 16, triumphed in the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association's (CPSA) annual Colts Challenge on the third and final day of The Game Fair.

The title was decided in a shoot-off between John and eventual second-place finisher Max Allen, after both tied on 23 in the final five.

John, who was awarded 1,000 Eley Hawk cartridges, a pair of sunglasses from Sunglasses for Sport and one year's free CPSA membership as part of his prize, commented after his win: "I'm pleased to have won, that was harder than it looked and there were some tricky targets, even in qualifying. Having said that, the targets were in the right place at the right time. Well done to the runners-up."

Third place overall went to 15-year-old Charlie Faulds from Hampshire, who shot a very creditable score of 22, just one point



behind the two leaders on a very challenging layout. The remaining two finalists of the Colts Challenge were 13-year-old Con-

nor Davies from Hereford and Worcester, and 12-year-old Lain Blamey from Buckinghamshire.

SHOTS &
COMPANY



SIDE *by* SIDE

OVER *and* UNDER



SLOE GIN
or
SINGLE MALT WHISKY

Our unique shotgun cartridge-shaped bottles are the ultimate shooting gifts. Everything about these bottles is designed to be authentic. From firing cap to crimping, our heavyweight 70cl bottle is a luxury replica of a shotgun cartridge.

AVAILABLE ONLINE AT shotsandcompany.com

*To be enjoyed...
In The Best Of Company*

THE GAME FAIR REVIEW 2023

Husband and wife win big at The Game Fair Challenge



www.elmofburford.com
Celebrating 30 years supplying the finest country apparel from around the world



EASY AFTER CHRISTMAS EXCHANGES

Schöffel

R. M. WILLIAMS
EST. 1932. AUSTRALIA

AKUBRA
The authentic quality hat

Elm of Burford
Specialists in Country Clothing

NOBLE WILDE
POSSUM MERINO

Tilley

AIGLE

sasta
Barbour

GORE-TEX

48 High Street, Burford, OX18 4QF Tel: 01993 824004 www.elmofburford.com

Northumberland electrical contractor Frank Lawrison won overall High Gun at The Game Fair Challenge, which took place during The Game Fair, while his wife, Emma, took the Ladies High Gun.

The Game Fair Challenge is a formidable 50-bird English Sporting clay competition organised and run by E.J. Churchill on the Subaru Shooting Line.

Mr Lawrison won with an impressive score of 48x50, despite wet and windy conditions, and took home an Isuzu D-Max pick-up truck to use for six months. The runner-up was Scott Shuckford on 47x50, who won a luxury shotgun cartridge-shaped bottle of sloe gin from Shots & Company.

Mr Lawrison's wife, Emma, who is a mother of two and works as a secretary, won the Ladies High Gun prize with a score of 41x50. Emma was delighted to take home a Yildiz shotgun, courtesy of Berkshire-based firearm distributor Raytrade UK.

Dave Carrie won the Veterans category with a score of 45x50 and was awarded a bottle of Shots & Company whisky in the stylish and distinctive shotgun cartridge-shaped bottle.

The Junior High Gun was claimed by 14-year-old Pembrokeshire schoolboy Edward Johnson, with a score of 43x50, who also took home a Yildiz shotgun courtesy of Raytrade UK.

E.J. Churchill's business development director Victoria Tetley shared her

thoughts after the prize-giving: "What a privilege it is to provide the clay shooting competitions and have-a-go experiences at The Game Fair. Huge thanks to all the staff and referees who do such a great job to run it, and congratulations to the winners. The conditions weren't easy, but the standards were so high."





A GOLDEN YEAR

ABOUT CLOGAU

Clogau (pron. "clog-eye") is a second-generation family business with more than 30 years' experience creating unique hand-finished jewellery of the highest quality and originality, designed at its North Wales headquarters and inspired by the natural beauty of Wales.

Every piece of Clogau jewellery and every timepiece contains rare Welsh gold from the Clogau St David's gold mine in the Snowdonia mountains. Gold from the same mine was used to create the investiture regalia of Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1911, and has also been used to craft wedding rings for many members of the Royal Family. The romantic royal tradition of using Welsh gold began in 1923 with the wedding band of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later Queen Elizabeth), and continued with Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Diana and Princess Catherine among many others.

THE GAME FAIR REVIEW 2023

Clogau Gold was proud to support the GWCT Welsh Game Fair in September. Given the quality of its stunning products, it's no wonder that its stand at Vaynol Park, like its schedule in 2023, was extremely busy.

Clogau is a business with deep roots in Wales, and its award-winning second-generation family jewellery firm founded in 1989 has built its brand on the rare Welsh gold contained in every piece. Welsh culture and history are at the heart of everything Clogau does, and it is the unique storytelling behind the jewellery's creation that elevates the brand above its rivals. With collections based on the extraordinary beauty of the landscape, and a link to royalty dating back over a century, there's a deep well of inspiration to draw from.

Clogau's connection to the Welsh countryside is a key reason it takes such pride in participating in the GWCT Welsh Game Fair.

"The GWCT Welsh Game Fair is the perfect celebration of all Wales has to offer – from the prosperous countryside that provides such incredible farming and game with the help of our world class farmers like Gareth Wyn Jones, to the myths and legends that form the inspiration for many of Clogau's beautiful jewellery collections, says managing director Ben Roberts. "The game fair has built an incredible community over the years, and it was a pleasure to be a part of this year's event."

It's always a busy time of year in retail, and fresh from the successful launch of Clogau's Autumn and Winter '23 designs, the brand is gearing up for the unveiling of its revamped Timepieces range. The selection for men and women launched in November and includes a variety of styles, from sports chronographs to diamond-studded dress watches.

It's also been an exciting period for Clogau's bricks-and-mortar retail

spaces. This year has already heralded the opening of our store in The Mall at Cribb's Causeway shopping centre in Bristol, and will see the launch of the latest Clogau Boutique in Merthyr Tydfil later this year.

While Wales is proudly the heartland for Clogau's physical stores, the Bristol location is the fourth outside its borders, joining Clogau Boutiques in Shrewsbury and Chester, and a store in the Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet village. Promoting Welsh creativity beyond the borders of the Principality is something our company is passionate about.

"Bricks-and-mortar stores have played a crucial role in our brand's story, as they allow us to bring to life the rich history of our products that goes beyond what it is possible to convey online. We have recently been choosing prime locations close to the border as a stepping stone to England," says Ben.

Clogau is also planning a greater media presence this year as it ramp up its television campaign strategy. Filming has just wrapped on a TV advert for Christmas 2023, but unlike previous years, the story will continue into 2024 with a further instalment for Valentine's Day and on to Christmas 2024.

This development sees Clogau's long-term brand ambassador Gethin Jones starring as a protective dad who gets more than he wanted for Christmas as his screen daughter's boyfriend appears on the scene. The dashing Welsh presenter of BBC's Morning Live and former Blue Peter favourite has appeared in Clogau adverts before, but this campaign breaks new ground in terms of narrative and scope.

"Our eight-year relationship with Gethin is a great fit," says Ben. "We have become personal friends as well during this time; we are both of similar age and have a lot in common but he's far better looking than me – so good-looking that he models the watches!"



For more information on Clogau, visit clogau.co.uk

BILTONG BOSS



JERKY BOSS



WE DON'T WANT TO BE

THE *Only* BILTONG YOU EAT

WE JUST
want to be

THE

BEST

Grab a discount by using coupon code **GAME2023**. Don't miss out on this exclusive offer, valid until 31 January 2024

www.biltongboss.co.uk

The Country Food Trust raises £3,000 at The Game Fair

How those in need will benefit from nutritional, protein-rich meals, thanks to the generosity of the rural community.

The generosity of the countryside shone through at The Game Fair as The Country Food Trust (CFT), its official charity, raised £3,000 across the three-day event.

The CFT is dedicated to producing and distributing raw meat and high-quality, protein-rich meals (including free-range pheasant casserole, free-range pheasant curry and wild venison bolognese) to food-banks, charities and community kitchens across the UK. The meals, which are presented in the form of pouches, provide nourishing meals to those in need and aim to help alleviate food insecurity.

The money raised during The Game Fair came via donations from visitors, partners and other supporters. Partners who contributed to the final total included Härkila (in association with Philip Morris & Son), Hicks & Brown, Joules, Katie Hargreaves Fine Art, Richard Kirkham, Shuttle Socks, Spent Shells and Waring Brooke.

Staff from the CFT welcomed visitors onto the stand across the three days, along with government ministers and food industry representatives. CEO SJ Hunt was amongst them and also appeared on stage at The Carter Jonas Game Fair Theatre to discuss the CFT's mission in the UK.

John Jones, managing partner at Philip Morris & Son, said: "It has been an absolute pleasure working with the team from the CFT and we are delighted to have helped support the fantastic work they do through our collaboration at The Game Fair. The charity does a remarkable job of utilising meat from shoots and estates to create healthy nutritious meals for individuals facing food insecurity throughout the country."

Leigh Gosson, head of shows at Joules, said: "We have been a proud supporter of The Game Fair for over 30 years, and are delighted to have donated 300 pairs



Carter Jonas Theatre
host Charlie Jacoby
with SJ Hunt.

of wellies for the 65th anniversary photo shoot. These pairs were sold for charity, with all proceeds going to the CFT. It was incredibly important for us to offer our support to the CFT, which helps to provide nutritious meals to those in need throughout the country".

Photograph courtesy of The Country Food Trust

For more information on the Country Food Trust, visit thecountryfoodtrust.org

A Profitable Partnership



Whisky Partners, one of the UK's leading cask investment specialists and a Game Fair sponsor, explains why whisky is an attractive alternative to stocks and shares.

A

ll stock market investments are based on timing. The accepted strategy is to buy at one price, wait (the longer the better) and then sell later when the price is higher. Investors have been making, and losing, money on the stock exchange for generations. But is the tide turning? Are 'traditional' stocks and shares losing their appeal? And are there other investments that can deliver better returns with relatively low risk? First, one has to weigh up what kind of things influence the profitability of stocks and shares.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

All kinds of events can cause share prices to rise and fall. In June 2016 the Brexit referendum triggered a nosedive on the stock market and, although recovery was steady (supported by the Bank of England), the years of subsequent wrangling over trade deals with the EU have been less than helpful.

Following on the heels of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic caused further damage to the stock market and it is only just recovering to pre-pandemic levels. No one can predict such a global, catastrophic event, but the stock market isn't just affected by politics and viruses.

The UK markets are at the mercy of inflation. Low interest rates also mean low returns on savings, so investors may divert more capital into stocks and shares hoping to bolster their earnings. Higher interest rates mean higher mortgages, and the economy can suffer from a lack of household spending, forcing company profits down. Some companies may simply put up their prices to customers, leaving their share price unaffected, but uncertainty and lack of stability around inflation rates undoubtedly have a knock-on effect on investors.

Global conflict also has an impact on the stock market. The supply of commodities like oil, grain and energy puts tremendous pressure on markets. It's impossible to predict, and impossible to protect an investment against such events. All an investor can do is wait for recovery.

A CAPITAL NOTION

While it's entirely possible to invest in stocks and shares with limited capital, the returns will also be limited. Large profits are made by large investors, but so are



large losses. Markets, on the whole, recover and patient investors, who can afford to tie up capital, will make gains. However, those gains are taxable.

There are ways to mitigate some of the tax earned from share profits. Ordinary ISAs are a good way to divert funds as the interest gained is not taxable, but they are capped at £20,000 per annum.

A stocks and shares ISA (also known as an investment ISA) is another tax-efficient route. Again, limited to £20,000 a year, subject to not exceeding the ISA limit in the current tax year, the investment ISA can be used to buy stocks and shares with no Capital Gains Tax or tax to pay on the earnings. However, they are also linked to the stock exchange and can be unpredictable of slow growing.

WHAT ABOUT WHISKY?

However, there are good investment opportunities that tie up less capital and are proving to be very resilient assets. Whisky is enjoying sustained growth and is predicted to continue. Cask investors are currently earning returns of around 12% (based on 2022 figures). And the future for spirits looks bright. The export sales of Scotch whisky alone reached over £6 billion last year and that figure is set to rise as new trade deals are being unlocked with untapped overseas markets.

For investors wishing to diversify and add some tangible assets to their portfolio, whisky ticks all the boxes. Just consider the following: there is growing demand,

the entry costs are relatively low and the returns are impressive.

And the best news? There is no tax to pay on the profits. The spirit is considered a wasting asset, as natural evaporation takes place, rendering the asset tax-free. How many investments can claim that?

With links to some of the most renowned distilleries, Whisky Partners buy casks on behalf of their members and store them in fully insured, government-bonded warehouses where they simply mature and increase in value as they age.

Managing the investment is easy, too. The Whisky Partner's online portal allows members to track their casks, allowing them to buy and sell in real time. The secure platform also holds all the ownership documents and ensures complete transparency and control.

More and more people are choosing to invest in whisky and enjoying the unique possibilities of cask ownership. While stocks and shares continue to rise and fall, whisky is holding fast as an attractive alternative.

Membership to Whisky Partners is completely free and there's no high-pressure sales, just expert advice and a great choice of distilleries. Investors are enjoying the fruits of their 'liquid assets' and the forecast is golden.

For more information on Whisky Partners, visit whiskypartners.com

The irrepressible farmer and influencer Gareth Wyn Jones devised a novel way of highlighting the campaign to save our beautiful red squirrels. He came up with the idea of serving squirrel burgers – made with grey ones, obviously – at the GWCT Welsh Game Fair in the spectacular surroundings of the Faenol Estate, overlooking the Menai Strait near Bangor in North Wales.

It caused quite a stir – and even the love-him-or-loathe-him Good Morning Britain presenter Richard Madeley ate one live on air during the programme as part of a studio debate between Gareth and an animal rights activist. In case you're interested, Richard's conclusion was that it tasted just like chicken.

Anyway, while opponents thought the idea was nuts, Gareth was aiming to make a deadly serious point and did so very effectively. No surprise there. He's a brilliant communicator and his incredibly popular YouTube channel now has more than 1 million subscribers.

The grey squirrel was brought to Britain from North America in the 1870s as a fashionable addition to large country estates, with unforeseen and unintended consequences, passing on a deadly virus to the native red breed which was nearly wiped out. However, in the past 25 years grey squirrels have been eradicated from Anglesey in a cull and red squirrel numbers have climbed dramatically.

Restoring the native breed to Gwynedd, Anglesey and the rest of Wales is the aim of the Red Squirrels Trust Wales and its work is supported by Gareth, who farms more than 2,000 acres on the Carneddau mountains. Gareth believes making use of humanly culled grey squirrels for inclusion in the food chain could help in the re-introduction of the native red squirrel to the woodlands of Wales.

"Grey squirrels are not native to this country," he explains. "They were introduced from America and they eat the food of the red squirrels as well as spreading squirrel pox, which is fatal to the red."

"Anglesey has eradicated grey squirrels and the red squirrels are now thankfully thriving and some have been spotted on the mainland in the Bangor area," he adds. "They need to be supported and culling grey squirrels is one aspect that needs to be investigated."

Gareth, who is a keen cook and passionate about using homegrown produce and locally-sourced meat whenever possible, added: "Squirrel meat is like any other wild food, eating them is like foraging for anything else."

"We have to remember they are a pest. On the farm if I have too many rats, crows or whatever, I have to deal with them. What's the difference with squirrels? Their meat is a by-product and I'm making use of something that's been killed already, so why waste it?"

"What's more, it's really healthy and tasty meat, in terms of taste it's like a cross between a chicken and a rabbit."

"The meat will taste of the life it has lived and these grey squirrels have a great diet. It's a fantastic wild food."

"The burgers I served up at the fair went down a treat with everyone. The marquee was full to bursting on both days and the reaction to the burgers was fantastic. Since the fair, I've been overwhelmed by offers of grey squirrels from people based all over the place."

A RED RESURGENCE ON ANGLESEY

The revival of the red squirrel has been supported by the Red Squirrels Trust Wales, which was created in 1998 as Friends of Anglesey Red Squirrels, when there were fewer than 50 of them left on the island.

It oversaw the increase in numbers and there are now believed to be more than 800 red squirrels living in various woodlands such as Nant y Pandy, Llangefni, Plas Newydd near Llanfairpwll and Llyn y Parc Mawr near Newborough.

As red squirrel numbers grew, the Trust recognised the potential to restore red squirrels to Gwynedd and was rebranded as Red Squirrels Trust Wales. Anglesey's red squirrels continue to be the focus of concerted efforts to conserve them and to increase the size of the population. This is being done through a combination of habitat improvement, awareness raising and work with the local community, and by controlling the numbers of grey squirrels on the island.

A spokesperson for the Trust said: "It is the grey squirrel which carries squirrel pox virus infection, but it does not cause them obvious harm."

"Such outbreaks are devastating and lead to dramatic and ongoing red squirrel declines. The current national strategy is simple - cull grey squirrels in areas where red squirrels persist. However, there is no single, straightforward way to safeguard the future of this native mammal at the moment."

According to Gareth, he was determined to do his bit at the GWCT Welsh Game Fair, where he was running a restaurant for the first time, a pop-up eatery called "Cwtch".

"I had fantastic reactions from all who tried them. The burgers were about 80% squirrel with the rest made up of pork to make them a bit more moist, with some seasoning thrown in."

"While we made and served squirrel burgers there are other possibilities for their meat. I've seen lots of recipes for dishes like stews and roasts."

Gareth is not the first celebrity to use meat from the grey squirrel to make some tasty snacks.

Popular TV chef Chris 'Flamebuster' Roberts, from nearby Caernarfon, made squirrel empanadas - fire-baked turnovers consisting of pastry and filling - as part of an alternative Yule Tide spread in an S4C series several years ago.

Chris' plans were also criticised online, but were defended by Gareth.

"I backed Chris 100 per cent. I'm a meat eater and the people who are giving him grief have got it very wrong," said Gareth, repeating "Squirrel meat is like any other wild food, eating them is just like foraging for anything else."

No, it's not nuts. It's an eminently sensible idea. So, if you want to save Tufty, one of the things you can do is keep on eating squirrel burgers!

Squirrel burgers, anybody?



OUTSPOKEN FARMER GARETH WYN JONES'S CRUSADE TO SAVE RED SQUIRRELS.

GWJ'S SQUIRREL BURGER RECIPE

INGREDIENTS (FOR TWO BURGERS)

- 3/4 squirrels (minced)
- Pork or turkey mince

METHOD

I used a number 10 grinder to mince the squirrel meat and then soaked it in milk for a few hours. Soaking the mince overnight is even better, though, as supposedly, this reduces the gaminess of the meat by removing some of the blood.

Drain the squirrel mince, mix with the pork or turkey mince and season well. Divide and press into burger rounds and chill. Add any extra seasoning to your taste, Cajun spices work well but salt and pepper is fine. Griddle the burgers to a core temperature of 75°C. Serve with bacon or jam.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

As The Game Fair returns to Blenheim Palace on 26th - 28th July 2024, Stable Events MD James Gower explains what the return to its “cradle” means for the fair and the countryside at large.

The Game Fair's return to Blenheim Palace after a decade-long hiatus is a momentous occasion. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Blenheim Palace is aptly known as the 'Cradle' of The Game Fair, and its significance goes far beyond mere nostalgia. The renewed partnership holds numerous benefits, both for the fair itself and the countryside at large.

Blenheim Palace, with its rich history, is an unparalleled setting for The Game Fair. The fusion of tradition and heritage creates a unique atmosphere and attendees can immerse themselves in the palace's grandeur, walking in the footsteps of historical figures and experiencing the elegance and charm of a bygone era.

Moreover, the partnership aligns seamlessly with Blenheim Palace's conservation efforts. By hosting The Game Fair, the estate can showcase its conservation achievements to a global audience, highlighting the importance of balancing tradition and ecological sustainability. Attendees can learn about best practices, witness habitat preservation efforts and engage with experts in the field.

On modern estate planning, the return to Blenheim Palace provides a platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities experienced in its management.

Estate owners and planners can exchange insights on preserving heritage while adapting to the demands of the present and the future. This synergy sets a remarkable precedent for other estates to follow.

Blenheim Palace's location is of great significance, too. Situated in the heart of the picturesque Oxfordshire countryside, it offers a delightful escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. This change of scenery allows visitors to immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the area, fostering an appreciation for the outdoors and the importance of protecting it.

The local population also stands to gain from The Game Fair's return. The fair creates opportunities for local businesses, fostering economic growth and job creation. It also introduces local residents to the diverse aspects of country life, showcasing the talents of artisans and producers in the region in the process.

For those who are already looking forward to attending the 2024 fair, expectations are high. They can anticipate a blend of world-class exhibitions, demonstrations and entertainment. There will be opportunities to engage with experts, learn about new equipment and techniques, and revel in the camaraderie of like-minded and passionate enthusiasts.

A SALUTE TO RAGLEY HALL

Ragley Hall played a pivotal role in The Game Fair's resurgence and evolution. The partnership was instrumental in the reinvigoration of the latter, helping it rediscover its contemporary relevance and preparing it for a promising future.

Ragley Hall provided The Game Fair with a fertile ground for transformation and innovation. Its beautiful surroundings and rich history added a unique charm to the fair, enhancing its appeal to long-time enthusiasts and a new generation of visitors.

Ragley Hall saw its grandeur come to life once more as it opened its doors to a fair that celebrated the essence of the countryside. The hall's association with the fair brought a renewed vibrancy to its grounds and introduced it to a broader, more diverse audience.

The shift to Blenheim Palace should be heralded with enthusiasm, for it marks a new beginning while honouring the progress achieved at Ragley Hall. The mutual respect and gratitude between The Game Fair and Ragley Hall should stand as a testament to the valuable partnership they shared. Ragley Hall will always have a special place in the fair's history, and it will undoubtedly play a role in shaping its future endeavours.



INEOS
GRENADIER

THE
GRENADIER
IS HERE

Book a test drive

THE NEW-LOOK ISUZU D-MAX HUNTSMAN A HIGHER CALIBRE PICK-UP



THE HUNTSMAN ACCESSORY PACK FEATURES:



18" ALLOYS + PIRELLI A/T TYRES



BED DRAWER SYSTEM



BLACK SIDE STEPS



AEROKLAS COMMERCIAL CANOPY

SHOOT OVER TO [ISUZU.CO.UK](https://www.isuzu.co.uk)

The Huntsman Accessory Pack is a supplementary pack available on the Isuzu D-Max Utility Double Cab, DL20 Double Cab, DL40 and V-Cross manual and automatic transmissions. Model shown is an Isuzu D-Max DL40 fitted with a Huntsman Pack. CVOTR price for D-Max DL40 manual transmission £32,779.00, automatic transmission also available from £34,279.00. CVOTR price includes delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee, excludes VAT and special paint charge. Huntsman Accessory Pack, including fitting is £8,153.50 +VAT and is fitted after vehicle registration by your local Isuzu dealer only. Pack does not include front & rear door handles, wing mirror covers & rear tailgate handle. Isuzu (UK) LTD reserve the right to change specifications and equipment without notice. Features and specification may vary in appearance and/or availability. For full details please visit [isuzu.co.uk](https://www.isuzu.co.uk)

