



KEN DOWNING

A message from our Chairman

My association with Stithians Show started when I was just 7 months old, pushed around in my pram. Having never missed a show since then, at the age of 14-15 I was encouraged by my Uncle to do a session on the car parking, which involved taking entry money back in those days. This was not a good job if it was wet and, believe me, it was several times!

In the early 80's, through my farming connection, I was recruited by the Cattle Section as a steward and after a few years, I became Assistant Chief Cattle Steward; a post I still hold and enjoy.

In 2013, I was elected as Vice Chairman and then proceeded to Chairman in 2014. This was a big learning curve and was an honour to be Chairman of this very special show. In 2019, I was asked take on the post again, it was an even greater honour to be Vice Chairman and Chairman for the second time. Many changes have taken place in these five years, with computers now playing a big part in the administration of the Association.



Ken Downing with his wife, Kathryn.

2020 saw the Show being cancelled because of Covid-19, but a small virtual show was held. Late in 2020 saw most of the showground taken over by the NHS for a Mass Covid Vaccination Centre; all the Trustees were delighted they were able to help.

On to 2021 and a big decision had to be made – the outcome of which was to cancel the show for the 2nd year running. Early in 2021, preparations were being made for yet another virtual show which will be bigger and better than last year as more features are added and sections become involved. I hope you will enjoy this year's Virtual Stithians Show.

A Scarecrow Festival has been added in conjunction with Stithians Parish Council and this was organised last weekend where we were pleased to welcome over 40 entries. It was lovely to see the village so busy as families collected their maps to commence their judging of the competition.

As Show Chairman, I would like to thank our Show President, Mrs Susan Knight for all her help and support, Show Officers, our General Secretary, Jenna Payne, all Section Secretaries and to all who have helped to put together the virtual show. Hopefully things will be a bit more normal next year when we put on a REAL Show and I can look forward to welcoming you all.

Ken Downing, Chairman 2020/2021



Ken taking a trolley into the main ring for the presentation of the Cattle Awards

