

The show must go on...

Despite the often inclement weather, the Surrey County Show remains one of the country's leading one-day agricultural events. Here, some of those involved in this year's show look forward to a great social occasion, the inevitable challenges that arise from working with animals and, most importantly of all, that elusive sunshine...



One of the country's leading one-day agricultural events, the Surrey County Show is a celebration of all the best things about rural life



From a family that has taken part in every Surrey County Show since it started in 1954, Shackleford farmer **ANGUS STOVOLD** knows more about the experience of the big day than most

What do you most look forward to about the Surrey County Show? It helps preserve rural Surrey and the essence of it hasn't changed; my children still enjoy it just as my father did as a child. It still brings the countryside to the heart of Guildford, bringing competition between top breeders. The smells, the livestock, the people... it's timeless. There are always

funny incidents, although the classic is the runaway pig that shoots between the legs of the public with the stockman in hot pursuit – it's happened to me!

...and your favourite memory?

Some years ago, I caused merriment when I was showing a cow called the Queen Mother (it came from her herd). She was very vocal and bellowed non-stop all morning for food. I was being interviewed on the radio while she was mooing away and people just heard me talking about how the Queen Mum was demanding her breakfast!

How important is it that we preserve rural life in Surrey?

Surrey is still 70 per cent rural and

there remain 720 full-time farmers. If we lost the countryside, we might as well live in London.



Now retired, Tongham farmer **TONY POULSOM** is the honorary show director of the Surrey County Agricultural Society – the

organisation responsible for putting together and running each year's show

What do you most look forward to about the Surrey County Show? I was chairman in 2000 and 2001, and my first show was one of the wettest