



Fair Game...

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Words: Wil Hawkes

The weather is improving and the country show season is well underway, and any regular show-goer will have been to an event organised by SGF Ltd with Geoff Clutton at the helm. Twenty-five years in the show scene and fifteen years arranging game fairs has seen Geoff become something of an expert and he is the first to admit that much has been learned by the varying success of early ventures.

Recession, foot and mouth, and the ban on hunting with dogs have been just some of the events to directly affect country sports and the businesses whose survival depends upon them.

Geoff's motivation has always been keeping field sports alive for the enthusiasts and making them accessible to as many people as possible. Far from being a tweed-wrapped 1920s cliché, SGF's director started as a miner in South Wales and in the 1980s



was running a field sports shop in Meryth Tydfil; SGF's core belief has always been that whippets and folding .410s are just as important as driven game... that appreciation of the countryside and all she offers need not be a class issue.

There are so many bureaucratic barriers to entry when taking up any sport that involves a gun, that the spoon in your mouth should be insignificant; wooden or silver, it's still just a spoon.

Game fairs are not only an affordable day out, but they open the doors to a world too often demonised by the press; you are given the opportunity to make up your own mind.

SGF shows cater for so many tastes with craft and food marquees, beer and champagne tents, and even displays of falconry. Add that to gundog activities, lurcher and terrier events, and clay shooting and you really can entertain a family with very eclectic tastes. If you're still



not convinced how about archery and a display of jousting by The Knights of the Damned?

Clearly I am writing with a biased perspective as I share Geoff's love of the countryside and the entertainment we have so close to hand. You don't have to wait long to visit a show either.

The Lincolnshire Game Fair takes place at Market Rasen Racecourse and runs from the 2nd to the 4th of May. Too soon? How about Revesby Game Fair on the 11th and 12th of July?

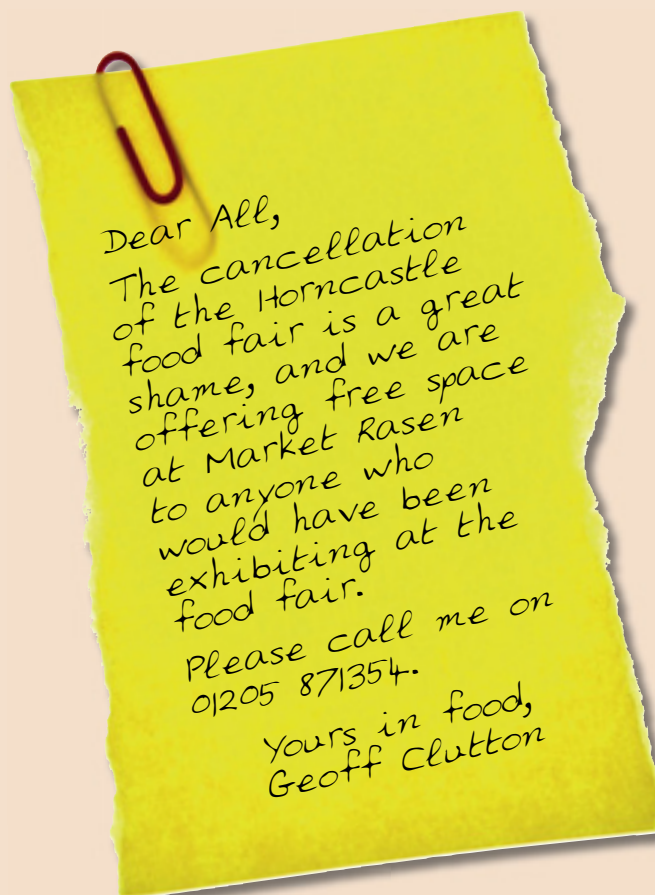
As if my glowing recommendation isn't enough to gently prod you into action, next month's magazine will be running a competition to give away 10 pairs of VIP tickets to the Revesby Game Fair, to include a champagne lunch sponsored by SGF Ltd.

So, my piece has been said and all that's left is to hope that you had a pleasant Easter and that eating to excess hasn't hindered mobility or necessitated the re-fit of your trusty side-by-side.

Please visit www.selbygamefair.co.uk for further information on either show

Next month Gun Room will be following a day of simulated game shooting put on by Good Game, and of course we will give you the chance to win VIP tickets to the Revesby Game Fair.

If you have something to tell the Gun Room, let us know by email: gunroom@lincolnshirelife.co.uk



Revesby Game Fair
11th & 12th July 2009

Tel: 01205 871 354 • www.selbygamefair.co.uk
Revesby Estate, Revesby, Boston, Lincs PE22 7NB

Clayshoot - Birds of prey - gundogs - crafts
antiques - trade stands - beer tents - food hall
daily 9-6pm - information tel: 01205 871354