PRESS RELEASE

Get hands on with rural skills at the Royal Highland Show

23rd May 2018, Edinburgh - The Countryside Area at this year’s Royal Highland Show, in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland, promises an unmissable programme of rural life, time-honoured skills and fascinating crafts. Visitors will have the perfect opportunity to see the superb array of activities including ferret handling, wilderness survival skills to and even watch master craftsmen construct a boat from scratch.

The Royal Highland Show, supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland…the best of farming, food and rural life, takes place from the 21-24 June, at the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh.

Visitors can get hands-on; from helping Archaeology Scotland build a ¼ size Iron Age roundhouse using authentic materials and construction; using Quern stones to grind flour; making their own Iron Age pot or weaving a mat with sedge grass to take home.

John Lamb will return as the areas commentator and over the four days will provide the audience with fun facts about the activities taking place and spontaneous interviews with the rural skill’s demonstrators.

Some of the most impressive, stunning and unique flying displays ever to be seen in the UK will be performed by Ben Potter and his Birds of Prey. Ben fly’s the largest eagles and vultures in the world, and through focusing on their natural behaviour and different personalities, as well as flight, he creates an exciting and informative show for all ages.

Visitors can watch the demonstrations of Fly Fishing and Casting at the Loch in the Countryside Area with Andrew Toft, one of only a few master qualified instructors in Scotland.
The Scottish Sheepdog School return with the Quack Commandos road show. This hilarious show demonstrates the skill and speed of the Border Collie in action with a flock of Indian Runner ducks instead of large flocks of sheep. The sheepdogs guide the ducks round a course of obstacles named after famous Scottish football teams. The shepherds also invite audience participation with groups of six members of the public onto the course, to see if they can move the ducks as efficiently as the sheepdogs!

Simon Whitehead, together with Pakefield Ferrets, will deliver thirty minutes of education, amusing action-packed and unscripted drama that blossoms as he regales the ferrets’ journey. Often copied but never bettered, this demonstration is unequalled amongst the arena events across the UK.

Backwoods Survival School will be displaying remarkable bush craft & wilderness living skills in their primitive camp including a fantastic array of ancient artefacts, all hand-made from natural materials. Watch these skills being demonstrated to visitors and listen to Patrick McGlinchey, founder and chief instructor, talk about his experiences out in the wilderness.

Wild Rose Escapes, from the Highlands of Scotland, will be in the Rural Skills Marquee, for our 2018 exhibition; ‘make do and mend - wartime rural crafts’. They will feature making and mending clothes, quilting, knitting, jam making, fruits and vegetables which were grown and picked to be eaten and also reveal how to make home medicines during times of extreme shortage due to the war. This offers a fascinating insight to how to be more sustainable in modern life.

Galgael Trust brings an ambitious boat building project to the Show which will see master craftsmen construct a boat over the weekend with the help of the public. The boat will be launched on the loch on Sunday afternoon.

Commenting on the Countryside Programme, David Jackson, Show Manager said, “The 2018 Countryside programme is packed with entertaining activities for all the family. It will give visitors an ideal introduction and access to many crafts and skills on offer in rural Scotland. Every year, this area becomes bigger and better, and this year we will even see a boat built during the Show.”
The Countryside Area is a not to be missed part of the Show, especially for families, and a great place to take a break from the hustle and bustle in other areas."

Supported by Royal Bank of Scotland, the 178th Royal Highland Show will take place at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh, on 21-24 June 2018.

To get your tickets online, please visit www.royalhighlandshow.org. You can also find us at @ScotlandRHShow and #HighlandShow.

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Notes to Editors

Supported by The Royal Bank of Scotland, partner since 1981, and staged at the Royal Highland Centre, in Edinburgh, the four-day event is a once in a year opportunity to enjoy the best of farming, food and rural life. See award-winning livestock, rural crafts; a dedicated Forestry Arena, award-winning farriers’ display, a busy Countryside Arena with a wide variety of exciting displays and any number of big tractors – not forgetting the biggest food festival in Scotland.

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