

## **Rusland Show 2010 - The Sunshine after the Rain**

2010 was yet another challenging year for the RVHS committee, members of which were to be found on the show field on the Friday afternoon before the show braving the weather to re-erect one of the tents which had blown down in the appalling conditions. As always, they saved the day and an early start for some on show day ensured that everything was in order and ready for the day's events.

The prolonged and heavy downpours throughout Friday caused a few problems with access to the show field for entrants on Saturday morning but one way or another the entries were staged successfully with the overall number of entries being around the same level as 2009. Thankfully the weather held and a sunny start turned into a fresh, bright and breezy afternoon, allowing all the day's planned events to take place.

The sporting events got off to a flying start with 42 entrants in the five mile fell race and a winning time of 32 minutes and 28 seconds for Paul Dugdale (Kendal) who achieved a fell race double, also winning the senior fell race later in the day. The fell races for the younger age groups were also very well supported along with some very competitive track events.

At 1pm, the princesses, animal characters and super heroes assembled on the sports field for a very colourful children's fancy dress competition and later, the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling ring attracted plenty of spectators and a few brave volunteers! There were activities throughout the afternoon in the Rural Crafts and Forestry Commission tents and also for the first time at Rusland Show, the Circus Workshop proved very popular.

Meanwhile, in the Horticultural and Home Produce tents, the floral art display was stunning, particularly the 'Splash of Colour' exhibits. Despite some difficult growing conditions this year, there were also some notable successes in the fruit, vegetable and cut flower classes. In the show area, Gordon Wilkinson's dahlias were literally 'in a class of their own' whilst Roderick Smith notched up successes across fruit, vegetable, flower and garden classes. 2010 also saw a particularly impressive display of home produce across the age groups and some delightful children's entries including some cleverly-decorated wellington boots and wonderfully imaginative fruit and veg creations.

An array of photographic and film entries was displayed in the Local Interest tent including some interesting depictions of Rusland heritage. Susan King had put together an excellent, informative display covering the recent Morecambe Bay walk and the 'team' at Satterthwaite church were offering a light-hearted take on church cleaning!

All too soon it was time for Vice-president Mrs Margaret Dryden to thank all the organisers and participants and present the trophies. Following the presentations a good crowd gathered around the main show tent for the end of show auction whilst others stopped to cheer on their favourite tug-of-war team on the sports field. Finally it was time for home after a very enjoyable afternoon.

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