

Nottinghamshire County Show

By Christa Schatz and Uwe Schatz

We like England because of the people and the difference to what we are used to seeing in our home country of Germany. This is the reason why a British County Show is a must when we visit the UK. The Nottinghamshire County Show in Newark in early May was an exciting interruption of our holiday in the New Forest and the Cotswolds.

The difference between a German and an English Show

The mixture of livestock, a full equestrian programme with show jumping, the development of tractors, agricultural machinery and farming, and the way it was all displayed was fascinating. There were vintage cars, steam engines, living history featuring World War II commemorating a major feat of arms, Food Experience with celebrity chefs demonstrating their skills and the floral art was unique.

The equestrian part with the driving competition and the shire horse parade with their carriages and coaches respectively showing a light gig as well as an undertaker carriage all perfectly presented with their drivers in corresponding costumes was a true highlight.

To watch the care of all the livestock on display including a British Blue and to observe the result of the grooming was unforgettable, it was also very hard to refrain from stroking the perfectly cropped, washed and combed fleece of a sheep.

The impression of the day would not be complete without mentioning the numerous helpers and the visitors. The difference to Germany is that people dress up for such an event. For us it was interesting to see a gentleman in a dark suit and a bowler hat next to a stockman in a white coat, a family in the typical country look and a barbour next to a farmer in wellingtons or a lady in her Sunday dress next to some tourists. In Germany the outfit of many visitors makes it clearly visible to which tractor club they belong and not the heritage.



Implements have much more importance in the UK, most owners of vintage tractors in Germany have no farming background, this is probably the reason we do not have the combination of tractor and farming heritage, including the magazines.



The turnout out of horses and implements was quite remarkable; it was especially nice to see the Massey-Harris wagon featured in the last issue of the 'Heritage' on display.

If you visit an average tractor show in Germany, you will see Hanomag, Lanz, Deutz, Fendt, Eicher and an occasional John Deere, McCormick, International, Ford and Ferguson/Massey Ferguson tractors displayed in rows like soldiers. Many of the tractors in Germany are well over-restored, they are normally not used for farming. In Nottinghamshire and other places in the UK and Ireland you often see tractor and implement bearing the original patina, it is pleasing to see such machines in their working clothes.

At Newark you could see the agricultural heritage of grass cutting and hay making machinery through the ages. A very interesting display and parade, especially for the younger generation which started with men, followed by horses, vintage tractors and ended with huge modern machinery.

If you want to see horses pulling original wooden Massey-Harris wagons or an M-H bob sleigh, you have to go to the UK and visit a local show.

The majority of vintage tractors on display were old Massey-Harris, Ferguson, Massey-Ferguson, Fordson and Ford with a small mixture of other well known English and American brands.

Watching the ring parade with an excellent, informative and competent commentary was something quite unique. To see the most modern tractors like New Holland, Massey Ferguson, John Deere and the German brand Fendt displayed made one think how design and technology has changed over the years.

Travelling regularly through Great Britain for nearly 50 years the Nottinghamshire County Show was a perfect demonstration of British culture and love of tradition. Once again we know why we like to come and enjoy English hospitality and we both agreed to continue our visits to England as often as possible.



A varied selection of exhibits spanning many decades were on show.