

EVENTS DIARY

8 MAR – 11 MAR

CRUFTS 2018

NEC, Birmingham
www.crufts.org.uk



17 MAR – 18 MAR

**WEST OF ENGLAND
GAME FAIR**

Bath & West Showground,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset
www.westof
englandgamefair.co.uk

23 MAR – 24 MAR

**THE LONDON WING
SHOOTING FAIR**

The London Business
Design Centre,
Islington, London
www.thelondon
wingshootingfair.co.uk

24 MAR – 25 MAR

THE 2018**DEERSTALKING FAIR**

Border Union
Showground, Kelso,
Scottish Borders
deerstalkfair@gmail.com

13 APRIL

**BASC NORTH AND
NE YOUTH DINNER
AND AUCTION**

Gosforth Park Marriott
Hotel, Newcastle
Tel 01912 727494

18 APRIL

**GAVIN GARDINER
AUCTION OF FINE
MODERN & VINTAGE
SPORTING GUNS**

Sotheby's London
Tel 01798 875300



The Country Food Trust's Tim Woodward thanked shooters for their support

Game meat sent to those in need

Supported by game shooters, a food charity has produced more than 101,000 meals for those who might otherwise go hungry

Thousands of people struggling with food poverty have had a hot meal of pheasant or partridge to eat over the past two years thanks to the charitable work of the Country Food Trust.

The initiative, set up by its chief executive Tim Woodward in 2016 (*News*, 1 June 2016), produced more than 20,000 ready-to-eat game meals in its first year and set itself the goal of 100,000 meals by the end of 2017.

The charity announced last month that it had beaten its own target, with the current number standing at 101,876 meals produced. They have been distributed across the country through FareShare, the UK's

largest charity fighting hunger and waste, along with the help of several other charities, including the Salvation Army, Winter Comfort for the Homeless and Veterans Aid, which will help to feed those in need of a meal.

The two dishes being produced by the Country Food Trust are a pheasant casserole and a mild partridge curry, which are manufactured in a retortable pouch

so that they can be stored for up to a year without needing to be chilled.

They are made from recipes developed by the charity's chef Tim Maddams, a *Shooting Times* contributor and author of the *River Cottage Game Handbook*.

Mr Woodward expressed his thanks to all those who had supported the initiative and said he would now be looking at where to take the charity next: "We are delighted that we've managed to produce so many meals this year, and are now pausing production to ensure that we can distribute the food to where it is most needed.

"I cannot thank our supporters enough — without them, we would not have the steady stream of game coming in to be able to produce the meals. We've also had incredible support from the game shooting community at large, as well as a host of famous chefs who recognise the importance of what we are doing."

➔ For more information about the charity, visit www.thecountryfoodtrust.org.



Scottish keepers seek end to “media trial” over eagle

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) has called for an end to the “trial by media” following the disappearance of a golden eagle near Edinburgh.

Last month, BBC *Springwatch* presenter Chris Packham claimed that a young satellite-tagged eagle had gone missing in the Pentland Hills in an area he said was “near a driven

grouse moor”. Mr Packham said the tag stopped transmitting for several days before a signal was picked up again 15 miles offshore in the North Sea. He implied the eagle had been illegally killed.

Responding to these claims, the SGA highlighted that the area in question is used principally for partridge shooting. It also raised concerns at how “serious

allegations” had been made on the back of “media speculation, implication and suggestion”.

An SGA spokesman said: “Trial by media has already taken place. Now everyone who has been drawn into this needs the truth as to what happened to this eagle.

“It is not enough for people to be implied as being criminals and those in possession of the satellite tag evidence to walk away after presenting their judgement to the media, then say no one will probably ever know what has happened.

“If the tags are as reliable as everyone has been told, then the tag data will surely provide conclusive evidence. Many questions need to be answered, including why it could not be located in the sea if it continued to transmit data for several days.”

A golden eagle went missing near Edinburgh in January



Concerns for Itchen riverlife

Fears have been raised that fish and other wildlife on the river Itchen are being exposed to lethal chemicals.

The charity Salmon & Trout Conservation (S&TC) claims that Alresford Salads, which processes and packages watercress and other salads for sale, is allowing harmful chemicals to enter the waterway, though its parent company, Bakkavor, disputes this.

The company recently applied to the Environment

Agency (EA) for a change to its environmental permit, though the details are currently unavailable. S&TC said: “In the past, it has used chlorine to wash salads, and still uses chlorine-based chemicals to clean down the processing plant at the end of the day’s production.”

A petition, which has gained more than 7,000 signatures, has also been launched to stop the permit renewal. However, a spokesman for Bakkavor

assured *Shooting Times* that the plant puts “absolutely no chlorine in the water” and that it “completely disputes” the claims.

The company added: “Bakkavor takes its environmental responsibilities extremely seriously and we are proud of our record of ensuring the highest levels of environmental safety across our business.

“The petition started in relation to our permit renewal application to the EA contains misleading inaccuracies.

“Our Alresford Salads site is committed to washing all leaf products in non-chlorinated water and any water discharged from the site is filtered and treated to ensure it meets the exacting standards of the EA.”



S&TC claims a salad-washing plant is allowing harmful chemicals to enter the waterway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Demand for UK salmon abroad

Overseas sales of UK salmon rose by 23 per cent last year, according to Defra, which claimed this as a positive sign for post-EU trade.

Environment secretary Michael Gove said: “Farmers, fishermen and our food producers are all helping to deliver a Brexit bonus — with more exports of British food and drink than ever.

“Contrary to the constant negativity of the doom-mongers, the British economy is going from strength to strength, showing that a ‘green Brexit’ can deliver for the whole country.”

Other big success stories were sales of milk and cream, which increased by 61 per cent, and pork by 14 per cent.



Overseas salmon sales are rising rapidly

Wildlife sets back Balmoral upgrades

Attempts to make the Queen’s Balmoral estate more “green” have hit a snag because of concerns for local wildlife.

The estate wants to create a new hydroelectric turbine to generate power from the river Muick and install a 30ft salmon ladder, enabling the fish to swim upstream. However, according to the *Telegraph*, objectors have claimed that the noise would be disruptive to local animals such as badgers, otters and red squirrels.

The estate has reportedly offered to restrict workers’ hours to minimise disruption, but further investigations are due to be carried out.



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