Orsett Show President's letter.

I was first on the show's Agricultural Committee in 1980 and I am delighted to be the 2020 Orsett Show President.

Agriculture and Horticulture were very different than today. Not only was it easier to make a profit from arable crops, but around Upminster and along the A13 were many vegetable growers; sending their produce to Spitalfields and The Borough Market.

The show had just been hurriedly moved to the present site. We raised some money to plant trees on this open site, where the soil is not too kind; but I see some of them are still there, especially the Japanese disease resistant Elms that we bought via the David Bellamy promotion. Over the next two years, I helped the late Andrew Cole water the trees, using his big water bowser.We had one exciting, but tiring event just after the show moved to this site. A storm hit Essex the night before the show. I spent most of the night with Mark Osborne, and Clive Folkard banging in loosened tent pegs in with our 14lb hammers. We were all younger and fitter then.

The show(the Orsett & District Agricultural and Horticultural Show) was very Agriculture/ Horticulture and animal orientated, with lots of craft competitions. Inside the Agriculture tent it was divided in half, with grain and market grower competitions. Over a ten year period, market grower numbers reduced, due to the intense pressure of supermarkets. As a result, so as to utilise the spare space in the tent, we started to invite agricultural, and meat producers, and even a local vineyard from Purleigh, to exhibit and sell their produce. This continues today.

The show is still a shop window for Agriculture, Horticulture, and farm Animals; where people can chat with the owners. There is also a great mixture of stands and competitions to give a good day out.

I look forward to seeing you all there on show day.

Richard Martin....President