

# Sherborne Castle Country Fair 2020

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

It is with great regret and some sadness that we write to let you know that it is now necessary to formally cancel the 2020 Sherborne Castle Country Fair.

Given the state of the coronavirus pandemic in this country and the responses to it of both the Government and the community, particularly the advice now to avoid large gatherings and for people to self-isolate until early-June, we will not be able to hold the Fair on 25 May. Whilst we have hoped otherwise, it has been evident for some time that this might well be the case but we have held off making the decision until it has become inevitable.

We have looked at the possibility of a postponement to late-Summer or early-Autumn but we are still faced with great uncertainty then. Even if restrictions are eased we are conscious that there are a wealth of country events scheduled then, all competing for attention and at a time when household finances are likely to be under considerable strain. We have concluded that along with all the practical difficulties and likely continuing uncertainty that we are unlikely to be able to hold a successful Fair then and we should not risk the future viability of the Sherborne Castle Country Fair.

Cancelling at this stage means that we are in a position to refund all those who have paid in advance for stands, pitches, entry, advance tickets and dragon boat teams. We will follow up separately with all concerned. Unfortunately, grants to our charity beneficiaries are in doubt unless we are able to achieve some other fundraising or we receive some Government compensation. Like many other enterprises faced with coronavirus, our insurance does not cover us for losses in these circumstances.

Overall, we conclude that it is best to draw a line under 2020 now and to focus with renewed vigour on holding a cracking Fair in 2021. We are sorry that the 2020 Fair has had to end in this way and we are, as always, grateful for all the effort, support and understanding that you give to us, especially for this year's Fair.

With best wishes,



**Nick Robinson**  
Chairman