



Age UK and Goodwood Racecourse link up with 'Friends of Goodwood' to tackle local loneliness

From 23 – 25 May, Goodwood Racecourse's ever popular May Festival returns and with it the announcement of a new local initiative with Age UK.

Believed to be the first concept of its kind set out by a racecourse in the country, 'Friends of Goodwood' aims to connect like-minded individuals who might otherwise face barriers with attending racing due to being alone.

Buses operated by Age UK will run a door-to-door collection service in the local area. Once at the course enthusiasts will be hosted and receive a talk from former Clerk of the Course, Seamus Buckley.

Helen Rice, CEO of Age UK West Sussex comments; "It's so exciting to be working with Goodwood to provide opportunities for days out. This chance to come together and reduce isolation is massively important to us and knowing Goodwood cares about this means a lot. We hope this relationship will continue to blossom and that together we can serve more people and provide wonderful experiences."

Goodwood Racecourse's, General Manager, Alex Eade highlights; "We are delighted to welcome this new link with Age UK; we enjoy wonderful views across the South Downs so with 'Friends of Goodwood' we very much look forward to giving something back to the local community and in the process putting a smile on peoples' faces who might not otherwise come racing."

Over the three days, The Food Market, located on the East Parade Lawn, will invite guests to sample and shop a plethora of locally-sourced food and drink as well as offering family activities for young foodies.

Several culinary displays in the Demo Kitchen will be hosted by chefs including Kenny Tutt, 2018 winner of BBC Masterchef, James Golding from The Pig Hotel Group, and local Michelin starred chef, Matt Gillan. Aside from the food, racegoers can enjoy an exquisite cocktail masterclass with Mirabeau on the Oak Tree Lawn, twenty-minute bespoke demonstrations will enlighten racegoers with beautifully blended recipes to kick start the summer.

Alex Eade continued; "The May Festival is always a flagship event for us; from a superb selection of street food on the concourse, to the jockeys and trainers omelette challenge, there is something for everyone across the three days."

Tickets can be purchased from only £20 in advance and children under 18 go free in all enclosures. Please call 01243 216610 or visit Goodwood.com for tickets, hospitality, and further information.

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