



## Press Release – For Immediate Release

### Wings & Wags Fun Dog Show Returns

**Essex, August 4th, 2024:** Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome in Essex, Europe's largest surviving First World War aerodrome, welcomed a flock of furry friends to a fundraising event, and scored a hit with audiences.

Organised by Jackie Winney, the museum's Bookings Officer and committed dog-lover, the event was a bustling and fun place with many a waggy tail in sight.

A central arena provided lots of entertainment. Various informal classes were open for competition – from 'Raw Recruit' to the much-sought-after 'Best in Show' - and there was no shortage of entries. The fluffy friends that took part had to impress Judge Izzie Hirst, owner of Rogue Paws Canine Behaviour and Training.

With a connection that goes back to 1917, Wilkin & Sons Ltd of Tiptree were a natural partner for sponsoring the prizes for the event. During WW1, RFC Stow Maries pilots would drop orders for jam to the factory, from the air, as practice for communicating with ground troops.

Liz Baker, of Wilkin & Sons, was very happy with the turnout.

**"It's been a lovely day. Nice to see lots of well-behaved dogs and to meet so many volunteers who know about the relationship between Tiptree and SMGWA and to have conversations with them. Long may it continue."**

Fellow event partners, Francis James & Partners, Chartered Accountants, were equally happy to help:

**"We are pleased to be able to assist again this year and to see the growth in the show. Looking forward to supporting similar events in the future."**

The arena was surrounded by themed stalls, with plenty of opportunities to pick up a treat for that special puppy, as well as plenty of experts to talk about all things doggy. Essex Police dog Buddy was a big hit, as were the Newfoundland Carriage rides. With a sizzling BBQ and plenty of sun, the event was definitely a win.

Sarah Stanley of Pipers Day Care for Dogs, had great fun:

**"It was a pleasure to support the Wings and Wags Dog Show at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome for a second year running. Lovely to see the many varieties of dogs, big and small, competing for fun. Superbly organised local show. Thanks to Jackie and the event team for having us and we look forward to next year!"**

Sylvia Kittle of Essex Therapy Dogs, was equally complimentary:

**"We all had a fabulous day and the Stow Maries volunteers were all so friendly and helpful."**

All the events at the Aerodrome are for fund raising purposes. The popular museum is battling for survival, trying to recover from huge financial losses caused by the recent road closures that prevented its supporters from reaching them. This event, part of a packed program, is another example of the museum encouraging new audiences to the treasured heritage site.

The next event at the site is Propwash – Festival of the Air – a full air show on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. For details of how to visit the site, or to donate to their funds, go to [www.stowmaries.org.uk](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk)

Ends

Further information from CEO Ian Flint on [ian.flint@stowmaries.org.uk](mailto:ian.flint@stowmaries.org.uk)

### **Notes for editors:**

- Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, Hackman's Lane, Purleigh, CM3 6RN is open from 10am until 4pm, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To check out their packed events programme or to make a donation to their survival, visit [www.stowmaries.org.uk](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk)
- A campaign to save the site in 2012 led to its purchase, following a generous grant from the Heritage Memorial Fund. It was placed in the care of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, a registered Charity.
- Today the museum, still an operational airfield, is supported and maintained by over 100 volunteers.
- More information about Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome can be found at [www.stowmaries.org.uk](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk)
- Images Credit: Dave Davies