

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Photo attached

May 26, 2010

**WILDLIFE ARTIST HELPS FARMING CHARITY MARK 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

A CORNISH artist hopes to help a farming charity raise thousands of pounds at this year's Royal Cornwall Show which takes place at Wadebridge between June 10 and 12.

Internationally renowned wildlife and countryside painter Dick Twinney has donated a painting as the top prize in a raffle arranged by the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) which celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The painting of a barn owl and horse drawn plough is set on farmland against a sunset over the Camel Estuary and will also feature in a book Dick is currently working on called "From Source to Sea".

Dick, who lives in St Columb Major, said: "It's a very special Cornish painting for a special purpose and my indirect way of thanking the many farmers and landowners whose woods and fields I have walked through and spent time in over the years in connection with my work."

Other prizes in the raffle include a luxury food hamper donated by the Cornwall Food and Farming Group, and a luxury massage donated by the Cowshed Spa at the St Moritz Hotel.

RABI Cornwall committee chairman Chris Riddle said: "Dick's fabulous support of RABI, particularly in our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, is hugely appreciated, as is the generosity of our other donors.

"The painting which Dick has done especially for Cornwall RABI's show raffle will be highly sought after. With a gallery valuation of £1,875, it is an excellent prize and we hope that a very large number of tickets will be sold.

"We are delighted that Dick will be present on the RABI stand at this year's show, where he will offer painting demonstrations at various times and his artwork will also be on sale. We are extremely grateful that he has in addition agreed to donate a generous percentage from his sales to RABI."

RABI provides welfare advice, care and financial support to retired and working farmers and farm workers who suffer through hardship, illness, accident or injury, or as a result of unexpected events.

Raffle tickets, which cost £1 each, will be on sale from the RABI stand at the show, as well as from the show office counter.

For information about help available call RABI's confidential helpline 01865 727888. For information about events planned to mark RABI's anniversary year, or to offer to help raise funds by selling raffle tickets, call 01872 500902.

**Ends (396 words)**

For more information about this press release Philippa Spackman, telephone 01872 500902 or email [p.spackman@rabi.org.uk](mailto:p.spackman@rabi.org.uk)

The picture attached to this email shows artist Dick Twinney (right) presenting his painting to Cornwall RABI committee chairman Chris Riddle (left).

#### Notes for Editors

1. The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) is the royal agricultural charity which has been helping farmers in crisis since 1860, when it was founded by farmer and philanthropist John Joseph Mechi.
2. With compassion and discretion the charity provides welfare advice, care and financial provision to those in the farming community suffering need, hardship or distress.
3. The main focus of RABI's work has always been retired and disabled people, but it also provides assistance to working farming families who are facing severe financial hardship as a result of a crisis such as illness, bereavement or events beyond anyone's control.
4. Each year the RABI pays out around £2 million in the way of grants and crisis payments, including support for more than 1,500 long-term beneficiaries.
5. RABI will be at this year's Royal Cornwall Show at stand number 293.
6. For more information see the website [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk)