

The
**Hampshire Farmers'
Club**



Annual Report & Accounts 2024

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Officers 2024

President

Chris Martin

Chairman

Mark Dunford

President Elect

Peter Barfoot

Members of Council who served in 2024

Catherine Dunford, Mark Dunford, John Fairey, Andrew Graham,
Katherine Graham, Dick Hall, Chris Horn, Rob Janaway, Henry McCowen,
Matthew Morton, James Prewett, George Rees, Penny Stokes, Alastair
Wilson

Honorary Treasurer

Angus Burnett
Martin & Company,
25, St Thomas Street,
Winchester, Hampshire.
SO23 9DD

Secretary/Events Manager

Sarah Cowrick The Barn, P O Box 278,
PETERSFIELD,
Hampshire GU32 9FX Telephone: 07831 388304
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Club Presidents

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1891-93 | J Carpenter-Garnier | 1951-52 | J N McClean |
| 1894 | H Le-Roy Lewis | 1953-54 | W B Mason |
| 1895-96 | R Bouverie- | 1955-56 | A D Walter |
| 1897 | Wyndham | 1956-57 | Sir Dymoke White |
| 1898-99 | H Le-Roy Lewis | 1957-58 | O R Guard |
| 1900 | H G Hasler | 1959-60 | F Miles |
| 1901 | W Standish | 1961-62 | S Wyatt |
| 1902 | H S Whalley Tooker | 1963-65 | J Edgar |
| 1903-06 | J H Hulbert | 1966-67 | Earl of Malmesbury |
| 1907-08 | A H Lee | 1968-69 | H Yates |
| 1909 | C E Radclyffe | 1970-71 | Lynton White |
| 1910-11 | Dayrell Davies | 1972-73 | T Parker |
| 1912-13 | J Carpenter-Garnier | 1974-76 | Earl of Selborne |
| 1914-15 | P W Seward | 1977-85 | S Wyatt |
| 1916-17 | G Bower | 1986-87 | J Loader |
| 1918-19 | Earl of Portsmouth | 1988-89 | R J White |
| 1920-21 | Thos Christian | 1990-91 | J Parker |
| 1922-23 | W G Nicholson | 1992-93 | Rt Hon Lord Prior |
| 1924-25 | G A Hill | 1994-95 | R B Mason |
| 1926-27 | William Parker | 1996-97 | J N F Fairey |
| 1928-29 | C H Bayley | 1998-99 | Dr L Norman |
| 1930-31 | Dymoke White | 2000-01 | Earl of Malmesbury |
| 1932-33 | A Arnold | 2002-03 | R T Lalonde |
| 1934-35 | A F Coryton | 2004-05 | C C R Dixon |
| 1936-38 | J F Duncan | 2006-07 | G W Atkinson |
| 1939-40 | A Wyatt | 2008-09 | C Rook-Blackstone |
| 1941-42 | J P Long | 2010-11 | F E Moffat |
| 1943-44 | A F Clarke-Jervoise | 2012-13 | D A Rees |
| 1945-46 | I Hammond | 2014-15 | E J G Painter |
| 1947-48 | R P Chester | 2016-17 | W F Hughes |
| 1949-50 | A H Brown | 2018-19 | J Dockray |
| | T Parker | 2020-22 | R S Taylor |
| | | 2023 | C Martin |

Chairman of Council

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 1966-70 | J Edgar | 1995-96 | J B Chalcraft |
| 1970-71 | A Moldon | 1997-98 | F E Moffat |
| 1972-73 | J N F Fairey | 1999-00 | R S Taylor |
| 1974-75 | J Rook | 2001-02 | J H Dockray |
| 1976-77 | P Butler | 2003-04 | H R Jones |
| 1978-79 | R J White | 2005-06 | M J Bazeley |
| 1980-81 | J Parker | 2007-08 | A C Dixon |
| 1982-83 | R B Mason | 2009-10 | R A Hall |
| 1984 | C Rook-Blackstone | 2011-12 | H W McCowen |
| 1985-86 | A F Monk | 2013-14 | G Wheeler-Bennett |
| 1987-88 | P Mills | 2015-16 | MGE Morton |
| 1989-90 | D F Fowler | 2017-18 | J N Fairey |
| 1991-92 | D Rees | 2019-21 | G R D Rees |
| 1993-94 | TJ Butler | 2022-23 | A S Wilson |
| | | 2024 | M R Dunford |

Club Secretaries

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1891-99 | R Burrill | 1992-95 | D J Alderson |
| 1899-1933 | A Wyatt | 1996-03 | Mrs G Dockray |
| 1934-76 | S Wyatt | 2003-06 | Mrs A Raimes |
| 1977 | D Gauntlett | 2006-09 | A P Lalonde |
| 1978-88 | Mrs K Cattle | 2009 | Mrs S J H Cowlrick |
| 1989-91 | G Kerr | | |

Club Trustees

David Rees (Chairman)
James Dockray
Dick Hall
Frank Moffat
Matthew Morton

Hampshire Farmers' Club

(Founded 1891)
Minutes of

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of The Club

**held at Meon Hall, Meonstoke
On THURSDAY 7th March 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present: Mr Chris Martin, (President) in the Chair, Mr Alastair Wilson (Chairman of Council), Mrs Sarah Cowrick (Secretary) and 78 Club Members and guests.

The President opened the proceedings welcoming members. He also welcomed our guest speaker, Martin Rolfe. The President wished to record his thanks to Barclays Commercial Bank for their sponsorship of the event. He also commented on how pleased he was that the Club was thriving.

1. **Apologies** were received from Tom Bishop, Sam Burge, Joe Corbett, Joe Edwards, Ben Gibbons, Ruth Harper-Adams, The Earl of Malmesbury, Matthew Morton, James Prewett, George Rees, and Philip White.
2. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 2nd March 2023** having been previously circulated, were confirmed by those at the meeting. Proposed by Mr Frank Moffat and seconded by Mr David Rees and signed as a true record and duly signed.
3. **Report and Accounts for 2023:**

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal overview of the year and thanked his fellow Council Members and the Secretary for their support. In looking forward to the forthcoming year several events were planned, and he encouraged members to attend them.

Treasurers Report

The President asked Mr Angus Burnett, Honorary Treasurer, to comment on the accounts which were summarised in the Annual report. Mr Burnett reported on the continued healthy financial state of the accounts. Mr Andrew Graham proposed that the Report and Accounts for 2023 be adopted, and Mr Mark Dunford seconded the motion that they should be adopted.

4. Election of Club Chairman:

The President advised that Mr Alastair Wilson, having served two years as the Club Chairman is standing down. He was congratulated on a very successful year and thanked for his dedication to the Club. The President advised that it was the unanimous wish of Council for Mr Mark Dunford to become Chairman of the Club. Mr Mark Dunford thanked those present for their confidence and thanked Mr Wilson for his support. Mr Dunford congratulated Mr Wilson on a very successful two years with some excellent events that have all been very well supported. Mr Mark Dunford was duly elected Chairman, proposed by Ms Victoria Read and seconded by Mr Dick Hall.

5. Election of President - Elect:

The advised that it was Council's wish that Mr Peter Barfoot became President of the Club in March 2025 which was duly approved by all. Mr Peter Barfoot thanked all those present and said that he was incredibly honoured to be asked and looked forward very much to taking on the role and championing Hampshire farming.

6. Election of Trustee:

The Chairman advised that there were no changes to the Board of Trustees.

7. Election of Members of Council:

The Chairman advised that in line with Council terms of office, the following are due to stand down; Andrew Graham, Katherine Graham, Chris Horn, Richard Monk and Alastair Wilson. Andrew and Katherine Graham, Chris Horn and Alastair Wilson advised that they were all willing to offer themselves for re-election and it is unanimously recommended by Council to accept their kind offer. Motion was proposed by Mr Frank Moffat and seconded by Mr John Fairey. Mr Richard Monk had advised the Chair that he wished to stand down and the Chairman thanked Mr Monk for his long service to the Council.

The Chairman advised that Mr William McKenzie and Mr Charlie Cheyney had agreed to join Council. This was unanimously approved.

8. Election of Honorary Treasurer and Auditors:

Mr John Fairey proposed and Mr David Rees seconded that Mr Angus Burnett be elected Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year. This was carried unanimously, and he was thanked for his ongoing support.

9. Any other business: None recorded in advance by members.

As is traditional at the AGM, the Chairman invited members to propose future members to be considered at the next Council meeting but none were forthcoming.

The Chairman asked members to give a moments reflection for the life of those members lost in the year and in particular Mr Andrew Osmond who died on 16th February 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.18pm.



Martin Rolfe, our guest speaker at the AGM, keeps the audience captivated

Chairman's Report

Your Chairman writes

My first year in the Chair has flown by with a variety of events enjoyed by the members and guests.

The AGM in March was well attended and we enjoyed listening to Martin Rolfe of NATS detailing a day in the life of an air traffic controller. Angie and her team provided a delicious supper and many thanks to Barclays for sponsoring the event.

The Technical Evening in May was a great success at Lockerley Estate, headed by Craig Livingstone. We delved into Regen Farming Techniques including the art of making and applying "compost teas" to arable crops. We then enjoyed a buffet supper in the grain store. Thanks as always to Penny Stokes for organizing and to Giles Wheeler-Bennett for sponsoring.

To follow, on a similar theme, was the well-attended "Next Gen" event at Newhouse Farm, where Andy Bason and team

showed the under 35's group around their large arable farming business with a conservation slant including Agro Forestry and a meat box enterprise. Andy and team provided an excellent home produced BBQ in the barn to round off. Sponsorship was generously provided by Crop Advisors. Thanks to Harry Dunford & Anna Dunford for organizing.

Big thanks to Alastair Wilson and Chris Horn who did a fantastic job of organizing the Study Tour to Norfolk. It was a great success and is covered in detail in Alastair's report. The poem written by Chris Rook-Blackstone on the first evening can be found later in the report – well worth a read and sums up the tour nicely.

Possibly the highlight of the calendar was the Farm Walk at Highclere Estate. With the weather set for a beautiful evening, we gathered for tea on the lawns of Highclere Castle, this set the tone for the evening. From there we visited the Temple of Diana, followed by Wallaces Park, then onto the spectacular views from Sidown Hill including the memorial to

Lord Carnarvon's ancestor who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The final stop of the tour was at the Highclere Horse Feeds' facility where the renowned "Highclere Feeds" are prepared, packaged and distributed far and wide. We returned to the recently renovated medieval tithe barn for a Highclere G&T followed by an excellent BBQ provided by Matt Atkinson. Winners and participants alike enjoyed the announcement of the farms' competition results and prize giving overseen by our new Competitions' Chair, Sarah Cowlrick – see the separate report.

It was a huge privilege to visit Highclere and our thanks go to The Earl & Countess of Carnarvon, Simon Andrews and their teams and of course our valued sponsors and the council members for organizing a memorable event and not least to our sponsors, BCM, Moore Barlow, Procam, Martin & Company, B K Grain, Nickersons Seeds, Highclere Feeds, NFU Mutual, Chafers and Farols.

September saw a ladies visit to Richard & Tamara Arnison-

Newgass of Ganderdown Farm where they explored glamping, holiday cottage barn conversions and regen agriculture in the form of a herd of Shorthorn Cattle and a flock of Southdown Sheep. This was rounded off with tea, cake and home produced sausage rolls in the wedding barn. Thanks to Tamara and Catherine Dunford for organising.

The final planned event of the year, a Reception & Tour of Exton Park Vineyard, sadly had to be postponed due to the passing of Malcolm Isaac but the event has been rescheduled for 23rd May so please do note the date in your diary.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year, one of our objectives is to involve more of the younger generation, hence the "Next Gen" event and subsidised subscription for their first year.

Thank you to our outgoing President Chris Martin for his support and guidance over the last two years and welcome to our new President Peter Barfoot.

My own personal thanks go to a proactive Council and of course to Sarah who is the “backbone” of the Club!!

Finally, I look forward to your support in the forthcoming year and ask that you note in your diary the President's Ball on 19th September kindly hosted by Peter & Angela Barfoot. This will be one not to miss!

Mark Dunford



Alastair Wilson hands over the Chairman's shield to Mark Dunford at the AGM In March 2024

Sponsors 2024



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

MARTIN AND COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



HORSE FEEDS



Results of the Competitions 2024



Champion: Barfoot Farms Ltd

Reserve Champion: G Horn & Sons

Andrew Osmond Award: Matthew Ashton, Neatham Ltd

Class 1

1st Place: Rees Farming

2nd Place: G L Porter & Son

Special Award to Simon Andrews for the outstanding Horse Feed Business

Class 2

1st Place: C A & B A Hall

2nd Place: M & M Morton

Special Award to Cian Flavin of Farleigh Wallop Estate for his exceptional management of a large business in such a short period of time

Class 3

1st Place: McCowen Farms

2nd Place: Cheyney Farming Partnership (Will Cheyney)

Special Award to Iain Curry, for his outstanding contribution to agriculture from clearly defined goals

Class 4

1st Place: W & P Ives

2nd Place: Hall & Burge

Special Award to Richard Stiles of RJS Farms for his enthusiasm, energy and commitment to his project

Report on the Hampshire Farms & Conservation Competition 2024



It was a privilege to be the first lady Chairman of the Competitions, and I am grateful for the continued support of the committee as I enter a second year as Chair. We work hard to keep the competition relevant and vibrant to make sure that everyone benefits. We had a full house of Competitors last year on the back of the mandate to continue following the competitor survey of 2023.

For me there were three highlights this year, the first, dinner at Bereleigh hosted by Bill & Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake who are exceptional hosts in every way. To see the judges from all over the country meet and greet each other and immediately start chewing over farming issues and enjoying each other's company is something I believe is wonderfully unique to the farming industry. The second highlight is when the young stewards arrive at Bereleigh which include farmers, grain traders, agronomists, land agents – so bright and enthusiastic ready to host the judges for the day – they are the future, and we need to nurture their enthusiasm. The third being the BBQ on the Monday night brings together our committee, the competitors, the judges and the sponsors and has a real buzz about it.

Sponsors

Of course, we wouldn't be able to stage this event without the help of the sponsors, to whom we are very grateful. NatWest and AGRII as headline sponsors and to our Class Sponsors, Apecs, Robin Appel Ltd, Bright Seeds, Hunt Forest Group, Infinity Energy, Martin and Company, NFU Mutual, Nufarm, Syngenta, Thrings Solicitors and SOYL.

Judges

We were fortunate to have an exceptional group of judges this year, carefully elected and briefed which is of course vital to the success of the Competition.

Colin McGregor from Berwickshire and David Armstrong from Northumberland were welcomed back to judge Championship Class. They last judged in 2016 and were delighted to be asked again.

New judges came from Gloucestershire, Ipswich, Powys, Stratford upon Avon, Devon, Berkshire and Yorkshire. All were incredibly knowledgeable and diligent and spent several hours deliberating over score sheets in the beautiful setting at Bereleigh.



Entrants

There were 27 entrants 3 of whom were new entrants and one of those won their class. A total of 28,283 hectares were judged but of course it is not about the number of hectares but more about getting involved, learning from the experience which in turn may help towards getting more out of what you have.



Prize-giving

The farm walk this year took place at Highclere Castle and the results were announced after supper in a beautifully renovated barn. In recent years we have awarded in each class 1st & 2nd place and a “Special Award” for something exceptional noted by the judges. After consultation we renamed the “Special Award” in the Championship Class to The Andrew Osmond Pursuit of Excellence Award. Andrew Osmond (known by his friends as Oz) died aged 57 in February of 2024. He was an exceptional Hampshire farmer and took on many tasks to benefit the wider farming community. Never shy of the detail if that would lead to an improvement. This award is a very appropriate way to remember Oz each year and respect and encourage the Pursuit of Excellence that he so strived for.

This year I implemented a new format for presenting the Champion with their cup, with the previous Champion passing on the baton. I shall never forget the look on Peter Barfoot’s face when he was presented with the Championship Cup by Sam Burge.



Patron

In this year, with the support of the Trustees of the Club, I led negotiations to make a change to the Patron. It was unanimously recommended, with the support of Council to release Romsey Show as Patron of the Competitions and for the Club to run the Competitions and finances which is in effect what is already happening. Both parties wholly accepted that the situation had changed since its inception and the result was an amicable agreement on both sides. We will continue to support Romsey Show with strong links though Ruth Harper-Adams who is a valued member of the

Competitions Committee.

See website for full results and the history of the Competition.

Sarah Cowlrick

Technical Evening 2024 Report



This year's Technical Farm Visit focussed on regenerative agriculture and was by kind invitation of Craig Livingstone, Director of Farming and Estates at Lockerley Estate, who hosted the Club at Queenwood Farm, Broughton.

In a relatively short space of time since his arrival in 2016, Craig and his team have won a number of prizes and awards including the Farmers' Weekly Award for Arable

Farmer of the Year and Overall Farmer of the Year in 2018. The Estate is now a "Beacon Farm" for Regenerative Farming Practices and in 2021 became a Crop Production Magazine Climate Change Finalist. In 2023 Lockerley Estate was a "Carbon farm of the year" finalist with the Farm Carbon Toolkit and was also winner of the Nature Recovery (Land and Sea) Award from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. In addition, Lockerley Estate is part

of a Working Group for the Sustainable Food Trust, the NIABTAG (National Institute of Agricultural Botany) has a trials' field on the farm and the estate was one of the first in the UK to have a field mapped by 'Tom', the scouting robot from Small Robot Company.

As many members will know, Lockerley Estate, which is twinned with Preston Farms in Preston Candover, is a 2,000ha estate whose mission is to be a progressive, regenerative and successful farming business that champions an approach to agriculture where biodiversity, the soil and the wellbeing of its community and future generations is at the heart of what they do. The farms have been owned by the Sainsbury family since 1983 but it is only since late 2021 that the farms have begun to collaborate resources and work more closely together.

The main aims of the farming business are to enrich and enhance their soils' health; to operate a sub-zero carbon business; to create a more biodiverse estate that champions the restoration of nature; to develop their social responsibility with the local and

wider community; to deliver economic, social and environmental profitability and to influence farmers and policy makers.

During the evening Craig and his team talked about their experiences of the practicalities and issues of regenerative farming and how this is helping to fulfil the key aims of the business and to deliver the desired economic, social and environmental profitability targets set by the estate. Craig was joined by Alison Cross (Wessex Farm Wildlife), Simon Parfait (Soil Biolab) and Matt Bloor (Lockerley Estate) to explain their enterprises in more detail and to show us such practices in action on the ground.

Since 2016, the Estate has shifted its core farming principles to align with a regenerative approach to crop production. Crops are now established using a zero tillage seed drill and varieties are grown that require significantly less inputs which has seen a 46% reduction in pesticide spend, a 31% reduction in tonnes of fertiliser used and a 1.1% increase in soil organic matter which is a huge achievement. Lockerley Estate is one of twenty farms in the

Wallop Brook Farmers' Group and is also a member of the Candover Valley Farmers' Cluster. There is a complex Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme in place across the estate and in 2018 the estate embarked on a wilding journey initially across 27ha of unimproved grassland, with a plan to eventually cover 85ha of woodland, ponds, hedges and arable land. In 2019 there were 8 English Longhorn cows purchased as a vital part of the wilding process and this pedigree herd will be developed over the coming years.

Integration of livestock is a key feature of the regenerative farming system that is practiced on the farm and the more traditional mixed farm is something the estate is keen to replicate and is able to achieve at Lockerley Estate without, in the main, owning their own livestock but gaining the benefits from them through strong relationships with local livestock farmers.

During the evening, we were also shown one of the Estate's recent experiments which is the use by the Estate of a Johnson-Su bioreactor to make compost from which a liquid extract is made to be

applied to fields and/or seeds when drilling. The use of this on farm is in its early stages but is already giving interesting results.

The Johnson-Su composting method creates compost teeming with micro-organisms that improve soil health and plant growth and increase the soil's potential to sequester carbon. This simple composting method produces a biologically enhanced compost by creating an environment where beneficial soil micro-organisms thrive and multiply. The compost can then be made into a compost tea – water in which the compost has been steeped. Microbes and nutrients leach into the liquid which can then be applied to the soil as a spray or through dribble bars. When this biologically alive compost is applied to the soil the micro-organisms inoculate the soil and work in harmony with growing plants to improve soil health and increase the amount of carbon drawn out of the atmosphere and into the soil.

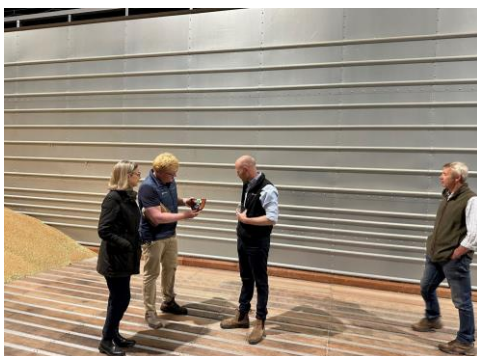
The tour ended with light refreshments and further conversation with our host and his colleagues who provided expert and extremely interesting

responses to various questions posed by members. As always we were all sent away with many interesting scenarios to ponder for ourselves.

All in all a very technical and thought provoking evening and expertly hosted by the Lockerley Estate.

As ever, the Club wishes to thank Penny Stokes for her continued organisational input on these evenings and also to thank the team at Giles Wheeler-Bennett Ltd – our kind and generous sponsors for the evening.

Paul Harris



Next Generation Report 2024

Now a regular feature in the HFC calendar we were kindly hosted at Newhouse Farm, Alresford, for the 3rd HFC Next Generation Farm Walk.

Once again the enthusiasm for the event was strong, with the 50 available places selling out well in advance to a mix of younger HFC members and potential new members from all areas of the rural sector.

We started the tour overlooking a block of arable land where Newhouse Farms' manager, Andy Bason, explained the background of the business. This comprises of 1000ha combinable crops, split between Newhouse and a nearby contract farming agreement, environmental projects and livestock for a meat box scheme. Newhouse is a LEAF Demonstration Farm, and Andy gave the group an insight into how being part of LEAF has encouraged them to trial various techniques and experiment with integrated farm management to work towards a more sustainable farming system. Joining up conservation and environmental benefit with productive arable farming is a core part of the system at Newhouse, and when moving around the farm Andy pointed out an array of new in-field beetle banks

and unproductive corners now in CSS/SFI options.

Next stop was at an area of new woodland planting, as in recent years Newhouse have taken several unproductive areas out of crop production and established new woodlands as part of their 10 year woodland management plan. This has allowed them to maximise on available grant funding whilst improving biodiversity on the farm, as in several cases the new planting has replaced woodland removed by Andy's father who worked on the farm in the 1950's! When discussing the woodland management, Matt Johnson explained to the group how Newhouse have been able to replace 8 oil fired boilers on the farm, as they now operate 3 x woodchip boilers to heat 5 houses and a variety of commercial units. These boilers are fed entirely using timber from Newhouse Farm and provide an alternative income stream via RHI tariffs.

Linked to the woodland management was our next stop at the agro-forestry field, where Andy

explained how they have learned from one of their less successful projects. The idea was to plant fruit trees in rows between each tramline, creating a productive fruit orchard within a conventionally farmed arable field to produce fruit for the Newhouse box scheme and a local cider maker. However heavy deer pressure and issues with row spacings seriously impacted the project's viability, so a decision was made to plant the surviving trees within a deer fence elsewhere and start afresh. They plan to do this in the winter, armed with significantly more knowledge and experience this time round.

Final stop was at the livestock area, where Matt and his colleague Sam Ward raise lambs and pigs for a meat box delivery scheme. This has become popular in the local area and they supply a number of cafes in addition to doing their own catering for events such as Open Farm Sunday,

when Newhouse host approximately 1500 people every year!

Once back at the farmyard we were able to sample some of Newhouse's produce, enjoying a delicious BBQ using sausages, venison burgers and lamb burgers produced on the farm and very kindly cooked by Sam and Matt. This rounded off a hugely inspiring and informative evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Thanks go to Crop Advisors for generously sponsoring the evening and to the team at Newhouse Farm for hosting.

Harry & Anna Dunford



Ladies' Visit to Gambledown Farm



14 ladies enjoyed an interesting afternoon in September visiting Richard & Tamara Arnison-Newgass at Gambledown Farm, Sherfield English.

Tamara showed us around the three barn conversions which are extremely successful holiday cottages. The conversion has been done beautifully and the attention to detail was fantastic. We also saw the glamping site, where 5 luxury safari style tents allow guests a wonderful opportunity to experience life off grid and immersed in the stunning Test Valley! This is now in its 10th year and is a thriving area of the business.

Richard took us to see the herd of 30 Shorthorn cattle which are on a mob grazing system. Their regenerative farming system also includes a flock of Southdown sheep which, alongside the cattle, form a key part of their sustainably focused mixed arable and livestock rotation.

The visit was rounded off with tea, cake and delicious home produced pork sausage rolls in the wedding barn which is also used regularly for local yoga/pilates groups, jazz in the garden, talks, supper clubs and other celebrations. A thoroughly enjoyable trip and many thanks to Richard & Tamara for making us all so welcome. A donation has been made to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Catherine Dunford

"Normal for Norfolk!"

Study Tour to Norfolk June 2024



We last went to Norfolk in 1992, so it felt right to go and see what had changed in the intervening years. Thirty-five delegates made their way to the north Norfolk coast on the Sunday afternoon to settle in at The Hoste Arms in Burnham Market.

Early Monday morning we were off to Saxlingham to meet Tom Dye (Managing Director), Jono Darby (Farm Manager) and the team at Albanwise Farming. The company is a UK based, Italian owned, land and property investment business farming over 12,000 hectares both in-hand and under third party arrangements in Yorkshire and Norfolk. The operation here in

Norfolk covered over 5,000 hectares and consisted of an arable rotation of wheat, winter barley, spring barley, sugar beet, oilseed rape, vining peas, forage maize, grain maize, outdoor pigs and sunflowers.

Recent investments included a new chemical, filling and wash down building for their self-propelled sprayer. As an investment company, every £1 of investment is scrutinised by the board, with Tom and Jono having to make their case on each occasion.

Late morning we were back on the coach heading west to the

Holkham Estate, home to the Coke family for over 400 years and Thomas Coke, the original agricultural reformer. James Beamish, Director of the Holkham Farming Company met us at their central grain storage facility, which consisted of re-purposed aircraft hangers! From there we headed off to the Hall.

Encapsulated within a wall, stretching to some nine miles, is the 1,500 acre park, through which we were given a comprehensive tour by the Head of Forestry Harry Wakefield. He discussed the various competing demands of farming, forestry, sporting and conservation, oh, and of course the one million visitors they receive each year!

From there we headed north onto the salt marshes and the Holkham National Nature Reserve. Whilst enduring a bitter northerly wind off the North Sea (was this really June?) Jake Fiennes, Head of Conservation, gave us an insight into the complex habitats they are seeking to restore.

Late in the afternoon (not the weather for sundowners on the beach!) we retreated to The Hoste and with a change to the usual

format, we invited our host farmers to dinner on the Monday evening. Christopher Rook-Blackstone entertained us all with his tour ditty (kindly reproduced in this report) which was quite a feat given the limited time he had.

For a packed Tuesday, we headed off to Heygates Farm in Swaffham where manager William Gribbon gave us a great introduction into their operations and the Norfolk Peer potato, which they have developed, followed by a wonderful tour of the farm. Growing combinable crops, sugar beet, vining peas, maize, herbage seed and potatoes, one can only begin to understand the complexities of the crop rotation plans, especially when considering they have the lowest rainfall in the UK.

During the tour William was greeted with cries of horror and invitations aplenty to Hampshire, when he declared that he was showing us his stoniest field in which you could count the number of flints on your fingers!

From there we headed off to Crisp Maltings at Great Ryburgh, to see what happens to the 150,000 tonnes of malting barley they take

in each year. With both traditional malting floors for their “heritage” range and modern floors for the mass markets we had a superb talk and tour.

Back on the coach we headed off to the Stody Estate, owned by the MacNicol family and run as an in-hand diversified estate with Michael Wilton managing. The arable enterprise comprised of cereals, sugar beet, peas, maize, rye, potatoes and Echalion shallots being grown in the rotation. In addition to which they have an outdoor pig unit, an Aberdeen Angus suckler herd and a sheep flock.



Gravel extraction on the estate has helped to create new reservoirs to irrigate the crops, with the pumps being powered by solar PV on the estate. Conservation was held in high regard with 110 miles of margins and 80 miles of hedgerows, without forgetting the 750 acres of managed forestry.

Returning to The Hoste weary delegates started on their journey home, save for a number who decided to extend their tour to stay and enjoy everything that the Hoste had to offer including the wonderful fruits-de-mer!

Given the enterprises we visited and the scale of operations that are being undertaken, there is certainly nothing normal about Norfolk!

As always, a massive thank you to our sponsors: AJ Lowther, Mid Hants Sand & Aggregates, Nufarm and CKD Property Advisors.

Alastair Wilson and Chris Horn

Hampshire Farmers' Club

The Treasurer's Financial Report For 2024

I am pleased to be able to report to the Members that the Club's finances, as set out in the balance sheet disclosed in this annual report, remain healthy. The structure of the balance sheet is now consistent with last year with the Hampshire Farms Competition Committee (HFCC) fully integrated within the Club's accounts.

The Club made a small surplus this year of £64.99 compared to a surplus of £233 in 2023. With a full schedule of events, including the Study Tour, HFCC and Young Farmers event, the Club produced a surplus after costs on events. The ability for the Club to run all of these is underwritten by the generosity of the hosts and sponsors who allow charges to be kept at manageable levels.

I would like to thank members for their continued support of the Club during the last year. Since subscriptions were down slightly on last year, reflecting the decision to encourage younger members, the Club has had to call on our reserves to fund its administration costs.

It is always the intention that the Club should keep in equilibrium with the level of subscriptions matching the normal running costs. Council review these on an annual basis and have decided to increase the rate to £50 for 2026 considering the rising level of expenditure. Subscriptions have been held at the current level for a long period but it is felt that now is the right time to make a change.

The accounts shown in this report are a consolidation of the accounts for each individual event that were presented to Council for their approval.

Angus Burnett
3rd March 2025

Balance Sheet Year to 31st December 2024

Presented and signed on behalf of the Council of the Club – Angus Burnett

| <u>2023</u> | | <u>2024</u> | |
|-----------------|---|-------------|------------------|
| £ | | £ | £ |
| | <u>CAPITAL</u> | | |
| | GENERAL FUND | | |
| 19,267.25 | Balance as at 1st January 2024 | | 19,500.86 |
| 233.61 | Surplus/(Deficit) from Income & Expenditure Account | | 64.99 |
| 19,500.86 | Balance as at 31st December 2024 | | 19,565.85 |
| | OTHER FUNDS | | |
| - | Balance as at 1st January 2024 | | - |
| - | Balance as at 31st December 2024 | | - |
| 19,500.86 | TOTAL CAPITAL | | 19,565.85 |
| | <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | | |
| 486.00 | Fixtures & Fittings | 486.00 | |
| | | | 486.00 |
| | <u>INVESTMENTS</u> | | |
| 14,000.00 | Deposit account | 14,000.00 | |
| 14,000.00 | | | 14,000.00 |
| | <u>CURRENT ASSETS & LIABILITIES</u> | | |
| 1,276.64 | Stock of Aprons, boards, baskets, shields & ties | 2,420.39 | |
| - | Other sundry stocks | - | |
| 13,502.01 | Balance at Bank | 10,379.09 | |
| 70.00 | Debtors and Prepayments | 2,020.00 | |
| - | Creditors and accruals | (505.84) | |
| (9,333.79) | HFCC account | (9,233.79) | |
| (500.00) | Deferred Income | - | |
| 5,014.86 | NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 5,079.85 |
| 9,500.86 | NET ASSETS | | 19,565.85 |

Income and Expenditure Account - Year to 31st December 2024

Presented and signed on behalf of the Council of the Club – Angus Burnett

| <u>2023</u> | | <u>2024</u> | |
|------------------|--|-------------|------------------|
| £ | | £ | £ |
| | <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| 9,000.00 | Subscriptions | 8,650.00 | |
| 13,462.41 | Ticket sales from events | 31,049.37 | |
| 5,787.50 | Sponsorship monies received | 16,979.65 | |
| 1,471.80 | Bar profits | 874.96 | |
| - | Profit on tie and book sales | 25.00 | |
| 167.56 | Interest received | 201.74 | |
| 29,889.27 | | | 57,780.72 |
| | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | |
| - | Donations | 500.00 | |
| 20,451.11 | Event costs | 47,395.34 | |
| 246.00 | Printing and stationery | 553.00 | |
| 1,260.91 | Insurance | 1,244.55 | |
| 7,080.00 | Secretary honorarium | 7,080.00 | |
| 307.54 | Postage and telephone | 218.30 | |
| 22.5 | Website | - | |
| 287.60 | General expenses including ties, badges, shields etc | 724.54 | |
| 29,655.66 | | | 57,715.73 |
| | SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | | |
| 233.61 | FOR THE YEAR | | 64.99 |

All figures Include VAT which we cannot reclaim

Club Study Tours

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|---|
| 1964 | Shropshire | 2001 | Cumbria (Cancelled – Foot & Mouth Outbreak) |
| 1965 | Northumberland | 2002 | Normandy |
| 1966 | Norfolk | 2004 | Cumbria |
| 1967 | Pembrokeshire | 2006 | Suffolk |
| 1968 | Kent & East Sussex | 2008 | Northern Ireland |
| 1969 | Yorkshire | 2010 | Vale of York |
| 1970 | Hereford | 2012 | Herefordshire |
| 1971 | Essex | 2014 | Isle of Wight |
| 1972 | Eastern Scotland | 2016 | Lincolnshire |
| 1973 | Somerset | 2018 | Shropshire |
| 1974 | Lincolnshire | 2022 | Cornwall (Postponed in 2020 & 2021) |
| 1975 | The Cotswolds | 2024 | Norfolk |
| 1976 | Cumbria | | |
| 1977 | East Midlands | | |
| 1978 | South West England | | |
| 1979 | Bedfordshire | | |
| 1980 | Cheshire | | |
| 1981 | Durham | | |
| 1982 | Wessex | | |
| 1983 | Worcestershire | | |
| 1984 | Suffolk | | |
| 1985 | Thames & Chilterns | | |
| 1987 | East Lothian | | |
| 1988 | The Cotswolds | | |
| 1989 | The Welsh Borders | | |
| 1990 | Yorkshire | | |
| 1992 | Norfolk | | |
| 1995 | Ireland | | |
| 1997 | The Borders | | |
| 1999 | Somerset | | |

Farm Walk Venues 1966-1999

1966 Leckford Estate
1967 Manor Farms & Stud, West Tisted
1968 Tom Parker Farms, Droxford
1969 John Edgar Farms, New Milton
1970 Lord Rank Estate, Sutton Scotney
1971 Whitsbury Farm & Stud
1972 Broadlands Estate
1973 Blackmoor Estate
1974 Mr D Seligman, Crawley
1975 Mr R J White, Stockbridge
1976 Southleigh Estate
1977 P Butler & Sons Ltd., Selborne
1978 Longford Estate, Salisbury
1979 Cranbury Estate
1980 Tom Parker Farms, Droxford
1981 Blackmoor Estate
1982 Highclere Estate
1983 Mr A G Lambert, Stockbridge
1984 Mr P Mills, Bishops Button
1985 Mr R Bowden, Longparish
1986 Farleigh Farms, Farleigh Wallop
1987 Leckford Estate
1988 Mr C Harper, Whitsbury Farm & Stud
1989 Loseley Park Estate
1990 Earl of Rothes & Mr J Coggan, W Tytherley
1991 Parker Farms & Dairies
1992 Rotherfield Estate
1993 New Barn Farm, Whitchurch
1994 Sparsholt College Hampshire
1995 West Tisted Manor Estate
1996 G H Janaway & Sons, near Odiham
1997 The West Dean Estate, nr Chichester
1998 Messrs Butlers, Whitewool Farm, East Meon
1999 Mr & Mrs B Baird, Funtington Farm, Chichester

Farm Walk Venues 2000-2024

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2000/01 | Cancelled - Foot and Mouth |
| 2002 | Mr & Mrs M Morton, Woodcote Manor Farm, Bramdean Lord & Lady Lloyd |
| 2003 | Webber, Sydmonton Court Estate |
| 2004 | Mr & Mrs W Tyrwhitt Drake, Bereleigh Estate, East Meon |
| 2005 | Mr & Mrs G Squire, Hursley Estate, Hursley |
| 2006 | Lord & Lady Sainsbury, Preston Farms, Preston Candover |
| 2007 | Leckford Estate and Waitrose |
| 2008 | Mr & Mrs T Butler, Hartley Park Farm, Selborne |
| 2009 | Mr C Harper, Whitsbury Farm & Stud |
| 2010 | Mr D.Hall, Corhampton Lane Farm & Mr C. Martin, Exton & Mr M. Issac, Exton |
| 2011 | The McCowen Family, Manor Farm, Bighton & Drayton Farm Watercress Beds |
| 2012 | Mr & Mrs Peveril Bruce, Matterley Estate & Bowl |
| 2013 | Atkinson Family Farms, East Meon |
| 2014 | Portsmouth Estates, Fordham & Allen, Farleigh |
| 2015 | The Broadlands Estate, Romsey |
| 2016 | South Lynch Estate - Rees Farming |
| 2017 | Horn and Martin Families, Droxford and Wallops Wood |
| 2018 | G H Janaway & Sons, North Warnborough |
| 2019 | Butler Brothers, Whitewool Farm, East Meon |
| 2022 | The Monk Family, Stockbridge (postponed from 2020 & 2021) |
| 2023 | The Hewetson-Brown Family, Wildflower Turf |
| 2024 | Highclere Estate, The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon |

**Poem written by Christopher Rook-
Blackstone on the evening of the 1st night of
the study tour**

It's a long time to Norfolk!

Who would have thought that all those names
Of towns – that mantra at Election Time
Of Labour wins or Tory gains
Would take so long to travel past
To get to Norfolk

First to Army Aldershot, then on
To where the bombs forgot to drop on Slough
As Betjeman would have them do,
Then push on past the “money-pit”
That one day may be HS2!

Then Watford, Waltham Abbey – Hatfield
Bishops Stortford – Audley End

At last, suburbia starts to yield
And here some graceful willows bend
And here the Cam through meadows green
Flow down to Halls of Academia
At Cambridge

There many years ago, or as my memory tells me so
We wine and dined and danced till dawn
White tie and tails barefoot upon the Masters lawn
Not long before one summer's day
I watched the dust motes dance and play
As errant sunbeams pierced the gloom
Inside the stuffy lecture room
Where first I heard – as I recall
Of Farmer Coke at Holkham Hall

Perhaps that's when inside my mind
A seed took root, as now I find
With over sixty years gone by
With Hampshire Farmers here am I

It's summer and the north wind blows
The rain pours down – it almost snows
And off we go to Albanwise
To see the massive enterprise

Enormous yellow great machines
Quite the biggest I have seen

Italian fashion here I spy
Where even dogs will wear a tie!

Then off the Holkham's red brick wall,
That runs 9 miles around it all
We're in – and down the mile long drive
One wonders – is it still alive?

That Coke ambition to combine
The best of thinking of that time
You bet it is! For here today
A million people come and play
Among the marshes, field and trees
The miles of daisies for the bees

All nature has been brought in here
These men of vision help to steer
The Governments thinking – so we hope
Long live the thoughts of Farmer Coke!

Tomorrow without a crystal ball – I cannot tell what will befall
So, thank you Norfolk it's been great

Tomorrow's tale will have to wait!