

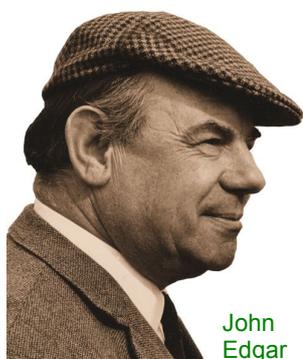


Enhancing leadership and management skills within agriculture and the land based industries



JOHN EDGAR TRUST

Spring Newsletter 2012



John Edgar

Reunion at Blackmoor Estate, Liss

on Tuesday May 8th from 1.15 to 7.30 p.m.

We are extremely privileged with our venue for this year's JET reunion and farm visit. The Earl of Selborne and new JET Trustee, William Wolmer have succumbed to John Alliston's powers of persuasion and have kindly invited us to visit their exceptional enterprise at Blackmoor Estate near Selborne, Hampshire.

Blackmoor lies within the South Downs National Park and is committed to a range of environmental and conservation initiatives including a recent investigation of the carbon footprint of its apple production. It has an active education programme for schools. Have a look at www.blackmoorestate.co.uk

Diary Dates

2012-13



Blackmoor Visit	8 th May
Applications Close	25 th May
Cirencester Course	12 th -16 th November
1 st Stockbridge Course	14 th - 17 th January
Alumni Dinner	Tue 15 th January
2 nd Stockbridge Course	5 th - 8 th March
Alumni Dinner	Wed 6 th March



This family-run farm, one of only three remaining commercial apple growers in Hampshire, also grows pears, plums, apricots and cherries on its 250 acres of orchards for supply to major supermarket chains as well as to local outlets. In addition it has a nursery enterprise producing rootstock and fruit trees and has made significant investment in recent years in the packhouse and now has over 2000 tonnes of refrigerated and controlled atmosphere storage and two apple graders.

The estate also has an arable enterprise, lets land to an asparagus grower, and is involved in every link of the production chain.



Altogether this promises to be a fascinating afternoon which will include an extensive tour of the estate and the packhouse, an informal discussion and a hearty meal at the end. For logistical reasons, numbers are limited to 60 so please book (and pay!) early. Please note that the reunion is now a day earlier than the date given in the last Newsletter.

An application form is enclosed with this Newsletter and is also on the website along with up-to-date details. Please come, bring your JET colleagues and encourage any potential applicant to come too.

The 2012 -13 JET Course

Help us find applicants for places by May 25th

Another two years have flown past, and once again we are looking for applicants for the forthcoming JET course. We had over 40 applicants for the 12 places last time so our selection team were spoilt for choice and were able to put together a remarkably strong team of participants from all sectors of the rural scene. The tutors were kept on their toes,

and all agreed that the course was a stimulating and rewarding experience.

We need to repeat this successful recruitment campaign this year, and for this we need YOUR help.

The course will follow its well-proven pattern of a 5-day session at RAC Cirencester in November, followed by

two 4-day modules at the Grosvenor, Stockbridge in January and March 2013. Professor John Alliston will again be taking the helm as Lead Tutor, ably assisted by Dr James Jones and a team of specialist speakers. The course content will as always be fine-tuned to reflect current requirements.

(Continued on next page)

Trustee Changes

Welcome to three new Trustees

After several years of sterling service, Julian Harbottle has reluctantly resigned as a Trustee because of his commitments out there in the real world, and we all thank him for the support that he has given to the Trust.

We now have no fewer than three “new” faces at the top table.

Dick Hall will be well known to many within Hampshire and JET circles. He did HND Agriculture at Royal Agricultural College between 1983 & 1986. He then worked for John Bryant Seeds in Romsey from 1986 to 1991, after which he returned home to

Corhampton to join his father, Charles, on the family farm. The farm is 600 acres arable, specialising in perennial ryegrass seed production and processing. Dick also does some contract farming, where ryegrass seed is grown. He farms in partnership with his wife, Suzanne, and Charles. They have let offices in converted farm buildings, and Suzanne runs B&B in the farmhouse.

Dick was a JET Scholar in 2000/01 and since then has been a member of the Organising Committee as well as being involved in a wide range of Hampshire farming organisations.

Gillian Strang farms with her husband Richard a 600 acre mixed organic farm incorporating HLS between Shaftesbury and Salisbury where they run pedigree Blonde d'Aquitaine and Angus cross



cattle and a flock of sheep, as well as two four-star holiday cottages and a commercial shoot. In addition, Gillie keeps up with her three daughters, is on the Wiltshire committee of RABI, and admits to being passionate about locally-produced food and less so about having her photo taken.

Gillie is John Edgar's youngest daughter, and her fellow Trustees are delighted to be able to continue this family connection.

Dr William Wolmer brings an independent mind to the party and will undoubtedly view JET affairs from a fresh perspective. He is Managing Director of Blackmoor Estate where by genuine coincidence he will be hosting our reunion on May 8th.

Before farming full-time William spent ten years working in rural development in Africa as a research fellow at Sussex University. His topics included sustainable agriculture, wildlife management and the impact of local parks on local communities. He now finds time to be Secretary to the Executive Committee of the South Downs Land Management Group.

At one point recently William was bemused to be wooed by John Parker on one side to be a Trustee and by John Alliston on the other to host the reunion. Fortunately for us, he succumbed to both.

Andrew Hughes

BBC Farmer of the Year

Congratulations to Andrew Hughes (JET Scholar 1989/90) for winning this prestigious award in recognition of all he does at Trinley Estate, Andover.



Andrew (top) with friend

The judges wanted a winner who ticked all the boxes surrounding sustainability but had also shown that they could run a successful and profitable business. In his victory lap Andrew said “It’s about three things: producing food, looking after wildlife and doing a lot for education, getting people out on the farm and telling them about what we are doing and how food is produced, and how we are looking after the wildlife there as well”.

The Trust doesn't claim all the credit for Andrew's achievements, but he is gracious enough to say “I and many other award holders owe so much to the John Edgar Trust for inspiring us to think outside the farming box and develop our businesses in a innovative way”.

Amen to that.....

Next Course (Continued from front page)

There is one significant change though In order to maintain the quality and reputation of the unique John Edgar Course in the face of today's challenging financial environment, the Trustees have taken the difficult decision to charge participants a fee. This has been set at £500 which is a small proportion of the actual cost for each place, but nevertheless a significant sum. The Trustees are anxious that this necessary measure should not

put off potential scholars. It is likely that grant funding will be available from other sources for at least part of this fee, and bursaries will be offered to any successful candidate who simply cannot afford it.

Another administrative change is that no paper application forms will be issued this time. Candidates will be asked to download the form from the JET website and are strongly encouraged to complete it on the keyboard and submit it via email.

All the details are on the new-look website and are summarised on the information sheet which is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please do get in touch NOW with anybody who you think would appreciate and benefit from the “JET experience”. Refer them to the website, and pester them repeatedly to get the application in by May 25th