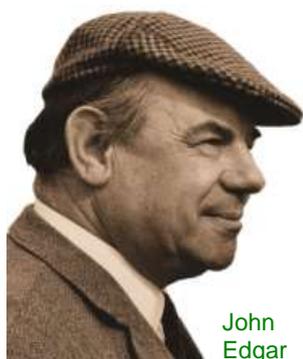




JOHN EDGAR TRUST

Spring Newsletter 2015



John Edgar

JET Reflections

Will Walters on knowledge, new friends and nightclubs

Having spoken with many JET alumni over the past few years and hearing some of the stories about what they get up to, I was very excited to be accepted onto the course. As I travelled to the RAU in November I felt excited to begin the course, not knowing who else would be joining me and what we would be getting up to.

The first week started off quickly, we all seemed to get on well and we settled into a routine of lectures and group activities. We were allowed a breath of fresh air on Wednesday when we were given a guided tour of the RAU farm at Harnhill and it was nice to see the farm thriving since I last visited as a student four years previously.



Will (front) with Tom, Andrew & Rob in disco gear

That evening we made the perilous decision to walk into Cirencester heading to the local night club, sports jackets and all (I'm not sure mine will ever fully recover!). Though some of us felt a little fragile then next morning we had a brilliant evening which only helped cement the groups bond further.

The first week flew past and I'd learnt a huge amount, not only about the industry and management but also about my fellow scholars. We ended the first week intact having already

nominated someone as our official liaison officer tasked with arranging an annual get together.

Christmas came and went and the second week was upon us and we met on our case study farm eager to learn what was in store. It was very challenging, by the end of the first day we were struggling for ideas! Our groups were very well put together, it felt like our strengths and weaknesses balanced out and as a team we worked well. We came up

with some slightly more adventurous ideas having struggled to see many weaknesses in their operations. We all presented our thoughts to the farm management team, waiting to see firstly which team had won and secondly what the farm were actually planning to do going forward. Unfortunately our team didn't win but the presentation from the

farm managers was unexpected and very intriguing, I am looking forward to keeping an eye on how they get on.

I learnt a lot in my second week and really enjoyed visiting lots of diverse farms and estates. The case study was very challenging but I think that made us all gel further and enjoy the experience even more.

Bring on week three!

JET Scholars from 1971-1995 are invited....

to their Alumni Dinner



at the

Grosvenor Hotel Stockbridge

on Wednesday, March 4th
Contact your JET friends & contemporaries and book a table.
Price £30/person.

Book via the JET or RAU Website
<http://shop.rac.ac.uk/>
or use the booking form
or phone Naomi at the RAU
01285 652531 ext 2338

Farewell Rhonda

Rhonda Thompson has been our Course Organiser for the past eight years and has with her inimitable panache ensured that lecturers, scholars, visitors and refreshments have been in the right place at the right time. Sadly for us and for the RAU she is now leaving to take up a challenging management position developing training programmes at Bishop Burton College in Yorkshire.



Rhonda in control

John Alliston says "Rhonda has an amazing infectious ability to empathise with people, to assess their character and to make them feel better about themselves. Thanks to her our courses have run smoothly and on budget"

We will all miss Rhonda and we wish her well for the future.....

JET Scholars 2012-2013



Matthew Ashton

Now in Hampshire in his second assistant farm manager position, following eight years farm contracting in Somerset

George Hood

Assistant farm manager on the Marlborough downs. Reading University Agricultural Business Management graduate



William Baillie

Farm management consultant for Smiths Gore in Winchester. Reading University Agricultural Business Management graduate

Dorian Jenkins

Dairy herd manager on a 300-cow unit in Oxfordshire following four years as a herdsman. Studied at Gelli Aur agricultural college in west Wales.



Tom Bowlby

Mechanical Engineering graduate from Edinburgh University, formerly a farm manager in Oxfordshire and now with Chesterton Humberts in Marlborough.

James Rome

Recent recruit to agriculture following a career as a professional polo player. Now with Barfoot Farms in Hampshire who specialise in exotic vegetables.



Abigail Cook

RAU graduate in Agriculture and Animal Management, now a Business Consultant with Kite Consulting, Cirencester specialising in dairy.

Nick Silvester

Manages 260 dairy cows, field works, construction, fabrication and repairs on family farm in SE Hampshire. Studied engineering at South Downs College.



Andrew Eastabrook

Animal Science graduate from Newcastle University, now dairy stock manager at a 500-cow unit in Buckinghamshire.

Rob Sparks

Partner in Somerset family farm with broiler chickens and beef cattle. Also runs a machinery business and a wedding venue. RAU Agriculture graduate



William Haupt

Assistant farm manager on a 2000 acre W. Berkshire estate. Studied at Harper Adams University College

William Walters

Sales manager with Swindon-based Intelligent Precision Farming, and comes from a Hampshire farming family. RAU Rural Land Management graduate.



Andrew Ward MBE

Our Speaker on March 4th

Andrew is an arable farmer from Lincolnshire and was the leading light in establishing Forage Aid. He has been Arable Farmer of the Year and an NFU Farming Champion of the Year and is an active ambassador for the farming industry. He has hosted the Cereals Event and is a regular Lines FM farming contributor. He will have a lot to tell us.....



Shoot for JET

Our Events Team are planning a simulated game shoot at Linkenholt Estate (between Newbury & Andover) some time in May or June. Please come!

Watch the website for details....