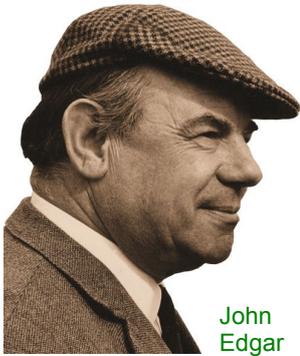




JOHN EDGAR TRUST

Autumn Newsletter 2011

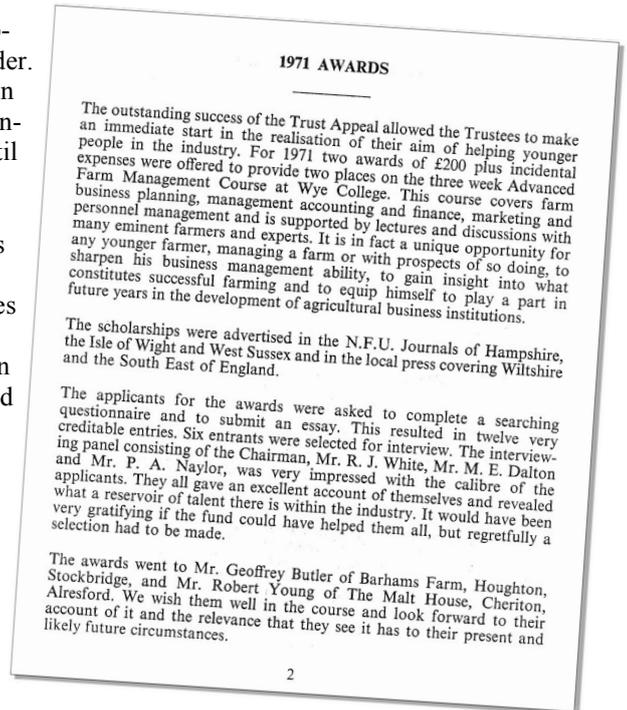


John Edgar

JET Milestone 40th Anniversary of the first JET Awards

John Edgar was an outstanding Hampshire farmer and an inspirational leader. Apart from his farming business based in New Milton, he was involved in an astonishingly wide range of organisations until his untimely death in 1970 at the age of 49. JET Trustee Ray Morgan who was Chairman of Hampshire Young Farmers at the time recalls that in a spontaneous response his many friends and colleagues came together determined to perpetuate his name and to build on his legacy in an appropriate manner. It was soon decided that the aim should be to help younger people in agriculture and within a year significant funds had been raised and the first awards were made to Geoff Butler and Robert Young who were sponsored on the Worshipful Company of Farmers' course at Wye College.

A conference was held in the autumn of 1971 to decide how best the newly formed charitable Trust could meet its aims, and the conclusions are still valid today. It was decided that the Trust should organise a series of residential management training courses for groups of selected young people (the assumption then was that they would all be men!) at an early stage in their careers, and with few changes this is still the pattern.



From the First Annual Report of the Trustees

In 1972 the first residential JET Course was held at Portsmouth Management Centre and since then over 280 people have received John Edgar Awards

Diary Dates

2012-13



Reunion Visit	9 th May
Applications Close	25 th May
Selection Interviews	20 th June
Cirencester Course	12 th -16 th November
1 st Stockbridge Course	14 th - 17 th January
2 nd Stockbridge Course	5 th - 8 th March

The Hampshire Harvest Festival Ball

Raising Funds for JET on Saturday October 15th

The organisers of the Hampshire Farmers' Club's Harvest Festival Ball have kindly offered to share funds raised at the event between their nominated charity and the John Edgar Trust.



and coffee and then dancing to a live band and a disco.

Tickets are £65/head and full details are on www.hampshirefarmersclub.com.

The venue is Belmore Park, Upham (between Winchester & Bishops Waltham) and the event starts at 7.30p.m.

Please come along to celebrate the Trust's 40th anniversary and to enjoy a champagne reception, a 4-course dinner

Do try to get a group of your JET friends together, or come and join one of the JET tables already organised.

Valedictory Thoughts

Christopher Langford reflects on his time as JET Hon. Sec.

I was invited by Dick White to become secretary to the Trustees in 1993 and was very pleased to have the chance to become involved in an organisation that had been good for me. Like many scholars I had benefited from a free course at a time in my life when it made an influence. I had also met John Edgar when considering a career and he had advised me to go for Land Agency rather than direct agriculture – little did I know then how much our paths would cross again.

The John Edgar Trust is an organisation in good heart. It is distinguished from other charities in having a figurehead and Angela Burry (John Edgar's widow) has been a very enthusiastic chairman over the years, always keen to know what is going on and set the tone for the way the Trust is run. Much of the JET training is about management and Angela practises good leadership in giving support to the officers so that they can act with confidence. I am very grateful to her for her support.

The Trust's finances are in reasonable heart. There is a base of income from investments that produce about half the cost of running a course. This gives the Trust confidence to go forward but without being overconfident and still looking for value for money. Many alumni give

back to the Trust by covenanting sums that the Trust needs to continue in its present format – they should take comfort that it goes towards the training, there are only very minor administrative costs and the Trustees and Committee pay for their own dinners and expenses.



Christopher Langford

The Trust is lucky in having John Alliston and James Jones as its tutors and they have put together a course that is rated very highly within the industry – so successful that there were forty-four applications for the twelve places in 2010. The course is independent from the Royal Agricultural College and has kept its Hampshire roots.

I think it is time for the Trust to look to the future. Angela Burry has said she would like to do less and I very much hope that the involvement of John Edgar's family can continue in some other way. Henry Wilson has been tirelessly active over very many years but is looking to find a successor as chairman of the Organising Committee. Patrick Piper has steered the finances very soundly through difficult times but has indicated that the Trust should prepare to find a new treasurer. John Alliston has stepped down from full time lecturing at the RAC but will continue as lead tutor for another two courses. The Trustees will continue to provide stability but it would not be good for the management of the Trust to all change at once which is why I have decided to make way now. The Trust has a new and very capable secretary in John Read in whom I have every confidence that the values of the Trust are in safe hands.

Along with the improving fortunes of agriculture a new era is opening up for The John Edgar Trust. I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement, I thank all those I have worked with for their support and wish it every success for the future.

The Next Course

Things are taking shape for 2012-13

Plans are well in hand for JET activities in 2012. John Read is installed as our new Hon. Sec., and much to the relief of the Trustees John Alliston has expressed his desire to continue his role as Lead Tutor following his retirement from the Royal Agricultural College.

Sadly, Julian Harbottle and Jamie Lawton have resigned from the Organising Committee, and we thank them for all their hard work. As young blood, Sam Burge and Harry Yorke have joined the Committee fresh from the recent Course. A full list of the Committee members is on the website.

The JET Reunion and farm visit will take place in Hampshire during the afternoon of **Wednesday May 9th 2012**.

This is an opportunity to introduce potential applicants to JET, and we rely very much on scholars from previous years to put the word around, so please start thinking now about which young people in your area would benefit from joining the 2012/13 Course. This will follow the usual pattern of a November module at RAC Cirencester followed by two in the new year at the Grosvenor, Stockbridge with the content fine-tuned once again.

Thanks to the labours of the participants, recent courses have gained academic recognition which has attracted some funding from the Rural Employment Engagement Development Network. This is unlikely to be available again, and serious discussions are continuing as to how future courses can be funded when costs are increasing and Trust investment income is declining.

Please help by coming to the Ball on October 15th, and if you haven't already done so, consider making a donation by covenant. Contact John Read or see the website for more information.