



**ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

## ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Presidents since 1947

1947	Mrs Charles Round	1988	The Lady Butler of Saffron Walden
1948	Col Sir Francis Whitmore KCB CMG DSO TD	1989	JHM Norris Esq CBE DL
1949	The Rt Hon Lord Braybrooke	1990	The Lord Braybrooke JP
1950	The Rt Hon Lord Braintree	1991	LA Jordan Esq DL
1951	Lt Col EN Buxton MC DL JP	1992	The Rt Revd Thomas McMahon
1952	JJ Tufnell Esq JP	1993	The Lord Dixon-Smith DL
1953	Col Sir Francis Whitmore KCB CMG DSO TD	1994	EJC Speakman Esq JP
1954	CMD Gooch Esq	1995	CG Gooch Esq DL
1955	Lt Col Sir John Ruggles-Brise Bart OBE TD DL	1996	DA Nutting Esq DL
1956	Col Sir Francis Whitmore Bart KCB CMG DSO TD	1997	GL Lyster Esq DL
1957	JR Tinney Esq MBE	1998	Prof MD Alder
1958	Mrs Gerald Strutt	1999	HDP Rankin Esq JP
1959	J Oxley Parker Esq TD JP DL	2000	R F Erith, Esq TD DL
1960	Alec Steele Esq JP	2001	R G Newman Esq DL
1961	The Rt Hon RA Butler CH MP	2002	R G. Newman Esq DL
1962	Lt Col Guy Blewitt DSO MC DL	2003	Mrs C Cottrell DL
1963	Mrs ML Griffith OBE JP	2004	C Pertwee Esq DL
1964	Sir Hubert Ashton KBE MC DL MP	2005	J E Fowler Esq
1965	Major G Nigel Capel-Cure TD JP DL	2006	P Fairs Esq
1966	CH Gosling Esq MC TD JP DL	2007	T Howie Esq
1967	SR Allsopp Esq CBE	2008	J Macaulay Esq
1968	JG Eve Esq MA	2009	R Simons Esq
1969	Lt Col Sir John Ruggles-Brise Bart CB OBE TD JP	2010	R Matthews Esq
1970	MS Gosling Esq	2011	J Tinney Esq
1971	Sir Leonard Crossland	2012	D Squier Esq DL
1972	Sir Nigel Strutt TD DL FRAGS	2013	M Hodge Esq
1973	Col JF Cramphorn CdeG TD DL	2014	C Butler Esq DL
1974	Lt Col JG Round OBE JP DL	2015	S Marriage Esq
1975	PB Lake Esq TD DL	2016	M Ritchie Esq
1976	CWO Parker Esq JP DL		
1977	RH Courage Esq JP DL		
1978	Sir Richard Butler DL		
1979	HR Ritchie Esq DL		
1980	T Hunnable Esq		
1981	Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis KCB JP		
1982	JH Radbourne Esq JP DL		
1983	Col GR Judd TD DL		
1984	J Tabor Esq OBE DL		
1985	PB Frost Esq		
1986	D Keddie Esq JP DL		
1987	Capt RP Laurie OBE JP DL		

## ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Registered Office:** Writtle University College  
Lordship Road  
Writtle  
Essex CM1 3RR

**Principal Office:** Writtle University College  
Lordship Road  
Writtle  
Essex CM1 3RR

*A Company limited by guarantee – registered in England*

**Certificate of Incorporation:** 2768733

**Registered Charity:** 1015875

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank Plc  
Barclays Business Centre  
Witham Branch  
P O Box 3692  
Witham  
Essex CM8 2AT

**Investment Managers:** Investec Wealth & Investment  
2 Gresham Street  
London EC2V 7QN

**Treasurer:** John Roberts  
14 Ongar Road  
Writtle CM1 3NU

**Independent Examiner:** Graham Page  
Ensors Accountants LLP  
Saxon House  
Moseley's Farm Business Centre  
Fornham All Saints  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP28 6JY

## **ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty third Annual General Meeting of the Members of the above limited company will be held on 23rd November 2016 at 6pm in the Sports Science Centre (SSC1) Writtle College, Chelmsford.

H C Tarrant  
Company Secretary

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman's Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Receive and, if approved, adopt Chairman's Report** (including minutes of the AGM held on 26th November 2016 and Accounts for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016.
- 4. Election of Officers for 2016-17**
  - Honorary President
  - President Elect
  - Chairman and Members of Council
- 5. Presentation**
- 6. Vote of Thanks**
- 7. Time and Date of Next Meeting**

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting will be entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place. A proxy need not be a member.

## **ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

<b>Patron:</b>	The Lord Petre
<b>President:</b>	Martin Ritchie
<b>President Elect:</b>	Catharine Hutley
<b>Chairman:</b>	Belinda Young
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Edward Worthy

## **COUNCIL**

### **Elected Members**

#### **Retire 2016**

Rosemary Padfield  
Fiona Ashworth  
Martin Ritchie

#### **Retire 2017**

Mike Porter  
Tim Cooper  
Catharine Hutley

#### **Retire 2018**

Belinda Young  
Adrian Rilstone  
Kayleigh Mackness

### **Co-opted Members\***

R Alexander, R Burroughs, Karen Watson, Ed Ford, Stephen Waite, Helen McTurk, Annabelle Rout, Edward Worthy, C Trembath, R Stacey, D Bradshaw

\*Co opted members retire after one year unless reappointed

### **Co-opted Representatives of Other Organisations**

None

By the powers invested in it by the Articles of Association dated 27 September 1992, the Society is administered by the Council. The Council of the Society consists of the President, President Elect, the Members elected at an Annual General Meeting, co-opted Members and co-opted Representatives of other organisations, provided that no Council Member has been absent from four consecutive meetings without the knowledge and approval of the Council.

## **ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

The Directors present their annual report and the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2015.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs and of the profit or loss for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The directors are responsible for:

- Keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- Safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **ACTIVITIES**

The principal activities of the Company as outlined in the Memorandum of Association of 27 September 1992 are:

- To promote and advance agriculture for the benefit of the public and to such end generally to improve and publicise it in all its branches and to encourage skill and industry in it and in all trades, crafts and professions connection with it.
- If in the opinion of the Council it shall be expedient so to do, the Society may in any year in respect of which Council so resolve to hold, manage, sponsor or otherwise be concerned with a County Show.

### **BUSINESS REVIEW**

The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities elsewhere in this booklet.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Society has maintained the success built up over the years with the continual support of its members.

The membership at the end of August was, split as follows:

Category	2015 No	2016
Corporate Premier	22	20
Corporate Standard	2	1
Individual	119	126
Joint Life Member	4	4
Joint Member	119	114
Life Member	82	78
Under 30	34	31
TOTAL	382	374

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since I took over the mantle of the Essex Agricultural Society Chair from Robert Stacey and it has certainly been quite a busy one! Following on from Robert's final report as Chairman, the first event to report on was held in October 2015, when we were treated to an evening of Tudor excitement in the splendid and fitting surroundings of Layer Marney Towers. Our thanks go to Nicholas Charrington for allowing us to use the venue as the perfect spot to hear acclaimed historian, David Starkey, entertain us with his take on a period of history which never fails to intrigue.

From the historic, we swiftly moved to the ultra-modern with a morning's conference on Precision Farming. We were delighted to welcome various well-placed experts from both the supply side and those utilising the technology on their farms which all proved a useful insight into our farming future.

The EAS year finished on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, as my first year as Chairman was just starting, with a fascinating talk on Bomb Disposal at the Essex Young Farmers centre. Our speaker gave a stark insight into the role of the bomb disposal expert all over the world and his inspiring talk was well illustrated by some interesting paraphernalia, reassuringly no longer live!

Our first event of 2016 was held jointly with Writtle, during Farm Breakfast Week and took the form of a debate over the forthcoming EU Referendum. We were lucky to secure two speakers at the coal-face of British and EU politics in the form of Bernard Jenkin MP & Richard Howitt MEP. Ably chaired by Guy Smith, the morning was a useful start to airing the various issues which would come to dominate the farming press in the run up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

We were back at the Northumberland Suite on 4<sup>th</sup> February for a full house crowd to hear first-hand the adventures of Chris Philpot in Antarctica. Packed to full capacity, the whole audience were enthralled to hear all the gory details of what an extreme trip like this comprises and the lively questions afterwards were testimony to what an extraordinary trek this had been.

We went back to Brexit for our Rural Question Time on 20<sup>th</sup> April. We were fortunate to have secured some strong speakers and on this occasion, the 'remain' arguments were most

eloquently put by Sir Peter Kendall & Sir Jim Paice. Guy Smith once again proved what a useful chap he is to have in Essex, ensuring that the evening flowed seamlessly and that we heard a good balance of both sides of the argument.

The 8<sup>th</sup> June saw the sun shining (until the heavens opened!) and another 3,000 school children descend upon Writtle for the 9<sup>th</sup> Essex Schools Food & Farming Day. The general consensus was that this was another brilliant day, continuing to improve year on year with thanks due to Karen Watson, ably assisted by Heather Tarrant, for their continuing passion and enthusiasm for the day. Steward stalwarts were enthused by the move to allocate individuals to a named school prior to the event. We now look forward to celebrating our 10 year anniversary in 2017 and hope to be able to mark this milestone in suitable fashion.

If we were blessed with sunshine at the beginning of June, it was quite the opposite on the night of the President's Garden Party on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Luckily, our President had had the foresight to diversify into venue provision and we took full advantage of the wonderful facilities of the Reid Rooms to host nearly 200 guests, all of whom were well fed and watered by Martin Ritchie's team. We are very grateful to Martin for his generosity and thank him again for such a splendid party. The evening gave us the opportunity to reflect on the year to date, as well as present our two awards, the one aimed towards fledgling careers (The President's award) and the other at those at the other end of the scale (the Long Service award). Our Vice-President, Catharine Hutley gave an illuminating speech on the process of judging our President's Award, recognising the depth of entrepreneurial spirit in the younger members of the Essex farming community, with Henry Savage as the eventual winner, announced on the evening.

Mercifully, the weather was back on side for our Farm Walk on 4<sup>th</sup> July, hosted by this year's Essex County Farms' Competition Under 700 acres winners, F J Bosworth & Sons at Spains Hall, Willingale. Several dozen EAS members were hoisted up onto trailers and treated to a tour of a very impressive farm, followed by a delicious home-grown hog roast. Many thanks to our host and to Roger Burroughs, Heather Tarrant and Helen McTurk for organising the competition.

Despite the weather's best attempt to thwart it, the County Ploughing match did go ahead, with a last-minute shift to Ongar. Helen McTurk continues to do a fantastic job at organising these but even she can't dictate perfect climate conditions! Let's hope 2017 proves easier for our ploughmen and our plough-queen!

As harvest fades into a distant memory and cultivations are (hopefully) nearing completion, we look forward to the remaining events in our calendar, with Afternoon Tea in the Rodings, with a talk from the Head Gardener at Beth Chatto's Garden on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The EAS year concludes with a talk from the founder of Giggly Pig at the Essex Young Farmers' Centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Even when there are periods of no EAS events, don't be fooled that the activity stops and I make no apology for taking the opportunity to recognise those who, whilst not as visible as some, play a vitally important part in the society. Thanks to Heather for her patience in breaking in a new chairman and always knowing how things work; to Rosemary Alexander for continuing to source interesting and diverse speakers for our talks and securing both speakers and venues; to Edward Worthy for being a very useful vice-chairman; to Adrian Rilstone for his work on reviewing the constitution; to all our sponsors who make events possible; to Writtle University College who continue to be valuable allies of the Society and lastly, a special thanks to our now retired treasurer, John Roberts, who has served the society tirelessly for the past 12 years. John has kept track of our finances as well as being a sure-bet to attend the majority of our events and lending a hand more often than not. He



will be a hard act to follow but we wish him well and are pleased that he will continue to serve on the committee.

## ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### In RBC1, Writtle College

Rob Stacey presiding

Attended: Rosemary Alexander (RA), Fiona Ashworth (FA), David Bradshaw (DB), Helen McTurk (HM), Katie Mackness (KM), Simon Marriage (SM), Rosemary Padfield (RP), Lord Petre (LP), Mike Porter (MP), Adrian Rilstone (AR), Martin Ritchie (MR), John Roberts (JDR), Robert Stacey (RS), Chris Trembath (CT), Karen Watson (KW), Edward Worthy (EW)

Apologies: Roger Burroughs, Stephen Waite

In Attendance: H Tarrant

EAS15/1	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b></p> <p>The Chairman read the notice convening the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Essex Agricultural Society and welcomed members to the meeting. The Chairman called for a minutes silence to remember Peter Rawlinson, Bill Leiper, J A Hunter, John Norris and Pat Rankin. who passed away in 2014</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Simon Marriage for his hard work over the past year as President and the wonderful Garden Party his family hosted in June.</p>	
EAS15/2	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from the people listed above</p>	
EAS15/3	<p><b>ANNUAL REPORT &amp; ACCOUNTS</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 26th November 2014 were agreed and signed</p> <p>The Accounts were called to be adopted and this was agreed</p>	
EAS15/4	<p><b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honorary President – Martin Ritchie proposed by Simon Marriage seconded by Rob Stacey</li> <li>• Vice President – no nominations were made at the AGM</li> <li>• Members of Council Edward Worthy and Chris Trembath retire by rotation leaving Rob Stacey, Rosemary Padfield, Fiona Ashworth, Mike Porter, Tim Cooper and Belinda Young as elected members for 2015-16. The Chairman proposes that Adrian Rilstone and Kayleigh Mackness are elected members for the next 3 years until 2018.</li> <li>• Co-opted members Chairman proposes Rosemary Alexander, Roger Burroughs, Karen Watson, Stephen Waite, Helen McTurk, Michael Hughes, Ed Ford, Annabelle Rout, David Bradshaw, Edward Worthy, Chris Trembath, Rob Stacey, David Bradshaw, James Rea</li> </ul>	

EAS15/5	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>MP on behalf of Council thanked Simon Marriage for the support he has given the Society at its events over the last year and commented that Simon had retired in time as Master of the Hunt to take on the role of President of the EAS. MP then presented SM with a small token as a reminder of his year.</p> <p>Simon then thanked Council and commented that the Garden Party was an excellent opportunity for the House to be painted as he now has a wedding at home in 2016.</p>	
EAS15/6	<p><b>VOTE OF THANKS FROM THE CHAIR</b></p> <p>Thank you to everyone for their help in running the society and particularly Rosemary Alexander who works so hard on getting speakers at a reduced rate.</p> <p>Thank you to John Roberts for his work on the accounts and Writtle College as well as the President and President Elect.</p>	
EAS15/7	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>None</p>	
EAS15/8	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>23rd November 2016</p>	

