www.addingtonfund.org.uk **AddingtonFund** Royalty joins the Addington Fund for a farm tour

The Addington Fund welcomed HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh to the Smerrill Dairy Unit on the Bathurst Estate on 31st January. Kindly hosted by The Earl and Countess Bathurst and the Royal Agricultural University, the day consisted of a tour around the dairy unit followed by a lunch and a tour of the campus. The Duchess of Edinburgh's visit highlighted the importance of the dairy industry within agriculture, and the difficulties the whole sector is currently facing.

Professor Peter McCaffery, Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Agricultural University, said: "The Royal Agricultural University is an ardent advocate of the vital work of the Addington Fund to help and support farming families and rural communities. In 2019, we were pleased to be able to collaborate with Addington on a report looking into the impact of access to housing for retiring farmers and, in 2022, Addington was chosen by our students as one of the charities they would support during their annual RAG Week.

"We work closely with the Bathurst Estate. Indeed, we regularly take our agricultural students to the Smerrill Dairy Unit so they can see the practicalities of the lecture theatre in real life. This event will help to raise awareness of the challenges facing the agricultural industry, and those involved with it, as well as the difficulties facing potential young entrants to the industry.



Images by Abby Cohen Photography www.abbycohenphotography.co.uk

The Addington Fund plays a pivotal role in the world of farmers and farming and we are delighted to be able to support them by helping to host this visit."

Bill Young, CEO of the Addington Fund, said: "The Royal Agricultural University is an incredible and very reputable university with a strong core value for world agriculture and they educate at the highest of standards. The students are vital and we must always remember to invest in them, teach them and guide them in the right direction; after all, they are the future of farming and without them and their enthusiasm for agriculture, the industry will crumble. This is one of the reasons why Addington is keen to support young entrants.

Sadly, we know that the agricultural industry can be brutal to those who suddenly fall into hardship, this is why it is so important to raise awareness of our charity

"Sadly, we know that the agricultural industry can be brutal to those who suddenly fall into hardship, this is why it is so important to raise awareness of our charity, not only to let people know we are here to help when times get tough but to also encourage more support for what we do to help those who suddenly needs us. We are very pleased with how the farm visit went and we were delighted The Duchess was able to join us."

The Addington Fund is grateful to The Earl and Countess Bathurst and the staff of the Smerrill Dairy Unit, The Royal Agricultural University and HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh for their support hosting and attending such a positive event.

The event has fantastic coverage with features in OK! Magazine, The Daily Mail, Express, Good Housekeeping, Hello and more. The @theroyalfamily Instagram account posted a reel of the event which has been watched over 1.2 million times. We are hugely grateful to HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh for her continued support of Addington Fund.



Addington Fund, 9 Barford Exchange, Wellesbourne Road, Barford, Warwickshire CV35 8AQ Telephone: 01926 620135 Email: enquiries@addingtonfund.org.uk





As many are beginning to think about the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023, the Addington Fund is on hand to assist with celebrations by offering Guinness World Record knitted bunting to decorate the Coronation parties! Way back in 2020 a huge knot of knitters broke the world record for the world's longest bunting with almost 80,000 fabulous flags stretching over 14 kilometres. Now, that's a bountiful batch of bunting to decorate all those stupendous street parties!

Since officially being declared the world's longest knitted bunting, this Addington bunting, knitted by people from all over the world, still holds the record today. And this world record would not have been possible, had it not been for the dedication of the Devon County Agricultural Association co-ordinating and inspiring the efforts.

Addington has already raised over £4,000 by successfully selling batches of bunting via farm shops and their website throughout 2022. There's still plenty to go around and you can purchase in packs of approximately 10 metres via www.addingtonfund. org.uk/shop/bunting.

BUY ONE ...GET ONE FREE! 20m of bunting for just £25 inc delivery

Bunting can also be bought at these local stockists:

- Becketts Farm, Birmingham, B47 6AJ
- NEW: Farmers Fayre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
- Greendale Farm Shop, Exeter, EX5 2JU
- NEW: Hilltop Farm, Hunningham, Warwickshire, CV33 9EL

attract fu

As a charity, I am always wary of crying wolf too frequently to attract funding. It is easy to overstate the problem in order to attract donations, and I often warn other charities that it can come back and bite you exactly at the point where there is a problem that does need full public support.

However, since the turn of the year, the Addington Fund has been far busier in all areas than usual. Certainly, some of this is down to our higher profile as a national agricultural charity - something we have done deliberately to raise awareness in what we do, and to help with the ever-important task of fundraising in a very competitive sector. Our high-profile Patron, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, has again helped

to areas where our services are unique, but cover the whole

lifetime in farming cycle. National disaster relief on farm still

comes to the fore, backed by our affordable rural housing for

retired farmers and rural homes for youngsters involved in the

agricultural industry. This is supplemented by a trust to support

farm workers who find themselves up against it financially,

while we have launched a new scheme to use legacy farms to

This year animal welfare has suddenly become the priority,

as farmers who are up to their overdraft and have run out of

with our public awareness with a Palace released Instagram video covering her recent farm visit in Gloucestershire (featured in this edition) attracting over 1.2m views. It is wonderful to have such support and backing behind us.

to areas where our services are unique, but cover the whole lifetime in farming cycle.

At the Addington Fund we have always confined our activities At the Addington Fund we have always confined our activities

Housing applications for retirement home assistance from tenant farmers who are being evicted or forced away from their homes are high too. We have just purchased two more in the West Country as we nudge our total number of properties towards 70 and it looks like we have another two more to buy in the near future.

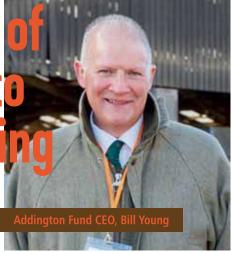
Worryingly, shared equity which has been our bedrock but now for many years is drying up. All too frequently tenants are leaving their farms with no investments or spare cash to invest in their retirement homes. All very worrying not only for them but us as charity as well.

So far we have been able to respond as asked and step up

thanks to a recently received substantial legacy from a widow in Sussex which has enabled us to carry on in all areas. If demand stays as it is though it will undoubtedly stretch us to the brink and although our asset worth is at an all-time high, we could still not have the liquid funds available to meet all calls for help. So, your continued support is as always much appreciated.

Finally, my Chairman Peter Jinman and I are pleased to announce that the Addington Fund sister charity under the Farming Help banner, Forage Aid are in advanced merger talks whereby Forage Aid will become the brand under Addington that covers all our farm relief work. We hope this merger which has been welcomed by all our key stakeholders will have full approval from the relevant authorities and be complete before the next newsletter. Exciting times for both charities.

Bill Young Addington fund CEO



are a feature or common denominator and Jeremy Clarkson

has done a great job in highlighting this along with the impact of Avian flu which this time around has caused havoc to what

is already a low margin industry. We are working closely with

the other Farming Help charities and we are in talks with

Forage Aid about how increased collaboration could improve

Secondly, applications from farm workers for grants are at an

all-time high under my five-year tenure. Again, finances are a

key but often linked to ill health

and mental health problems.

Although Addington will never

be a specialist mental health

charity, we are fully aware that

some of the people we help may

fall into that category and handle

applications accordingly.

efficiencies and benefit our applicants in times of need.

THURSDAY 8TH -

TUESDAY 11TH

FRIDAY 14TH JULY

MONDAY 24TH -

THURSDAY 3RD

WEDNESDAY 13TH

WEDNESDAY 13TH

THURSDAY 14TH

SEPTEMBER

AUGUST

THURSDAY 27TH JULY

Devon Farm Business Awards, **WEDNESDAY 17TH Devon County Showground** THURSDAY 18TH -**Devon County Show** SATURDAY 20TH MAY

Royal Cornwall Show SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

Great Yorkshire Show

Royal Welsh Show

Honiton Show, Devon

UK Dairy Day, Telford

Westmorland County Show

THURSDAY 28TH **Cornwall Farm Business** SEPTEMBER Awards, Eden Project Harvest Service, SUNDAY 15TH Chapel of the Savoy

bring youngsters into the industry.

2023 Devon Farm Business Awards



As we look froward to Spring, it's a time of optimism and hope, and it also presents an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed. Despite the ongoing challenges, there has been continuing success and inspiration within the agricultural sector. The Addington Fund's 10th Devon Farm Business Awards offers a perfect opportunity to showcase the very best in farming — celebrating those enthusiastic, innovative and pioneering agriculturalists often unrecognised.

The glittering Awards dinner will be held at the Devon County showground on Wednesday 17 May 2023. An evening of fun, celebration and delicious dining is assured, all in support of an invaluable farming charity. Commenting on winning the 2022 "Best Farmer of the Year" award, Chris Berry explained "We put everything into our farming businesses, challenge ourselves daily and dare to change, to improve what we do for a greater future for those around us. So, to come together and celebrate our achievements and be recognised for work we do, in the company of so many leading farming friends, peers and sponsors, makes for a truly awesome evening whilst at the same time raising money and awareness for a fantastic charity! You never know when you or others may need the help and support from the Addington Fund, so it's vital we help them so they can help others. That in itself is rewarding too."

With eight categories, the final winner of each category will be automatically entered in to "Devon's Farmer of the Year 2023". Devon's Farmer of the Year will be carefully chosen by a select number of judges involved with the Addington Fund Awards process.

"The Devon Farm Business Awards continue to be a highlight of the farming year" explains Bill Young, CEO of the Addington Fund, "we hope that winners and role models like Chris Berry will inspire many more individuals and farm businesses to showcase the incredible work that they do. Recognition for their

hard work and determination is the least that farmers deserve, but we are certain that the awards also help to raise awareness and encourage support for British Farming.

"Away from the glitz and glamour, at the Addington Fund, we are not only here to support those who succeed in agriculture but those who need help either with housing, disaster relief, hardship or even to get into the industry itself - and as a truly sustainable charity we are in pole position to deliver. Supporting our charity via the Devon Farm Business Awards or simply donating to the Addington Fund allows us to continue helping

our farmers when times hit hard; your support is invaluable." Peter Beaumont, Managing Director

Peter Beaumont, Managing Director for Cornish Mutual said: "It's been a challenging year for farmers with exceptionally high costs and extremes in weather, but one faced resolutely to ensure farming in Devon continues to go from strength to strength. As Principal Sponsor, we are delighted to once again be working with the Addington Fund to support this notable event and celebrate agriculture across the county.

"Cornish Mutual remains committed to protecting the farming community.

Our #CMFuture Farming programme assists farmers in every area of their work including sustainability. Last year our new 'Best Sustainable Farming Initiative' award illustrated the outstanding advances being made to secure personal, business and environmental sustainability. At the centre of farming today, this award supports Devon farmers creating a resilient future."

With special thanks to the Devon County Agricultural Association for kindly donating the marquee, and thanks to our farming category sponsors: PKF Francis Clark, Trowers & Hamlins LLP, Westcotts, Crediton Dairy, Savills, Cornish Mutual, NFU and Mole Valley Farmers.

Nominations have already closed but tickets for the evening can be bought from www. farmbusinessawards.org.uk/devon-farm-awards from just £95 including welcome drinks, a delicious three-course locally sourced and produced dinner, a goody bag and of course supporting our good causes.

The awards will take place on Wednesday 17th May at the Devon County Showground (the night before the Devon County Show). Addington Fund will be at the show with a stand - do come along and say hello!



















Cornwall FARM BUSINESS Awards



Plans for the Cornwall Farm Business Awards are underway and the event will again be held at Eden Project, Par on Thursday 28th September. Nominations will be opening soon, so start thinking about who you think deserves to take home the trophy this year.

Supporting the Awards

The Farm Business Awards would not be possible without the generous support of companies and organisations who put their time and money into supporting our work. This year, the cost of living increase will hit us, and many other charities, hard.

If you are able to support the awards through sponsorship, donating produce for the dinner, booking a table or even by just spreading the word, we would be most grateful.

To find out about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Annie anniewinn@addingtonfund.org.uk





Once again, this year's NFU Conference in Birmingham was an unmissable event that did not disappoint.

The Conference was well organised, the topics were relevant, the speakers engaging and it all came together to highlight how complex, yet incredible, our everchanging agricultural industry is, and how support from the government is vital.

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP thanked the conference and all farmers for their continuous hard work with a prerecorded video message. The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP and The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP were both put under the spotlight whilst informing the delegates about how the government propose to support the farming industry moving forward, followed by live Q&A sessions. Smaller, sector targeted seminars and commodity sessions were available for attendees at the end of the day. The Farming Community Network were the chosen charity of the year for the NFU Dinner that evening, raising a grand total of £14,250 from those who sat and enjoyed one of the most delicious meals ever made (the beef was outstanding!) and those who still had it in them, ended the night on Broadstreet.

On the whole, the NFU Conference went down a treat and we can guarantee that not one person who went left without learning something new.

We are very lucky to have such passionate, caring and knowledgeable forces representing the farming industry today, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Minette Batters President of the NFU, Tom Bradshaw Deputy President and David Exwood Vice President, for their continuous hard work, reassurance and determination they deliver for the British agricultural industry and our amazing farmers.

Welshpool's Christmas Illuminated Tractor Run

...raises thousands for the Addington Fund

The Addington Fund team took a rather chilly trip to Welshpool in December when the charity was selected as the chosen charity for the Welshpool illuminated tractor run. The event attracted more than 200 tractors which were festively adorned in lights, tinsel and Christmas decorations and drove the 30 mile route starting in the town. Thanks to the generosity of the public and local businesses, the event raised an incredible £7,800!

This fun filled Christmas event was organised by Jenny Clarke and her husband, Kevin, who have been running the event for two years. They said: "We first came up with the idea of an illuminated tractor run last year and we originally only wanted to find 8 to 10 local farmers who would be willing to decorate their tractors to pass by our young



son's school.

After putting
a request on

a local Facebook page, it

soon became apparent that more than 10 or so people were interested in doing this and it quickly became an event with over 85 tractors travelling on a 30 mile route, in aid of charity."

"With just myself and my husband Kevin organising everything, it is certainly a big task. We both work full time and have 3 children, but we enjoy it and can see the huge benefits it gives to the farming charities, our farmers and the members of public too."

"Last year, we remember stepping outside the livestock market where everyone was asked to congregate before the run, and although we expected 88 tractors, it still came as a surprise at how amazing the sight was with them all lined up and illuminated! It was just magical seeing hundreds of smiling, happy people who were spectating the event."

"Both years have brought so much joy to so many people, whilst raising awareness for the farming charities, this year in particular for the Addington Fund."

LAMMA 2023

ACRICUITURE SURVEY

A survey of over 500 farmers and agricultural professionals showed that innovation, sustainability, high standards of animal welfare and a strong sense of community are among the key reasons farmers are proud of agriculture in the UK.

Organised by the Farming Help charities (Addington Fund, The Farming Community Network and Forage Aid), the survey revealed a wide range of reasons why they feel passionate and optimistic about farming and food production.

Responses when asked ...
What makes you proud of the UK agricultural industry?

"The way farmers help each other in times of need"
"Resilience, reliability, responsibility and
determination to be the best"

"The heritage, professionalism, commitment and determination of the families involved, at the same time working with nature"

"Innovation. Support. Community. Collaboration. Humble people keeping their heads down and working hard for the benefit of others"

"How we club together if someone needs help, we are one big family and we never let anyone struggle alone"

"We are the backbone of the UK. We support the whole nation and give our very best work to everyone in the form of food – both vegetarian and meat products".

The survey also asked if respondents would personally speak to a farming charity if they felt they needed support, with over 70% saying they would.

Some of those who were hesitant to speak with a charity expressed an interest in learning more about charity services, while some mentioned feeling embarrassed asking for help or finding it challenging to talk about personal feelings and experiences.

Following on from the survey, the Farming Help charities organised two panel discussions at a packed LAMMA, at the NEC. The seminars, which were held in the Health and Wellbeing Zone, laid bare some of the myths about agriculture and talked about wellbeing in the workplace.

On Tuesday they were joined by Andrew Ward MBE (Forage Aid), Will Roobottom (Cowley Hill Farm) and Anna Longthorp (Anna's Happy Trotters). Hosted by Annie Winn (Addington Fund) and Alex Pillimore (FCN), the panel debunked some of the myths surrounding agriculture and highlighted the many ways farmers care for their livestock, protect the environment and keep the nation fed.

Jeremy Gibbs, founder of Forces Farming and Forces into Agriculture, joined Annie and Alex on Wednesday to talk about wellbeing support in the workplace, including creating a healthy and safe workplace culture, supporting colleagues and spotting the signs of mental ill-health.

The sessions were very well attended, and Annie and Alex joined several podcasts both at and after the event to talk about these important issues





Grant & Housing Work



Demand for our housing is currently very high

Since our last newsletter, we have settled two more farming families into their new Addington homes — both in South West England, keeping them close to family and friends as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

As this newsletter goes to print, we currently have 63 tenants renting homes or workshops from us, but if you factor in their families, we are providing accommodation for 119 people, stretching from Cornwall to Cumbria, and West Wales to Lincolnshire, and in between. We are helping to keep families close to each other, their children in local schools and for those of working age, close to their places of work.

Demand for our housing is currently very high and the cost of providing a suitable home to those retiring from a tenanted holding continues to be challenging. When we purchased our very first house in 2002 it cost less than £100,000 and these days, we have to budget 3 times that amount which is very challenging for a charity of our size.

We are not a 'one size fits all' housing provider and one of the many advantages of our housing scheme is that our tenants have an input into where they will live, rather than being directed to certain and often inappropriate impacts the mental and the knock-on but a safe, secure a considered a luxury.



a safe, secure and appropriate home impacts the mental welfare of the people living there, ...but it shouldn't be considered a luxury.

housing. We believe that a safe and appropriate home impacts the mental welfare of the people living there, and the knock-on effect to this is hard to measure but a safe, secure and appropriate home shouldn't be considered a luxury

We hope that people entering the tenanted farm sector nowadays are mindful of the precarious housing situation they are entering and understand that should the tenancy end, they may be faced with homelessness. We continue to experience widows, in their 70's who, having spent a lifetime and a marriage supporting their husband on the farm, who then face eviction by their late husband's landlord as they have no right of tenure following his death. This seems so harsh, and their housing options are limited.

Addington can only help a small proportion of genuine farming folk who find themselves facing no, little, or unsuitable housing post-farming, through no fault of their own, but like the story of the boy who, when told he couldn't make a difference to all the stranded starfish on the beach replied "well I just made a difference to that one," we will continue to make a difference when and where we can.

Sue English DEPUTY DIRECTOR

If you would like to help us make a difference to farming families facing hopeless housing options, there is information on our website how you can support us...

www.addingtonfund.org.uk/how-you-can-help

GEORGE STEPHENS TRUST FUND

Updated Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for the George Stephens Trust Fund has recently been amended.

Applicants must have been a farm worker for a minimum of 5 years and within 10 years of the application. It is hoped that this minor adjustment will enable us to help those who have made a significant contribution to the farming industry.

Details and application forms can be found at www.addingtonfund.org.uk/farmworker-grants

YOUNG ENTRANTS SCHEME Encouraging new blood into farming

We know that encouraging new blood into farming is essential if the industry is to survive and thrive. This year, our aim is to build a Young Entrants Scheme which will provide work live units with small parcels of land linked to accommodation. These would be a steppingstone for young people to establish their business.

In order for us to get this going, we are looking for partners who can provide mentoring and support, access to land or donations.

Please contact Bill Young if you are able to support this — billyoung@addingtonfund.org.uk

Hear us on the farming Podcasts!

We are always keen to get our voices heard and have already featured on Farmer's Guardian Over The Farm Gate, This Is Agriculture and It's In Our Roots, already this this year.



If you have your own podcast and are looking for an interesting guest to talk about agriculture, charity work or engaging with British consumers then please drop Annie an email anniewinn@addingtonfund.org.uk





Emma and Duncan's Brighton half marathon raises over £1000

It's with great pleasure that the Addington Fund announces its first half marathon representation. Addington's Trustee, Emma Craigie and Duncan Murray-Clarke both completed the Brighton Half Marathon on 26th February raising over £1000.

As keen participants of the popular rural Run1000 event, Emma and Duncan (both from content agency, The Ad Plain) are no strangers to running in aid of a good cause.

Before the run Emma said,

"Having participated in Run1000 since it started, it's clear to see how a committed bunch of runners can do a huge amount to increase awareness for charities and raise funds. I have recently become a Trustee of Addington Fund and it's clear to see the invaluable work carried out, so it was our immediate and obvious charity choice for the Brighton Half Marathon."

Duncan added,

"I've been #plogging my way across Oxfordshire in preparation for the Brighton Half – it's a mixture of picking litter & jogging! I'm looking forward to the 21.1km in Brighton but have to confess, I won't be picking litter! Like Emma, I'm very happy to support Addington and the awesome job the charity does in helping farming and rural communities."

As well as thanking Emma & Duncan for this effort, Addington would like to thank all of those who have donated, including Kubota UK (with baseball caps included)!

Ashcombe Breakfast raises over £1700

Thanks to UK Agricultural Finance Ltd for their sponsorship of the Ashcombe Breakfast which took place on Tuesday 14th March and raised over £1700 for Addington Fund.





Mole Valley Farmers raised £719.62 for Addington Fund at their late night Christmas shopping events. Mike popped along to one of the stores whilst visiting some of our tenants in the area. Thank you to James Morrish and all of the MVF team!

LODGE & THOMAS Celebrating 130 Years

South West auctioneers Lodge & Thomas are celebrating their 130th year in business. Based in the City of Truro, they offer professional services across the whole of Cornwall including the Truro Livestock Market every Wednesday.

The firm has been supporting the Addington Fund 'Give a Little Make a Lot' campaign over the years, where vendors selling at the livestock market donate a percentage of the sale proceeds from their sold stock.

Lodge & Thomas have now raised £1,000 for Addington Fund through donations from sold stock and a generous donation from the firm.

ways to support the Addington Fund in 2023

AddingtonFund

We thought it would be a hard task to come up with 23 individual ways of how you can support us in 2023 but plenty of ideas came to mind. Here is an easy guide of how you can help us this year - more ideas always welcome!

- 1) Sponsor an Addington Fund event e.g. the Farm Business Awards
- Fundraise for us by running a marathon, holding a bake sale, hosting a Young Farmers event etc
- Collect for us at church services
- Come to an Addington Fund event
- Simply donate
- 6 Gift Aid your donation
- Choose us on easyfundraising.org.uk
- Buy our Christmas cards (www.addingtonfund.org.uk/shop)
- Buy our bunting (www.addingtonfund.org.uk/shop)
- Leave a legacy in your will
- ① Donate prizes that we can use for auction lots and for raffles
- 12 Choose us as "Chosen Charity of the Year"
- (find us by searching Addington Fund)
- Like our posts on social media
- 15 Share our posts on social media
- 16 Tell people about the Addington Fund and our charitable work
- Become an Addington Ambassador
- 1B Subscribe to our quarterly newsletters (www.addingtonfund.org.uk/subscribe)
- Come and see us at shows
- Volunteer to help us at shows and events
- Distribute leaflets at your event, local village hall and other social gatherings
- @ Grant us a loan
- Always back British agriculture

Thank you for supporting the Addington Fund

Faringdon YFC support

Faringdon Young Farmers are continuing to support Addington this year as one of their chosen charities, alongside Prostate Cancer UK.

The Club has already raised over £1500 for the two causes. Thank you! See faringdonyfc on Instagram for more.

Thank you to everyone who has raised funds for Addington Fund so far this year.

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all things Addington Fund **Just search AddingtonFund**

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