

# 20 years

OF THE **Addington Fund**

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NFU Mutual  
Charitable Trust

# 20 years

OF THE ADDINGTON FUND



## Welcome

We recently celebrated 20 years of the Addington Fund, a milestone we could not have reached without you.

From modest beginnings as a rural parish initiative in Suffolk, during the outbreak of Classical Swine Fever, we were catapulted into the forefront of supporting farmers and rural communities during the devastating Foot and Mouth epidemic in 2001. Since those dark days, the development of the Addington Fund has been remarkable, as we are now one of the leading and most sustainable farming charities in England and Wales.

Today, our dedicated staff and board of Trustees provide unrivalled experience and expertise to help the farming and other related communities in times of need.

Our five main objectives are to provide Disaster Relief, Retirement Homes, Affordable Houses, Farmworker Grants and, through our Young Entrants Scheme, to encourage capable, ambitious young people take their first steps on the farming ladder.

In the pages that follow, you will meet a few of the people whose vision, determination and hard work have made it all possible, together with just a handful of the many thousands of people we have been able to support along the way.

Your generosity in the past has made it possible for us to grow and the continuous support from both new and existing donors will allow us to carry on providing vital help in years to come.

*Thank you for supporting the Addington Fund.*

“

*Helping Mum with a house when Dad died was the Addington Fund throwing her a lifejacket when she was drowning.*

*I personally can't thank you enough for all the help and support you gave her.*

”

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Sheila Cole & Gordon Gatward

*Former Chairman of the Trustees for the Addington Fund*

The Addington Fund began its life in February 2001 when foot and mouth disease hit this country – it could be argued that the crisis was the most disastrous event suffered in our agricultural community since the impact of the Corn Laws in the 19th century, especially within the national livestock sector. At the helm in the Fund's infancy was the Reverend Dr. Gordon Gatward in his office at the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) on the Stoneleigh Show Ground. The ARC staff, including the Anglican Rural Officer, Reverend Jeremy Martineau and the Methodist/URC Rural Officer, Reverend Michael Crutchley with the support of two volunteers organised and administered the Fund in the first few days. It soon became clear however, that the crisis was going to go well beyond the six weeks that was originally anticipated and the volume of calls requesting help soon required the installation of another five telephone lines in the Centre and the recruiting of many more volunteers to staff them. The ARC had contacted all church denominational leaders during the first week of the outbreak to ensure that the Church was made aware of the likely scale of the crisis and to ask congregations to pray for those affected by it. (The then Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey suggested however, that in addition to calling the churches to prayer, the ARC should be initiating some more practical expression of support for affected livestock producers.)

In those early dark days of 2001, The Farming Community Network and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution along with Agricultural Chaplains, were able to provide pastoral and financial support for individuals and families but it soon

became clear that there was also an immediate need to get financial help to farming businesses that were on the brink of disaster. Unable to move or sell livestock and faced with the resulting cost of extra feed and the need to provide additional housing for that extra stock, businesses were quickly running out of cash. This was in addition to having to face the horror of coping with the culling of stock and the resulting overall mental and emotional problems. It was quickly recognised that with congregations in nearly every rural community, the churches were in a unique position to respond to this need and to get support, both financial and pastoral to those businesses so affected, especially as the ARC had direct links into most denominational structures. All that was required was the provision of funds.

There is no doubt that the leadership provided by the Prince of Wales was a major key to solving this as his involvement and support provided access to many potential funding sources, as well as increasing the profile of the work of the farming support charities. Once the appeal had been made for help the funds did indeed roll in. There was huge generosity from all walks of life – no matter how small or how large every donation mattered, and on one day, for example, there was a cheque for £500,000 and another for 50p. As a result of this incredible public response, a new charity which was eventually to become the Addington Fund (in memory of the late Canon Richard Addington who had done so much to support the farming community in East Anglia during the outbreak of classical swine fever in 2000) was born.



*Gordon Gatward  
Former Chairman of  
the Trustees for the  
Addington Fund*

To do the administration involved an army of volunteers came in, all co-ordinated by the Fund Raiser Ian Bell. I remember turning up in the early days to go with many others “on the phones”. The information we gathered was sent through to panels of volunteers from the agricultural community who every afternoon would meet and consider the applications, some of their numbers made up by members of the Kenilworth and District Agricultural Society, who assessed the grant needed to feed the applicants' flocks or herds for a fortnight. Applicants could then reapply for help which enabled the charity to keep in touch with them and provide additional pastoral care when required. The completed assessments and recommendations were then forwarded to the finance volunteers so that they could write cheques which would be sent out the following day. The turn-around from receiving an application to sending out a cheque was normally three days. Those cash grants were given from March 2001 to July 2002 and as a result of the work being done by so many volunteers administrative costs were kept to just 1.4%.

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

Charities are built on volunteers and co-operation between similar charities and this was so in 2001, when Addington worked very closely with The Royal Agricultural Society of England at Stoneleigh; the NFU Mutual; what was back then the Farm Crisis Network, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and the Agricultural Chaplains throughout this land. This continues today and the Fund also works with others to help the agricultural community. The support of every community is vital to the role that is Addington.

During the period when grants were made to support the victims of FMD, Addington responded to over 20,000 applications for help and distributed over £10 million. As a result of the public's generosity, Addington still held substantial funds at the end of the crisis and the trustees saw this as an opportunity to respond to a need within the agricultural community that had been highlighted by FMD. It was very clear that a good number of those businesses that sought help from the farm support charities were no longer viable, but the owners were unable to leave them as they didn't have the necessary funds to purchase alternative housing. They were effectively trapped with little or no hope of their circumstances improving. Addington trustees discussed this with the other support charities and it was agreed that Addington should move into the provision of housing for those who had to leave farming. It was also agreed that the charity should retain a certain amount of the funding for the awarding of emergency grants should another crisis like FMD arise.

Gordon served as Chairman until 2010. His experience of the early years of Addington is part of this report. I took over as Chairman from Gordon and I retired in 2019 to hand over to Peter Jinman.

I cannot say what my favourite projects have been because each project – from a coffee morning to the development of buildings, has been exceptional. Each one has opened the door to new ideas, visiting different parts of the country; seeing well deserved people winning awards at the Awards dinners; seeing agricultural machinery placed outside St. Paul's Cathedral (and a man asking me if I was going to sell eggs there); walking behind cattle down Ludgate Hill with all traffic stopped; knowing that each house that

was bought would bring comfort to a family in trouble; knowing that each grant given had made a difference; seeing the plans for developments of barns come to fruition; and perhaps above all, meeting people who want to support Addington (and some have done so since 2001); realising that the charity which is still “young” has made such a difference to those in the agricultural world.

In the years that I have been involved with Addington the progress has been almost breath taking – from Gordon's desk in an office in 2001 - to our own office premises; from giving grants (which in certain circumstances continue) - to the housing projects that we have today; from Gordon's two office “helpers” - to the staff number of today. Until 2018 there were three members of staff (with additional part time staff bought in when necessary) and today there are four members. The volume of work that they do – particularly in the present pandemic - is amazing and they deserve huge credit. They are the backbone of the charity and they do not fail in their commitment.

Nothing in my tenure as chairman would have been possible without the presence of the trustees and their support. They have all brought to the Board their experience, their expertise, their understanding, their advice, their time and above all their friendship. Gordon and I have been totally privileged and honoured to have served such a great charity.

The future of farming in this country is on the cusp of change as it has been over the years, but those involved in that world will do what they have always done - put their backs to the plough and go forward. The Addington Fund will be right behind them!

Sheila Cole

*Sheila Cole  
Former Chairman of  
the Trustees for the  
Addington Fund*



*20* years  
OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Bill Young

*Chief Executive Officer*

When I started at Addington in 2018, it was clear that the Addington trustees had laid some solid footings and was ready to advance to the next stage. Quickly, we hit a record 65 tenants and with some examining of the overheads and costs, we were able to reduce our annual operation costs significantly and as a consequence, Addington Fund was able to boast that for every pound donated, we were consistently paying 90p to charitable objectives. We believe it is important that donated money goes to good causes rather than paying for the running of the charity.

This has made us a very attractive proposition for both corporate and private donors. To devolved Governments, we are rightly seen as an efficient distributor of central funds to good causes. Our in-house capability to analyse applications and a complete history of money paid out has meant we have the ability to find and hit the correct targets.

All this has meant we have been able to look at other areas in agriculture to help and the growth in the George Stephens Fund means we can now help qualifying farmworkers both working and retired, and the trustees are actively looking at ways we can open this up to help even more farmworkers.

New entrants are important if agriculture is to progress and in our experience first generation farmers often turn out to be the best. Addington Fund has proudly launched its new Young Entrants Scheme, whereby Addington is able to use legacy farms to bring in first generation farmers to try something different and get established in this great industry.

If Addington is to continue to flourish it is important we remain both adaptable, efficient and ambitious. Through the hard work of all involved we have successfully managed to stay lean and mean but, in many ways, we now need to kick on to the next level which will require expansion without losing our sustainable structure.

Our Chairman, Peter Jinman and I have pledged to concentrate on our five core areas: -

- **Disaster Relief in the form of goods and services after prolonged inclement weather or disease outbreak, especially when animal welfare is at risk.**
- **Retirement Homes for farmers.**
- **Affordable Houses to keep youngsters in their chosen rural location.**
- **Purchase of Essential Household Goods for active and retired farmworkers on low incomes.**
- **Young Entrants Scheme to help bring first generation farmers into the industry.**

We believe that the passing of the Agriculture Bill in November 2020 will shape agriculture in the future and is going to increase demand for housing services provided by the Addington Fund. For the first time, there is provision for farmers to tap into a retirement fund as part of a calculated exit strategy from 2022. Farmers who sign up to the scheme will be able to draw down all of their Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) up until 2028, in one payment. This means some farmers will be able to consider retirement and will have funds to put towards a retirement home, therefore it is likely that Addington will be asked to contribute towards more shared equity retirement homes.

Taking all of this into consideration, we are in advanced talks with stakeholders and partners who share our goals, as we look to create a series of retirement houses for farmers when they vacate their



land. It will enable like-minded people who have spent a lifetime working in agriculture to share experiences over the fence or in a communal garden. It could signal the end or a reduction in our buy to order policy in retirement homes, but we believe it will be a step in the right direction, as we aim to cope with what we think will be an increase in demand for our housing services. We hope to announce the first of these in our anniversary year. Ideally and ultimately, it would be great to have four or five of these developments spread throughout the country.

*I feel very honoured to be part of this great organisation*

*Bill Young CEO  
Addington Fund*

To hit these achievable but demanding goals, we realise we will have to adapt to the change in times. We have marked our 20th anniversary with a total revamp of our marketing image with a new user-friendly website, a new suite of leaflets and display equipment, and our own filming equipment with a concerted effort to up our presence on social media and enter the world of digital fundraising. Successful fundraising will be the key to our successful future.

I feel very honoured to work and be part of this great organisation and feel privileged to be playing a part in taking it to the next level. Reaching a record number of tenants was a great milestone and watching the balance sheet grow at the same time, as we help more people, is personally very rewarding.

It is important too, that we keep our operation clean and simple and avoid getting bogged down by bureaucracy and internal processes. In short, we have an obligation to keep our operational costs low and staff motivated so we can set an agenda to help more people.

Bill Young

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Peter Jinman

#### *Chairman*

Twenty years ago, on 20th February, I awoke to the phone ringing and a reporter from the local radio station asking me if I knew anything about foot and mouth disease and if so, could I do an interview with him, on air, in half an hour. My somewhat bleary-eyed question as to why at this time in the morning he was wanting to do an interview, was responded to with the revelation that a suspected case of foot and mouth disease had been found in some pigs at an abattoir in Essex and the authorities were waiting for the laboratory test results before confirming, that again, the farming world would be facing one of the most infectious of diseases. Little did I know at that time that the reason for the early morning call was going to have such an effect on my life and that of so many who live and work in the countryside. I saw at first hand the effect that this disease had on farms, families, individuals and marriages, as animals were culled, and isolation, always an issue in the farming and rural community, was turned up a notch as fear of spreading the disease became the paranoia of every neighbour, often closely related farming families.

Now, twenty years on the disease is different and the affected species is the human animal but again isolation, because of lockdown, this time of all communities, urban and rural. This time the countryside is not littered with pyres, instead it is mass vaccination and queues at the doctors and village halls with the media using the well-known farming phrase 'herd immunity'. Nonetheless there has been great sadness as so many people have died or been seriously ill with many having long term problems for their health. The need for improved communication in the countryside has never been

more important as family and friends and businesses learn to pass news and information and stay in touch using modern technology. The phrase, 'you are still muted', has become a part of every Zoom dialogue.

Sadly, for all of that twenty years, as for many before, the scourge of bovine tuberculosis has played havoc with the cattle industry and the lives of so many who work to maintain or improve their stock. Plans are put on hold. Budgets revised. Expenditure curtailed. The sudden appearance of the disease being suspected gives rise to notable stress on all who live or work on a farm from having to manage the rules relating to movement, as well as the repeated handling and testing, with the three days' wait for the decision as to being clear or entering yet another 60-day period before the next test.

Amidst this the UK has come out of the European Union and changes to trade are having to be understood and worked with, to keep open the long served markets in Europe and find new ones in the rest of the world. Add to this the changes now announced and soon to be rolled out by governments to the farming support and stewardship schemes and it soon becomes apparent that the Addington Fund will be needed as much in the coming years as 20 years ago and the years in between. If indeed the predicted 6000 to 8000 farmers are to retire then Addington needs to be there to help and the preparation for that starts now, building on the experience that has been gained and the lessons learned. Housing will have to be found to meet the increased demand from those retiring and at the same time support will be required for new entrants to allow them to take on the vital role as the future food producers and stewards of the countryside.

# 20 years

OF THE ADDINGTON FUND



“ As chairman, I am supported by a willing and wise group of trustees and, of course, we all are most grateful to the hard-working staff. The fact that such a high percentage of the donated money is used for the benefit of those in need is a tribute to the efficiency of all those who work or help guide the charity to fulfil its aims now and for the future. ”

Peter Jinman

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Sue English

*Deputy Director*

In May 2001 when I was full time farming, I received a call from my vicar who was also an agricultural chaplain and involved with the recently set up Addington Fund. He told me that they needed someone with a farming background to help answer the Foot and Mouth helpline for about six weeks and asked if I would be interested. At the time, we had just finished lambing on the farm, and hay making wasn't due to start for a month, plus I was recovering from a back injury, so thought, why not, it would fit in well. Twenty years later I am still here!

My first job role was manning the helpline. There were over 20 of us back then, many volunteers, based initially in the offices of the Arthur Rank Centre at Stoneleigh Park which we outgrew, so the Royal Agricultural Society of England let us use some of their office space. For those of us speaking directly with the farmers calling us for help, it is a time we will never forget. Many callers had harrowing stories to tell, and it impacted us all. We used to have a de-brief every night because some of the things we had heard during the day were so distressing. And this was 20 years ago before 'mental health' had really been acknowledged. A 12-hour day was not unusual, and the people involved at that time were so committed to the cause and a credit to the charity.

We employed students from Warwick University to do all the data inputting and there was a group of people called 'the cheque writers' who spent whole afternoons issuing cheques to our successful applicants.

I have so many memories and it is hard to narrow it down to one significant one. I will never forget working a 24-hour day when we

had a problematic housing issue – starting at 5.00 am one morning and finishing at 5.00 am the next day! I also have many great memories when we were fortunate to hold events at some very amazing places. Meeting HRH The Prince of Wales twice was also a privilege. And I have been humbled to witness so many tenant farmers leave their farm and start life again in an Addington home. The best thing I have heard our housing beneficiaries say, after they have settled into the next chapter of their lives is: "I wish I'd done this years ago."

I love the fact that my job makes a difference to so many people. We keep in touch with our housing beneficiaries and to see them adapt to life outside farming is a joy. To meet them the first time, when many are frightened that they won't cope outside farming, and then see them grow into their new lifestyle where they have time to do other things than just work, is a real blessing. Many have said to me



“

*I love the fact that my job makes a difference to so many people*

”

how excited they were to have their first proper holiday in 40 years now they no longer have the commitment of a farm to look after.

In an era where we are encouraged that to be successful, we must expand and do more, I think there is also room for a low cost, small, niche charity to quietly get on with the job and not get bogged down by processes and protocol. As there are only four of us, it does mean that in busy times, we have to push ourselves, but it also means in challenging times (2020 as a prime example) we can quietly get on with things while we wait for life to return to some sort of normality. I can imagine Addington growing so when we are 40 years old, we have the ability to help even more people, but I hope the 'can do' attitude of our charity will still exist.

To our loyal and generous supporters, I would like to let them know that they have made such a difference to the lives of so many people. It may seem that we supply just a house, but there is a ripple effect from enabling a family to be in a place they want to be. The positive effects on their mental health will probably never be fully quantified. By helping them live in an environment where they are comfortable, ensures they can continue to be near friends and family, and if they are of working age, they can retain their job and security.

To our beneficiaries, I would say I hope Addington has made a positive difference to you, and that we have helped you feel less isolated and alone. Even receiving a small grant can hopefully give encouragement that you are not alone and there are people who care.

Sue English

## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Mike Williams

*Project Manager*

It is six years since I started working for the Addington Fund and never has there been a dull moment in managing the properties within the property portfolio. The portfolio has increased to a total of sixty-five dwellings plus four workshops within England and Wales. We have churned some of the properties owned, to enable the purchase of suitable dwellings for our tenants within the areas that they wish to live.

During this period, we have also self-funded and built two new cottages in Cornwall and converted two agricultural barns to dwellings in Cumbria. Both projects brought immense satisfaction upon completion, not only to me, having managed and been involved in the process from inception to completion, but also to the tenants who have subsequently occupied the dwellings, which makes it all worthwhile knowing that I have been able to assist in providing this essential housing.

We are proposing to further develop our property portfolio with current opportunities arising in Cornwall, one of which is the proposal, subject to obtaining planning approval, of a new three bedroom dwelling at our existing site at Probus. This will provide



much needed affordable housing for a family working within, or having retired from, agricultural or rural activity within Cornwall.

I'm really looking forward to working to progress the charity. With the support of our loyal donors and sponsors I'm sure we'll continue even stronger into the future to provide much needed housing solutions.

Mike Williams

“

*Thank you very, very much for the cheque. We, like a lot of people, do not like asking for help, and I guess, feel a bit humble when something is sent in the post.*

”





## Addington Fund Staff Members & Trustees

### Annie Winn

#### *Marketing and Events Manager*

I suppose what I'm meant to do here is talk about what I have done for the charity whilst I've been working at the Addington Fund but what I'm going to do is reverse it and give a little insight into what the Addington Fund has done for me, since working here.

Before working for the Addington Fund, I'd worked a variety of jobs. I've done bar work, retail and even worked in a perfume factory making fragrances at one point. I took any job that would have me after leaving university, just to keep a roof over my head. I didn't have much direction in my life, after having to leave home at 15. I had great friends around me and I was happy with where I was and what I was doing but I knew I was capable of doing better, I just didn't know how.

Luckily for me, after meeting the right people in life, I fell into working in the agricultural industry and I haven't worked in any other sector since. I find the industry so interesting. I love everything I learn about farming, I love the variety of people I meet and the knowledge of those who have nurtured the ground for sometimes longer than the years I've been alive! I just love it. So, when I was lucky enough to be employed by the Addington Fund, I was working the best of both worlds; with people and still in farming, I knew I was on the right path.

I joined the Addington Fund in 2018 and settled in well. The last two years have been and still are a massive learning curve. I had my whole first year learning about the Addington Fund and what we do as a charity to help the farming community, and what my role was for us to continue helping the farming community in the years

to come. I was so busy, I'd taken on a role that was on its toes 24/7 with attending shows, organising events from start to finish, hosting and fronting the events, managing hundreds of different people at a time, but despite it being 100mph, I realised that that's exactly what I needed in my life.

Despite being far away in distance because of the pandemic and working from home, our team is closer than ever. We have had time to sit down and rethink how we were living our lives and working our jobs. We realise what needs to be done to continue with the progression of the charity and our enthusiasm remains high. I personally cannot wait to see the Addington Fund progress further. In fact we have already appointed a fifth, part time, member of staff because more farmers need our help and so we need more time and skill resources to take things further. The charity is indeed becoming stronger every day

We have truly loyal and generous supporters and corporate backing, for which we are forever grateful. Without them we wouldn't be able to do the work we do. Our team is amazing, our trustees are wise, and to work for the Addington Fund is a pleasure.

I'm very proud to work for the Addington Fund and I just hope that whatever I do, people can see that I try my best and work my hardest to keep the charity moving forward by raising funds for such an invaluable cause within the agricultural industry and farming community.

The things I have learnt since working at the Addington Fund, and the people I work with and have met along the way, will stick with me for forever. The memories of the events we have hosted and the smiles we have put on people's faces as a result of the work we do,



*Annie Winn  
Addington Fund  
Marketing and  
Events Manager*

will forever be those moments that I reflect on throughout my life and feel a real sense of achievement, something I haven't really had from previous jobs. The true friends I have made since working at the Fund, albeit in a short space of time in comparison to some, they'll be friends for life, and just the overall day to day life being involved in the Addington Fund is something I'll always treasure because as we all know too well, life can be turned upside down within a matter of minutes and we just don't know what we will or won't have from one day to the next.

Our jobs take up so much of our time, effort and energy it's important we work a job that isn't a chore. I think being happy is the main thing we should live for in life, and happy in life is what I am right now. So, like others that we have helped, I also want to say thanks to the Addington Fund for taking me on and letting me have this opportunity to make a difference within the agricultural industry.

Annie Winn

## Timeline

# Timeline

*It was a phone call between two members of the clergy during an outbreak of swine fever in Suffolk that led to our charity, the Addington Fund, getting started. The disease was devastating pig farmers when West Suffolk vicar and the local diocese's agricultural chaplain, Canon Sally Fogden took a call from fellow country clergyman, Richard Addington.*

2000

*We continued supporting farmers in hardship until September, when we took a different direction - into housing.*

2002

*The first of our Affordable Housing developments was launched to help people working in rural industries other than farming.*

2006

1999 ○

2001

*Normality was returning to the countryside when foot and mouth disease hit. This time it was a national crisis. The Arthur Rank Centre in Warwickshire volunteered to take over the Addington Fund and up-scale it. Between March 2001 and July 2002, some £10.3m was distributed to over 22,000 applicants. Sue English started working with the Addington Fund.*

2007

*Our grant-making restarted, courtesy of our Trustees' Discretionary Fund.*

2009

*We took over responsibility for the George Stephens Trust Fund from the National Farmers' Union Trust Company Ltd.*

# 20 years

OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

*The ARC-Addington Fund moved from its offices at Stoneleigh Park to new premises in Barford, near Warwick. We took this opportunity to revert our charity's name to Addington Fund, the title by which we are known today.*

2010

*We developed two three-bedroom semi-detached homes, built for us on land donated by the late John Collins, founder of Collins Calfmate.*

2014

*A third barn conversion generously donated by a local farming family, this time in Cumbria some five miles west of Kendal. Close to the shores of Lake Windermere in the Lake District National Park, High Cartmell Fold lies in the parish of Crosthwaite.*

2018

*Our 5th member of staff, Holly Beckett, joins the Addington Fund.*

2021

○ 2022

2013

*HRH the Earl of Wessex opened our work/live project in Ruthvoes, a small village in Cornwall. This project consists of four dwellings, each with purpose-built workshops so that self-employed people with a tie to Cornwall can run their own business whilst living on site.*

2015

*We were bequeathed our first property – a detached three-bedroom house in a rural location in West Wales.*

2020

*The year a global pandemic hit the world and the Addington Fund had to discover a new way of working. Our events and fundraising took the hit but thanks to the sustainable nature of the charity, loyal supporters and corporate sponsors, we managed to continue helping the farming community throughout a very tough year.*

## People we have helped

**20** years  
OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

### Micky

#### *Addington Fund Tenant*

I first had a taste of farming life helping a friend's husband who worked on a farm near Luton Airport. I was around 13/14 at the time, my friend was five or six years older and I used to help at harvest time filling up bags of corn that was being harvested, it was the late 1950's so the equipment was fairly antique! No modern combines with corn hoppers then.

I initially went to Bletchley Park and trained in telegraphy when I first left school and became a telegraphist in Luton Head Post Office for two years, before moving into hairdressing as my aunt owned her own business and she was keen for me to join her. This was where I met my husband, he was clearing the snow from the streets one winter. We married in 1964 and moved to Hitchin, Hertfordshire. My father-in-law was already a tenant farmer at Hertford Heath so I was introduced to that life when helping out at harvest times.

We always wanted a tenancy for ourselves, they weren't easy to find at that time but luckily when the children were around eight and 10 in 1976, Lower Wilbury Farm came up and we were delighted when we were awarded the tenancy. What a wonderful life for the children to grow up in.

The children loved the animals and the freedom of course, and it was lovely to spend so much time together as a family unit, although neither of them went into farming. I think they could both see that there wasn't really any money in it despite it being a wonderful way to live. My husband and I managed the farm between us and worked comfortably alongside each other.

In late 2007 my husband became unwell and of course refused to see a GP until July 2008. He was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and had a course of chemotherapy, which we were told wouldn't change the outcome but may give him more time. My husband sadly passed away in May 2009 but before he died he organised contractors to do the ploughing, drilling and harvesting future crops in order for me to continue at the farm alone, which was my wish. I couldn't think about leaving a home I'd lived in for nearly 40 years.

However, it was a struggle to initially gain the tenancy, as I was told my name wasn't on the tenancy agreement (old tenancies were just in the farmer's name) and I was told I needed to leave with immediate effect. As you can imagine, this wasn't a good time to try to negotiate a new tenancy but we managed it. It was at a much higher rate but my daughter came back from abroad and moved in with me, securing a job in London to help finance the farm.

Eventually, we both realised that we couldn't manage the farm long term but it gave me the five years I needed to do some necessary maintenance work and to remove all of the machinery that had been left by my husband that was no longer needed. It was basically a five year clean up project that helped me to heal. By the time I was 70, I realised I was getting older and without help I would struggle, so I made the decision to give up the farm. I discovered that if I went into a council property it would be a flat, so no pets or a garden. I had a dog who was eight years old so I looked at the idea of privately renting but this was too expensive in the areas I preferred.

After a lot of worried thoughts about what I could do next, I got in touch with the Addington Fund. They were

absolutely brilliant with their support, it was like a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders. They helped me to find contacts like FCN who were also such a great help. They accompanied me to the tax office to sort out income tax issues and spoke for me; I had no idea of the complexity of tax or about finances as my husband had always dealt with those. I really don't know where I'd be now had it not been for that call. At each stage of the process, I was always kept informed of the next stage and what it would involve which was so reassuring for me and also for my family, knowing that I was being considered for a home that I could rent and live in for as long as I needed to.

When I was informed of my successful application by Sue, I cried with relief. I can't describe the feeling I had. It was wonderful. I then set about the task of looking for a suitable property in an area of my choosing, within a price range I was given. It really was quite an incredible experience and I couldn't quite believe it was happening to me. For the first time in my life, I had a choice of where I lived. I found exactly the right property in Sywell, Northamptonshire and as it is semi-rural it is ideal. Mike and Sue checked it out to see if it was a viable purchase, which it was, and Mike made an offer which was accepted. I was overjoyed when Mike called to tell me the news. I have some lovely areas where I can walk, I also have a sister and her husband and my son living about 20 minutes' drive from me. My daughter lives in Hampshire where I visit and spend time walking around the area there with her.

I've made a few new friends in the area, I've joined an indoor bowls club and table tennis, which has opened up a whole new world. Unfortunately, this has been stopped due to the pandemic but I'm hoping it will



once again continue in the near future. I also have a wonderful garden which has been a great project for me and I've taken pride in developing it over the five years that I've been here.

The Addington Fund is so important as are the other farming charities: they provide vital support for tenant farmers, managers or landowners that find themselves, through no fault of their own, unable to cope with a situation which they hadn't planned for. With Brexit and climate change, farmers are having to adapt to a very different way of farming which may result in many not having the resources to survive, so I would encourage everyone to give them all the support they can. I know from experience! I will be forever grateful to them.

Thank you.

## David and Louise

### *Addington Fund Tenants*

**W**e were introduced to the Addington Fund by a very kind lady from the RABI who had been helping us fill in forms and getting allowances in place as Dave has COPD and later was diagnosed with lung cancer.

We have been tenant farmers with Staffordshire County Council since 1986. We were due for retirement and had nowhere to go. Addington have been fantastic from the outset allowing us to find somewhere to live of our own choice. Sue and Mike have been so supportive, they have made us feel comfortable and not judged us. We have both worked all our lives but still did not have a lot to show for it as farming is so unpredictable. We are now happily settled and could not ask for more. Sue and Mike are always on the end of the phone or email and get in touch to find out how we are.



*“ We have both worked all our lives but still did not have a lot to show for it as farming is so unpredictable. ”*

We still cannot believe that Addington literally came to our rescue. The hardest part we found was at the beginning having to ask for help, but anyone in the same situation we were in: please ask.

## John and Sarah

### *Addington Fund Tenants*

**S**arah and I were born and brought up in South Yorkshire. I had helped and then worked on local farms from the age of 14. After we got married, we moved away from Yorkshire and I worked on farms in various parts of the country, most notably as livestock manager on one of the first embryo transplant units in the country, and shepherding a 3,000 flock of mules on the Cranborne Chase in Dorset.

We moved to Pound on the western edge of Dartmoor in 1979, where we stayed for forty years. I was a farm manager of a 248 acre grassland farm with 1500 ewes and had the opportunity to take a Farm Business Tenancy on forty acres of the farm, running a flock of Beaulahs. Because the farm wasn't generating sufficient income, Sarah ran the farm and I went driving for an international haulage company and was away for three weeks at a time, trying to save the really heavy work for the weeks I was home.

In 2001 I had an issue with a suspected deep vein thrombosis. I came home and Sarah went to work as an administrator for a local eco research company. After Sarah retired, we kept on farming until we both reached 75 and had to admit it was time to stop.

Our landlord had it in his mind to sell the farm but would not do so until we had found somewhere to live. Once we started to look seriously for somewhere to live, we realised it was going to be difficult to find a property we could afford. It was at this time we



contacted Sue English at the Addington Fund to see if they could help.

We had first become aware of the Fund during the first Foot and Mouth outbreak, when we had help in the form of a small loan for feed purchases. Then again, we had a friend who was losing his farm tenancy due to an issue of succession. I put him in touch with the Addington Fund who subsequently resolved his housing situation too.

Sue came to the farm to meet with us and ascertain whether the trustees could or would be prepared to consider helping with a shared equity property. Thankfully, they agreed and we started the search for a property with much help and support from Mike Williams.

We finally found a property we could afford and really liked. The whole process from start to finish was handled with understanding and support. We cannot thank the Addington Fund enough for the help they have given us. They took a huge weight off our shoulders at what was a very stressful and worrying time.

## Vice Patrons

20 years  
OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

### The Rt. Revd. John Stroyan

*Bishop of Warwick*

The ARC-Addington Fund was set up in March 2001, at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the churches' response to the foot and mouth outbreak. I became a trustee in 2009 and, in 2016, became a vice patron. Over that time, I have been much impressed by the work of the Fund both in terms of disaster relief and increasingly providing much needed housing. The staff have always been driven to do the best that they possibly can for the farmers who come to the Fund for help. I have seen the difference that this help can make to some people's lives and I am delighted to support a charity that does such good work within our rural communities.

### The Honourable Mrs Rupert Soames

In 2010 I was asked to help raise the awareness of the Addington Fund in the county of Buckinghamshire where we live and have a small farm. For a few years I helped organise the traditional advent service to raise the charity's profile a little and encourage the congregation to be generous.

Having been born into a farming family I know how proud the farming community is and asking for help does not come easily. The Addington Fund has been a lifeline to many families suffering bereavement, fatal accidents, suicide and illness.

Congratulations to all the staff and supporters who have worked so hard for the past twenty years and may it grow even stronger during the next twenty.

### Lord Iliffe

When the Foot and Mouth crisis hit back in 2001, the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC), of which I was Chairman of the Management Committee at the time, volunteered to take over Richard Addington's initial work and The Fund was re-launched as the ARC Addington Fund. The Reverend Gordon Gatward, who was the Director of the Arthur Rank Centre, was very much the driving force and between March 2001 and July 2002, £10.3m was raised and distributed to more than 22,000 farmers and others who were affected. The important thing was to respond very quickly as farmers could not move or sell stock and were facing substantially higher feed costs often with no income. They were desperately in need of extra resources, and of course, people to talk to who sympathised with their plight.

By the end of 2002, it was clear that many tenant farmers' businesses would not recover. However, they

could not give up their tenancies as they would not only lose their business but also their home. The Addington Fund therefore set about looking into how affordable retirement housing could be provided so that these people could retire with dignity and remain living in the countryside. The Fund currently has some 15 affordable houses and around 50 retirement homes.

I was invited to become the patron in 2007 and have continued to support the work of the Fund and those running it since then. However, I am not getting any younger and most importantly as the Fund does need to have an active Patron now is probably the right time for me to retire. Of course, the world of agriculture is rapidly changing at an ever increasing pace which again, is a very good reason that the Addington Fund should continue to be supported as a leading charity in the farming world.

“

*The Addington Fund is a beacon of light and hope to all who need it, and its work has accomplished peace of mind and safety for thousands in the farming industry.*

”

## The Rt. Hon. The Countess Bathurst

In 2001 I was horrified by the devastation foot and mouth disease wreaked on our farming communities, with herds and farms being destroyed, and with it the hopes and dreams of so many farmers. I was determined to help and was introduced to Ian Bell of the ARC-Addington Fund, as it then was, who like me had recognised the need for some swift and immediate action to help those facing such a monumental crisis.

I launched a fundraising campaign in Gloucestershire and was staggered by the genuine support shown by a huge number of people. As a county we raised over £500,000 and I was afforded the highest privilege of helping to distribute that money to those who were worst affected. It was a humbling experience and had a profound effect on me, to see such humility and gratitude from the farming community and to witness the devoted team at the Fund, working tirelessly for so many people - it was an experience I shall never forget.

I subsequently joined the grant giving panel and was delighted when my idea to have an emergency fund for incidentals at times of hardship was implemented, and it still runs today.

The journey of the Addington Fund has been based on recognising the need of our farming communities in the ever-changing and deeply challenging world of agriculture. It affords dignity to those who need help,

support to those who face unending struggles and security to families and individuals who have no choice, for whatever reason, but to leave their familiar world and move on to their next chapter.

The Addington Fund is a beacon of light and hope to all who need it, and its work has accomplished peace of mind and safety for thousands in the farming industry. It has done this with minimum fanfare, quiet determination and extraordinary hard work.

For twenty years its success is thanks to the team behind it who have recognised the need in a profession that has traditionally been based on a love of the countryside, passion for the work and a reticence in asking for help when times get too difficult to manage. This has been achieved with determination, grace and unending kindness and it should be celebrated.

I am beyond proud to be a vice president and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you, to those who have been at the Fund in the past, and to the current, amazing team. I have huge admiration for all you do, under sometimes terribly difficult circumstances, and I wish the Addington Fund the happiest of birthdays - the past 20 years have been nothing short of extraordinary and I know the next 20 will be just the same. Here's to you all.

With my very best wishes and congratulations.

## Farm Business Awards Winners

James Kittow

*Butcher and Grazier*

**M**y name's James Kittow and I'm a butcher and grazier, fifth generation of our family operating at the original site, Kilhallon Farm since 1880. Here we rear beautiful beasts and supply magnificent meats to a wide range of customers all over the UK. We graze our herds of pedigree Red Ruby and Dexter cattle on pastures that surround us in the Cornish countryside that have splendid views which are mainly coastal.

I was lucky enough to win Cornwall's Farmer of the Year in 2019 and I have been involved with the Addington Fund ever since. Winning made me feel on top of the world! It is one of my best moments, when I heard my name announced I just could not believe it. I started walking out to the stage very slowly and I remember saying to myself and a few guests as I walked out, "This can't be right, they have made a mistake." so I carried on slowly just thinking that someone would tell me that it was a mistake and ask me to sit down again. But no one did and I arrived on the stage and was presented with the prestigious award. Someone in the audience shouted, "Speech!" but I was so in awe I couldn't say anything apart from a big thank you! I still have to pinch myself when people talk about my achievement!

Since winning this I have joined a fantastic network of producers and professionals within the agricultural industry. I have had the



**JAMES KITTOW**  
BUTCHER & GRAZIER

opportunity to show case my part in the food and farming world to many and have been involved in so much more throughout the year than before. The exposure sure has boosted my business. I have even written a farming column in a national farming paper. I have doors of opportunity and advice opened to me. But above all this I have met some great people and made some lifelong friends.

# 20 years

OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

## Cornwall's Farmer of the Year 2019



“ I have joined a fantastic network of producers and professionals within the agricultural industry. ”



## Farm Business Awards Winners

### Rob and Matt Cotton

*R&P Farming*

**W**inning Devon's Farmer of the Year at the Devon Farm Business Awards in 2019 was a fantastic experience. The interview process alone helped us challenge and evaluate our business and consider the future direction. It boosted everyone in the team by recognising their hard work and dedication, which still encourages us to this very day to carry on working hard to reach our goals and continue growing the farming business.

Winning the award has also introduced us to new contacts and provided access to new business opportunities which has been great. The Addington Fund has done a huge amount of work to date helping rural communities and vulnerable individuals. Given the current uncertainty and rapid changes we are facing, I feel their role is going to be even more crucial in future which is why it's so important to support their work in any way that you can.

We are proud to be Devon's Farmers of the Year and we hope that when this pandemic is over, someone new can claim the winner's title and feel the same pride and determination that we have felt since winning. Thank you, Addington Fund, for all the work that you do and supporting the farming community.



*“ Winning the award has also introduced us to new contacts and provided access to new business opportunities ”*

“

*I realised I was getting older and I was struggling, so I made the decision to give up the farm. Addington Fund were absolutely brilliant with their support; it was like a huge weight being lifted off my shoulders*

”

## How to support our work

**W**e take every step to be as financially sustainable as we can be, but a little help can go a long way. We are ambitious to keep building on what we have achieved since the Addington Fund was officially launched to support the farming community in 2001.

### *We aim to:*

- *Own 100 retirement homes; With at least one house in every rural county in England and Wales.*
- *Hit 100%, pay outs on all donations. In other words, the running of the Fund is paid totally from its own sustainable sources.*
- *Plan to work out the value of our social impact on rural communities which we believe is quite considerable.*

*If you would like to support our work, please donate, fundraise or leave a legacy to the Addington Fund.*

For more information about the Addington Fund please visit

**[www.addingtonfund.org.uk](http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk)**



*20 years*  
OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

# 20 years

OF THE ADDINGTON FUND

  
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Ian Bell, Former CEO of the Addington Fund 2001 – 2018

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