

# ADDINGTON NEWS

AddingtonFund  SUMMER 2021

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

## Addington Fund: 20 Years on and Blooming

On 19th February 2001, foot and mouth disease was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The authorities moved quickly but sadly the disease had already spread from its source in the north of England down through the country along the main trunk roads notably the M1, M6 and M5. It signalled dark times for the UK livestock industry and unquantifiable suffering for farmers, as the mass slaughter of infected animals kicked in with the necessary movement restrictions. Truly a dreadful time for the UK farming industry as our trade dipped and incomes plummeted.

In Suffolk, the Reverend Canons Richard Addington and Sally Fogden were alert to the issue based on their local experience in dealing with the aftermath of swine fever and its effect on the rural community. They realised correctly that those engaged in the livestock sector were going to need support quickly and the Addington Fund was born soon after the outbreak.

Twenty years on, the Addington Fund is thriving, which although good for the rural people we help, it is sad there is need for such a charity. The trustees have wisely directed the Fund into five key areas: -

1. Our work on Disaster Relief continues either on an individual, regional or national area after inclement weather, disease outbreak or just a run of catastrophes combined with bad luck.
2. Retirement Homes for farmers. Our work during foot and mouth established that there were tenant farmers trapped on their farms with no retirement provision at all so Addington stepped in to help.

3. Affordable Homes were also needed to help keep younger families and would-be rural entrepreneurs in their chosen rural location.
4. The George Stephens Trust Fund has enabled us to help qualifying Farmworkers both working and retired. An area of help we hope to expand.
5. Finally, the Addington Fund has moved into helping would-be First-Generation Farmers into the industry using legacy farms.

It is sad that Richard Addington is not around to see how his vision and ideas have grown into today's Addington Fund.

As for my own aims as Chief Executive, these are simple. We have successfully managed to control costs over the last three years while increasing turnover to the point where we are now turning over £800k and giving out 90p in the pound on all donations. It is thus a realistic and tangible target to hit the £1m turnover regularly and 100% payout



### CEO'S COMMENT

on all donations. We will do this by buying more retirement homes and affordable homes to rent out at subsidised rates to those in need. It would be great to have at least two properties in every county of England and Wales where we operate.

**If we can achieve this it will give us a further solid platform to take the Addington Fund forward for the next 20 years.**

*Bill Young*

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## It's time to celebrate!

This year is Addington Fund's 20 Year Anniversary, a milestone we are very proud to reach. Thank you to all our supporters for making this possible, and for allowing us to continue helping the farming community when they need us.



# Men in Sheds

## Looking After Men's Mental Health and our Addington Tractor, Jack

Farmeco Community Care, Men in Sheds group, based in Nottinghamshire, have been looking after our Jack, the red Massey Ferguson Addington Fund tractor for the last few years, servicing it and keeping it ready for action. Being custodians of this valuable bit of kit inspired the boys to finish their own project and they now have their own fully working and restored grey Fergie.

Last October, before the rain soaked the ground and the virus closed everything down, the Men in Sheds took both tractors out for a spin and plough. Driving the two tractors gave a vastly different experience. The Fergie is much slower, less powerful but with a vicious clutch that requires excellent control to deliver a smooth start. Jack, by comparison, is a Rolls Royce - fast, powerful and very smooth.

Of course, both tractors leave the driver completely exposed to the elements and so again contrast with modern machinery and all their creature comforts.

More recently as the rules for community-based groups changed, Men in Sheds re-opened. As well as playing again with Jack (the ground was too dry for Fergie to do any work) the boys got to open and assemble a whole load of new toys, thanks to a grant from the Department of Culture Media & Sport and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Thank you to the Men in Sheds for doing such a good job at looking after our precious Jack.

**For more information about the Farm Eco Centre, visit [www.farmeco.co.uk](http://www.farmeco.co.uk)**

# Jack and Jill prepare for action

## Our 1954 Addington Fund Massey Ferguson tractors are on the move.

With summer agricultural shows on the agenda as lockdown restrictions lift, these two beautiful tractors Jack and Jill, are preparing for their first outing since before the pandemic back in 2019.

Jack, who was initially advertised as a "project tractor that needs putting together, all parts boxed & complete with logbook" and Jill, who didn't have any pushrods, have come a very long way since arriving at their new foster home. They have been fully refurbished and are now in good working order and we are extremely proud to have them represent the Addington Fund at our shows and events.

Our long-term loyal Addington supporter and

tractor enthusiast, John Selley, refurbished the tractors and gave them to us to use at fundraising tractor runs and agricultural events to encourage awareness for the charity.

Like most of us during lockdown, the tractors have been stored away safely throughout the pandemic whilst receiving a little bit of TLC in the meantime, ready to show off their shiny bonnets in time for the summer shows.

Jill plans to attend the Devon County Show on Friday 2 July – Sunday 4 July to celebrate being this year's Chosen Charity of the Year. Any donations made throughout the show will be given directly to the Addington Fund, so we can continue providing housing and disaster relief for the farming community in times of need.

## NEWS SHORTS



## A Donation from Her Majesty The Queen

We would like to thank Her Majesty The Queen for her recent donation to the Addington Fund in what has been a difficult year for all charities. Such a high-profile donation is not only gratefully received but also a great boost to morale to all those associated with the Addington Fund.

## NFU Mutual Charitable Trust Donation



NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

We are truly grateful to the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust for their donation of £100,000 back in February this year. Their generous donation, when we are unable to fundraise, is invaluable to the charity.

## Lord Illiffe steps down

We will be sad to say goodbye to Lord Robert Illiffe, our Addington Patron, who will be stepping down from his role this year after starting this role with us back in 2007.

We wish him the very best and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for what he has done with the Addington Fund throughout the years. His successor will be announced in the very near future.



Please feel free to come and say hello to Jill and us at the Addington Fund stand at the Devon County Show in July, and don't forget to keep your eyes peeled around the showground for the official Guinness World Record "World's Longest Knitted Bunting", which is going to be sold in aid of the Addington Fund. For more information visit [www.devoncountyshow.co.uk](http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk).

**We will keep you updated on any future tractor appearances as and when we can. We look forward to seeing you throughout the summer.**

# Our Newest Member of Staff

We are delighted to announce that we have officially taken on a fifth member of staff. Please welcome to the team, Holly, our new Operations and Marketing Assistant.

Addington CEO Bill Young added

*"We are delighted to have Holly on board with the Addington team. She brings her own skills and strengths in the mental health field, modern day administration systems and the marketing arena. I am sure she will be a great asset to the Addington Fund now and in the years to come; we are all looking forward to working with her while she continues to develop her "Focussed Farmers" business on her own account".*



## Welcome to the Addington Fund, Holly

## All About Holly

Holly grew up on a farm in the West Midlands and is the fourth generation of a family who farm 1200 acres of arable alongside running a farm shop, restaurant, cookery school and conference facilities. Holly worked within the family business diversifications for six years before she undertook a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 2015. From watching the expansion of the farm enterprises over the years, she knew the importance of great leadership and wanted to explore this further during her scholarship, looking at practical tools that can be introduced for personal development leading to business growth.

In 2016, having returned from global travels, Holly gained sponsorship from the Frank Parkinson

Agricultural Trust to pilot the introduction of mindfulness and goal setting in agriculture. This training had been heavily undertaken within the corporate industry, with results which improved productivity, reduced accident rates, better managed stress and enhanced overall well-being within employees.

Focussed Farmers was launched in 2017 to measure the effects on farmers and ag-sector workers completing a programme of mindfulness and meditation, coupled with goal setting and has consistently delivered remarkable results to those getting involved. On average, farmers who have engaged with these techniques have found a 20% increase in their focus, a 25% increase in

 <b>AddingtonFund</b> <b>EVENTS UPDATE</b>	
THURSDAY 17TH JUNE	Virtual Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards
THURSDAY 1ST JULY	Celebrating 20 Years of the Addington Fund (DEVON)
FRIDAY 2ND - SUNDAY 4TH JULY	Devon County Show
TUESDAY 13TH - FRIDAY 16TH JULY	Great Yorkshire Show
THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER	Westmoreland Show
WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER	Dairy Day
THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER	The Cornwall Farm Business Awards 20/21
SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER	Harvest Service Queen's Chapel of the Savoy
<b>DECEMBER EVENTS TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	



self-discipline and a 20% decrease in stress, with 71% of farmers reporting an improvement in overall life satisfaction.

We are delighted to have Holly on board at the Addington Fund as her experience and skillset will truly benefit the team.

**To find out more about Holly and Focussed Farmers and sign up for an introductory free 12-part online series, you can visit [www.focussedfarmers.com](http://www.focussedfarmers.com)**

# Farming Help Awareness Week

We would like to thank the Farm Safety Foundation – Yellow Wellies for allowing us to take over their social media for a day back in February, as part of the Farming Help Awareness Week.

Following on from Yellow Wellies – Mind Your Head Campaign, talking about Mental Health Awareness on farms and within the agricultural industry, Farming Help Awareness Week fitted in perfectly and raised more awareness than ever before, thanks to Yellow Wellies promoting our causes during their MYH campaign the week before, and then allowing us to take over their social media.

Running successfully for two consecutive years now, Farming Help Awareness Week was set up to raise awareness for the farming charities and the main aim is to remind the farming community that Addington Fund, The FCN, Forage Aid, RSABI and The RABI are always there to help you, no matter what situation you find yourself in.



For more information about the Farming Help charities please visit [www.farminghelp.co.uk](http://www.farminghelp.co.uk) Want to watch our Farming Help Awareness Week Yellow Wellies Takeover? Follow us on Instagram for the full video, search [addingtonfund](https://www.instagram.com/addingtonfund).



# Virtual Hereford Food & Farming Awards 2021

We are delighted to announce that we are this year's Chosen Charity of the Year for the virtual Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards 2021.



After the success of their very first virtual awards last year, the Food and Farming awards will be taking place online on 17th June 2021, streamed via the Hereford Times Facebook page.

The Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards are one of the first major events that the Addington Fund is involved with since the beginning of the pandemic and we are truly thrilled to have the chance to celebrate all the local Herefordshire food and farming heroes.

Born and bred in Herefordshire and regular antiques expert on BBC's "Bargain Hunt" and "Flog It!", Kate Bliss is this year's celebrity host, and we can't wait to see her representing Herefordshire

and presenting us with all the county has to offer. A competition will be opened on the night of the awards, whereby anyone who donates to the Addington Fund online, will be entered into a prize draw. The lucky winner will win a "Farming Family Photoshoot" by Addington Fund's very own professional photographer, Abby Cohen, worth £350 and a delicious Herefordshire food hamper full of locally produced goodies worth £100!

**So please join us on Thursday 17th June at 7pm, on the Hereford Times Facebook page and show your support for the Addington Fund.**

## Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards Competition Time!

Be in with a chance of WINNING this fantastic Taste Herefordshire Food Hamper full of locally produced goodies worth £100 and a Farming Family Photoshoot by our very own professional photographer, Abby Cohen Photography, worth £350!

To enter: All you need to do is watch the Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards on Thursday 17th June via the Hereford Times Facebook page, donate and answer the three multiple choice questions about the Addington Fund correctly, et voila! You're in the prize draw.



Terms and Conditions apply. Competition opens 17th June – 25th June 2021. All T&C's can be found on our website.

## Devon Farm Business Awards 2021

Unfortunately, due to the disruption of the pandemic, we have decided not to host our traditional Devon Farm Business Awards this summer. We plan to host the awards as normal in 2022.

## The Great Yorkshire Show, Dairy Day and Westmoreland County Show

We will be attending all three of these shows this year so please make sure you come and say hello if you are there.

## The Royal Cornwall Show and The Cornwall Farm Business Awards 2021

We are very sad to hear of the cancellation of The Royal Cornwall Show this year, that was meant to take place on 9th – 12th September.

Despite the show not going ahead and being rescheduled for June 2022, we have plans to go ahead with The Cornwall Farm Business Awards on Thursday 30th September 2021. Please do rest assured that we are trying our very best to make sure the awards to go ahead this year.

More updates to follow in the near future.

## We Need Volunteers for the Devon County Show

We are this year's Chosen Charity of the Year at the Devon County Show, which means:- We need volunteers!

Volunteers are needed throughout the show from Friday 2nd July through to Sunday 4th July, to help man the bucket collections at certain times of the day.

You will have 3-4 time slots throughout each day to stand and hold our very bright orange Addington buckets to collect donations from the general public. The rest of the time, you can go and enjoy the show.

Tickets for the Devon County Show will be given free of charge to willing volunteers, hurrah!

**If you would like to volunteer and enjoy the show for free, please contact our Marketing and Events Manager Annie via email or give her a call on 01926 620135 or email [anniewinn@addingtonfund.org.uk](mailto:anniewinn@addingtonfund.org.uk)**

Thank you!

# GRANT & HOUSING WORK



AddingtonFund



## There is still life outside farming

2021 started off with several enquiries for our retirement home scheme (Strategic Housing Scheme) and came from farmers considering leaving the industry. We have noticed that disputes among family members of a farming business appear to be a factor in many of these enquiries – as does the decision of Councils deciding to sell their county farms. This is such a shame as Council smallholdings have traditionally been the route into farming for young entrants, and if that route is taken away, the long-term consequences are obvious.

For whatever reason, not all these initial expressions of interest follow through to actual applications, and sometimes, just the act of putting pen to paper to instigate that change can be a bit too daunting. However, time and time again, those who have gone on to become Addington tenants have said, 'I wish I had done this years ago' which is encouraging to hear and proof that there is life outside farming. However, our housing beneficiaries have to make this big step at the time that's right for them.



The housing market appears to have exploded at the moment, with more and more people on the move from big towns and cities, and for us, this has made buying properties more challenging, and the actual process is drawn out as conveyancing solicitors are so busy. We have a couple of property purchases that started in the autumn last year on which we are still awaiting completion. I've never known the market to be like this in the 18 years we have been buying houses.



We accept applications from farmers who need to retire from the industry, and we work across all of England and Wales. We currently have 64 properties, located from the north of England to Cornwall, West Wales to Suffolk and in-between, as our map shows.

**If you are a retiring tenant farmer and need help with finding a future home, please do get in touch with us. We have the capacity to buy five more retirement homes in this financial year. All calls are treated sympathetically and with discretion.**

### Help for Farmworkers - George Stephens Trust Fund

If you currently work or are retired from working on a farm in England, or know someone who is, and are in need of essential household equipment such as white goods, carpets, bed etc we may be able to help through the George Stephens Trust Fund.

**Please contact us for more information.**

### Celebrating 20 Years of the Addington Fund

This year is our 20 Year Anniversary, so to mark the occasion and to replace our traditional Devon Farm Business Awards, we will be hosting a small networking event on Thursday 1st July, the night before the Devon County Show at Westpoint, Exeter.

The evening will consist of a drinks reception, canapes and two very special awards: Covid Resilience Award and Community Champion. These awards will be presented to two lucky winners who have either diversified their farm business for the better to cope with the pandemic and/or have helped and made a difference to their community during the pandemic.

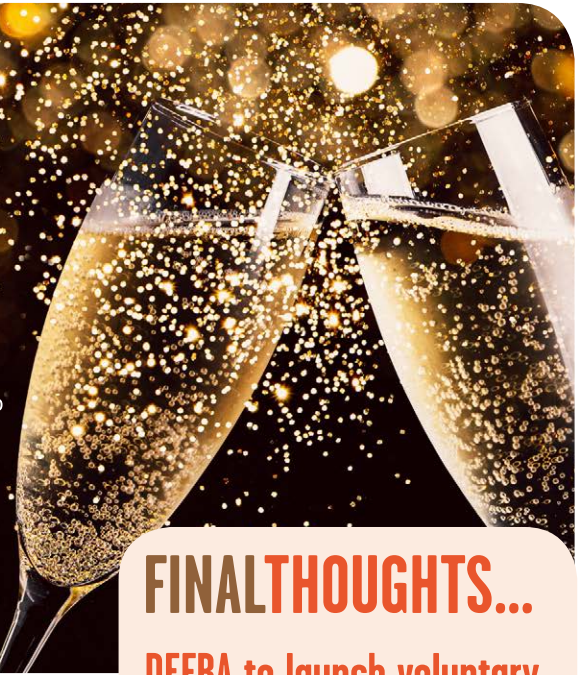
We are very much looking forward to having the opportunity to host our very first event since the initial lockdown last year, and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the making of the event. We are truly grateful to the Devon County Agricultural Society for their continuing support.

# Cheers to 20 Years

Addington Fund in the last 20 years, has moved from being a rural support group in Suffolk to a major national rural charity operating under the Farming Help umbrella, with its own specialist areas of disaster relief and housing. It is now recognised as a major force in the charitable world and has become a powerful voice when it comes to rural issues and is renowned for its efficiency in distributing charitable funds, which is very appealing to many benefactors from all walks of life including private, corporate and government donors. A solid platform has been built for the Fund to continue its current good work and expand its remit into helping new entrants into agriculture and to help more farmworkers who run into financial trouble. As such it has an enviable and bright future.

Without your kind support and your generous donations over the years, helping those in the farming community in times of need, and all our achievements to this very day, would not have been possible.

We look forward to continuing our work, remaining sustainable, working with a great team and our co-charities, progressing the charity even further forward and to continuing our help in the farming community as and when they need us.



## FINAL THOUGHTS...

### DEFRA to launch voluntary retirement scheme

In Mid-May DEFRA announced following on from the Agriculture Act of November 2020 that they were planning to launch a voluntary retirement scheme for farmers to incentivise farmers who are considering retirement. It is currently out for consultation and Addington would encourage you to visit <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/agricultural-policy/lump-sum-and-delinked-payments-england/> to find out more. Addington cautiously welcomes the proposal especially if incentives are introduced to bring in new entrants into farming.

We are already in talks with a number of interested parties and stakeholders to increase our number of retirement homes to meet demand. If you would like to know more please contact Bill our CEO on 01926 620135

## Mental Health Awareness Week

April showers brought May flowers and May gave us Mental Health Awareness Week...

It was incredible to see such open and honest stories and support within the agricultural industry, encouraging people to reach out and speak if they are struggling with their mental health. Not only is Mental Health Awareness Week a positive step in the right direction to encourage people to talk and ask for help, but it's also a great way to recognise and celebrate our good mental health too.

Keeping on top of our good mental health is important, so remember to take time out and practice self-care, even if you don't necessarily feel stressed, down or low. We know and understand that there is always so much to do and life is always busy, but let's not get so bogged down that we wear ourselves out.

In light of this, we thought we would share our Mental Health Awareness Week poem, written by our Marketing and Events Manager, Annie.

### Reach Out and Speak

*Mental Health Awareness Week,  
is our chance to reach out and speak.  
About this weight that's on our mind,  
it makes our vision, our future, our life seem bleak.  
But the stigma around this feeling,  
this pain we cannot describe,  
isn't an issue at all anymore,  
because it's OK to talk and  
It's OK to cry...  
So to ask for help is not a failure, you are NOT weak.  
You are loved and you are valued,  
Mental Health Awareness,  
is your time to reach out  
and speak.*



If you are working in the agricultural industry and you are struggling, and you don't feel you can talk to friends or family, the Farming Help helpline is open 7am - 11pm, 365 days a year. **Please call 03000 111 999**, there will be someone on the other end of the phone that you can talk to. **If you are in Scotland, call 0300 111 4166.**

If you don't work in the agricultural industry and need someone to talk to, see below for other Mental Health helplines, please call:

**Samaritans: 116 123**  
**Mind: 0300 123 3393**

Or you can text **SHOUT to 85258** for support via message, if it's easier to text instead.

Watch our short video that we made for Mental Health Awareness Week via our website:  
[www.addingtonfund.org.uk/latest-news](http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/latest-news)



### New Look for Business Awards

Our Farm Business Awards logos have had a revamp, we hope you like them!



### We want to Go Green

Why not receive our newsletters into your inbox online? All you need to do is subscribe via our website and send us an email to say you have swapped to online.

**LET'S SAVE THE PLANET TOGETHER!**

For the latest Addington Fund news and updates follow us...  
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