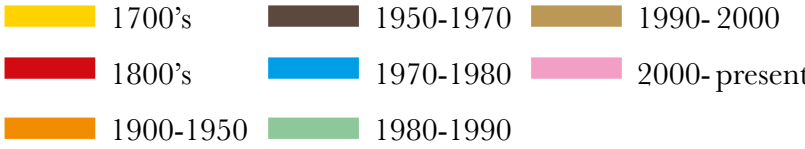


FARMING, AGRICULTURE AND LAND MANAGEMENT TIMELINE

Farming actually arrived in Britain around 6,000 years ago, marking a major change in both culture and lifestyles. Food production, a basic necessity of life, has come a very long way since then. A hundred years ago tractors were replacing horse power and there were the challenges of feeding the nation through both wars. In 1973 we entered the Common Market and in 2016 the country voted to leave the EU. The changes that have taken place are enormous and show how the farmer has and continues to adapt to the needs of the nation. As we look to the future, agriculture and food systems be it arable or livestock will be part of the solution to climate change, will contribute to the countries energy supply, will always ensure that quality food is always available and that the countryside is managed for future generations.



Robert Mercer
Hart House 1993-98
Rob studied agriculture at Newcastle University before setting up Packington Pork, a new venture in the group of family farming enterprises. After 12 years Rob sold his pig business to Cranwick plc. He now pursues a variety of ventures including pigs, laying hens and property. Rob and his wife, Sally, set up Farm Fresh Revolution, a Staffordshire based charity addressing food poverty.

Tom Attwood
Evans House 1993-2000
Tom started working with plants in his parents' garden. He formally trained at Edinburgh and Kew before taking on head gardener posts in the Lake District and Lancashire. After lecturing at Newton Rigg College and the Lakeland Horticultural Society, 'Abi and Tom's Garden Plants' was founded in 2011 at Halecat, Cumbria. Tom writes regularly for the *Westmorland Gazette*, *Cumbria Life* and *Living Magazine*. He has written for the *Garden Design Journal*, *The Garden* (RHS) and *Gardens Illustrated*.



Tom Mercer
Hart House 1992-97
After a short stint in the City Tom set up MOMA Foods, selling breakfast from a stall in Waterloo Station. Specialising in porridge and oat milk MOMA expanded into supermarket and food service sectors in the UK and internationally. Tom sold MOMA to AG Barr plc in 2021. Prior to MOMA Tom studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge. Tom is also involved in the family Foundation.

James Drummond
Powell House 1997-2002
James is a tenant farmer in Northumberland who is on a mission to produce 100% forage-fed meat, while also driving down his greenhouse gas emissions, turbo-charging his carbon storage and achieving greater biodiversity. James' approach to making his livestock farm as sustainable as possible also includes the genetic performance of his animals and as a result he captures a huge amount of data on every animal born and living on the farm – analysing everything from which ewes make the best mothers to the methane output of individual animals. His determination to put pasture at the heart of his farming business saw him named 'Shed Innovator of the Year' in the 2021 British Farming Awards. He has also planted 45,000 trees on the farm over a 7 year period.



Greg Relp
Evans House 1997-2004
Works at the family business TW Relp & Sons near Penrith. The Relp family have been farming in Cumbria for many generations and in 1971 they developed the successful agricultural merchants business of today.

Duncan Sinclair-Willis
Evans House 1993-2000
A former gamekeeper on the Powys Moorland Partnership, who has worked on grouse moors in the Pennines and Scotland and was a winner of the Purdey award for Game and Conservation. Duncan has delivered a number of passionate and articulate speeches to the public, Ministers and Welsh Government officials stressing the challenges faced on our Welsh moorlands today and has spoken about the decline in our habitats that support a number of our iconic birds. In 2019 he joined the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Cymru as a Membership Officer.



Charles Anyan
Powell House 1994-99
Charles's arable farm in Lincolnshire has been in his family for over 200 years and his great-great-grandfather was a founder member of the National Farmers Union. Charles is Chairman of the Lincolnshire Farming Conference and an ambassador for the Farming Community Network and is especially interested in the work they do around mental health.



Christopher Alderson
c.1742
Held many ecclesiastical roles including Curate of Howgill and Chaplain to the Marquis of Lothian. He was devoted to gardening and was employed to lay out the grounds at Kew for Queen Charlotte. He was given a Crown living as Rector of Eckington following his completion of the garden at Kew.



Montague Ainslie
c.1805-10
In the early 19th century, Ainslie inherited the Grizedale Estate from his parents. He planted vast numbers of larch trees in the valley, continuing the development and growth of Grizedale Forest.

Arnoldus Rudd
1836-37
Became a solicitor and then travelled to Australia to become a sheep farmer. The first recorded Sedberghian to travel abroad to farm.

Joseph Oates
1836-38
Oates was engaged in farming nearly all of his life and is the first recorded Sedberghian to have had a career as a gentleman farmer. He lived at Risplith near Ripon.

Sir Francis Powell, 1st Baronet
1843-1846
A major landowner in Yorkshire and Conservative politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1863 and 1910. He was one of Sedbergh School's greatest benefactors and was the Chairman of Governors 1874-1914.



William George Ainslie
1842-48
Son of Montague Ainslie. In 1849 he entered the family firm of Harrison Ainslie & Co. In 1868 the Office of the Commissioners of Patents for Inventions gave Ainslie provisional protection "for the invention of improvements in means for drying peat, peat compounds, and other materials".



David Stout MRCGS
Lupton House 1973-78
Studied at the Royal Agricultural College. Former partner with Smiths Gore. Now Director and Head of Professional services at PFK Ltd in Cumbria, specialising in estate management advising on all elements of land and property ownership.



Simon Wood
Sedgwick House 1974-78
Simon Wood moved to Hillfield Farm, Cumbria in 2000. As well as looking after 300 breeding sheep he was also keen to enhance the landscape with over 6,300 trees and 2.8km of hedges. In 2006 he designed and manufactured the first Neoprene lined wellies for children and started his business Warm Wellies.



Christopher Stephenson
Powell House 1986-91
Cattle and arable farmer. The Stephenson family have farmed at Bradley Hall and Bradley Burn in Co. Durham since 1939. Christopher is also the owner of Bradley Burn Farm Shop where everything on sale and on the menu is grown or produced close to home.



Nicholas Leeming
Hart House 1978-83
Nick is a Chartered Landscape Architect, Director and founder of Leeming Associates Ltd based in Darlington Co Durham. The Company is a Registered Practice of The Landscape Institute and is involved with the design, management and planning issues of urban and rural landscape projects throughout the North. Before establishing the practice in 1996, Nick gained a BA (Hons) and Diploma with Distinction in Landscape Design and worked for landscape practices in the Midlands and Sydney, Australia.



Macmillan Findlay
Hart House 1999-2007
Gained BSc from Scotland's Rural College Edinburgh in 2014. Spent a year in New Zealand on the Canterbury Plains in Geraldine involved with dairy and contracting then two years working for a contracting outfit in Perth, Scotland. He has been back home on the family farm near Penrith since 2016 milking 120 pure Normande and dairy Shorthorn cows through two A5 Lely robot milking machines and runs his own flock of 150 pure Lleyn sheep.



Alec Mercer
Hart House 1997-2002
Alec is the founder of Packington Poultry, a free range chicken business that he set up following his agriculture degree from Newcastle University. Alec also looks after the arable, broilers, and renewable energy projects within the family group. Along with his brothers, Alec is also involved with the Family Foundation.

John Studholme
1844-88
At the age of 22, Studholme sailed to New Zealand with his two younger brothers Michael and Paul. Together they bought farmland in Selwyn and Rakiaia. Over the next 20 years they acquired by lease or purchase more than 370,000 hectares and farmed extensively. In 1854, to purchase cattle John and Michael both walked 250 miles from Lyttelton to Dunedin at a time when there were no roads or bridged rivers making them the first Europeans to make such a journey, and along with William Henry Valpy the first Europeans to explore the South Island extensively on foot.



Bryan Eyre Coote Comber
1846-51
Went to Assam as a tea planter before returning to London with his acquired wealth. First recorded Sedberghian to work in tea planting.

Frederick Punchard
1881-84
Land agent for the Trustees of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington's Staffordshire Estates. Later Agent for Lady Henry Bentinck's Underley Estates.

Richard Huddleston
1891-92
Studied Agriculture at the Aspatria College of Agriculture.

Norman Addison
1893-1900
After four years in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Addison retired and became an ostrich farmer in the Cape of Good Hope.

James Waddingham
Sedgwick House 1896-1902
Assistant Conservator of the Indian Forest Service 1906-10.

Robert Blake
1897-1901
Sheep farmer in the Falkland Islands and Australia. In later life managed a large-scale sheep-run in Argentina.

John Heelis
1848-49
Trained in Manchester as a Land Agent and Surveyor. The first recorded Sedberghian to have a formal education in land management.

Spencer Henry Cubitt
1885-88
First Sedberghian to study at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.



Charles Perfect
1891-96
Inspector of Farms in South Africa. Owned a ranch in Alberta, Canada in later life.

William Middleton
1896-98
Inspector for the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in England and Wales.

Arthur Aikman
Hart House 1904-07
On the Board of Agriculture for Scotland during the 1920s when crop prices plummeted after WW1 and 40% of Scottish land is believed to have changed hands. He campaigned for several Acts of Parliament which gave price support and grants to farmers, thus changing the types of crops grown on Scottish agricultural land and the visual appearance of Scottish countryside.



Michael Scott
Lupton House 1964-64
Michael travelled to Tanzania in 1949 where his father was involved with the infamous Groundnut Scheme. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the City with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell (KPMG) in 1968. Joined his father-in-law farming in 1973; now farming 2,300 acres outside Boston in Lincolnshire. Former Chairman – British Quality Vegetable and Salad Association at Food from Britain, Horticultural Experimental Station, Kirton, Vegetable Marketing Company for 18 years, Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board. Former Treasurer and Board member Country Land and Business Association (GLA) and President of the Lincolnshire Branch. High Sheriff of Lincolnshire 2020/21. Michael kindly donated a tonne of daffodils from the farm for the 1525 Society Avenue below the Cloisters.



Maurice Egelling
Powell House 1937-39
Worked in the UK Colonial Service and UN Development Programmes. Then became a professional forester in 16 countries including 12 years in Africa.



James Donald
Evans House 1897-99
Trained in Forest conservation in Gloucestershire and was appointed Assistant Conservator of Forests in the England. Was posted to the central provinces of India and held the post of Deputy-Conservator of Forests, South Chanda Division. He died on active service with the Indian Army in 1916.

John Pearson
1909-1912
College of Estate Management, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Professional Associate of the Surveyors' Institute. Land agent in Hampshire.

Oswald Peck
1917-21
College of Agriculture, University of Alberta. Worked as a farmer and agricultural chemist.

Robert Butler-Cole
1920-22
Studied Forestry at Edinburgh University and then had a career with the Nigerian Forest Service.



Richard Stephenson
Sedgwick House 1954-59
The Stephenson family bought Upper Aynho Grounds, Oxfordshire in 1983 and transformed the barns to form a Wedding and Conference venue. They now run over 150 corporate events a year, whilst The Great Barn holds up to 30 weddings a year. The farm itself has 250 acres of mixed arable and woodland with a herd of Red Poll beef cattle. Both the venue and the farm are still run by 3 generations of Stephensons.

John Guthrie OBE
Hart House 1950-54
After leaving Sedbergh, John went to Cambridge and then joined the property business which his father founded in 1950. A chartered surveyor by training, he chairs the private property group Broadland Properties. Broadland have interests throughout Britain and Poland ranging from agricultural and sporting estates to commercial premises and developments. He has acted as a Governor of the School, a Trustee of the Foundation and maintains a role as President of the Foundation.

Colin G Trapnell OBE
Hart House 1920-25
As an ecologist for the Colonial Office, he was posted to Zambia in 1931. For over 10 years he mapped the soil, vegetation and indigenous agriculture of the whole territory – the first survey of its kind and he was perhaps the first to establish the farming system concept by systematically describing the traditional agriculture practices found in Zambia. Trapnell's ecological work in Zambia was seen by the colonial office as a rational foundation for a wide field of development, particularly of African Agriculture and in 1950 he was invited to train ecologists at the new East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization at Muguga in Kenya. Following his retirement, Trapnell became actively involved in conservation and helped found the Somerset Wildlife Trust, organising land use surveys for conservation purposes, acquiring their first nature reserves and donating major woodland areas.

Matthew Addison
Evans House 2013-16
Matthew is employed at Sir Richard Sutton Ltd as an Assistant to the Farms Director having graduated from Harper Adams University in 2020. Sir Richard Sutton Ltd manages and owns a portfolio of trading assets and businesses in the hotels, property and farming sectors. Matthew works on the well-established large mixed farming Estate in the Lincolnshire Wolds which has strong environmental and social commitments at the core of its business to face the challenging future in farming.



Peter Fairbank
School House 2013-18
Studying Applied Farm Management at the Royal Agricultural College and now works for R-Oil in the Cotswolds who specialise in cold press rape seed oil.



2014
BTEC National Diploma in Agriculture launched in conjunction with Newton Rigg College offers a new route for Sedbergh School 6th formers into studying Veterinary Science, Environmental Science and Engineering.



Joe Bird
Evans House 2010-17
Joe and Spencer work at the family firm Frank Bird in Langwathby, Cumbria. Established in the 1950s they now operate 6 of their own farms as well as 20 contract growers. They grow the birds from one day old up until age of slaughter then sell them to wholesalers around the UK. They also process broiler breeders which go into manufacturing and are the only plant in the UK which can do both. One of the leading names in wholesale poultry market, they are still completely family run with Joe working in the processing plant and Spencer working on the poultry farms.



Annabel Hamilton
Lupton House 2007-09
Annabel farms in the Scottish Borders with her Father, Will. They farm just under 3000 acres and fatten around 300 cattle a year supplying top quality lamb butchers. They also produce high-quality maling barley for Simpsons Malt which is shipped all over the world. They run a successful pick your own pumpkin patch and have other diversification projects. Annabel recently returned home after being involved in farm management in Lincolnshire and Northumberland. She is a strong advocate for women in agriculture and encouraging the younger generation into the industry.



Toby Dunn
Hart House 2006-11
Toby is a qualified Chartered Surveyor specialising in the management of rural estates and landlord and tenant advice and is involved in the management of some of the principal rural estates across North Wales. He also undertakes work involving valuation, compulsory purchase and the sale and letting of rural property.



Charles Sutcliffe
Winder House 1964-68
Charles runs Tetford Longhorns, an award-winning herd of around 100 pedigree longhorn beef cattle in Lincolnshire, once on the rare breed list but now a secure and sustainable traditional beef breed. He is Director of Family Butchers who are members of the Guild of Q Butchers as well as being Lincolnshire's only Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Accredited Butcher specialising in meat from rare and traditional native breeds.