

The Farmers Club Charitable Trust



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025/26

Charitable Trust



‘SUPPORT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE FOOD, FARMING AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES’

Here’s what has happened in the last few months and what’s to come!

Welcome to the Winter 2025/26 Newsletter

As we look back over the past few months, it’s inspiring to see just how much progress, innovation, and leadership has been sparked across our sector.

The Farmers Club Charitable Trust continues to champion learning, development, and opportunity within food, farming, and the wider land-based industries—and this edition highlights the people and projects that bring that mission to life.

Thanks to the ongoing commitment of our Trustees, collaborators, and award recipients, we have supported a diverse range of initiatives: from travel bursaries for agricultural educators, to leadership development for emerging and established professionals, to Snapshot Studies that are already influencing practice across the sector.

As ever, our work is strengthened by the networks around us. We encourage you to share these opportunities widely and help us continue building a resilient, forward-looking agricultural sector.

In this newsletter you will find...

- _____
- Snapshot Study Projects
- _____
- The Frank Arden Award
- _____
- Windsor Leadership Trust
- _____
- Latest Funding Opportunities
- _____



Nick Green
Chairperson

Bursary / Award News



The latest completed **Snapshot Study** video projects

Alice Bourne – Bringing Hazelnut production to an arable farm

Alice a farm agronomist explored the potential of introducing commercial hazelnut production to a Bedfordshire arable farm as part of a wider diversification and regenerative land-use strategy. Alice visited a leading Belgian nut grower which provided her with an insight into cultivation, processing, and best practice to assess the crop's feasibility in the UK context.



Simon Haley – Consultancy: fit for purpose?

Simon embarked on a five-day study tour to Ireland to examine how leading agricultural advisers are integrating drone technology, digital mapping, and artificial intelligence into farm management services. His project explored how trusted, data-driven consultancy can help farmers navigate regulatory pressures, improve efficiency, and unlock the value of emerging natural capital opportunities.



Jack Pierce – From field to fork in the alps

Jack's study, From Field to Fork in the Alps, explored how Swiss farmers use short, direct supply chains—from vending machines to alpine cooperatives—to strengthen local food systems and connect more closely with consumers. By visiting small farms and cooperatives across Switzerland, he was able to identify practical strategies that UK farmers can adopt to build more resilient, farmer-led supply chains.



Catherine Holbrook – On-farm bakeries as part of regenerative farming

Catherine undertook a study visit to Denmark to learn how leading regenerative growers and artisan bakers are building successful, low-input grain systems that integrate on-farm milling and baking. Drawing on her experience in Dutch biodynamic bakeries and her plans to diversify a 150-acre Shropshire arable farm, she was able to identify practical, transferable models that can strengthen farm resilience and reconnect grain production with local food culture.



EXPLORE MORE VIDEOS



 **NEXT ROUND OPENING IN MAY 2026**

The Frank Arden Award

Nuffield Farming Leadership Award
in memory of farming icon **Frank Arden CBE**

The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust and the family of Frank Arden CBE (1915-1979)



The Nuffield Farming Frank Arden Leadership Award, offers a bursary in memory of the farming icon and his inquisitive and generous spirit.

The purpose of the Award is to promote the personal development of a Nuffield Farming Scholar toward a wider leadership role within British Agriculture. The winning applicant receives funding to take part in a course provided by the Windsor Leadership Trust. The first award was presented in 2021, the award is now given annually to a recent Nuffield Farming Scholar who resides in the UK and completed their Scholarship at least three years prior to application.

The award is also supported by the Farmers Club Charitable Trust, who work in partnership with the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust in the selection process.

Selections are made by the Nuffield Farming Selection Committee and interviews for those short-listed take place in the Autumn.

Meryl Ward NSch, daughter of Frank Arden, Trustee of the Farmers Club Charitable Trust and Director of Lincolnshire Pork Co Ltd says

“We are delighted to sponsor this Award in my father’s memory. Leadership training is an investment that is transformative for the individual, their business and the wider industry. If we inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, we will have achieved our ambition for this Award and created a fitting tribute to someone who valued people and always sought to make a difference.”

AWARDEES to date

**Rob Burtonshaw
Timothy Stephens
Lucy MacLennan**



WINDSOR LEADERSHIP TRUST BURSARIES

WHAT IT MEANS TO AWARDEES...



REBECCA DAWES



CLARE MIKE

Rebecca Dawes

Awardees of the Windsor Leadership Trust programmes often describe the experience as profoundly transformative, and Rebecca Dawes' journey is no exception. Stepping into a room of leaders from across society, she found a rare space to pause, reflect, and openly explore the realities of leadership—far from PowerPoint slides and formal theory, and grounded instead in honest conversation, shared challenges, and deep mutual support.

Through the renowned “Windsor Way,” Rebecca discovered the power of vulnerability, the value of trusted peers, and the importance of putting on her own “life jacket” before leading others. The programme offered her renewed clarity, confidence, and resilience at a pivotal moment, helping her reframe difficult past experiences and reconnect with her purpose as a leader. For Rebecca, the impact was both personal and enduring: a reminder that strong leadership is built not only on supporting others, but on valuing and strengthening oneself.

Clare Mike

Clare completed the prestigious Windsor Leadership Programme, describing the experience as profoundly influential in shaping her understanding of leadership and the kind of leader she aspires to become. The course brought together senior figures from the armed forces, emergency services, public service, and faith organisations, creating a rare environment for honest reflection, cross-sector learning, and open discussion about the realities of leading through change and uncertainty.

Throughout the programme, Clare gained deeper insight into her own leadership style – recognising her strengths while identifying areas for growth. The experience encouraged her to explore what authentic leadership means in practice, from leading with integrity and empathy to inspiring others during challenging moments. Sessions on resilience, humility, and learning from failure proved particularly powerful, reinforcing the importance of self-awareness in sustaining effective leadership.

Practical discussions on influencing upwards and downwards, communicating with clarity, and engaging stakeholders across organisational levels provided Clare with new strategies to strengthen her impact. The programme also highlighted the importance of self-care, emphasising that personal wellbeing is essential for consistent, compassionate leadership.

A standout theme for Clare was navigating generational and behavioural diversity in modern workplaces. Through peer learning and case studies, she gained valuable insight into bridging differences in values, communication styles, and expectations – fostering collaboration and understanding across teams.

Clare leaves the programme with a renewed commitment to developing others, strengthening shared purpose, and creating an environment where colleagues can thrive. She expressed deep gratitude for the bursary support that enabled her participation, noting that the experience will continue to shape her leadership practice for many years to come.

Both Rebecca and Clare were joint funded for their bursaries through The Farmers Club Charitable Trust and The Perry Foundation.

Thank you for reading!

Latest Funding Opportunities Available to Support Leadership and Innovation Across the Agri-food Sector

The Farmers Club Charitable Trust has announced two key funding opportunities launching this spring, designed to strengthen leadership capability and accelerate innovation across the agri-food sector.

Windsor Leadership Trust Bursaries open for applications in April, offering sector professionals the chance to develop their leadership skills through nationally recognised programmes.

WLT applications open in April and close at the end of July.

**Windsor Leadership Trust
BURSARY 2026**

Are you a senior leader in agriculture or food production?

Are you ready to challenge your leadership?

Would you like the opportunity to access the prestigious Windsor Leadership Development Programme?

Providing the platform...
The Farmers Club Charitable Trust offers a bursary pathway to enhance and support your Agri-leadership journey

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 31st JULY 2026

Follow the link below to access the application form

[Windsor Leadership \(tfcct.co.uk\)](http://Windsor Leadership (tfcct.co.uk))

Alternatively, please contact Lisa for further details

**Applications can be made via the Trust's website:
www.tfcct.co.uk**

Latest Funding Opportunities Available to Support Leadership and Innovation Across the Agri-food Sector

The Trust is also inviting applications for its popular **Snapshot Studies** grants, providing up to £2,000 for quick-turnaround projects that enhance skills, deepen knowledge, or kick-start impactful ventures. A growing library of completed studies is available on YouTube, offering inspiration for prospective applicants.

Snapshot Study applications open in May and close at the end of July.

These opportunities reflect the Trust's ongoing commitment to supporting ambition, professional growth, and sector-wide resilience.

The Farmers Club
Charitable Trust

SNAPSHOT STUDIES
Apply for upto
£2,000

Would you like to develop your knowledge of a specific agricultural topic or theme through a quick and easy application and

Grant support to explore your brilliant innovative idea!

LAUNCHED IN MAY

www.tfct.co.uk ambassador@tfct.co.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE...

LIGHT TOUCH APPLICATION AND VIDEO REPORT

For further information, visit www.tfct.co.uk or contact ambassador@tfct.co.uk Lisa Turner 07879 625660

Applications can be made via the Trust's website:
www.tfct.co.uk

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