



BOUGHTON

ON THE LAND

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING ON AND AROUND BOUGHTON ESTATE
WINTER 2016

2 BOUGHTON GOES GREEN

Boughton has started to produce its own green energy with the installation of a new combined heat and power plant.

3 PARKLAND RESTORATION

Work has now begun to recreate one of England's finest avenues of trees – the Broad Walk Lime Tree Avenue.



5 HANDEL AT BOUGHTON

Exhibition on the composer George Frideric Handel.



Farming at Boughton.



AS the year draws to a close, we've had some time to reflect on the full impact the Brexit vote will have on the rural economy. While the detail of what Brexit actually means remains unclear, one aspect is obvious: further delays in key policy decision areas are inevitable, particularly in energy and agricultural subsidies.

With regard to both, most commentators agree there is more likelihood of support decreasing in the years ahead than increasing, and from this I take it that everyone involved in managing land must think as innovatively as possible about how they can use the assets they have as well as possible.

In this newsletter we have highlighted some success stories – in striving to farm without subsidies, and in seeking to generate new income streams from energy projects (both big and small) – which I hope are food for thought.

I am sure each and every one of you will also be thinking on how to do what you already do more effectively. Buccleuch has recently become a supporter of the UK-wide Innovative Farmer's

project – and we would encourage you to read about it in this newsletter and become involved if you have any bright ideas you would wish to explore.

Finally, as our nights get longer and there is less daylight to complete the day's tasks, we would stress the need to stay safe in whatever you do, particularly when working alone – and you might like to read the article on staying safe on the land.

With best wishes for the festive period.



John Glen,
Chief Executive Officer
Buccleuch

RUNSTOCK RAISES FUNDS FOR KIDS

A new event to raise money for children with cancer was held at Boughton in July, consisting of a 5km obstacle route which participants could complete as many times as they were able to. Feedback for the event was very good and it is hoped to grow the event at Boughton. Along with the obstacle route there was camping, entertainment at night and children's activities during the day.



Carl Anker, Arable & Shepherd; Rachael Gladstone-Brown, Estate Manager; Colin Sawford, Farm Foreman; Matt Curwen, Building Surveyor and Jonathan Plowe, Woodland Operations Manager took part along with Placement Student Sam Rees.

FAITH FESTIVAL RETURNS

The Greenbelt Christian Faith Festival came back in August for its third year. Around 8,000 people attended along with a special visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As with previous years there was music, entertainment and comedy over four days, as well as talks and discussion forums.



Greenbelt festival.

Boughton goes green

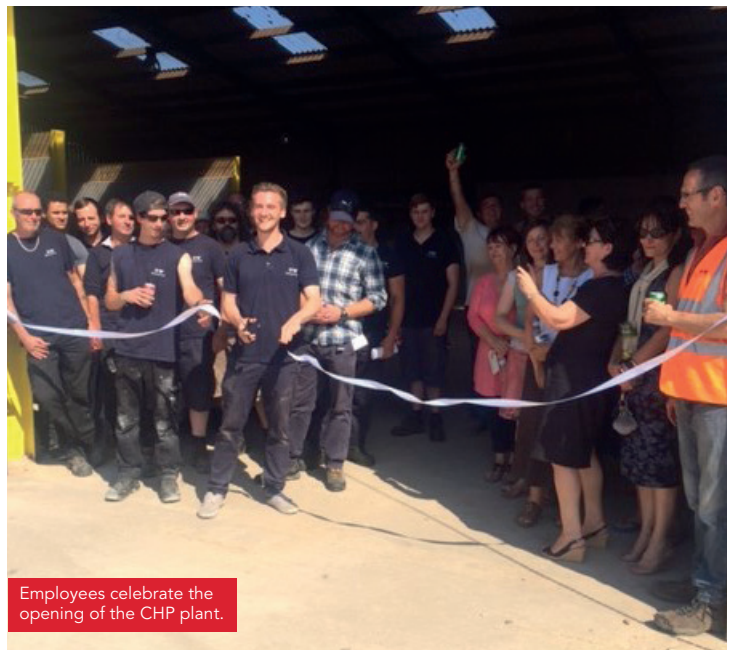
In addition to two buildings already utilising solar panels on their roofs, Boughton has started to produce its own green energy with the installation of a new combined heat and power plant on the estate.

Estate timber is chipped and then dried using the heat produced by the generator. The woodchip is turned into high grade wood fuel, which is available for sale locally with the remainder being retained to fuel the generator itself.

While the woodchip is being heated to 1,000 degrees, gas is released and used to run a modified tractor engine with a 45kW motor attached. This produces electricity for the grid with the waste heat from the engine being used to dry more chip, creating a sustainable supply of energy and heat.

The estate is now looking at other ways to lower the estate's carbon footprint, through the potential for biomass boilers, solar energy and district heating.

The heat and power operation is managed by the estate's woodlands team. Please get in touch if you would like to purchase logs or woodchip for your own use.



Employees celebrate the opening of the CHP plant.

Out of Africa



Marshal Papworth students.

In June Boughton hosted a visit by some students from several African countries who were funded by the Marshall Papworth Scholarship.

Jonathon Plowe, Woodlands Operation Manager, gave information on our methods of woodland creation, management, and production of wood and timber products. The visit was organised by the East of England Agricultural Society who confirmed how useful and informative the students had found their visit.



Boughton House showing Broad Walk avenue in distance.

Parkland restoration continues

WORK has now begun to recreate one of England's finest avenues of trees – the Broad Walk Lime Tree Avenue at Boughton House.

The historic avenue, which lies to the west of the House and Broad Water Lake, was originally planted around 1705 with a combination of English elm and 'Hatfield Tall' lime trees. Hatfield Tall limes are a distinct type of lime tree commonly used in 17th and 18th century planned gardens. Many of the elms were lost in the 1920s and 70s during outbreaks of Dutch elm disease, whilst only one original lime tree remains.

"Our first step has been to remove around two dozen poplars and take out their stumps in readiness for planting with Hatfield Tall limes next year. We plan to retain the existing small-leaved limes for a few years to reduce any visual impact, before they too are replaced with original limes," explains Estate Manager Rachael Gladstone-Brown.

Boughton House is registered Grade I on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historical Interest. The estate commenced the restoration of the parkland to its 17th century formal landscape in 2004 and since then a number of important features have been completed, including:

- De-silting and restoration of the Great Court Canal
- Formalising the edges of the Broad Water Canal and adjoining sections
- Restoration of the Mound
- Creation of Orpheus
- Creation of a lime tree nursery
- The restoration of the Grand Etang Lake

The restoration of the avenue is being undertaken in conjunction with Natural England as part of a grant-funded 10-year Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme to continue the significant restoration works in the parkland.

BEACON LIT FOR THE QUEEN'S 90TH

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, the Estate lit a beacon and Rachael Gladstone-Brown, Estate Manager, gave a speech. Following this a jolly street party was held in Weekley village.



Queens 90th beacon.

FLYING HIGH

August saw three sell-out events take place on the lawn in front of Boughton House. Over three nights 1,500 people enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine and then settled down to watch the films Labyrinth, Pretty Woman and a theatrical production of the children's classic Peter Pan.



Flying High.

HOUSE SCORES HIGH

The annual House opening in August was extremely successful, with many visitors coming to explore the house and gardens. This builds on our growing reputation as a visitor destination, and in May we were once again given a Certificate of Excellence, reflecting the consistently fantastic reviews we have earned on TripAdvisor, extracts from a few recent ones are shown here:

"Really so pleased we went to Boughton House – what a treasure. The house is just packed with history and so interesting with very good guides. The little tea room is lovely, the type of food offered was just right with very pleasant staff. Just loved the gift shop with so many different things to see and very reasonably priced."

"The grounds and gardens are a real high point. August can be a difficult time for formal gardens but they were absolutely delightful - colourful, tranquil, varied and extremely well kept."

"I didn't know anything about Boughton House but what a pleasant surprise. Our group had a fantastic tour of the House by the very knowledgeable Maureen! We were given a tour of the stunning gardens, I highly recommend a visit."



House Opening.



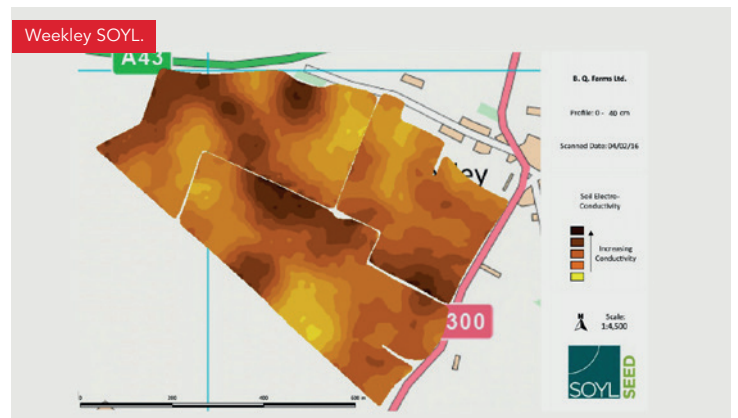
Old clay drains silted up.



New drainage introduced.



Nucleus Gimmers.



Boughton farming update

THERE is a real sense of renewal at our in-hand farming operation, BQ Farms South, with works for 2016 nearing completion. Oil seed rape has been planted for harvest 2017, whilst deeper stubble cultivations and work to break up compacted soils, improve pasture management and install new drainage now complete.

Nationally, yields were down this year due to the poor level of sunshine in early summer, but we performed reasonably well. Our oil seed rape crop was harvested at an average yield 3.3 tonnes per hectare – in line with regional results and still above the farm's historic average.

The upside has been exceptional milling wheat quality with high protein, bushel weight and hagberg. A high hagberg is essential for a soft stretchable

dough whilst a low hagberg would see a loaf half the size and the texture of a brick!

Earlier in the year we welcomed Lorraine Gravener to the team as Farm Secretary. Lorraine has been making great progress in re-organising the farm office, whilst updating statutory procedures and software systems. A modern farm office today provides a wealth of information to guide management decisions. This year we will have soil conductivity maps to establish optimum plant populations and crop yield, whereby the drill constantly adjusts sowing rate depending on soil type and stone content.

Today the farms use satellite technology to optimise lime, fertiliser and seed, record crop yield and maximise efficiency in cultivations and planting. 2016 is the second year of a longer term drainage improvement

plan that is re-establishing ditches, drains and introducing some new schemes to improve soil structure and productivity.

Earlier in the summer saw the dispersal of the dairy herd with an auction at Glebe Farm. The sale attracted considerable interest, a reflection of David Tough's stockmanship over the years. We wish him and his family every success for the future.

As part of the farm's restructure, the sheep flock is expanding towards 1,500 ewes that include an elite nucleus flock to provide the very best genetics for the main flock. Only recently three new rams arrived on farm, selected for their high genetic index. It's been a positive outcome for the outdoor lambing flock with Mick Johnson achieving 180 percent lambing. With ambitions for next year the flock is a key part of Boughton's farming policy.

Handel at Boughton

A FASCINATING EXHIBITION EXPLORING KEY MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF COMPOSER GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL WAS HELD AT BOUGHTON DURING AUGUST

THE exhibition charted key episodes in Handel's life, following him from Rome to London's West End. He was a frequent visitor to Montagu House, owned by the Duke of Montagu (an ancestor of the current Duke of Buccleuch) who commissioned the celebrated *Music for the Royal Fireworks* of 1749.

Visitors enjoyed seeing a collection of artefacts, including a 1720 harpsichord (probably Handel's own) and celebrated sculptor Louis-Francois Roubiliac's own first model for Handel's monument in Westminster Abbey, plus a Chelsea porcelain orchestra and some very rare orchestral instruments from the period. Items on display from the Buccleuch Art Collection included the first edition of the *Messiah* and the original menu from Handel's lunch with the Montagus in 1747.



Portrait of Handel engraved by J. Houbraken after Francis Kytte, surround by H.F. Gravelot, 1738. © Montagu Music Collection



Staying safe on the land

BY JIM SHEPHERD, BUSINESS EXCELLENCE MANAGER AT BUCCLEUCH

FARMING and forestry remain the UK's most dangerous professions. Last year, 27 people lost their lives and there were over 15,000 work related non-fatal injuries for people working on the land.

Too many of these often life-changing incidents could have been avoided.

Lone working has been long recognised as an activity where people are particularly vulnerable, particularly if you are engaged in risky operations such as operating machinery or vehicles.

At Buccleuch, we are putting in a lot of effort to ensure our employees are as safe as they can be; and in the last three years we have tried out a number of systems for lone workers. These have included a satellite-based system, one using a mobile phone app, and we have now settled on a comprehensive system using hand-held digital radios.

Each system has its advantages, and the key for us has been implementing something that is simple, reliable and easy to use. Digital radios appeal to us because they have good coverage across all of the Scottish estates and we can link them up with our manned security hub at Dalkeith Country Park.

Of course any hardware is only as good as the procedure that goes with it – and we have put in place clear instructions of when and how the radios should be used. If, for example, someone is using an item of cutting equipment alone, then they will activate their Lone Working facility via their radio which will prompt them for a response via an audible bleep every 20 minutes – if the bleep is not acknowledged by pressing any button, then a signal will be sent back to the security hub and a stepped escalation process will begin.

In other scenarios the worker will actually radio in to the control room to provide an update on their location, expected duration and nature of the activity being undertaken.

We would encourage all people who work on Buccleuch land to consider very seriously how to stay safe when working alone. If you employ any workers or

contractors on land you manage, you have a statutory obligation to have a lone working procedure.

Failure to do so can result in a hefty penalty or, more significantly, injury or loss of life.

If you have any queries about lone working procedures, please get in touch with the Health and Safety Executive or visit www.hse.gov.uk



Sheep profits without subsidies



Sion Williams.

BOWHILL Estate farm manager Sion Williams has been getting growing recognition for his ambition to succeed in sheep farming without subsidies.

Earlier this year the Farmers Weekly singled Sion out for his ambition to make a profit from fat lambs and beef cattle on 3,500 hectares of upland he manages on the Bowhill Estate in Scotland. Stocking includes 5,200 ewes and 500 suckler cows in an enterprise which includes cropping 134ha of barley, oats and kale and a new 200kW anaerobic digester fed

with livestock manure.

In a good season and with his best-performing hill flock he is making money before direct state subsidy, while he admits making clear profit from beef capital will be more difficult. This includes reaching a breakeven position on the near 7,000 lambs which are all fattened and at the estate on a contract with Sainsbury's.

Sion has worked on the estate since 2004. Sion said: "At present around 12 percent of farm income comes from two main subsidies – the Single Farm payment and Less Favoured Area

Support Scheme. Post-Brexit the future of all subsidies will be less certain, and my ambition is to develop an enterprise which can stand on its own two feet.

"It is certainly challenging and there is a need to innovate and utilise the very best farm practices; but I believe if we demonstrate success on a large upland unit here in the Borders, then our farm practices can be replicated by farmers elsewhere," Sion concludes.



Calling all innovative farmers...

EARLIER this year Buccleuch became a supporter of Innovative Farmers, a not-for-profit group that gives financial and technical support to help groups of farmers brainstorm and test out innovative ideas.

And already a group of dairy farming tenants at Eskdale and Liddesdale Estate has got their thinking caps on ways to make good use of the initiative. The scheme, which is already up and running with groups across Britain, works as follows:

- A group of farmers gets together to investigate a particular subject or area of interest they've identified that will enhance their business.
- If the idea is a runner, Innovative Farmers will provide a co-ordinator for administration support and puts the group – known as

a 'field lab' – in touch with a scientist or researcher from one of the leading research institutes, such as Moredun or the Scottish Agricultural College.

- The group is eligible for up to £10,000 funding.

"The aim is to establish good, practical ways to help farmers address real issues they are facing," says Adrian Dolby, Buccleuch's Head of Agriculture. *"By providing funding, expertise and a structured process, Innovative Farmers increases the likelihood that farmers develop sound ideas that can be implemented in a straightforward way. There is no sense in just having a 'talking shop' without delivering any meaningful outcome.*

"Already I've met with dairy farmers on the Eskdale and Liddesdale Estate to explore ideas that may include bespoke



grassland mixes that are more resilient to the extremes of weather observed in recent years and how a field lab could help deliver change.

"There are I am sure many other topics which would merit investigation – for instance the control of black grass in arable farming or improving soil fertility and structure – and we are keen to hear from any tenant farmers with good ideas," Adrian concludes.

If you have an idea for Innovative Farmers, please get in touch with estate manager Rachael Gladstone-Brown.

www.innovativefarmers.org

ON-SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Although the last year has seen some radical changes to feed-in tariffs, well-constructed schemes to generate and use energy on-site can still make economic – as well as environmental – sense. This is particularly true if you are off the gas grid and are reliant on oil, LPG or electricity for heating. Across Buccleuch's estates we can now see a number of schemes which are now delivering low carbon heat, energy and savings.

Boughton is leading the way with its new combined heat & power plant (see full story on page two), whilst at the Eskdale and Liddesdale Estate in Scotland, we've just installed a 250kW woodchip biomass boiler in the estate yard as part of an office refurbishment programme. The boiler will heat the main office, the Building Services office, two rented cottages, and a range of outbuildings, with the potential of adding additional buildings as required.

At Drumlanrig Castle on the Queensberry Estate we now operate a 200kW biomass boiler to provide heat for the house, whilst at Bowhill Estate we have installed a 200kW anaerobic digester which turns manure and straw into green electricity and heat which are used on the farm. We also power our free range egg operation on Bowhill using 50kW of solar panels.

Well-constructed schemes can still make a contribution to your rural business and we would encourage any tenant with an interest in low carbon energy to investigate how it might work for you.

Useful and impartial advice on domestic energy can be found at the Energy Savings Trust.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland

Tel: 0808 808 2282



SUPPORTING APPRENTICES

Bringing new blood into the agriculture is important if we are to ensure the farming sector is in the best shape possible to meet the challenges in the years ahead.

There are already a number of good initiatives out there – and this year Buccleuch has continued its sponsorship of Lantra, a training organisation which supports modern apprenticeships in the rural sector.

An apprenticeship can be a great way for an enthusiastic person to get quality hands-on experience at the same time as a nationally recognised qualification. However for many farmers the cost of employing a relatively inexperienced apprentice can be significant, and across Britain the uptake of apprenticeships in farming is low.

That's why as well as supporting Lantra, we are now looking at other ways to support learning. In our view it is likely larger estates and farms will have greater resources to justify apprentices; and we believe there may be scope to share an apprentice between a few farming enterprises to offer a broader base of experience, and to spread the cost.

Events calendar for 2017

WE ARE STILL WORKING ON OUR EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2017, BUT HERE ARE SOME DATES TO PENCIL IN YOUR CALENDAR:

26th February	National Garden Scheme
15th - 17th April	House and gardens open for Easter
10th June	Runstock
1st - 31st August (inc)	House and gardens open
11th & 12th of August	Film nights
15th August	Wind in the Willows theatre production
26th - 28th of August	Greenbelt
22nd October	National Garden Scheme
4th & 5th November	Gunpowder plot (TBC)
1st - 17th December	Christmas Fair