



Introduction *By the CARAS National Chairman
Nick Green FRAGS*

Looking back on last year 2024 proved to be equally as busy as 2023 and as enjoyable. Marlene and I received warm welcomes at each of the CARAS awards ceremonies. A very well attended reception at The Balmoral Show was followed by the Royal Welsh and Royal Highland Shows and finally the English reception at the House of Lords in October. Each were a really special occasion to meet up with industry colleagues whilst recognising the achievements of awardees. I was privileged to present Associateships and Fellowships to very worthy recipients on each occasion and realise CARAS is in a very strong position when I hear the citations for those recipients being read out. Each are a great advert for our wonderful industry and they and it, is something we should all be proud of.



We acknowledge the passing of some of our members later in the Newsletter but I would like to record my thanks as Chairman for what those particular members did for CARAS and the wider industry. There are some exemplary examples of going above and beyond the day job which what our organisation is about.

Thanks to Richard Cooksley and the input from National Secretaries, the development of our database continues. After going live at the start of 2024 various modules were developed and added to further streamline its operation and use. It now means no multiple exchanges of emails or letters are required in a candidate’s progress. All progress is documented within the database meaning completely up to date information is available to those involved all the time. Look out for the electronic members handbook coming soon. Designed to be used equally easily on your mobile phone and laptop or computer.

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The Annual Newsletter continues to be well received by Associates and Fellows alike with everyone seeming to be keen to know what's been going on in the other nations as well as their own. The Nations' Secretaries submit reports for the Newsletter but if you have anything else which you think might be interesting for those in the other Nations, please send them to your respective Secretary or direct to Richard Cooksley.

The Moderator reports elsewhere but I, as UK Chair would like to note the generally high quality of candidates being put forward. That said, as individual Nations we can't be complacent. In pursuit of identifying those who genuinely 'go above and beyond' it's better to have fewer applicants but of a higher quality to maintain the standard. The Moderators Panel can and do refer some proposals for additional information but I am pleased to say these are few and far between and the numbers coming forward are healthy.

As always thanks need to be extended to those who make CARAS what it is. The Secretary, Chair and Panel of each country make sure everything is done properly and on a timely basis. The Moderators Panel under the stewardship of Professor Bill McKelvey ensures the robust process of election and progression is upheld, and our National Secretary Richard Cooksley pulls everything together. Everyone's efforts are appreciated. Thank you.

One of my aims in my tenure as UK Chair was to get more interaction between the Nations. As well as our 2024 AGM and April Council meeting being held in Scotland courtesy of Alan Laidlaw and the RHAAS I'm pleased to report some Welsh members crossed the border into Shropshire for an English visit to Harper Adams University. It's great that we can share opportunities and would encourage a quick ask if you fancy attending anything another Nation is planning.

As always, I make no apology for seeking everyone's continued support in identifying and proposing potential candidates for Associateship. We are the ears and eyes of CARAS and it is beholden upon each of us to continue the good work done by our predecessors. If you consider anyone worthy of Associateship, please let your respective National Secretary or anyone on the Panel know.

Finally, I have been immensely proud to serve as your chairman for my two years following many illustrious predecessors. It has been a great honour and something I will reflect on for many years to come. Those involved work as a great team and this has brought CARAS to a very good place. I have no doubt this progress will continue with those involved and their continued commitment. All that remains is to thank all Associates and Fellows very much for your support over the last two years. We can have the best Panels and secretaries in the world but without the wider support of all those involved we wouldn't have an organisation.

Thank you and let's look forward to the rest of the year with continued optimism.

Nick Green FRAGS

CARAS UK Chairman

**CARAS UK AGM Hosted by the Welsh Panel Based at the
Cliff Hotel, Gwbert, Cardigan, West Wales, SA43 1PP
Local Visits Wednesday 23rd April 2025 AGM Thursday 24th April 2025**



Scholarship Timescales

Application Deadline: 14th March 2025

Shortlisting: 21st March 2025

Award: This will be formally Announced on Thursday 24th March 2025

Applicants can choose a title they wish with CARAS Council suggesting the following ones;

1. A review of land ownership/management options to facilitate succession on family farms in the UK
2. An assessment of the potential of collaborative farming models for UK dairy farms
3. Implications of increased automation on UK farms on labour requirements and skill set of labour force
4. A review of global taxation models for agriculture and lessons to be learned in the UK
5. Barriers to the adoption by farmers of the latest research in UK agriculture (How could knowledge exchange work better in UK agriculture?)
6. Lessons to be learned from other industries to improve mental health in UK agriculture
7. The use of essential oils as a sustainable alternative to control parasitic worms and fluke in UK agriculture

CARAS Council and Moderators Panel Members

CARAS National Chairman	Mr Nick Green, FRAGS
CARAS Moderator	Professor William A.C. McKelvey, OBE FRAGS
CARAS National Secretary	Mr Richard Cooksley, FRAGS

CARAS Council

Representing England:

Mr Andrew Blenkinsop FRAGS (Chairman, English Panel), Mrs Milly Fyfe - (Hon. Secretary), Mr Mark Tufnell (RASE Chairman of Trustees), Mr Edward Barnston (RASE), Mr Nick Green FRAGS – (CARAS UK Chairman and Moderators Panel Member).

Representing Northern Ireland:

Dr Christine Kennedy OBE, FRAGS (Chairman NI Panel), Ms Rhonda Geary (Hon. Secretary) Ms Vicki White – (Deputy Secretary), Dr Sinclair Mayne, FRAGS (Panel Member), Mr C. John Henning OBE, FRAGS (RUAS President, Moderators Panel Member and Imm Past Chairman)

Representing Scotland:

Mr Robert Parker FRAGS – (Chairman Scottish Panel) Miss Janelle Anderson, (Hon. Secretary, Scottish Panel) Mr Willie Gill, OBE, FRAGS (RHASS) Professor Julie Fitzpatrick OBE FRAGS (Moderators Panel Member)

Representing Wales:

Mr Mansel Raymond MBE, FRAGS (Chairman, Welsh Panel), Mr Aled Rhys Jones ARAGS, (Hon. Secretary, Welsh Panel), Malcolm Thomas FRAGS (Panel Vice Chairman), Mrs Janet Phillips, FRAGS, (Moderators Panel Member), Mr Meurig James FRAGS (UK Chairman Elect)

Moderators Panel

Professor William A.C. McKelvey, OBE (Moderator), Mr Nick Green, FRAGS (England), Mr C. John Henning, OBE, FRAGS (Northern Ireland), Professor Julie Fitzpatrick OBE FRAGS (Scotland), Mrs Janet Phillips, FRAGS (Wales) and Mr Meurig James FRAGS (UK Chairman Elect)

Presentation to Professor Wynne Jone OBE FRAGS

After holding the Role of CARAS Moderator for 16 years Prof Wynne Jones stood down at the AGM in 2024 handing the role over to Professor William McKelvey OBE FRAGS.



At the CARAS Reception at the Royal Welsh Show there was also a special presentation to Prof E Wynne Jones OBE FRAGS when he was presented with a figure of a shepherd herding sheep which represents his Shepherding of the 4 nations over the last 4 years!

At the same time he was presented with a shepherd's crook by Janet Phillips FRAGS on behalf of the Welsh Panel.



Nick Green FRAGS UK CARAS Chairman, Prof Wynne Jone OBE FRAGS Immediate Past Moderator, Richard Cooksley FRAGS CARAS UK Secretary, Janet Phillips FRAGS CARAS Wales Chair, Prof William McKelvey OBE FRAGS, John Henning OBE FRAGS Immediate Past CARAS UK Chairman and Meurig James FRAGS CARAS UK Chairman Elect



CARAS AGM 2025



CARAS UK Annual General Meeting & National Council Meeting Hosted by the **Welsh Panel** Based at the **Cliff Hotel, Gwbert, Cardigan, West Wales, SA43 1PP**

Whilst CARAS has an AGM each year this year sees the Change of Chairman as the role rotates on a two-year cycle with Wales taking the role from England.

Nick Green FRAGS from England will pass the chairmanship of CARAS UK and Jewell of Office to Meurig James FRAGS from Wales at the AGM on Thursday.

<https://enrolment.engage-powered.com/rwas/signup/?e=46&siteid=CARAS>

**Tuesday
22nd April 2025**
Arrival of delegates who
have the furthest to travel
With an Informal
evening meal

**Wednesday
23rd April 2025**
Arrival of all other
delegates
Day of visits to local farms,
businesses and attractions
Evening Dinner

**Thursday
24th April 2025**
AGM
National Council
Meeting
Lunch and depart



CARAS Awards

The number of awards being made has now returned to pre Covid levels and on behalf of Council thank you to Fellows who have proposed potential new recipients of awards.

Each of the Nations reports a very healthy pipeline of potential applicants all of which are a credit to Agriculture and the Rural sector.

Associateship awarded in 2024 and to the end of January 2025:

Title	First Name	Last Name	CARAS	Occupation	Sub Title
Mr	Wayne	Acheson	ARAgS(NI)	Procurement Director	Ahigh level of competence in a particular farming system
Mr	Brian	Barker	ARAgS(E)	Farm Partner	Farmer led, peer to peer knowledge exchange and inspiring the next generation
Mr	Patrick	Barker	ARAgS(E)	Farmer	Balancing sustainable farming with farmland wildlife and inspiring others to do the same
Mrs	Judith	Batchelar OBE	ARAgS(E)	Non Exc Director and Trustee	Apersonal Contribution to the Benefit of British agriculture
Mr	James	Baxter	ARAgS(S)	Farmer	Embracing Renewable Energy Opportunities to Improve Hen Performance and Profitability on the Journey to Net Zero
Mrs	Sarah	Bell	ARAgS(E)	Farmer and Sustainable Supply Chain Advisor	The digitisation of UK Agriculture
Ms	Stephanie	Berkeley	ARAgS(E)	Charity Manager	Who Would Fill Your Boots? Growing Safer Farmers
Ms	Sarah	Calcutt	ARAgS(E)	CEO City Harvest	Fruit to a City Harvest
Mr	Alexander Scott	Calderwood	ARAgS(S)	Farmer and Non Exec Director	Cooperation - Collaboration
Mr	Stuart	Common	ARAgS(S)	Managing Director D	Developing and building a successful business for today and the future
Mr	David	Craven	ARAgS(E)	Dairy Manager	Ahigh level of competence in a particular farming system
Mr	Daniel	Cross	ARAgS(E)	Managing Director	APassion for Innovation
Mr	Michael	Davies	ARAgS(W)	Farmer	Incorporating and Promoting Practical Farming, in order to Educate the General Public, via my own Business and Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society

Mrs	Rebecca	Dawes	ARAgS(S)	Communications	Supporting the Future of Scottish Agriculture
Miss	Beverly	Dixon	ARAgS(E)	MD UK and Portugal	My contribution to developing and educating those working in agriculture
Mr	Brian	Donaldson	ARAgS(NI)	Agricultural Journalist and Communicator plus Part Time Farmer	Communicating with Farmers and Rural Communities
Mr	Rodney	Down	ARAgS(E)	Farmer	It Can Be Done
Mr	Grierson Robert	Dunlop	ARAgS(S)	Solicitor	Agricultural Law
Mr	Carl	Edwards	ARAgS(E)	LEAF Director, Education and Public Engagement	Engaging, Inspiring and Motivating Our Future Generations to Understand, Value and Enter The Agricultural Industry
Mr	Dilwyn	Evans	ARAgS(W)	Beef and Sheep Farmer	A Personal Contribution to the benefit of Agriculture
Mr	Richard	Hayman	ARAgS(W)	Farmer	Potato Production and Marketing
Mr	James	Henderson	ARAgS(NI)	Farmer	Grassland Farming
Mr	William (Bill)	Higgins	ARAgS(E)	Dairy Farmer	Improving the Health and Welfare of High Yielding Dairy Cows
Dr	Steven	Johnston	ARAgS(NI)	Sheep Farmer and Agriculturalist with DAERA	My sheepy journey to develop an Easy care philosophy and production system
Mr	Aled Rhys	Jones	ARAgS(W)	Chief Executive of The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society	Taking the agricultural show model through challenging times
Mr	Robert	Kettle	ARAgS(NI)	Farmer	Preserving the unique practice of island farming to protect the rich biodiversity on Upper Lough Erne in Co. Fermanagh
Mr	Peter	Lewis MBE	ARAgS(W)	Retired	A Lifetime Supporting Agriculture and the Community
Mr	Ivor	Lowry	ARAgS(NI)	Farm Manager	Screw Press Separation in Dairy Farming
Mr	Martin	MacDonald	ARAgS(S)	Farmer	Farming Business Co-operation
Mr	John	MacInnes	ARAgS(S)	Farmer and Event Organiser	Developing the Trade Stands Contribution to AgriScot Whilst Growing and Developing a Farm on Iona
Miss	Paula	McIntyre MBE	ARAgS(NI)	Chef and Food Writer	Contribution to Agriculture in Northern Ireland

Mr	Gordon	Mitchell	ARAgS(NI)	Farmer	Measure to Manage
Mr	Andrew	Newbold	ARAgS(E)	Agricultural Engineer, publisher and event organiser	Agricultural Engineering and Society
Mr	Robert	Newlands	ARAgS(S)	Farmer	Farmer to Farmer Knowledge Transfer
Mrs	Emily	Norton	ARAgS(E)	Farmer and support of farming	Apersonal Contribution to Agriculture
Mr	Ian	Powley	ARAgS(E)	Farmer and Chairman of Auction Company	Contribution to Cumbrian Agricultural Industry
Mr	Andrew	Rennie	ARAgS(S)	Farmer	How we are turning waste product into energy for the farm
Mrs	Aylett	Roan	ARAgS(S)	Farmer	Women in Agriculture Scotland: My journey within a growing movement
Mr	Emlyn	Roberts	ARAgS(W)	Farmer and Company Director	Diversifying to ensure the future of our family farm
Mr	Edward	Rogers	ARAgS(NI)	Farmer	A Full Time Farmers Role in Agricultural Education
Mr	Andrew	Rooney	ARAgS(NI)	Seafood Processor	Bringing Northern Irish Oysters to the fore front of International Markets
Mr	Quintin	Stevens	ARAgS(S)	Restaurateur, Retailer and Farmer	Farmer at heart promoting quality Scottish Produce
Mr	James	Stewart	ARAgS(S)	Director	Stewart Trailers
Mrs	Mandy	Stewart	ARAgS(S)	Director	Stewart Trailers
Miss	Catherine	Suckley	ARAgS(E)	Farmer	Farming a Risk Reduction Journey
Mr	Kevin	Thomas	ARAgS(W)	Farmer	Charolais Expanding Horizons
Mr	Edward	Vipond	ARAgS(E)	Farms Manager	Addressing the knowledge gap
Mr	David	White	ARAgS(E)	Senior Lecturer in Engineering	My Contribution to Agriculture
Mr	Richard	Whitlock	ARAgS(E)	Agricultural Consultant	A journey through my grain trading career
Mr	Bill	Young	ARAgS(E)	Ex CEO Addington Fund	Putting Back Into The UK Agricultural Industry
Mr	Stephen	Young	ARAgS(S)	Director of Policy	My Personal Contribution to the benefit of agriculture through economics and sustaining farming communities

Advancement to Fellowship in 2024:

The minimum period an Associate may be considered for advancement to Fellowship is 5 years. The process is subject to a stringent and approved review procedure that is instigated & managed by the relevant Nation. The relevant Nation carries out research on what the Associate has done since receiving his award. After the relevant Nation has reviewed the information on the Associate and if approved by the National Panel advancement is recommended to the Moderators Panel for advancement to Fellowship. The Moderators Panel review the proposal by the Nations for advancement to Fellowship and if approved by them is recommended to Council.

The fee for Fellows and Associates is the same and advancement is recognition of continuing achievements.

Title	First Name	Last Name	CARAS	Occupation	Original Submission Title
Dr	Judith	Capper	FRAgS(E)	Livestock Sustainability Consultant	Translating science into positive sustainability messages - Encouraging and enabling agricultural communications.
Mr	Poul	Hovesen	FRAgS(E)	Farms Director	My Farming Career
Mr	Dyfrig	Hughes	FRAgS(W)	Senior Sales Executive	Growth and Development through Involvement in Agricultural Clubs and Societies
Mr	Philip	Jones	FRAgS(W)	Farmer	Using new technology to improve suckler cow efficiency
Mr	David Lyndon	Joseph	FRAgS(W)	Farmer	Recognising Lupins as an excellent source of home-grown protein and adding value to the farming business
Mr	Rhys David	Lougher	FRAgS(W)	Farmer	The Importance of Marketing and Public Engagement when Selling Agricultural Produce direct from the Farm
Mr	Hugh	McClymont	FRAgS(S)	Research Farm Manager	Dairy Farm Research and Education in South West Scotland
Mr	Adrian	Morrow BEM	FRAgS(NI)	Estate Manager	Estate Diversification Based on Stockmanship Entrepreneurship and Community Involvement
Prof	James	Newbold	FRAgS(S)	Professor of Animal Science	Impact Through Research and Teaching
Mrs	Joyce	Owens MBE	FRAgS(W)	Farmer	My Contribution to the Pig Industry
Mr	Kenneth	Proctor	FRAgS(E)	Farmer	Farming and Contribution to Agriculture
Mr	William	Rennie	FRAgS(S)	Retired	Personal Contribution To Seed Certification in Scotland
Mr	Steven	Sandison	FRAgS(S)	Farmer	Young Folks can farm if they get the chance

Ms	Janet	Swadling OBE	FRAgS(E)	Executive and Non-Executive Director	Leading Scotland's Rural College
Mr	Huw	Thomas	FRAgS(W)	Managing Director	Development of Puffin Sustainable Supply Chain
Prof	Christine	Watson	FRAgS(S)	Research Scientist	Developing Organic Farming in the UK



CARAS Panels News

Each of the four nations keeps in touch with the Fellows and Associates in their nation and the following gives a flavour of what is planned for 2025.

Fellows and Associates from all Nations are always welcome to attend events in other nations and the contact details covering the Secretaries are at the end of this Newsletter.

English Panel

The English Panel continue to work closely with and maintain strong links with RASE, ensuring that our collective efforts support the agricultural sector effectively.

With so many fantastic events and opportunities on the horizon, 2025 is set to be a year of progress, recognition, and collaboration for the English Panel of CARAS.

English Panel AGM – Herefordshire 8th–10th June

A full agenda will be circulated soon, and we warmly welcome attendees from other nations—please do let us know if you'd like to join us.



Show Receptions

- **Lincolnshire Show – 18th June:** In collaboration with the Worshipful Company of Farmers, we will be welcoming guests at the **CLA Marquee**.
- **Royal Norfolk Show – 25th June:** A joint reception with **The Farmers Club, Worshipful Company of Farmers, and RASE**, kindly hosted by **Poul Hovesen FRAgS, Show President**.

Wednesday 20th August 2025 Summer Visit – Chatsworth Estate

We are excited to arrange a **summer visit to the Chatsworth Estate**, which is made up of over 5,000 acres of land. Chatsworth House is a stately home in the Derbyshire Dales, 4 miles north-east of Bakewell and 9 miles west of Chesterfield. The seat of the Duke of Devonshire, it has belonged to the Cavendish family since 1549. This promises to provide an opportunity to gain an insight into the estate management and its role in modern agriculture.

CARAS England Awards Ceremony is Tuesday the 14th October 2025



One of the highlights of our calendar, the **Awards Ceremony** will take place in the **House of Lords**, generously hosted by **Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE FRAGS**.

This prestigious event will celebrate the achievements of individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry.

Northern Ireland

CARAS Northern Ireland Spring Visit and AGM

Thursday 10th April 2025 sees a visit to the Clarke Family Farm in Augher, Co Tyrone for the Spring Visit and AGM.

The farm belongs to CARAS Associate Philip Clarke and Philip was awarded his associateship in October 2023 with the title of his submission being ***'Doing it differently and sharing the experience'***, the visit will provide an ideal opportunity for him share his thoughts and views.

Wednesday 14th May 2025 CARAS 2025 Awards Reception

Will be on Wednesday 14th May at Balmoral Show when certificates will be presented to new Associates and those who have advanced to Fellowship.



This photo shows the recipients of awards at the 2024 CARAS Reception.
Left to right Front Row – Christine Kennedy OBE, Gill Gallagher ARAgS, Robert Kettyle ARAgS, Mary Hunter ARAgS, Leona Kane ARAgS, Liam McCarthy ARAgS, And Nick Green FRAgS CARAS UK Chairman
Left to right Back Row – David Fulton ARAgS, Brian Donaldson ARAgS, Alan Hopps ARAgS, Philip Clarke ARAgS, George Elliott FRAgS, Adrian Morrow FRAgS

Scotland

New Panel Secretary



The CARAS Scottish Panel has appointed a new Secretary Janelle Anderson and thanks Alan Laidlaw FRAgS for his service as the previous Secretary.

Janelle will be known to many Fellows and Associates for her involvement with the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, Royal Northern Agricultural Society, Northeast Aberdeen Angus Breeders Club, North East Farm

Management Association and Aberdeen Grain.

6th March 2025 Conference and CARAS Scotland AGM

This years Conference will follow last years format with presentations from a panel that will include Hugh McClymont FRAGS, James Baxter ARAGS, Steven Sandison FRAGS and Rebecca Dawes ARAGS and chaired by Robert Parker the Scottish Panel Chairman.

CARAS Scotland Summer Outing

Plans are being made for the 2025 Summer Outing to Aberdeenshire with investigations taking place to confirm locations to visit and the hotel details will be sent to Fellows and Associates shortly.

Thursday 19th June 2025 Reception and Awards Presentation

The annual CARAS reception and presentation of awards to the Associates and Fellows will be taking place at the Highland Show on Thursday 19th July and invitations will be sent to Fellows and Associates nearer the date.

Back Row: Lamont Hair, Rebecca Dawes, Drew Young, John Macinnes, Andrew Rennie, Stephen Young, Sandy Ramsay, Aylett Roan, Beth Wells, James Baxter, Mandy Stewart, James Stewart.

Front Row: Robert Parker Scottish Panel Chairman, Isla (Robert) Roebuck, Hugh McClymont, Sarah Simpson, Jamie Newbold, William Rennie, Steven Sandison, -Nick Green CARAS UK Chairman



2024 CARAS Award Presentation

Wales

24th April 2025 CARAS UK AGM

This April sees Meurig James FRAGS take the UK Chairmanship of CARAS on behalf of Wales from Nick Green FRAGS of England.

The AGM comes at the end of a two day visit based at the Cliff Hotel Cardigan with visits on the first day to The George Family Farm at Brynhyfryd and the Bluestone National Park Resort.

Bookings for the event can be made at:

<https://enrolment.engage-powered.com/rwas/signup/?e=46&siteid=CARAS>



Immediate Past CARAS UK Chairman John Henning OBE, FRAGS, Nick Green FRAGS CARAS UK Chairman and Meurig James FRAGS who will be taking the Chairmanship of CARAS UK at the 2025 AGM

Tuesday 22nd July 2025 CARAS Wales Reception and Awards Presentation

This year's reception will be taking place on the Tuesday of the Royal Welsh Show timings and details of how to book will be sent to CARAS Wales Fellows and Associates.

2024 Presentation to new Associates and Fellows



New Associates

Back row: Aled Rhys Jones ARAGS, Richard Hayman ARAGS, Meilir Jones ARAGS, Emlyn Roberts ARAGS

Front row: Hugh James, ARAGS Nick Green FRAGS (CARAS UK Chair), Janet Phillips FRAGS (CARAS Cymru Chair), Peter Lewis ARAGS, Kevin Jones ARAGS.



New Fellows

Back row: Dyfrig Hughes FRAGS, Philip Jones FRAGS, David Lyndon Josph FRAGS .

Front row: Nick Green FRAGS (CARAS UK Chair), Janet Phillips FRAGS (CARAS Cymru Chair), Aeron Jenkins FRAGS, Joyce Owens FRAGS .

Friday 26th September – CARAS Wales Council & Field Day,

Plans are in place to hold the annual Field Day in North Wales and details will be circulated to Fellows and Associates.

Obituaries

CARAS Council notes with Sorrow and Condolences the following deaths that have been notified to the office of fellows and Associates during 2024 and early 2025

Title	First Name	Last Name	CARAS	Informed
Mr	Gwyn	Anthony MBE	FRAgS	Notified September 2024
Mr	Charles	Arch MBE	FRAgS	Notified July 2024
Sir	John	Campbell OBE	FRAgS	Notified September 2024
Mr	Paul	Charter	FRAgS	Notified November 2024
Mr	Robert	Critchley	FRAgS	Notified January 2025
Col	David	Davies	FRAgS	Notified January 2024
Prof	Simon	Doherty	FRAgS	Notified December 2025
Mr	Robin	Forrest	FRAgS	Notified April 2024
Mrs	Jennifer	Hawkes	ARAgS	Notified January 2025
Mrs	Cynthia	Higgon	FRAgS	Notified October 2024
Mr	Gwilym	Jenkins	FRAgS	Notified May 2024
Mr	James	Kerr CBE	FRAgS	Notified March 2024
Mr	John	Parker	FRAgS	Notified February 2025
Mr	Donagh	O'Neill	FRAgS	Notified January 2025
Mr	Iolo	Owen MBE	FRAgS	Notified March 2024
Mr	Alastair	Salvesen CBE	FRAgS	Notified December 2024
Mr	Neil	Stoddart OBE	FRAgS	Notified August 2024
Mr	Hugh	Tudor	FRAgS	Notified July 2024
Mr	John	Wrench	FRAgS	Notified January 2024
Mr	John	Wight	FRAgS	Notified February 2025
Mr	Andrew	Wyness	ARAgS	Notified November 2024

Honours

The office has been made aware of the following CARAS Fellows and Associates who have received Honours, Awards or significant Appointments since January 2024

Title	First Name	Last Name	CARAS	Info
Mr	Edward	Adamson MBE	FRAGS	MBE for services to Northern Ireland sheep industry
Mr	Andrew	Arbuckle MBE	FRAGS	Awarded MBE in the 2024 New Years Honours for his work as a trustee and fundraiser for farming charity, RSABI, and his services to farming and his community.
Dr	Amanda	Carson MBE	FRAGS	Former leader of the small ruminant expert group at the Animal and Plant Health Agency. Awarded MBE for services to farming and to the protection of rare breeds in the 2025 New Year Honours List.
Dr	Belinda	Clarke OBE	FRAGS	OBE for her work introducing disruptors and new technologies into agriculture
Mr	Duncan	Farrington MBE	FRAGS	Has been awarded an MBE for his services to agriculture and the food industry in the 2025 New Year Honours List
Mr	John	Fletcher OBE	FRAGS	OBE for services to the conservation of shire horses.
Mr	David	McKeown OBE	FRAGS	OBE for services to the veterinary profession.
Mr	Robin	Mercer BEM	FRAGS	Awarded BEM in the 2024 New Years Honours for services to business and the economy
Mr	Adrian	Morrow BEM	FRAGS	Awarded BEM in the 2024 New Years Honours For voluntary services to habitat conservation
Mr	Hugh Richard	Oliver-Bellasis OBE	FRAGS	OBE for services to Nature Conservation and to the Rural Community (Tadley, Hampshire)

Mr	Julian	Sayers MBE DL	FRAGS	Has been awarded the MBE for services to Agriculture in the 2025 New Year Honours List
Sir	Mark	Spencer	FRAGS	March 2024, appointed as a Knight Bachelor by His Majesty the King, creating Sir Mark Spencer
Mr	Philip	Wynn OBE	FRAGS	Awarded OBE in the 2024 New Years Honours for services to farming and the environment.

Awards and Appointments

Title	First Name	Last Name	CARAS	Info
Mr	Jim	Baird	ARAgS	Elected Vice Chairman of The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust
Mr	Tom	Bradshaw	ARAgS	Has been elected the new president of the NFU
Mr	Rory	Christie	FRAGS	Appointed Chairman of SAOS at the AGM on the 13 th August 2024
Mr	David	Christensen	FRAGS	2024 Cream Awards Dairy Ambassador of the year.
Prof	Simon	Doherty	ARAgS	Honorary Professor Queens University, Belfast. World Vet of the Year at the Global Veterinary Awards.
Mr	John	Edgerton	FRAGS	January 2024 Appointed President of the Ulster Grassland Society
Mr	David	Exwood	ARAgS	Elected as the new deputy president of the NFU
Mrs	Millie	Fyfe	ARAgS	Rose of Northamptonshire award by West Northamptonshire Council. The Northamptonshire Community Foundation award.

				Forty Under 40 Awards, Recognised for Outstanding Contributions to Agriculture and Community.
Mr	Robert	Forrest	FRAgS	Scottish Agriculture Awards Mixed Farm of the Year
Mr	Eddie	Gillanders	FRAgS	Scottish Agriculture Awards Lifetime Achievement Award 2024
Mr	C John	Henning	FRAgS	Elected President of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society March 2024
The	Marquess of	Hertford	FRAgS	Awarded the RASE Bledisloe Gold Medal, for his successful land management and development of Ragley Estate
Mr	Bill	Higgins	ARAgs	2024 Cream Awards Dairy Fertility Health & Welfare Award.
Mr	Stephen	James	FRAgS	Presented the FUW Outstanding Service to the Welsh Dairy Industry award at the Welsh Dairy Show 2024. Also awarded the 2024 Lantra Wales Lifetime Achievement Award.
Mr	Brian	Jones MBE	FRAgS	Presented with the Prostate Cymru Presidents Special Recognition Award for his outstanding support for the Charity
Prof	Wynne	Jones OBE	FRAgS	Awarded an Honorary Degree at Bangor University
Messrs	Dylan & Wyn	Jones		Winners of the BGS Grassland Farmer of the Year award
Mr	John	Lee OBE	FRAgS	Elected President NFYFC April 2024.
Mr	James	Logan	FRAgS	Appointed Chairman the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland
Mr	George	Lyon	FRAgS	Appointed as President of the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland
Mr	Alistair	Mackintosh	ARAgs	Awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cumbria Farming Awards in recognition of his 'unwavering dedication to British Farming' and his contributions to the region's agricultural community.

Mrs	Karen	Mercer	ARAgS	Elected Chairman for 2025 of the Farmers club at the AGM on the 2 nd July 2024
Mr	James	Raw	ARAgS	Has been named winner of this year's Low Impact Award in the annual M&S Select Farm Awards for England and Wales.
Ms	Abi	Reader	FRAgS	British Farming Awards 2024 Farming Hero: Flying the Flag for British Agriculture
Mr	Christopher	Riddle	ARAgS	Elected Vice Chairman for 2025 of the Farmers club at the AGM on the 2nd July 2024
Mr & Mrs	Gareth & Falmai	Roberts	FRAgS	Recipients of the FUW Lifetime Achievement Award
Mr	Robert	Shepherd	FRAgS	Farmers Weekly Awards 2024: Game Changer of the Year
Mr	Johnny	Wake	ARAgS	British Farming Awards 2024 Sustainable Farmer of the Year Award
Mr	Nicholas	Watts	FRAgS	British Farming Awards 2024 Arable Farmer of the Year

Secretaries Update

The way we adapt to the challenges that Agriculture continues to have and is a great strength that we have but I do feel Governments have relied on this far too much over the years and if they are not careful we may have come to the end the road!

CARAS DATABASE

We have as many organisations and farms been paddling are own canoe in the same way for many years whilst technology and information exchange has developed at an ever increasing pace and as sure as eggs are eggs AI will take us to a new platform.

We have over the last 18 months moved from paper based records to an electronic database that holds our records on Fellows, Associates and Applicants. We are now in a psition when it is a rarity if I have to look in any of the 7 filing cabnets or stack of plastic boxes that hold CARAS records.

What controls are in place to approve and manage users

- Council has debated long and hard the need to protect the records we have.

- Access to the database is only from approved users requiring password control and approval can be revoked immediately.
- The UK secretary manages the Database and Council has approved who has access.

Who has access to the Database

- The UK Secretary
- The Nations Secretaries
- The Moderators panel members

So how do we use the database now

- Keep the records covering Fellows, Associates and Applicants which are collected via the application process and updated by them as situations change
- Manage the application process with the associated documents such as submissions and sponsors letter stored against the persons on the database
- The Nations secretaries access the database to manage the nations panels review and provision of nominations of Assessors
- The Moderators Panel have access to the database to carryout the review of applications

So how are we going to develop the database

As with all tools constant modification and update is required so we make the most of the database

- **Now**
 - **Fellows and Associates Directory**
 - For many years we have provided a printed directory at great cost financially and enviromentaly which was out of date as soon as the button to print it was pressed.
 - For the last 6 months we have been trialling an on line directory which is automaticaly updated from the databse.
 - This is now available and can be accessed as long as you are an approved user of the CARAS Website. Instructions on how to access the online directory can be found on page 22.
- **Near future developments**
 - **Applications**
 - We are currently trialling an addition which will enable those who have been invited to apply for an award to do so electronically.
 - This when fully developed will also allow the nations secretaries to manage the pre application process and review using the database.
 - **Newsletter and Communications to Fellows and Associates**
 - Mailings including general information will be sent via the Database.
- **Possible Future Expansion**
 - **Payments**

- An option to allow Fellows and Associates to pay subscriptions and invoices.
- **Booking events**
 - Ability for the Nations to use the database as a booking hub for events

How to Access the online Handbook of CARAS Fellows and Associates

To access the online directory, you will need to be registered to access the members area of the CARAS Website which is a very simple process.

1

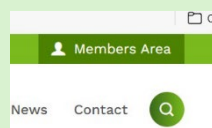
To access the CARAS Website paste the following URL into your search facility.

2

<https://royalagriculturalsocietiesawards.org>

3

Then click on the Green Box top righthand of the Screen



4

If you have registered before for the website click the green box 'Sign In'

5

If you haven't registered yet please complete the Membership Sign Up form

6

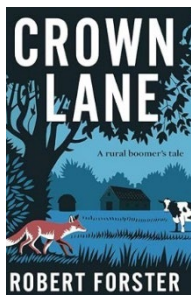
When you have accessed the 'Members' area of the website the green box that had 'Members Area' on will now have your name on it.

7

Click your name and this will produce a drop down menu

8

Click on 'Membership Directory' (allow a few seconds to load) and the directory will be accessible.



Crown Lane

Robert Forster FRAgS who lives in Northumberland has recently published a book, whilst fiction, it does cover a number of current social themes along with problems facing family farms and food security.

To find how to buy a copy please email robert.forster@btinternet.com

CARAS National Secretarys Contact details		
Nation	Secretary	Email Address
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Northern Ireland	Rhonda Geary	rhonda@ruas.org.uk
Scotland	Janelle Anderson	caras@rhass.org.uk
Wales	Aled Rhys Jones ARAgS	chiefexecutive@rwas.co.uk
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