



Royal Agricultural Society of England appoints new Chairman

Henry Cator OBE has been appointed Chairman of Council and Trustees at the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE), in succession to Hugh Oliver-Bellasis.

Mr Cator, a Norfolk farmer and landowner, established the rural surveying and land agency firm, Cator and Co, in 2007. He is a President of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, Chairman of the British White Cattle Society, the Association of Drainage Authorities and the Broads Internal Drainage Board. He was awarded an OBE in 2008 for his services to the community in Norfolk.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Cator said:

“It is a great honour and a considerable responsibility to take over as Chairman of the RASE Trustees in this new era. The Society has come through some difficult times. We now have a programme of new events in place, following the end of the Royal Show, to make the RASE a very successful and relevant institution, dedicated to the further development of UK agriculture, the rural economy and the countryside environment in which it operates.

“It is our aim to engage fully with our members, taking the Society into the regions as well as establishing a strong portfolio of events at Stoneleigh. RASE has a proud tradition of living up to its Practice with Science motto. Never has there been a greater need for that approach as UK farming prepares to tackle key issues such as climate change, population growth and food security.”

Mr Cator paid tribute to the work of Mr Oliver-Bellasis.

“Hugh Oliver-Bellasis has been chairman for more than two years and was vice chairman for two years before then. During that time he has worked tirelessly and effectively to make very significant changes within and to the Society. Not least among these was to encourage the Society to bite the bullet and

announce the closure of the Royal Show which had been a severe drain on the RASE's resources. The Trustees are now committed to that policy and are determined to take RASE on to the next stage of its development."

"Under Mr Oliver-Bellasis' leadership, the Trustees instigated a programme of reform within the Society which included a root and branch study of RASE's governance, the structures of Council and Trustees, succession to key roles and the management of RASE Committees. The Trustees also sanctioned a complete restructure of executive responsibility and staff re-organisation within the Society following the closure of the Royal Show. It is our task to see this work to a successful conclusion - ensuring that RASE is a fit and robust organisation, ready to serve the farming industry in the 21st Century."

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Notes to Editors:

About Royal Agricultural Society of England:

Since 1838, The Royal Agricultural Society of England has played a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science, the promotion of best practice and a coordinated, impartial approach to wide-ranging rural issues. Today the Society's work includes support for business and social welfare in rural communities, education, and world famous shows and events

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