



# JOHN WALGATE – 5 MONTHS IN

## Staff Member Profile: John Walgate CEO

John Walgate is the new CEO of British Growers and the latest addition to the team, having started in September last year. We took the opportunity to ask John some questions about himself and his new role?

### Where do you come from?

Lincoln has been my home for the past 6 years, although I have lived most of my life in Yorkshire. I like to count myself as a proud Yorkshireman (although secretly I was born in Surrey!).

### What attracted you to the BGA?

I'm not from the fresh produce sector, but I'm a passionate gardener and sometimes successful allotment holder. I like to work in an organisation and sector where I feel that I can make a difference and this is definitely the case at British Growers. Nothing can be more satisfying than helping to strengthen food security and playing a part in improving the health of the nation.

### Where have you worked previously?

I started my working career as a qualified accountant in practice, however, I always knew that I wanted to move into industry. I have spent many years in the UK pet food manufacturing industry, leading businesses in brand and private label. This included managing the leading supplier of own label products to the major grocery multiples, so I understand the requirements and challenges involved.



### How have you found British Growers?

We have a fantastic team of sixteen enthusiastic and committed staff. Everyone has been extremely welcoming. The day to day is very varied, so we have to be all rounders and no two days are often the same.

### How have you found the new role so far?

A large part of our 'day job' is providing financial and other professional services, which is something I have experience of. I have previously been a Director and Chairman of a Trade Association for over 10 years, so I understand how our members' work.



**What are your initial thoughts on the fresh produce sector?**

Everyone that I have met has been extremely friendly and positive, despite the significant challenges facing the sector. There is a huge amount of passion, which is great to see.

**What do you see as the immediate challenges?**

The change of government has brought about a general feeling of uncertainty for the future, as well as immediate increases in taxation which will directly impact heavily on every member. The BGA has a role to play in supporting initiatives to ensure that input cost increases are not born by the sector and passed on, as well as helping create a legislative framework that helps growers thrive.

**What about the future for the sector?**

The government has made a lot of promises for a farming roadmap to increase productivity, improve food security and build sustainability. They talk about a partnership with industry and I hope 2025 starts to see a delivery on this. It seems we know what the problems are and there are ways to start to fix things. The sector just needs the support to make it happen.

**Do you have a super power?**

It would have to be positivity! Every day is a new day and a chance to make a difference.

**What do you do outside of work?**

Apart from growing fruit and vegetables, I like to read, travel and cook. My last holiday was in Morocco, where the culture is amazing. This year I am visiting South America for the first time and really looking forward to it. I follow cricket (Yorkshire of course) and football (Huddersfield Town). I have a Labradoodle named Cooper and a cat called Meg. In my opinion everyone should have a pet if possible.



**And finally, What's your favourite fruit and veg?**

So hard to choose, I love them all! This year I managed to grow my biggest Polar Bear Pumpkin ever and I like to try anything new. I'm a big fan of Beetroot as it always seems to grow well every year and is so versatile for cooking. I also have a red gooseberry bush which produces the tastiest fruit. But you can't beat a good strawberry....

# JANUARY 2025



2024 turned out to be totally frustrating in terms of making political progress on several issues relevant to the fresh produce sector. The former Prime Minister's Downing Street Summit produced some valuable announcements, but the decision to call a general election three weeks later brought all these initiatives to a grinding halt and now we are dealing with a new administration with a differing set of priorities and political ambition.

Early January normally sees the Secretary of State at the Oxford Farming Conference and this year was no exception. Unlike other recent appearances he had to run the gauntlet of 35+ tractors parked outside the venue and doing a pretty decent job of drowning out what he had to say.

Inevitably the changes to IHT were high on the list of issues to be addressed. The justification was laid firmly at the door of the larger than expected black hole in the country's finances. While each business needs to work through its own response to the changes, the impact has clearly had a dampening effect of the appetite for future investment. This was definitely the message coming from the recent LAMMA Machinery Show.

Among the more useful announcements was about planning and reforms to the planning system to speed up and reduce complexities of applying for planning permission. The government will ensure planning reforms make it quicker for farmers to build the buildings, barns and other infrastructure they need on their farms to boost food production.

Public procurement will be another focus for government with a pledge to increase the share of the £5 billion spent each year on public sector catering contracts. How valuable this will be is subject to conjecture. Many growers are of the view that the contracts are of a relatively low value and consequently there are more profitable routes to market. But possibly having another major purchaser in the system is no bad thing.

The work on improving fairness in the supply chain has picked up pace under the new government which is good news. There is definitely a limit on how far a legislative approach can go but anything which seeks to improve the balance of power could be helpful. Work is now in full swing and hopefully details of what is being proposed will start to emerge soon.

## Grocery Code Adjudicator 2025 survey

The Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) has launched its annual groceries sector survey and wants to hear from as many suppliers as possible about how they have been treated by the 14 large retailers.

The survey, run by the independent polling company YouGov, is one of the most important ways for suppliers to confidentially tell the GCA about their experiences supplying the large retailers. The questions cover the behaviour of the retailers and issues affecting the industry. The responses will help the GCA understand which large retailers are perceived as the most and least compliant with the Groceries Code, and how cost price negotiations and other issues are impacting suppliers.

For more information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/groceries-code-adjudicator>





## British Growers AGM and Member Chairs Meeting

On the 5th December BGA held its AGM and Member Chairs Meeting. This year there was a discussion on the challenges that face the sector and the priorities for the year ahead.

Some of these are covered here. Others include water availability to agriculture, use of plastic packaging, research and development and skills and training.

It was clear that, amongst a number of current issues, the overriding theme affecting all associations to a greater or lesser extent, is the cost pressure impending in April 2025 from the increase in employer NIC. This has been calculated to add a minimum of 10% to a company's labour cost. There is a consensus that this must be passed on by the growers. British Growers have released a media communication in January to support this.

## Seasonal labour

In October 2024 we had the announcement that the Seasonal Labour Scheme for 2025 would include 43,000 permits for horticulture and a further 2,000 for the poultry sector. The statement expressed the view that this would give growers and producers certainty, allowing them to plan ahead and secure the labour they need to grow and thrive. An annual announcement on the number of permits available for the following year doesn't add up to providing the security growers need to allow them to plan ahead. We urgently need the new administration to implement the recommendations set out in the independent Review into Labour Shortages in the Food Supply Chain.

## Project Automation

Plans to implement a British Growers CRM system commenced in the autumn of 2024 and will continue into the New Year. The objective is to create a more comprehensive, efficient operating system that will be fit for the future of the organisation for years to come. The development of this will continue in 2025.

## Employer pays principle, visa, travel costs and Sedex Audits

Despite the criticism over the lack of consultation and any real consideration for the impact on food costs, Sedex has gone ahead with plans to introduce the employer pays principle as part of its ethical audit.

Defra is currently undertaking an assessment to look at the practical implications of the changes along with the financial impact. The industry is looking carefully at this process particularly the financial aspects and if necessary, will consider commissioning its own impact assessment if it feels that the Defra has failed to pick up on the full effect of the changes.

## Allocation of funds to Crop Associations from Horticulture Crop Protection (HCP)

After the successful completion of its first year of operation and the draw down of residual funds from AHDB Horticulture, the Board of HCP has agreed to allocate some of the surplus funds from AHDB to individual crop associations to cover the cost of future EAMU and Emergency Authorisation applications and residue and efficacy trials. The funds have been allocated in proportion to the contribution made by each crop to the operating costs of HCP. The individual amounts have been notified to each crop association and are now available to offset the cost of plant protection registration work over the next couple of years.

## Staff changes

In September John Walgate joined British Growers as our new Chief Executive.

John joins us from a successful career running businesses in the pet food industry which included a spell as Chair of the Pet Food Manufacturers Association. He has a finance background and significant experience in CEO roles so is ideally qualified to steer the organisation through its next chapters of development. In his first few months John has been out and about meeting as many clients as possible and visiting industry events. He will take on a small portfolio of clients within the BGA member base.

In January, Jack will revert to a two day a week role as an Executive Director for British Growers, focusing on our representation work, as well as continuing to support John.

In February, Charlotte Jessop will re-join BGA as a Business Support Administrator to help with the increasing workload.



## Events

2024 was a busy year for events involving most of the team at BGA, including the Pea & Bean conference and Onion & Carrot Conference, both held in November. All the events during the year were judged to be an outstanding success with record attendances witnessed. This shows the growing desire for improved co-operation within the different crop associations as challenges for the sector increase and the need for collaboration is recognised.

We kicked off 2025 as one of the delivery partners of the Oxford Farming Conference, following later in January by the Brassica & Leafy Salads Conference.

## BG Insights

Our fresh produce data scheme, BG Insights continued to operate throughout 2024, supplying up to date weekly pricing, promotional and merchandising information for the UK retail sector. A review of the scheme offering is currently being undertaken with an objective to improve the BG Insights service in the future. Watch this space....

## The year ahead

At British Growers we have an experienced team of passionate and committed individuals. We are constantly striving to improve our efficiency and service to members, representing our sector and allowing growers to "do what they do best".

Apart from our offices in Louth, the majority of our cost is in our people. In 2025 we will be increasing our rates by a general inflationary rate in line with these related cost increases. We hope that you will appreciate the value of our services and look forward to meeting and speaking with everyone in the year ahead.

## And finally, the value of vegetables

In the closing days of 2024, we received an email highlighting the latest Morrisons offer of carrots, sprouts, swedes and parsnips on sale for £0.10p a pack. This comes hard on the heels of a similar offer from Aldi at £0.19 per pack.

At the annual Crop Association meeting in December we had a presentation contrasting the claims, in particular health claims, made by a range of products including shampoo and the complete absence of any consumer guidance on the respective benefits derived from a wide range of fresh produce.

The challenge, which admittedly is an ambitious one is, can retailers be persuaded to provide simple guidance on the nutritional benefit of different groups of veg and fruit to highlight their super food credentials? For example, crops rich in calcium for bone density, crops rich in carotene to improve cognitive function, fruits high in vitamin C and fruits with anti-inflammatory properties. Should health benefits be the exclusive preserve of manufactured products with large marketing budgets?

## Best Wishes from the BGA Team!



DEFRA's Farm Business Survey is an annual survey run by Promar International that provides information on the financial position and physical and economic performance of commercial farm businesses in England.

It's a simple and cost - free process with all farms in England with a turnover of at least £21,000 being eligible to participate\*.

Data is collected in face-to-face interviews conducted by our highly trained researchers; the evidence provided is vital in helping us shape future policies, ensuring they cater to the diverse challenges the sector faces.

This independent analysis of business management accounts, profits and losses and balance sheets, will not only help shape future policy, but will also provide participants with a report that could help them run their business more effectively.

Defra publishes the following (all available with a horticulture breakdown)

- Farm Business Income (equivalent of net profit)
- Farm Accounts in England - detailed breakdowns of costs and outputs, diversification
- Rents
- Balance Sheets

\*Preferably with two thirds of their output coming from horticultural crops.

Follow this link to take part [Farm Business Survey](#)





## Horticultural Solutions for the Planet

The 2024 Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH) Conference, titled Horticultural Solutions for the Planet, was held amidst the stunning surroundings of the Royal Botanical Gardens, London. This inspiring event brought together thought leaders, industry professionals, and students to explore the vital role of horticulture in addressing global challenges.

The conference featured a compelling lineup of expert speakers addressing a wide range of industry issues and included:

- David Domoney: What have plants ever done for us?
- Professor Michael Hardman: Growing in Cities: Reflections on the Future of Urban Greening
- Professor Simon Pearson: Technology in Horticulture
- Dr Harry Lanford: Innovation to Improve Sustainable Productivity in CEA Horticulture
- Ali Capper: Mitigating Climate Change
- Patrick Fitzgerald: Cultivating innovation from the ground up
- Simon Toomer: Climate modelling and species selection for landscape succession at Kew Gardens
- George Plumpte: Gardens and Health: individual and community benefits

The Afternoon Espresso Sessions, led by Professor Alistair Griffiths, provided attendees with rapid and focused presentations, including:

- Mark Tuson: Coastal Plants and Their Use in Preventing Erosion
- Dr Rhaghavendra Prasad: Transition to Peat-Free Project
- Helen Baxter: Seaweed's Green Revolution: Enhancing Horticulture with Biostimulants
- Charles Shi: Plant Collecting in Northwest Vietnam

During the conference, the Aberconway Award (2023) which is awarded to the best undergraduate horticultural dissertation was presented to Daniel Jones for his undergraduate dissertation titled Fantastic Frass? Investigating the Impacts of Insect Frass on Microbial Activity and Soil Fertility for Sustainable Crop Production. His work stood out for its innovative approach to sustainable horticulture practices.





Picture with CIH President David Richardson, are Aberconway Award Winner Daniel Jones, and Pam Pointer Award Winner, Cerys Eleanor.

The Pam Pointer Award, which is presented to students in recognition of outstanding achievement in academic and practical pursuits, was awarded to Cerys Eleanor, a CIH student member nominated by Irene Weir of Myerscough College. Cerys conducted a survey exploring barriers to employment and inclusivity within horticulture. Her project was particularly impactful, as it drew on her own experiences to shed light on the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the sector.

The CIH extends its thanks to the Conference Sponsors: Get up and Grow, 5m Books Ltd, Cambridge HOK, and Hortweek.

Andy Smith  
Client Manager

Meet the Team:



Andy Smith  
Client Manager



Rachel Kemp  
Business Support  
Administrator





## Euronion Conference 2024

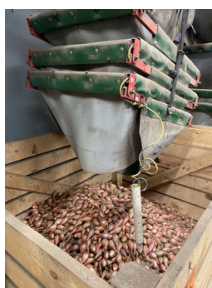


Having been established 28 years ago to co-ordinate bulb onion production across Europe, the Euronion Conference continues to bring together key stakeholders in the European onion industry. From 6-8 November 2024, over 30 members from 10 countries convened in Malmö, Sweden, to discuss industry trends, challenges, and advancements. Participants included representatives from the UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Poland, France, Italy, Germany, USA and Sweden. Unfortunately, Spain joined online due to the devastating floods in Valencia which severely affected local packers.

On Wednesday afternoon members visited the largest producer and onion packer in Sweden growing 550 ha of onions. The visit showcased significant investment and expansion and highlighted production techniques and challenges with disease and pest issues.

Thursday featured comprehensive country reports with each country providing insights into:

- Overwintered crop, spring planted sets, main crop drilled
- Crop areas V previous year
- Yield prospects
- Climate effects
- Pesticide issues
- Imports and exports
- General outlook for the coming year - inflation, energy cost, fertilizer etc





## Euronion Conference Continued...



In the afternoon the conference addressed the impact of fusarium, a disease posing serious threats to onion crops and each country shared updates on how their production was being affected. Additionally, two renowned experts Prof John Clarkson of Warwick University and Prof Mike Harvey of Wisconsin, USA, also joined via TEAMS to discuss the worsening situation. A fusarium project had commenced in the USA under Cassandra Swett in which Prof John Clarkson was involved in, and the Uireka project in Holland with Anne Diepeningen, where they have surveyed fusarium over several years. Prof John Clarkson reported on the British Onions Producer Association FUSED Fusarium Project underway in the UK funded by Innovate UK. The FUSED project aimed to provide UK onion growers with a suite of fusarium monitoring and mitigation options with the potential to reduce the prevalence of fusarium by 50%. The anticipated impact of the project would be to reduce the >£10M annual losses due to fusarium, and hence substantially improve the long-term productivity and resilience of the sector. In conclusion, due to the severity of the disease seen across Europe and work progressing on several fronts, it was agreed an annual update on all fusarium projects would be shared to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange.

On Friday morning Peter Hartvig of Aarhus University, Denmark, delivered a detailed overview of pesticide approvals across Europe. His presentation highlighted a decade-long decline in the number of EU-approved pesticides, coupled with the limited introduction of new active substances during the same period.

The 2024 conference reinforced the importance of international collaboration in addressing shared challenges, advancing research, and supporting sustainable growth in the onion industry.

A huge thank you and appreciation to Bejo Nordic and Certis Belchim that made this event possible through their generous sponsorship.

Euronion delegates will reconvene for a mid-year conference via Zoom in June 2025, exact date to be confirmed. The next in-person conference is scheduled for 5-7 November 2025 in the Netherlands.

Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop Associations

Meet the Team:



Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop  
Associations



Rachel Kemp  
Business Support  
Administrator



Sarah Waites  
Management Accountant



THE UK

# ONION & CARROT

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

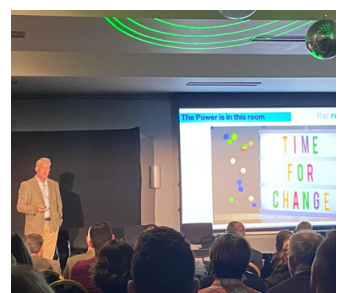
## Onion & Carrot Conference

Wednesday 27 November saw one of the largest fresh produce conferences make its much-anticipated return to the event calendar, the Onion & Carrot Conference held at Leicester Tigers Conference Centre in Leicester.

This biennial event saw the British Onions Producer Association join forces again with the British Carrot Growers Association, both associations representing 80–90% of production in the UK with a combined retail value of £532m+. The conference attracted over 350 delegates and included most of the industry involved in getting these products from field to fork.

The conference featured an excellent array of speakers covering the latest industry updates, emerging technologies, research, and thought provoking topics, including our headline speaker Tom Bradshaw - President of the NFU, giving an insight on the impacts for food production following the Government's recent budget. Tom was followed by Simon Conway – HCP, Duncan Wiliams – Forum for the Future, Ged Futter – The Retail Mind, David Webster – LEAF, and international perspectives were provided by Shay Myers – Owyhee Produce in USA, and Farina Lurz and Lena Pollul – AMI in Germany. Members also participated in their individual association's technical session where again an impressive lineup of speakers delivered the latest R&D updates.

For rugby enthusiasts who know the venue the Leicester Tigers Final Whistle utilised on match day for pre-match beverages, was transformed into a bustling trade exhibition running alongside the conference with 36 trading partners participating, facilitating invaluable networking opportunities for delegates throughout the day.



THE UK

# ONION & CARROT

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Following the close of the conference delegates were treated to a behind the scenes tour of the Leicester Tigers stadium, offering a rare glimpse into one of the most iconic premierships rugby venues.

The day's events culminated in a Gala Dinner, attended by nearly 300 guests. The evening celebrated outstanding contributions to the industry, with awards presented to Hans Christoph Behr (AMI, Germany), who joined via Zoom for his services to British Onions, and Martin Strickson (Elsoms Seeds) for his services to British Carrots. The dinner also featured a charity raffle in support of the Farming Community Network, an organisation dedicated to assisting farmers and their families.

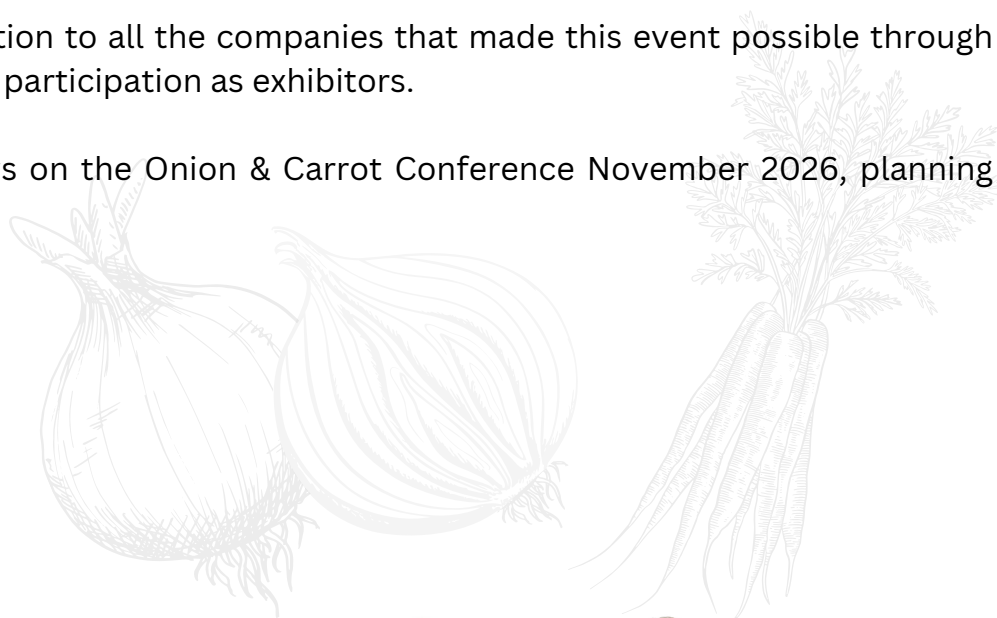
Very fitting for the Tigers venue, the evening's finale was the after-dinner speaker Leon Lloyd, former England international rugby player and Leicester Tigers legend. Leon gave an inspiring talk and shared captivating stories from his rugby career, during which he played at the highest level and winning 11 trophies whilst playing with the English and European Champions, Leicester Tigers. When retired he transitioned into a career in leadership and change management and worked with many global organisations such as the Premier League, the UK Special Forces, Microsoft, and AMEX. Leon shared leadership insights, stories, and how you can go from the highest of the highs to the lowest of the lows, and come back stronger.

A huge thank you and appreciation to all the companies that made this event possible through their generous sponsorship and participation as exhibitors.

Keep your eyes peeled for news on the Onion & Carrot Conference November 2026, planning begins soon.

Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop Associations

Meet the Team:



Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop  
Associations



Holly Jones  
Client Manager



Rachel Kemp  
Business Support  
Administrator



Sam Pope  
Business Support  
Administrator



Lisa Stannard  
Office Manager



Sarah Waite  
Management  
Accountant



## Conference Round Up

The British Ornamentals Association's Poinsettia Growers Group held their annual Conference at Bridge Farm, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The event was highly anticipated, with demand exceeding capacity as growers and industry experts met to evaluate the latest poinsettia variety trials and discuss pressing issues in ornamental horticulture.

Breeders such as Dummen Orange, Selecta One, and Beekenkamp demonstrated their newest poinsettia varieties, providing attendees insight into upcoming market offerings. The conference also features presentations from notable speakers:

**Ada Leman** from Wageningen University delivered a talk titled "New Developments in Crop Protection for Ornamentals" highlighting pest and disease management strategies.

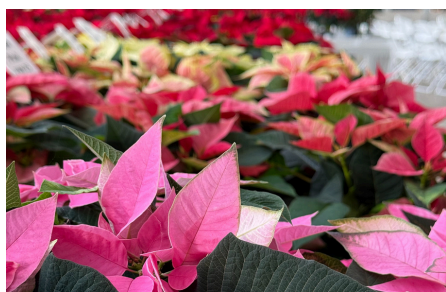
**Andrew Wilson** of ICL discussed the role of biostimulants in enhancing plant growth and resilience.

**Joe Barfoot** from Aiva Fertilisers spoke on integrated nutrient management in horticulture.

**David MacDonald** provided insights into biological control methods for managing whitefly populations, a topic of significant concern among growers.

The issue of whitefly, particularly *Bemisia tabaci*, was the conference's main focal point. In the UK, *Bemisia tabaci* is classified as a quarantine pest, sometimes requiring the destruction of infected plants, even at low levels of detection, to theoretically safeguard edible crops, especially tomatoes, from viruses, despite very limited evidence of historic damage or significant costs imposed on edibles producers.

The Poinsettia Growers Group has been actively lobbying DEFRA to reassess the current regulations and the operational practices of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Growers advocate for a review of the pest's quarantine status, citing the economic impact of ornamental crop destruction without compensation and the need for more practical management approaches.



In response, DEFRA conducted a stakeholder engagement in late 2023 to evaluate future policy options for Bemisia Tabaci. The outcome, published in May 2024, concluded that maintaining the current quarantine status is essential to mitigate risks associated with the pest, however, DEFRA acknowledged the concerns of the ornamental plant industry. The poinsettia group is lobbying for a new and better-informed consultation to achieve relaxation of rules around infected plant destruction particularly in the period August to December each year, to prevent the total collapse of Poinsettia growing in the UK, as currently the risks of growing the crop far exceed the rewards. A new approach under a known convention called a regulated non-quarantine pest status is sought with specific Poinsettia stipulations and not for a general relaxation of rules on quarantine pests.

Attendees also had the opportunity to spend time talking with our industry exhibitors including Koppert, Omex, ICL, Biobest UK Ltd, Jiffy Products, Bulrush Horticulture Limited, Syngenta Ornamentals, MorePeople, and Southern Trident. These exhibitors provided valuable information on products and services pertinent to the ornamental industry.

The conference was made possible through the generous support of Bridge Farm and its sponsors: Dümnen Orange, Beekenkamp Plants, GASA Group Denmark/Selecta One, Bulrush Horticulture, and ICL. Their contributions were instrumental in the success of the event.

Andy Smith  
Client Manager



Pictured: Paul Evers of Dummen Orange with Poinsettia Variety “Embla”, this year’s Harry Kitchener Best Choice Poinsettia Award Winner.

Meet the Team:



Andy Smith  
Client Manager



Rachel Kemp  
Business Support  
Administrator



Dan O'Brien  
Management  
Accountant



**INCLUDE | CHALLENGE | INSPIRE**

**Oxford Farming Conference 2025**



Held in the beautiful historical surroundings of Oxford University, the Oxford Farming Conference returned on 8-10 January, a highlight and prominent feature on the agricultural calendar. This year's OFC25's conference theme was "Facing Change, Finding Opportunity" and over 600 delegates graced the halls to participate over the course of the three days. OFC25 explored how current and future farming policies provided new opportunities for farmers; how we can adapt with the help of science and new practices to the changing world we farm in, and how change and adversity can produce inspiring innovators and leaders who can transform people, farming and food production. The conference featured a diverse group of experts, pioneers and changemakers from across the globe to address the critical issues facing agriculture today, covering critical topics from sustainable livestock production and cutting edge scientific advancements to innovative food policies and farm diversification strategies.

The main conference programme for Thursday focused on "Policy Enabling Opportunity" and "Adapting to a Changing World", and "Inspiration from Change" on Friday.

On Thursday morning delegates eagerly awaited the presentation from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed where he set out the Government's long-term vision to make farming more profitable and put more money back in the pockets of British farmers. The Secretary of State outlined how the Government would work with farmers to deliver a profitable farming sector and unlock growth. This included a cast iron commitment to food security, while introducing reforms that enabled farmers to diversify their income streams to support during poor harvests.



For more information, read the full speech on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

However, he stood firm on the controversial inheritance tax reforms despite loud protests from farmers with 35 tractors outside the Examinations Schools during the morning session.

continued ...

The Thursday afternoon session was attended by OFC's Honorary President HRH The Princess Royal, a keen supporter of the farming community, where she delivered the closing speech of the day.



Oxford Farming Conference, and the photographer Craig Stephen

On Thursday evening delegates enjoyed the hugely popular and highly contested OFC Oxford Union Debate “This house believes that UK agriculture needs more grazing livestock, rather than fewer, to be truly sustainable”. This was followed by the Post Debate Supper in the Christ Church Hall at Christ Church College, featured in the Harry Potter films, and always a guaranteed sell-out.



Oxford Farming Conference, and the photographer Craig Stephen

View the full programme here:  
2025 | Oxford Farming Conference

[Day One Highlight Video](#)

The Oxford Farming Conference will return to Oxford on 7-9 January 2026, please ensure you book your tickets early.

Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop Associations

Meet the Team:



Pauline Sutton  
Head of Crop  
Associations



Clare Reeson  
Head of Finance



Lisa Stannard  
Office Manager



Dan O'Brien  
Management  
Accountant



Sam Pope  
Business Support  
Administrator





# British Growers Upcoming Events 2025

**Wednesday 5th February 2025**

**British Ornamentals Association**

**Technical Conference**

**NFU Conference Centre, Stoneleigh**

Sponsorship opportunities available.

Please contact [info@britishornamentals.org](mailto:info@britishornamentals.org) if you are interested in being involved in this event.



**[Book Your Tickets Here](#)**

**Wednesday 5th March 2025**

**British Herbs Association Conference**

**Cranfield University, Bedford**

Sponsorship opportunities available.

Please contact [holly.jones@britishgrowers.org](mailto:holly.jones@britishgrowers.org) if you are interested in being involved in this event.



**[Book Your Tickets Here](#)**

