



Meet the Speakers

Wednesday 6 November 2024

Hexham Auction Mart

Lord Inglewood



Lord (Richard) Inglewood is a non-affiliated Member of the House of Lords, a barrister and Chartered Surveyor, and has an MA in Land Economy from Trinity College Cambridge and studied at Cumbria College of Agriculture (Newton Rigg). He was a Minister in John Major's Government, serving as a Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Lords in 1995 and as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage 1995-97 where he was responsible for broadcasting and heritage, and Minister for Tourism 1995-1997. Between 1989-1994 and 1999-2004 he was a Member of the European Parliament where he was the Conservative spokesman on Legal Affairs, and Chief Whip in 1994. He was Chairman of the CN Group, an independent local media business based in Carlisle 2002-2016, Chairman of Carr's Milling Industries plc 2005-2013, and of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art 2003-2014, President of the British Art Market Federation 2014 - 2024, Chairman of Gen2 from 2016 until 2018 and President of Cumbria Tourist Board 2004 to 2019. Between 2011-2014 he was Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, and 2014-2015 Chairman of the Select Committee on Extradition Law. He was a visiting parliamentary fellow at St Antony's College Oxford 2014-2015, Chairman of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership 2013-2017, Member Lake District Special Planning Board 1983-1989, Chairman of the Development Control (Planning Committee) of the Lake District National Park 1985-1989 and Board Member North-West Water Authority 1987-1989.

He has been Chairman of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership since June 2018, President of Historic Buildings and Places (formerly Ancient Monuments Society) since 2015, President of the Uplands Alliance since 2015, Patron of the Livestock Auctioneers Association since 2016, President of the National Sheep Association since 2017, Deputy Lieutenant (Cumbria) since 1993, Vice Lord Lieutenant (Cumbria) since 2012, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA) since 2002 and is a Director of Full Fact, a Director/Trustee of the Public Interest News Foundation, a member of the Borderlands Economic Forum and 3rd Warden, Skinners Company, 2023-2024.

He lives at Hutton-in-the-Forest in Cumbria.

Jonathan Baker



Jonathan Baker is Deputy Director, Programme Policy, Engagement and Strategy in the Future Farming and Countryside Programme.

Jonathan works on the cross-cutting policy and overall strategy in Defra's Future of Farming Directorate. He works across government to shape the design of agricultural policy, talking to stakeholders and providing advice to ministers.

Jonathan previously worked for the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) where he lead on environmental land use policy.

Prior to the CLA, he was a Senior Consultant at a research consultancy where he supported and managed research and evaluation projects for UK and international clients. As part of this role he was a Policy Evaluation Fellow - working to improve policy evaluation across Defra.

Jonathan built on his Environmental Science degree with a MSc in Environmental Technology (Environmental Analysis and Assessment) at Imperial College London's Centre for Environmental Policy.

Tim Farron



Tim Farron has been the MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale since 2005.

Tim lives in Milnthorpe, south Cumbria, with his wife Rosie, his daughters Isabella and Gracie and his sons Jude and Laurie. In his limited spare time, Tim enjoys following the (mis)fortunes of Blackburn Rovers, playing football, fell running, walking in the Lake District, listening to various kinds of music and spending time with family and friends.

Tim became an MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale in 2005 ending a 95 year rule by the Tories, winning by 267 votes.

In March 2006 Tim became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the then party leader Ming Campbell. He was then promoted, in December 2007, to the Lib Dem Shadow Cabinet and served as the Shadow Minister for the Countryside and Rural Affairs.

Tim served as President of the Liberal Democrats from 2011 to 2015.

In July 2015 Tim was elected leader of the Lib Dems. He stood down in June 2017 following the General Election and now is the party's spokesperson for the Environment.

Since becoming an MP in 2005 Tim has dealt with over 150,000 constituents cases in his office and held well over 600 advice surgeries in South Lakeland.

Robbie Moore



MP Robbie Moore is the Conservative MP for Keighley and Ilkley, having first been elected to Parliament in 2019, gaining the seat from Labour with a majority of 2,218. Robbie retained this seat in the 2024 General Election, and is currently Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Prior to the General Election, Robbie was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from November 2023 to July 2024. His first appointment was as Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Department of Education in October 2022.

Born in 1984, Robbie Moore was educated at Newcastle University. As a qualified rural chartered surveyor, Robert set up his own consultancy practice, Brockthorpe Consultancy Ltd, before being elected to Parliament.

Moore previously served as a councillor for Alwick, representing it on Northumberland County Council. From a farming background, with his family also involved in a business that collects and recycles plastic farm waste.

Moore is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Sustainable Food and Farming, and a member of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Fire Safety and Rescue, and Social Integration.

Daniel Zeichner



Daniel Zeichner was appointed Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on Monday 8 July. He was elected as the MP for Cambridge in July 2024.

Daniel was previously shadow minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from 2020 to 2024. Prior to this, he was shadow minister for Transport. Daniel Zeichner first entered Parliament at the 2015 General Election.

The former Chair of Cambridge Labour Party, he was a councillor between 1995 and 2003, leading a small Labour Group in an area then dominated by Liberal Democrats. He worked as a Parliamentary researcher (1992-97) and for a member of the European Parliament (1994-99). He has represented Cambridge on Labour's National Policy Forum since it was established by John Smith.

He first came to Cambridge to read History at King's. He had a successful career in IT, in both public and private sectors. From 2002 to 2015 he worked as national political officer for the trade union UNISON, promoting the interests of low-paid women working in public services. He is an active member of Labour's environmental group (SERA), on their National Executive, helping them work with trade unions, and making the case for a shift to a greener tax policy.

Helen Browning OBE



Helen farms in a family partnership on a mostly tenanted organic farm in Wiltshire with dairy, beef, pigs, cereals, agroforestry and small-scale horticulture. Her products are sold through the Helen Browning's Organic brand in retailers as well as through her hotel and restaurant/pub on the farm.

Her book 'PIG; tales from an organic farm', written with her partner Tim Finney, tells more about the trials and tribulations of their farming and food life.

She has been Chief Executive of the Soil Association since 2011, after a long involvement with the charity in a variety of exec and non-exec roles. Prior to rejoining the Soil Association, Helen was Director of External Affairs for the National Trust.

She is currently a Commissioner and trustee of the Food Farming and Countryside Commission and has had a number of roles in agri-politics over the years, including the Government's Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food ('the Curry Commission'), chaired the England Animal Health and Welfare Implementation Group and the Food Ethics Council. Helen was awarded an OBE in 1998 for her services to organic farming.

Stuart Johnson



Based in Northumberland, Stuart and family of JRG Johnson, tenants at West Wharmley Farm, has been transforming his farm over the last 10 years to reduce inputs, improve soil health and livestock profitability. Moving to a no-till arable system and integrating a mob grazing platform with his livestock, he has provided a more resilient business alongside financial gains. Stuart has now eliminated fertiliser on his grassland and both fungicides and pesticides in the arable crops, instead utilising an integrated system with the livestock now providing enhanced nutrient cycling to grow what is needed on the farm. The farm is currently in a seven-year rotation of five-years legume/herb mix swards, followed by two years arable cropping. This has created a year-round forage based grazing system, meaning that the requirement to purchase supplementary feed and utilise inputs has been dramatically reduced.

Rich Oglesby



Rich Oglesby farms in partnership with his wife Jen at Coltpark Farm near Rothbury, Northumberland. They farm on a Contract Farming Agreement with Michael and Samantha Orde, the farm runs 1730 ewes plus 350 ewe lambs, 100 Angus suckler cows and 100 Red deer Hinds alongside two Countryside Stewardship Schemes and a Sustainable Farming Incentive Scheme. All enterprises are run on an extensive low-cost system, lambing ewes outside and outwintering all cows. Rich is a new entrant to agricultural but fell in love with farming from a young age helping out on his Grandads small holding. After school he went to agricultural college and left with a 2.1 degree in Agriculture and Land Management, then working in Australia and New Zealand for a few months before returning home to work on a local farm. In 2015 they purchased 40 ewes on 10 acres of rented ground and have kept expanding year on year, today owning the flock of 1730 ewes for the Contract Farming Agreement.

Tania Coxon



Tania is a full-time arable farmer on her family farm in the North East of England and has been a keen shot all her life. Tania is either working hard on the farm or with her gun in hand and her black Labrador 'Hector' by her side. Her passion for farming from a young age led her to further her knowledge by studying Agriculture and Farm Business Management at The Royal Agricultural University. Taking university life in her stride, Tania graduated in 2018 with BSC Honours while achieving the award for 'The Best Prospective Farmer' after she captained the winning university team for 'The 2018 Hutchinson and Velcourt Cereals Challenge'. After graduating, Tania wanted to share her farming and shooting journey through her Instagram account @countrygirl_andlabradors, which is how she portrayed 'It all started!'.

Annabel Hamilton



Annabel's 2,500-acre family farm on the Berwickshire coast produces high-quality malting barley destined for well-known beer and whisky brands (name drop brands) and rears beef cattle for local butchers.

Despite her youth, Annabel is a highly experienced farmer who has forged a successful career in farm management. She studied Geology at Durham University before achieving an Agriculture Diploma at Cirencester. She and her family employ highly efficient practices on their farm to gain valuable time back and ensure the business is thriving.

Annabel regularly shares how she and her father are approaching the subject of succession, something she sees as a vitally important topic in Agriculture. She will discuss this and reveal more details of the family's latest diversification – a pick your own pumpkin patch – as well as her experiences overseeing the arable operations of large farm businesses in Northumberland and Lincolnshire.

Michael Blanche



A former Land Agent, Michael found tweed just too itchy and moved to SAC as an Agricultural Consultant where he learned more from his clients than his clients learned from him. One day he told his wife he was going to buy 10 sheep to start a flock, he came back with 50; all purchased on a credit card. Michael is surprisingly still married and the Credit Card company phones every day.

He is a Nuffield Scholar, hosts a podcast called The Pasture Pod and still does some consultancy. His main job is mincing about with his 750 sheep and 80 cows on his tenanted farm in Perthshire.

In early 2023 The Pasture Pod released a six part series called “It’s About Time” that put forward the hypothesis that time and how we use it is the third dimension to farming. A dimension we know is there but simply don’t see it properly and definitely don’t address in meaningful ways.

He enjoys thinking about pasture and talking about pasture. He still has 1 wife and 4 children, all of whom think grass is dull.