

# Rural Week 18

**By Anna Baker Cresswell**

Our first Rural Week of 2018 at Bicton College in Devon was sandwiched inbetween bouts of seriously snowy weather which we miraculously managed to avoid – at the end of the week by less than 24 hours..!

Our 5 HighGrounders were from the Royal Marines, RAF and the Army, with 4 still serving and one veteran who left the Army in 2013.

As always their motivations for joining us on a Rural Week were different, but the common denominator of wanting to explore opportunities in the land-based sector which would enable them and their families to lead a financially sustainable life doing a job they enjoy, shone through.

Huge thanks must go to Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones aka The Black Farmer <http://www.theblackfarmer.com/> who came to Bicton on the Wednesday afternoon to share his thoughts about life, entrepreneurship and success - a truly inspirational man. It was lovely to be able to welcome Colonel Mike Tanner, Commandant of Commando Training Centre Royal Marines and our other guests who joined us to meet Wilfred

Thank-you also to our other speakers and outside presenters Ginge Booth <http://www.treesandscenes.co.uk/> Debbie Kingsley <https://southyeofarmwest.co.uk/> Julia Birchall Mann <https://basc.org.uk/> Roger Halliday, Julian from Glendale <https://www.glendale-services.co.uk/>, Neil from Ground Control <https://www.ground-control.co.uk/>, Matt and Kirsty <http://www.hi-line.co.uk/> and Phil Sampson <https://www.sampsonhall.co.uk/>.

You all bring wisdom, industry expertise and precious contacts and we thank each and every one of you for sharing this with such generosity.

Thank-you also to John Wilding from <http://www.clintondevon.com/>, Andrew from the Food Chain, Tom Lowday, Terry Farkins and Exmouth Golf Club for hosting such interesting visits and of course to everyone at Bicton for all the work they put into the Rural Week to make it run so smoothly.

It was great to be back at the Sir Walter Raleigh for our last night social and you can see the pictures from our Rural Week <https://www.flickr.com/photos/highgrounduk/>.

Last word:

**This course has been a pleasure, exceeded all my expectations. Now I know my career path outside.**

**Thanks to everyone at Bicton.**

**Royal Marine Landing Craft aged 24. Medically discharged.**