



Wye College Agricola Club

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Photo taken by Phoebe Payne and posted on Our Place Wye.

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President's message 2020

Professor David Leaver (postgraduate 1964–67 and staff).

A very warm welcome to the 2020 Journal. Once again Journal Editor John Walters and his support team together with the contributors have done a tremendous job in putting together a high-quality publication, and sincere thanks are due from all of us for their work.

I continue to be fascinated by the Journal articles describing the life and times of former Wye College students. Their contributions to society both in this country and overseas are so many and varied, and I always wonder how much their time spent as students in Wye was the catalyst to the futures they describe. I am sure that for many of the alumni the experience was an influential period of their lives not only for their career development, but also for the long-lasting friendships and contacts made as students.

Speaking from personal experience I can say that my three years as a PhD student in the mid-1960s allowed me to move immediately into a fulfilling career.

It is also fair to say that it gave me a much broader education than simply my research subject area, and this breadth of education was one of Wye's greatest contributions to student life. In higher education Wye was a relatively small college with a culture that was very collegiate, a much-undervalued characteristic which can provide significant benefits to students and staff. Having studied for my first degree at a large university (Newcastle), I found it much more rewarding to work in the supportive and friendly environment of Wye where there was a close relationship between undergrads, postgrads, academics, and support staff.



Agricola Club President, postgraduate and former staff, David Leaver.

Uncertain times

The country is currently going through uncertain times. At present (mid-March 2020) the coronavirus pandemic is at an early stage of development, but numbers are beginning to multiply fairly rapidly, and it looks like some of us will be confined at home for some weeks/months ahead. At the same time, the farming industry is facing additional challenges from the wet weather of the past five to six months which continues unabated with significant negative impacts on agricultural and horticultural production. We also approach the culmination of the country's achievement of Brexit with little idea of its implications for individual businesses.

Clearly, globalisation is an underlying factor in the development of these uncertainties

caused by international disease, climate change and international trade. Nevertheless, irrespective of whether globalisation is considered to be a good or bad thing, movement of people and goods across borders is an inevitable part of human social evolution, and we shall have to continue to face many of these challenges in the future. To what extent experiences derived from the coronavirus pandemic bring about longer-term changes in how we operate both nationally and internationally remains to be seen.

It is to be hoped that the political ramifications arising from the pandemic and from Brexit do not adversely affect the close relationship we have in the UK with people/organisations/industries in other countries.

Future of farming

In my President's Message last year, I said 'we therefore await the outcome of the prolonged navel-gazing (regarding Brexit) to enable the industry to plan for the future and move forward with confidence'. Whilst the decision to leave the EU has now been confirmed, neither government policies to replace the CAP nor any outcome from the trade negotiations have yet been delivered.

We know the general direction of travel for future policies from the plethora of reading material produced in recent times by government. Currently, we have the Agriculture Bill, the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) policy discussion document, as well as a Farming for the Future policy and progress update, all now available for consideration. They add up to a very significant change to policies for farming, food production and land management, and, although we do not as yet have the detail, it is clear that to be successful in the future, businesses will have to be positive and take opportunities as they arise from these policy changes. The trade agreements now being negotiated with the EU and with the USA will also be a major factor affecting the production and profitability of farms.

Let me end on a positive note, and that is that we have outstanding young people in all areas of the farming and food industry and this, combined with the mind-blowing technologies emerging across all sectors of the industry, should hopefully allow us to cope with present and future challenges. Nevertheless, it is likely to be a very different industry in the future from what we have now.



On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary last June, Sally and David Leaver held a garden party at their Crundale home. For John Walters (right), it was a great opportunity to re-acquaint himself with the best rugby fly half he has ever had the pleasure of playing alongside, a post-grad at Wye in the mid-1960s by the name of Carwyn James (no, not THE Carwyn James who coached Llanelli, the '71 British Lions and the Baa Baas to beat the All Blacks); that's him on the left of the picture.

Editor's page

John Walters (undergrad and postgrad 1964–70), Journal Editor.

Let me try to explain something at the start. At the AGM held in September last year, I announced that I would step down as Club Chairman, because I was extremely unhappy about the way we, as a group and me in the chair, had treated a guest at our meeting. Afterwards, I was reminded that I had been Club Chairman for eight years! So, my departure is not before time; it's the right decision even if the reasons were not great. It's time for a change.

New Chair of the Club

At a subsequent meeting, the Committee wholeheartedly accepted the nomination of Jane Reynolds (1973–76) to take on the role; she was duly voted in. Possibly, the first female chair in the history of the Club? Three cheers for that! So, let me offer a double welcome to Jane! As it happens, when I first came back to live in Kent and attend Reunion dinners, Jane was then the Editor. It was at one of those dinners that I fell under her spell and 'volunteered' to help with the production of the Journal. Before I knew it, I was in charge! So, in a way, history repeats itself.

Producing the Journal in these troubled times has not been without its challenges, but the quality of the product in your hands merely confirms how lucky/successful we have been to recruit two such capable members of the team last year. It helps that we have some super material again supplied by you, our members.

One particular story caught my eye because I hadn't appreciated before that the late Lord Northbourne (see *Obituaries*, page 60), who was once a Governor of the college, was also an early 'convert' to the organic movement



The Editor spent his lockdown time putting the finishing touches to this year's Journal.

(possibly he or his father even 'invented' the name) and an active member of the Soil Association. Coincidentally, this year we also carry a tribute to the late Dr David Hodges, who was a researcher and lecturer based at the Poultry Research Department. Much to my surprise, I learnt only recently that he too had been a Council Member of the Soil Association and very much a proponent of biological farming. Who knew? I must have chatted to him every other day for three years whilst doing my PhD in the same building, and I had no idea. Whether organic farming is ever going to be sufficient to feed the world, or even our world, has to be debatable. What is not debatable, even more so in this pandemic era, is that Britain needs its farmers. This view was put firmly into perspective recently as a result of my reading a piece in *The Times* by someone whose opinions I admire greatly, Simon Jenkins. He had reviewed a book written by Professor Tim Lang, the somewhat self-styled food policy 'guru' at

City University; the book is *Our Food Problems and How to Fix Them*. Lang was considering the situation largely from a no-deal Brexit position. Suddenly, with Coronavirus in mind, his arguments take on a special relevance.

In the same article, Jenkins reflected on the views of a man he described as the 'latest of Boris Johnson's misfit and weirdo advisers, the economist and treasury adviser Tim Leunig'. Leunig had just announced that British farmers and fishermen are not critically important to the country's economy, and that we could easily buy in all our food. Done deal!

Since then, two leader articles In The Times fortuitously addressed the flip-side of that coin. Namely, a piece written by one Alice Thomson headed: 'Britain needs its farmers more than ever' and another by an Iain Martin, headed 'Britain will have to get more self-sufficient'. Bit of a reality check, I thought!

More News of Members, PLEASE!

So, back to our Journal. Although we are still turning out quite chunky editions these days, the amount of news and snippets from members is limited. Which is a pity since, for most of us, it's that part we like the most; it offers an opportunity to delve in and see what our peers have been up to.

We have a great example this year of what can be done. The lovely Kate Harris (née Adam, 1987–90) whom I had the good fortune to meet with her husband and a group of their Wye friends when they visited the village last year, made a special effort to encourage folk to send her some material for the journal. In the end, 12 individuals responded on email, text, or WhatsApp and she delivered a compilation of their contributions filling a good few column inches of our News of Members section. This delighted me and I would encourage others to make a similar effort amongst their friends/peers, PLEASE!

On the subject of get-togethers (stretching the link a little, I know), those of us lucky enough to have attended the hog roast reunion at Alex and Fleur Swanton's farm in Dorset last summer were dined and wined delightfully well and transported around some super countryside. There is a report and a pictorial display about the event in this edition (see pages 25–34).

We are also advertising the 2020 reunion which is currently planned for 20 September. We have again reserved the Kemp Centre with its improved facilities for events like ours. But, no surprise ... there is a big MAYBE hanging over it because of the uncertainty over the pandemic and its duration. Please continue to make plans 'as if it will go ahead' but be prepared for possible postponement. Obviously, we will keep you informed.

Self-sufficient crops on the way?

That's not a great note to finish on, so I won't. I have been scouring the newspapers a bit more thoroughly than normal recently, and was very interested to read about some amazing work on cereal plants being conducted by scientists at the Sainsbury Laboratory at Cambridge University. The workers believe that they are close to developing a strain of crops that could fertilise themselves. They envisage strains of wheat, maize and rice capable of collecting nitrogen from the air, negating the need for nitrate fertilisers. Taking this a step further and reconnecting the roots with the mycorrhizal fungi in the soil by constructing a 'legume-type nodule' could greatly reduce the use of phosphate fertilisers as well. The yield, environmental, economic and social benefits should this research succeed in its goal are staggering. No surprise, then, that the researchers at Cambridge received a £38 million grant from the Gates Foundation this year.

Secretary's report

Francis Huntington (1961–63) – Honorary Club Secretary.

My report, once again, contains some repeat information; I make no apology as it is important that this section of the Journal reflects what we do.

Club summer event 30 June 2019

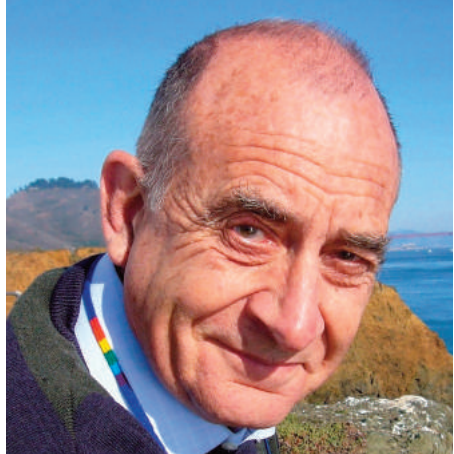
We are much indebted to Alex and Fleur Swanton's generous hosting of this event which took the form of an excellent lunch and fascinating farm tour on a bright and sunny afternoon. We are currently on the search for hosts for a similar event in 2021.

2020 dinner and AGM

We are back in Wye for our 2020 Dinner and are once again using the excellent facilities at Wye School (previously the Kempe Centre) whose building programme and landscaping are now fully completed. *The booking form can be found in the green pages at the back of this Journal.* This year we are particularly targeting those who graduated in 2000, 1990, 1980, 1970, 1960, 1950, or thereabouts. We, of course, extend a warm welcome to all alumni, whatever your year of graduation; you are encouraged to round up your contemporaries for an enjoyable trip down memory lane. Much has changed, but at the same time much is the same.

Your Committee

At our spring Committee meeting we sought to address the question of succession planning as it is vital that we endeavour to bring down the average age of your Committee. We are very aware that to keep the Club functioning, it is essential that the membership of the Committee has an infusion of new blood on a regular basis. As your Secretary for the last 22 years, I want to find an Assistant Secretary to understudy me with a view to handing over



Club Secretary, Francis Huntington, is seeking an Assistant Secretary: contact him for details.

the reins in 2021. Please be in touch with me if you would like to consider the Secretary's roll or would like to fill one of the vacancies that will be voted for at September's AGM.

Club support for various ventures

In the recent past the Club has financially supported Wye Heritage's Exhibitions and last year agreed to cover the fees of a part time Wye Heritage Administrator for a period of two years, following on from Charles Course's generous funding of the first year of the appointment. This is a first step towards the two organisations working more closely by sharing the services of the same person as the Club's Database Administrator.

The Trustees of the Memorial Fund are continuing to respond to requests for help and support where those requests meet the fund's objectives. *See our Treasurer's report, the Memorial Fund accounts and the details of grants published in this Journal.*

Annual Journal

Last year your committee again reviewed the possibility of making the Journal an 'online' only publication. The firm conclusion was that the print version should remain for the time being but that this policy will be regularly reviewed. In the meantime, you can certainly request not to receive the printed version of the Journal by writing to us.

You are reminded that you can access the online version via our website.

2020 is the alternate year when we print both the full address list as well as the email addresses. We are again publishing the names of 'lost' members together with their last known address. We are very dependent on members to put us in touch with those who have not updated their contact details – please scan the list and see if you can help us. We have sorted the list on date of graduation so that you can look at those 'lost' who were your contemporaries.

The Membership Database and the new Data Protection Regulations 2018

We have done our best to keep the database as accurate as possible. However, we do need you to check your own entry and to let us know if we have got it wrong or when you change your email or postal address. Please be aware that unless we are asked not to publish your details in the Journal, including your email address, your information will automatically appear.

In order to conform with the new General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR), we are required to let you know that the Club holds your postal address and e-mail address on a secure digital database for the sole purpose of keeping you informed of Club news, activities and events, and to enable us to print your details in the Journal and mail it to you. We do not share any of the information with third parties and do not publish the address list in the online version of the Journal.

Hopefully, you read our Privacy Policy in last year's Journal; in case you missed it, we have included an updated version in this Journal.

I need to draw your attention to the revision which now clearly states that **members may not use the printed lists in order to bulk email fellow members**. This is because many of you were bulk emailed by a member with information generated by Wye College Regeneration Action Group (WyeCRAG). Your committee and your Data Controller considered this to be in breach of the GDPR regulations and could have led to the perpetrator and the Club being challenged and called to account by the GDPR Regulator.

Following this, the February 2020 circulation of the WyeCRAG invitation was carried out by the Club after careful consideration by your Committee on the basis that alumni might wish to learn more about the WyeCRAG proposals for some of the College buildings.

New Members

We know that there are a substantial number of Wye College and Imperial College at Wye graduates, postgraduates and staff who, for one reason or another, have not joined the Club. We will continue to make an effort to recruit those who 'slipped through the net'. If you have friends, colleagues or contemporaries who are not members of the Club, do please encourage them to be in touch. If you email us, we can send you, or them, the application form and bank mandate electronically or, of course, a hard copy by mail.

Website and e-newsletter

If you have not looked before do check out www.wyeagricolaclub.org.uk. The layout and content management system has been revised which will make it much easier for us to update the site and increase the range of material in the years ahead. We are very dependent on

members to help with making the site more interesting; please be in touch if you have material which we can add, e.g. photographs, documents or personal reminiscences.

Last year's request produced a limited response! Please, we need a steady flow of material from your own archives to ensure that the site reflects member's experiences at College and noteworthy activities since graduation.

As you will have realised, we are developing electronic communications via the website and the e-newsletter; however, in order to be able to develop this further, we do need to have your up-to-date email address. Please forward this to us if you have not already done so or update it if you have changed it.

Annual Membership Fees

On a number of occasions in the past, your Treasurer, Secretary and our Database Administrator have tried to ensure that all annual members pay the correct membership fee which currently stands at **£10 per annum**. Most members promptly updated their bank mandates; unfortunately, a few have not. Your Committee has therefore reluctantly agreed that those in arrears will no longer receive the Journal. If you have contemporaries who are telling you that they no longer receive the Journal the chances are that either we do not have their current postal address or for annual members we are not receiving the correct subscription – please encourage them to get up to date!

'Lost' members

If you notice that we have missed the death of a member it would be a great assistance if you could let us know so that our database is kept up to date and an obituary penned, if appropriate. A number of members have been extremely helpful in spotting lost members and putting us in touch – thank you.

Club merchandise and publications

I continue to hold all the stocks of Club merchandise and will be pleased to supply these by return – current prices inclusive of postage and packing are as follows:

- Ties: £18.00
- Bow ties: £22.50
- Millennium print of the College (unframed) special offer: £5.00
- *The Record*: £5.00
- *The College at Wye: A Historical Guide*: £8.00

Please make cheques payable to 'Wye College Agricola Club' or contact me about paying by BACS. As usual, I will also make sure that these items are on sale at Club events.

I have had enquiries about the supply of the College ties which until 2009 were stocked by the Students Union. Sadly, these all sold out during 2009, so I am unable to supply them.

Contact

Just in case you have not caught up with your Secretary's details from elsewhere in the Journal, you can contact me at:

Agricola Secretariat, Cumberland Court
Church Street, Wye TN25 5BJ

Telephone: 01233 813884

Email: contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk

Please check the section at the back of the Journal to see whether we have your correct email and postal addresses. We do urgently need this in order to improve the effectiveness of our communications with you – if yours is not listed or needs updating, then please send details to: database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk.

The Wye Journalism Awards

A new idea from the ever-active mind of David Bennet (1953–56); he came up with the notion and the choice of prizes and recipients, financed them and travelled over from Australia to deliver them.

David Bennett so enjoyed Peter Cooper's article in the 2018 edition Wye Journal that he was moved to write in praise of it in the following year's Journal. Peter was surprised, humbled and delighted with the praise heaped up on him; so much so that David decided to give another to **Rosemary Atkins (née Hinge)** for her contribution to the 2019 Journal. She, also, was over the moon by the unexpected accolades.

David then took it a stage further and decided to give a fitting trophy to each that consisted of suitably engraved jarrah boxes. Both recipients were delighted to receive them,

Rosemary from David himself during his trip to the UK in late summer 2019, and Peter from our editor, **John Walters**. The presentations are shown below and right.

In formulating the awards in this way, David is hoping that the practice may continue in future years. So, here are his proposed rules:

- 1 Any member of the club can propose an award for any contribution in the most recent copy of the Journal.
- 2 The contributions can be in any section (President's report, editor's report, any article, etc.)



Peter Cooper receives his award from John Walters.



Rosemary receives her award from David Bennett.

- 3 Once accepted by the editor, the proponent then has to pay for the award, suitably inscribed, and a presentation organised.
- 4 If there is more than one proposal, then more awards can be given; if there is more than one proposal for the same article then the proponents can share the costs and presentations.

This year we are also honouring the Journal's former production editor, Gill Bond, and former database manager, Vinny McClean. See their citations on the following two pages.



Peter Cooper's jarrah box from New Zealand.



Silver wheat sheaf brooches were awarded to the Journal's former production editor, Gill Bond, and former database manager, Vinny McClean. See their citations overleaf.



Vinny McLean

Wye College Agricola Club Journal

Database Administrator

Citation

The Club wishes to acknowledge your longstanding commitment to looking after the Club's database and latterly as minute secretary. We hope that this silver wheatsheaf will be a reminder of your association with the Club and thereby with the College coat of arms.

The Club has been particularly fortunate that someone of your experience was on hand to help us secure and repatriate the database and then to keep it scrupulously up to date.

The Club President, Chairman and Committee



Gillian Bond

Wye College Agricola Club Journal

Production Editor

Citation

This award, the first of its kind, is presented to Gillian Bond for her tremendous contribution to 'Wye', the annual journal of the Agricola Club.

In her role as Production Editor, Gill 'raised the bar' in terms of its appearance, attractiveness and readability. She held the post for five years, starting in 2013.

In that time, the number of editorial pages has doubled from 88 to over 170, due in no small part to the quality of the production that attracted increasing numbers of contributors.

The Club President, Chairman and Committee

Wye College Agricola Club

Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 20 September 2019 at 7pm in the Latin School, Wye.

Present

David Leaver (President and Chair), Sue Atkinson, Berkeley Hill, Francis Huntington (Secretary), Jane Reynolds, Gary Saunders, John Walters, Chris Waters, Paul Webster (Treasurer) and four members

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence

The Secretary had received apologies from Charles Course, Geoff Dixon, Chris Reynolds, David Simmons and Jane Walters.

2 Minutes – confirm the Minutes of the 66th AGM published in the Journal

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 66th AGM were a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, John Walters, reported positively that there was a vibrant feel to the Club, in part due to the expansion and popularity of the Journal. He had received favourable comments from alumni of other agricultural college associations about this.

5 Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Francis Huntington, said that his report in the 2018-2019 Journal summarised all the matters of concern. The new Database Administrator, Siân Phelps, had settled into the role, taking over from the previous incumbent. The

Summer event in June, a lunch and farm walk in Wiltshire, hosted by Alex and Fleur Swanton, had been a success, with c 100 members attending. It was agreed that the formula of alternating an annual dinner at Wye one year with an event elsewhere the next was successful.

6 Treasurer's Report and to receive the Club accounts for 2018–2019

Agricola Club accounts: the Treasurer, Paul Webster, presented the Club accounts. Subscription income was up, there had been a small loss from the September 2018 Dinner, but a small gain from the Hog Roast. The larger Journal last year also resulted in an increase in costs. Charles Course has donated £2k to support Wye Heritage admin. Overall there was a notional deficit of £1549. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

7 Memorial Fund – Trustees Report and Accounts 2018–2019

Memorial Fund: Paul Webster reiterated that the Fund was two-thirds intended to support scholarships, the remainder to support the production of the Journal and other Agricola needs. In scholarship terms, the Fund had supported the Worshipful Company of Farmers, and MSc students via the Tropical Agriculture Association, up to £4–£6k per year. There had been no request from the SOAS Distance Learning Programme this year or last – PW intended to investigate this.

The Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2019 showed a deficit of £6742, after transfer to the Club, plus awards. However, overall

there was no significant movement in the investments.

The Trustees are appointed by the Agricola Club Committee. The accounts had been approved and signed by the Trustees at their AGM earlier in the day. John Mansfield raised a query regarding the Fund's charitable status. Treasurer reported that according to the Charity Commission, the Fund was the Club's to disperse as it wished.

Berkeley Hill raised the issue of supply and demand regarding requests for sponsorship and wondered if we should be more proactive. The Fund had its original basis as a Hardship Fund, and the Treasurer repeated the Trustees' annual request that any member who is in need of support, or is aware of any other member who is in need, should contact the Trustees.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2019–2020

The Treasurer said that Chavereys had served the Club well with a good turn-around and that each year they deduct part of their bill as a contribution to the charity. He recommended that Chavereys be appointed Independent Examiner for 2019–2020. Agreed.

President's vote of thanks

The President wished to express a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for their work during the year – approved by the meeting.

9 Journal Editor's Report

The President commented that this year's journal had again been excellent. John Walters commented that last year he had been concerned about what would happen after losing both the Production Editor and Database Administrator, but the situation

with the replacements had worked out better than could have been expected.

Planning was already underway for next year's issue, and John issued an appeal for material. Ideally, he would like to send it out earlier than this year's, so asked to receive material by 31 December 2019 at the latest.

There had been many appreciative comments; however, there had been one criticism regarding the use of non-biodegradable plastic mailing envelope for the journals. This had been investigated and a replacement identified, which would result in a small increase in cost.

John Hosking commented that although the Journal was excellent, he had thought some of the photographs seemed out of focus. JW to investigate. Berkeley Hill wondered about the photographs in other publications. It might be an option to request certain specifications for submission of photographs.

10 Elections

Committee: one vacancy – the Secretary explained that John Walters was due to stand down after his three-year term, but was willing to stand again. Proposed Lucy Huntington, seconded John Hosking – carried.

Vice Presidents: John Hosking had been nominated – proposed Lucy Huntington, seconded Francis Huntington – carried. JH expressed his pleasure at being elected

Honorary Membership: there were no nominations for Honorary Membership.

11 Future plans for Club events

Jane Reynolds confirmed that the 2020 Annual Dinner was arranged for Friday 26 September, to be held at Wye School, following the usual format. At the last

dinner there had been no speaker. Catering arrangements to be confirmed.

Also looking for a venue for the 2021 summer event, probably at the end of June. If possible, it would be good to go further to the North or East this time. JR had a previous offer from a member in Lincolnshire and would investigate it.

12 Report on Wye Heritage Centre

Francis Huntington referred members to the report published in the Journal for a detailed account. The Centre was putting on 11 fresh displays each year. The current display, which members had access to before the meeting, concerned the history of Wye College, including a board looking to the future, confirmation of which was currently delayed by the planning process for the College buildings. Footfall in the Centre had increased by 25% and contact via social media had risen. David Leaver commented on the excellence of the displays and the sociability of the Centre's open mornings.

Berkeley Hill asked if Wye Heritage had yet obtained charitable status, as this would enable them to claim Gift Aid. FH reported that there had been delays following resubmission of the application; the Charity Commission were currently processing April applications. It was hoped that an officer would be appointed in December/January.

13 Update on the redevelopment of the Wye Campus

Francis Huntington had prepared a document with the relevant information; copies were provided for members to take away.

14 Any other business

Wye CRAG: John Mansfield wished to open a discussion about the development

of the Campus, with specific reference to the local Wye College Regeneration Action Group (WyeCRAG) who were challenging the existing plans; he had brought leaflets for distribution.

The Agricola Committee had had extensive discussion on this at their preceding meeting and were well briefed on the issues. The committee had agreed that they are currently supporting the Wye Heritage plan and as such were stakeholders in that plan. During the meeting the Club Committee had restated their position which had been agreed and minuted: John Walters then read out the statement to the AGM: *'The Agricola Club Committee agreed that it was not appropriate to be involved with WyeCRAG as the Club is a stakeholder and would like to avoid any potential conflict of interest.'*

Chris Waters pointed out that this position statement precluded any further discussion at the AGM. John Mansfield protested at the lack of debate. John Hosking then proposed the motion that 'the meeting accept the Committee's statement as a closure to the discussion and move on with the meeting'; the motion was seconded by Chris Waters and was passed.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 20.00 hours

Post-meeting note

Subsequent to the meeting, John Walters announced that he was stepping down from the Club's Chairman role in protest at what he considered was the 'appalling' way that John Mansfield had been treated by the Committee. In his opinion, it was totally at odds with the all-inclusive nature of the Club.

Wye College Agricola Club – Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please note that the 68th Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 26 September 2020 at Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye TN25 5EJ – starting promptly at 5.30pm.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes – confirm the minutes of the 67th AGM published in the Journal
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report – and to receive the Club accounts for 2019–2020
- 7 Memorial Fund – Trustees Report and Accounts 2019–2020
- 8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2020–2021
- 9 Journal Editor's Report
- 10 Elections:
Committee – there are six vacancies.
Vice Presidents – nominations to be received by the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting
Honorary Membership – to receive and vote on the Committee's recommendations
- 11 Future plans for Club events
- 12 Report on the Wye Heritage Centre
- 13 Update on the redevelopment of the College Campus
- 14 Any other business

Wye College Agricola Club Dinner and AGM: Saturday 26 September 2020

Schedule of Events

Lunch

We suggest that you might like to meet up with contemporaries at one of the Wye hostelries – please make your own arrangements

3.00pm–5.00pm

Wye Heritage Centre – Latin School, Wye College
Current Exhibition – Celebration of the first 10 years of 'Wye Heritage'
Tea/coffee and scones will be served in the Latin School until 5.00pm

5.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Agricola Club will commence in Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye.

6.45pm

Pre-dinner Drinks and Canapes.

Sparkling wine and canapés will be offered, and a pay bar will be available throughout the evening.

7.30pm

Dinner will be served in the School Hall

Some wine will be included on the tables and there will be a pay bar.

Please note that sadly for security reasons there will be no access to the College's Medieval and Edwardian buildings apart from the Latin School (Tea).

Please use the school or village car parks.

The Wye Heritage Centre: 'Our past shapes our future'

Karen Warden (Chair) and Francis Huntington (Hon Sec) of Wye Heritage Committee of Management describe another successful year in the Centre's 10-year history.

Wye Heritage was launched in 2009 on the closure of the College, with the official opening of the Wye Heritage Centre in the Latin School on 15 October 2011. We celebrated 10 years since our launch with a major exhibition last summer when we highlighted all that has been achieved. From the beginning, the Centre has been open to the general public on the first and third Saturdays of each month. These Saturday morning openings have become very popular, with a steady stream of visitors enjoying coffee and home-made cake and becoming immersed in the history and heritage of the village of Wye and Wye College. The average Saturday visitor numbers for the past 12 months have been 54.

The New Wye Heritage Centre

Telereal Trillium (TT) purchased the College buildings in October 2015 and since then have been working on the tortuous process of obtaining planning permission to convert the Medieval and Edwardian buildings to 39 houses, flats and apartments with communal access to the Old Hall, Parlour, Inner Parlour, Jacobean Staircase, Chapel and Old Lecture Theatre.

The renovation will include the creation of a dedicated space to house the Wye Heritage Centre. Together we have developed the plans for the Centre to be based in the old Junior Common Room (adjacent to the Wheel Room) and the rooms behind. There will be an independent entrance on the High Street, a small courtyard, entrance foyer, a main

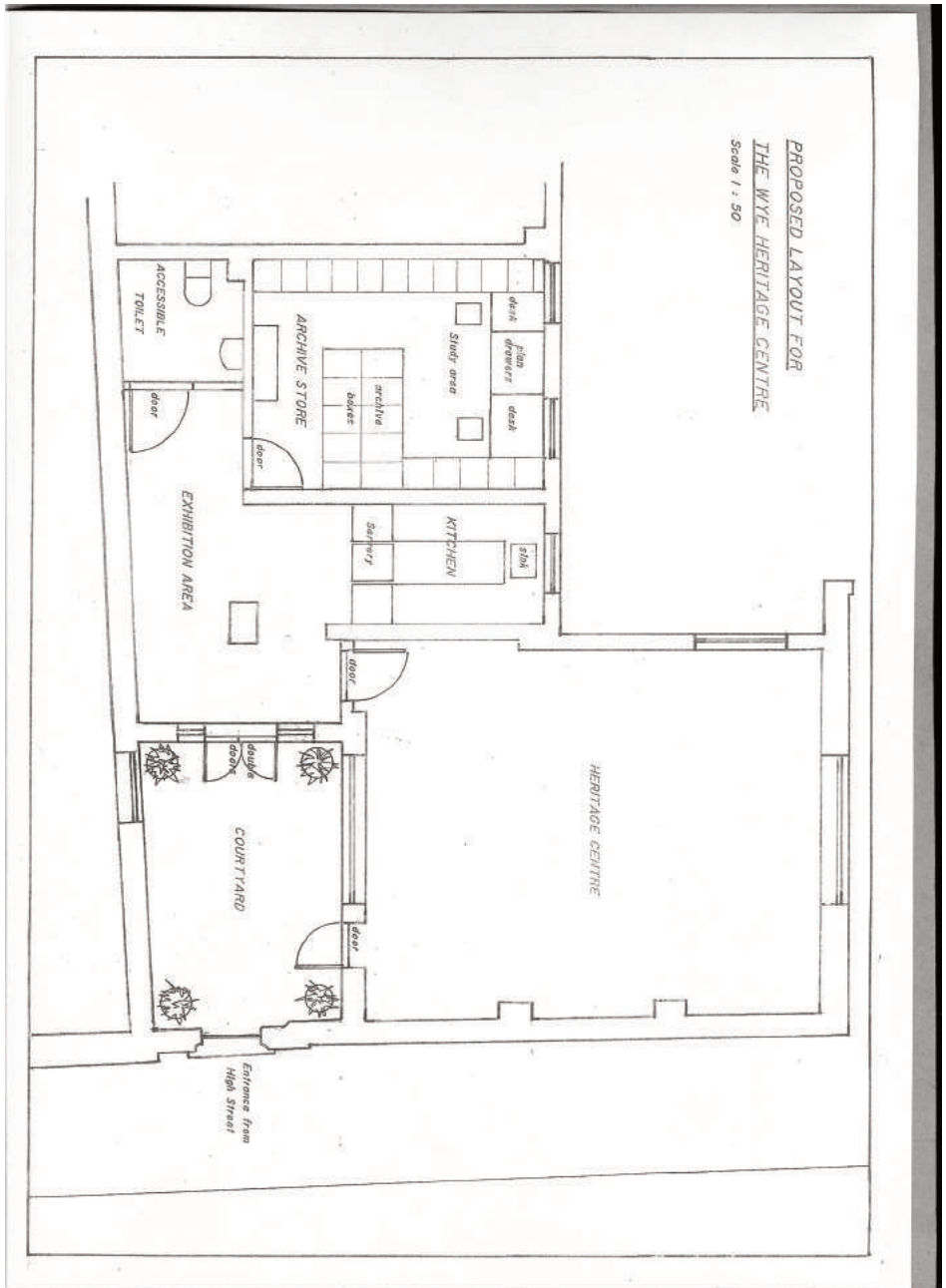
exhibition room, kitchen and servery, accessible toilet and a large archive store/study space. The layout drawing gives an indication of how that will work (see overleaf). The expectation is that the space will be made available to us on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. This proposal will provide the long-term facilities to which we have been aspiring for the past 10 years.

There is currently a delay in all the planning conditions being signed off by Ashford Borough Council and, until that is complete, the timeframe is very uncertain. Once a lease is signed, we will embark upon major fund-raising in order to 'fit out' the Centre.

The average Saturday visitor numbers for the past 12 months have been 54

We very much hope that Agricola Club members will become involved and provide a significant contribution to the funding. This whole heritage project is fundamental in retaining, in part, the history and heritage of the College. We know that we will not be able to achieve this without the alumni involvement, and we will be counting on your support.

We know that some of you are supporting WyeCRAG's proposals and may have attended their briefing in February. In spite of the



undeniable interest in the WyeCrag plans, the Wye Heritage Committee is continuing to support the Telereal Trillium plans. We believe that these are both viable and credible and will ensure the restoration of all the College's historic buildings, both Medieval and Edwardian.

Regular displays

Each month we put together a new display highlighting a particular aspect of the life and times of the village of Wye and of the College. Recent displays have included: the Gordon Tucker diaries, written whilst he was at Wye Airfield during the First World War; Withersdane Hall and Gardens, to coincide with the change of ownership from Imperial College to the Italian University, NCIU; Wye at the start of World War II; a display of the historic maps of Wye; the 10-year celebration of the work of Wye Heritage; the pubs of Wye; and the College Farm.

We have committed to submitting an edited version of some of these displays for publication in the Journal. We think that this is a vital part of capturing and making available the history, heritage and ethos of the village of Wye and Wye College (see also Lucy Huntington's report of the Withersdane exhibition in this issue).

Wye Heritage constitution and funding

We are currently operating as a Members Association and are working towards gaining charitable status during 2020. This would have a number of benefits and enable us to maximise on any major fund-raising appeal we may need to do for the new Heritage Centre

The physical and digital archive

Anticipating the existence of a purpose-built archive store and exhibition space, we continue to collect together photographs, documents and memorabilia from a wide

range of sources, including from Club members and their families. If you have material relating to the College and your time as an undergraduate, postgraduate or member of staff and would be prepared to share it with us, then do please be in touch by emailing admin@wyeheritage.org.uk.

This is a vital part of capturing and making available the history, heritage and ethos of the village of Wye and Wye College

The Centre is equipped with computers, a scanner and photographic equipment to enable images and documents to be copied and held on a catalogued and searchable database. Along with many other important documents we plan that, eventually, the Journals of the Agricola Club and the South Eastern Agricultural College will be digitised and be available online, in the same way as the five most recent Journals.

An oral archive is also envisaged: we are still seeking to recruit past student volunteers to join the Oral Archive project – please contact us if you would like to help contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk.

Wye Treasures

Most of the 'Wye Treasures', namely pictures, documents and artefacts, are currently held in store by Imperial College in London. The Heritage Centre continues to arrange with Imperial College the loan of portraits and other artefacts. Eventually, we hope that key material will be housed in Wye rather than in South Kensington. In the world of history and

heritage, we are reminded that 'context' is of huge importance, and for much of this material the 'context' is, of course, Wye.

We are still seeking to recruit past student volunteers to join the Oral Archive project

The way forward with your involvement

The activities of 2009–20 have demonstrated both the need for the Centre and the enthusiasm of those connected with the

village of Wye and Wye College to preserve and make available the history and heritage of both. We intend to expand our hard-working and dedicated band of volunteers to run the Centre and to collect and preserve the history, heritage and life-blood of Wye College. It was an institution which throughout the twentieth century made a unique contribution to the development of agriculture, horticulture and the environment across the globe. Much of that work continues today elsewhere; however, it is vital that the original thinking, research and experiences which underpin today's work are properly recorded and honoured.

Wye Heritage

Wye Heritage is the organisation which will ensure that the above is achieved. The Wye College Agricola Club and its members have a vital role to play. We think that our logo says it all – '*Our past shapes our future*'.

Please become a part of this important and exciting project by becoming a 'Wye Heritage' subscribing member.

An application form is in the Green Pages section at the back of the Journal; it only costs £10 a year to subscribe to Wye Heritage – please complete the application today. In addition, gifts or legacies would be particularly welcome in order to secure the future financial viability of the Centre.

The future of the Wye College Campus

Francis Huntington – Wye village resident, Honorary Secretary of Wye Heritage and the Wye College Agricola Club.

[I] The main College buildings

Telereal Trillium (TT), as the owners of the main College Campus since 2015, have now submitted their master plan for the part of the Campus referred to as Wye 3; this incorporates the previously reported plans for the future of the Medieval and Edwardian buildings which can be found on the Ashford Borough Council (ABC) planning portal under the application numbers **17/00567** & **17/00568**.

The buildings remain empty and are clearly deteriorating

In June 2018, the ABC planning committee approved the TT planning application to convert the Medieval and Edwardian buildings to residential accommodation, with associated car parking, numbering 40 dwellings, all subject to a number of planning conditions, some of which have yet to be processed by the council. The plan includes a new Heritage Centre plus limited public access to the Old Hall, the Parlour and Inner Parlour, the Jacobean staircase, the Chapel and the Old Lecture Theatre. In the meantime, the buildings remain empty and are clearly deteriorating. TT have recently lodged an appeal with ABC on the basis of 'non-determination'.

Meanwhile, many of you will have heard of another organisation known as the Wye College Community Action Group, WyeCrag, who are hoping to open a dialogue with TT and ABC. Their plan is to acquire the Grade I Medieval buildings and some of the Grade II

Edwardian buildings in order to create a community and cultural centre. You will find the details of their proposals on their website www.wyecrag.org.

In addition, the Parish Council is challenging the master plan, which has already been adopted by ABC, apparently on the basis that it does not adhere to the Wye Neighbourhood Plan and does not conform to a number of local and national planning guidelines. A judicial review is being requested.

[II] Other Telereal Trillium properties

In order to update Club members on TT's other plans, I have set out the current 'state of play', as far as is known, for each part of the properties that they own or until recently owned.

Squires Hostel

TT have been granted planning permission to convert Squires to four individual cottages with associated parking.

Wolfson Student Hostel

TT have sold this property to a local builder with planning permission to demolish the hostel and replace it with a terrace of six houses – work has already started.

Numbers 30–32 High Street, Wolfson Lecture Theatre and car park to the rear

TT has now received planning permission to demolish the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, refurbish Numbers 30–32 High Street and to add three houses to the rear to create a total of six dwellings. Permission has been granted for this site; it is anticipated that work will



Wolfson Student Hostel has already been demolished: it will be replaced by six terraced houses.

start as soon as ABC has signed off the planning conditions.

ADAS Site

As previously reported, this site has become derelict and has been progressively vandalised. During 2017, TT's contractors cleared the site of asbestos, glass and other debris and have boarded up the remaining buildings to make them safe and secure and have recently erected perimeter fencing. The conversion of the buildings from offices into approximately 50 flats had been prepared in outline, but it now appears on the TT master plan as a housing estate of 20 substantial houses. However, the Wye Neighbourhood Plan has established that this development would lie outside the concept of a 'walkable village'; it is unclear how this will be resolved.

Wye School

As previously reported, TT have leased the Kempe Centre site, including the old hop

garden, to 'Wye School', the new secondary school. Pupil numbers have reached maximum with the second year sixth form being created in September 2019; all the students are now accommodated in permanent buildings which include a very fine sports hall and assembly hall. The new multi-use games area (MUGA) is in use and planning permission has been granted for the use of the former hop garden as playing fields and for car and coach parking.

Outside school hours, community use of the sports and assembly halls is now available. A number of successful events have already been held there, including our own Club Dinner.

If you have an interest in the master plan you should take a look at the Wye Parish Council website www.wyeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Occupation Road

TT has submitted a planning application for 40 houses on the Horticultural Department greenhouse site.

[III] Imperial College's land and property not sold to Telereal Trillium

As reported in the previous Journal, Imperial College have embarked upon disposing of most of their property other than the main blocks of farmland. The list below summarises the state of play at the point of going to press.

Farm land

Most of the farmland is being rented by the same tenants who took the tenancies in 2009.

Coldharbour

Coldharbour farmhouse, farm buildings, three bungalows and the adjacent land are currently on the market.

Former pig unit, sheep unit and poultry units

These have all been sold. The new owners are in the process of the submitting various

planning proposals, some of which have been granted.

Silks Farm

The parts of the site not in private ownership are now the subject of a planning application to add further housing.

Withersdane

Following Promis Clinics' withdrawal from the site, the buildings and gardens have been sold by Imperial College to a private Italian University by the name of Niccolo Cusano Italian University London (NCIUL). They have been granted the planning permissions that they need to operate; however, the Parish Council continues to alert residents and the Borough Council to the possible impact of increased traffic in the village. Building work is well underway to renovate those buildings which Promis Clinics had not tackled. By and



An Italian flag now flies over Withersdane Hall

large there is enthusiasm for tertiary education returning to Wye.

Harwood House

This former housing for postgraduate families has been sold to a London-based developer who has submitted plans to reconfigure and add to the dwellings to make them a profitable investment to sell or lease. The current leaseholders are not having their leases renewed or have been served notices to vacate. The net result will be that these 'affordable flats' will no longer fall into that category.

The next twelve months

For some, any additional development in and around Wye is to be resisted. However, for

others, including the author of this report, the imaginative repurposing of the College Campus will open up new opportunities and benefits for a vibrant village with a history of constant change. The main problem identified by many residents and the Parish Council is that more activity will increase the pressure on the roads, the level crossing and the available parking. These pressures are widespread throughout the South East and other densely populated parts of the UK; creative solutions are vital and should have been properly explored many years ago.



Four beautiful heifer calves in a row: born on Wye Community Farm land close by the Devil's Kneading Trough.

2019 Agricola summer lunch and reunion: Manor Farm, Wiltshire

On Sunday 30 June 2019 the Agricola annual reunion was hosted by Alex and Fleur Swanton at Manor Farm, South Newton, in Wiltshire. Jane Reynolds (1973–76) sketches a picture of a most convivial event.

Alex and Fleur Swanton (1995–98) kindly volunteered to host this event on their farm set in the Wylle valley, just outside Salisbury. I suspect they were feeling companionable and nostalgic when they offered their services at the end of an excellent Agricola Dinner in Wye the previous September!

About 50 of us met on a glorious summer day and were treated to a delicious salad lunch provided by caterers that Fleur and Alex had hired. Drinks flowed, and we were all able to sit in comfort at tables, beautifully adorned with bunches of wildflowers, in the shade of one of their barns. After much cordial catching up and gossip, we were encouraged to load ourselves up into two large trailers with Alex and Fleur each at the wheel of one of the tractors and we set off on a tour of the farm. It is a mainly tenanted farm and covers 1300 acres on the Wilton estate which was once farmed by AG Street, farmer and author (of *Farmer's Glory*).

Alex and Fleur run it with a brother and cousin. It is predominantly arable, growing milling wheat and malting/distilling barley as the main crops. Oilseed rape used to be the main break crop but now, due to its various issues, milling oats and maple peas (for pigeon feed) are grown as breaks, as well as a reduced area of oil-seed rape. Between 30 and 40 acres of potatoes are also grown.

Diversification

A few diversification enterprises have also been introduced.

Christmas trees are grown and bought in and sold from the farm gate in season. The Swantons have recently introduced a 'cut-your-own' experience and are looking to open a Christmas farm shop.

Flints are 'harvested' from the fields for the building trade and the majority go into 'flint block' production.

Drinks flowed, and we were all able to sit in comfort at tables, beautifully adorned with bunches of wildflowers, in the shade of one of their barns

There is a **DIY horse livery** enterprise on the small amount of grassland that they run.

Fleur now runs her own business, **Back Yard Poultry**, producing rare and traditional breeds of chicken. Her main customers are people just wanting to keep a few chickens in their gardens, but it is surprisingly popular and successful. She originally offered over 40 different breeds to choose from but has now settled on about a dozen of the most popular ones which she offers in various colours and sizes.

We bumped our way over beautiful rolling countryside which offered one or two vantage points with spectacular views.

Our thanks go to Alex and Fleur and their family for all their hard work in preparing for our arrival, providing us with a delicious lunch

and for taking the time to show us their beautiful farm. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The following pages offer a photographic record of a glorious day. Take a bit of time to take in the views and spot some familiar faces.

Farm lunch and farm field/walk 2019: the attendees

From the 1940s

George and Vera Medley

From the 1950s

John Parker

David & Ennid Hart

Ken & Margo Crundwell

Anthony & Mitchell & Guest

From the 1960s

Francis & Lucy Huntington

Malcolm & Deirdre Alexander

John & Jane Walters

David & Sally Leaver

Richard Longhurst

Tim Day

Joe & Sue Youdan

Clive Ulridge

Sally Emmerson

Isabel Fuller

Ferris Whidborne

Hugh Cobbald

Chris Baines

Chris Cox

Robert & Mary Macaulay

Alan & Geraldine Willens

Rex and Nicola Walters

L Hart

Chris Reynolds

David Sedgman

From the 1970s

John & Nicky Simmonds

Peter Shipway

Jane Reynolds

John Bartholomew & Guest

Catherine Spencer & Guest

Penelope Feeny

James Trounce

Nicky Deakin

Jes Pye & Guest

From the 1980s

John Read

From the 1990s

Paul Crawley & Guests

Joanna Browne

Henry & Fave March

C & J Ewart

Alex & Fleur Swanton

S J Bennett & Guests

J A Dixon & Guests



The gathering.



Lunch for 50 is served in the Manor Farm barn.



Our esteemed editor/chairman chatting with the soon-to-be-elected new chairperson of the Club, Jane Reynolds.



Lunch is served.



Guests did justice to the delicious spread, which was soon polished off!



Guests are treated to a short presentation by Alex Swanton before being shown around the farm. Our hostess Fleur is standing second from the left, holding a small 'thank you' gift donated by the Club.



The Swanton's tractors and trailers are put to good use ferrying the guests around the farm – the preferred mode of transport of most Agricola members?



The guests are treated to a VIP trip through the Wiltshire countryside.



Manor Farm enjoys beautiful vistas over the rolling Wiltshire countryside, and the day was blessed with glorious weather.



The tour continues: Manor Farm is 1300 acres of mostly arable crops.



An opportunity for a post-lunch stroll.



The group learns about the Christmas tree enterprise.



Peas were one of last year's main crops on Manor Farm.



Alex tells visitors about the farm's recent diversification projects.



Fleur's Back Yard Poultry enterprise supplies rare breeds to people who want to keep a few chickens in their back gardens.



The Christmas tree plantation: maybe some of the guests will be going back to 'cut their own'?

News of members

Births, marriages, deaths and general updates, and obituaries.

Deaths

Dr Margaret Anne Anderson (Staff 1970–2000) died 8 December 2019 aged 82. See *'Obituaries'* page 55.

Patricia Attwood (1953–54) died 5 September 2019. Reported by her husband Peter Attwood (1953–56).

Jean Butcher: Jean was the friendly face of the Senior College Administration for more than a decade. First as the secretary of the clerk to the Governing Body, Bob Wyatt, and then as secretary and PA to the Principal of the College. I had the great benefit and pleasure of having Jean as my PA when Bob retired in 1990 and in my early years as Principal. Her knowledge of the working of the campus, assured manner in receiving students, staff and visitors and in dealing with enquiries by telephone was much appreciated by all in the College. She brought a special, personal warmth and kindness to her role which all of us missed when she retired in 1995. Submitted by Prof John Prescott (2009).

Len Budd (1967–70) died 5 April 2019. See *'Obituaries'* page 62.

Richard Casswell (1966–69) died in 2016. See *'Obituaries'* page 64.

June Cowper (née Bowman, 1946–49) died in January 2020.

Anthony Philip Wright 'Nat' Gent (1957–60) died peacefully, after a short illness, on 16 July 2019. Reported by **Gordon Rae** (1957–60).

Richard 'Dick' Clough (1955–58) died of cancer on 23 March 2020 in Bellingham, Washington, USA, where he had lived since 2004. He is survived by his wife Maritza and four adult children. Information supplied by

his contemporaries **Dick Grimshaw** and **Gordon Rae**.

Janice E B Didriksen (née Coomber, 1953–56) died on 23 October 2019. She had been living in the USA since graduating from Wye. The information was supplied by a contemporary of hers at Wye, **Dr Connie Garrett** (1953–55).

Mrs P Vine (née **Harding**, 1959–62) died in 2018. Notified by her goddaughter Nicky Smallwood.

Richard J Heaton (1948–51) died in January 2019. Notified by Ralph Collins, Land Agent.

John Anthony William Heyd (1981–84) died in 2000/2001. Notified by **Angela McTavish**, née **Gibson** (1981–84).

Helen Hughes (née **Pendrill** 1947–1951) has died aged 91. Reported by her daughter Helen Wright.

Robin I Mackenzie (1956–60) passed away peacefully at home on the 8 July 2019 after a short illness. Katherine Elgar of J & M Associates, Homington, Wiltshire, reported that he had been part of their lives on the show circuit and in the hunting world for as long as most of them can remember and will be greatly missed.

Denis G Mash (1949–52) died c 2019

Christopher James Northbourne, the 5th Baron Northbourne, died from the effects of dementia, 8 September 2019, aged 93. See *Obituaries* page 60.

Richard John O'Connell (1959–62) died suddenly at home on 26 January 2020. He had retired in 2002 after 15 years in AIM International, working in Kenya and West Nile, Uganda, as an agricultural missionary with his wife Anne.

Mike Palmer (1958–61) died in December 2019. See *'Obituaries'* page 61.

George F Pegg (staff, 1954–80), Professor Emeritus Reading University and formerly Wye College, died peacefully at home in Wells on 12 December 2019, aged 89. He will be sadly missed by his wife Mary and family.

John D Roberts (1961–64) died 10 December 2019. See *'Obituaries'* page 53.

Sarah Jane Rouse (1977–80) died in January 2014: reported by **Mary Alcock** (1974–77).

Peter Morris Smith (1966–69) died on 20 October, 2019. See *his Tribute in 'Obituaries'* page 71.

Miss P J Rowe-Dutton (1945–48) died in 2015

Andrew Spurling (1958–61) died in November 2019. He and **Daphne** (née **Spriggs**, 1959–62) spent their working lives in research and development, living in Malawi, Lesotho and Cote d'Ivoire, firstly with the British government and latterly based in Washington with the World Bank. A major car crash in Malawi in 1984 left Andrew in hospital for many months before he returned to full-time work and travel. After 35 years overseas, on retirement Andrew became very involved in local activities around Reading until the long-term effects of the car crash caught up with him.

Ian Trewin Stratford (1954-58) died 20 December 2018. See *'Obituaries'* page 66.

Mr D H Tiffin (1966–69) died c 2017,

Dr Ian Currah (1959–62) died on 15 January 2020 aged 83 years. Ian spent three years in the RAF before coming to Wye to read Agriculture. He married **Lesley** (née **Macdonald**, 1956–61) who was also at Wye and also has a doctorate; they have two daughters and one grandson.

News

1940s

Richard 'Dick' (1949–52) and Barbara Parsons (née Somerville, 1948–51) wrote:

We greatly appreciate receiving the Wye Journal each year and find it remarkable that you are able to keep it going so long after the college closed – thank you for all the work you put into producing it.

We have now been in Australia for 23 years, having lived in South Africa for 12 years before coming here, and in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, for the previous 32 years. Our four children were all born in Rhodesia: two of them preceded us in coming to Australia, one is still in Zimbabwe and one is a vet in Zambia; all are married with families of their own

We are always interested in Wye news and of contemporaries of ours, sadly becoming fewer in number; the latest loss of Wye friend being that of **June Cowper** (née **Bowman**, 1946–49) who passed away in January this year.

With best wishes and thanks for all the work you do for the journal.

Thank you very much for your supportive comments! – Ed

1950s

Olive Aburrow (née Hall 1950–53) sadly wrote:

The year has been taken up by the hospitalisation and death of my husband.

The Club sends her their sympathy at this difficult time – Ed.

Robin (1956–60) and Margaret Mackenzie (née Medd, 1955–59) wrote:

Margaret and I met at Wye and married in 1960. Margaret is now sadly in a Home with advanced Alzheimer's, unaware of the real

world or who any of us are. But she is content in her world, safe, well cared for and in no pain or stress so we cannot ask for more.' New address: Vine Lodge, 15 Fairfield, Rode, Frome, Somerset BA11 6QD.

Phil and Sue (née Bancroft) Moss (1958–61) wrote:

Phil and Sue are still living on the Isle of Seil off the west coast of Scotland, enjoying all the advantages of island life but connected to the mainland by the 1792 'Bridge over the Atlantic'.

After Phil retired, over 20 years ago, as Director of Cellular and Molecular Biology at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, we quickly adjusted to life in Scotland after 18 years based in India.

Phil tamed a wilderness of weeds into a productive garden and took up beekeeping again. Without the monthly pay cheque coming in, he turned his hand to anything people were foolish enough to pay him to do, bought a 1964 Series 2 Land Rover, and started logging, buying trees from local landowners and selling the logs. The Land Rover chassis soon showed its age so Phil replaced it with a galvanised one and is currently replacing the bulkhead – hoping to get another 56 years of life?

We continue to maintain a productive garden, though most of Sue's gardening effort is spent picking soft fruit, freezing it and making jam and pickles. Apple-picking is a joint effort and, when the storage is full, Phil juices the rest and makes cider – seven gallons this year, though we are still drinking a nicely matured 2017 vintage! Phil's beekeeping soon led to him being Secretary and then President of Oban Beekeepers, and his support of them in many ways resulted in him being awarded the Local Association Medal by the Scottish Beekeeping Association. He continues to be involved with

Oban Beekeepers, especially in training new beekeepers. He has also been Bee Health Officer and then Editor for the Scottish Beekeeping Association; however, as these involved too many trips to the east, he has now resigned from those roles. He is currently building a bee shed, common on the continent, but as far as he knows only the third in Scotland.

We are both involved with the local church, Sue as flower girl, and Phil as an elder and worship leader. Sue looks after the house and does most of the cooking (though Phil can don the apron when needed, producing a range of dishes, as well as making copious quantities of soup, mostly from home-grown vegetables). Sue is an active member of the SWI, and of a local patchwork and quilting group, has exhibited regularly in the handicrafts section of the Royal Highland Show and is a regular winner of trophies.

We are both showing our age and do less: Sue having had a knee replaced, and Phil waiting for a heart valve replacement. But we hope to be at the Royal Highland Show again, so if any Agricola Club members intend to be there, please contact us.

1960s

Peter Cooper (1964–67) wrote:

Good afternoon John from what seems to be a continuously wet, soggy and windy Dorset!

In 1972, whilst I was working in Western Kenya, I found a rusting heap of motor vehicle bits of what turned out to be a 1928 Model A Ford Pickup Roadster which I loaded onto a lorry and took to my home in Kitale. After two years of self-taught welding, large hammers and a lot of body filler I'd knocked it into a more or less roadworthy vehicle and had a lot of fun driving it all over Kenya. I shipped it back to UK in 1978 and since then it has undergone a long and



What was once a rusting heap of a 1928 Model A Ford Pickup Roadster transformed into a gleaming delight!



Laurie Lissett in his Morgan, posing at the steps of Blenheim Palace minutes before Donald Trump arrived to be greeted by the Queen!

convoluted process of 'restoration' back to what it would have looked like when it left the factory in Canada in 1928 (picture left).

Why is this news? Well, like many of us I suspect, I hit 75 during 2019 and celebrated by putting the final restoration touches to my 91-year old motor – a folding hood and a tonneau cover (see attached pic)! It now sits in my garage waiting for some marginally better weather before I head off down the Dorset lanes again, terrifying the horses and locals alike!

Laurie Lissett (1966–69) wrote:

I have owned a Morgan for 14 years but don't recall meeting the late **Richard Casswell (1966–69, see Obituary, page 64)**. I came across his Obituary in the Morgan car magazine and got their OK to have it published. I was an Agric student in the late 60s. I have only been back once; I called to see the place when we were in Kent for the Morgan Club annual meeting at Canterbury in 2013. I

managed to walk around freely and saw my old room (B1). It was very sad to see the demise of the college. I have lived in Formby, near Liverpool, for the last 32 years and have been retired for nearly nine of those years after a career in commercial management with Cargill. Married to Sue we have two children and four grandchildren.

A photograph of me with my Morgan is shown on the previous page although not in front of our own house. The background is Blenheim just before Donald Trump walked up the same steps to be greeted by the Queen.

Tim Skelton (1968–71) reports on a full and varied career starting after graduating from Wye with a degree in Agriculture Economics.

I joined the Cooperative Wholesale Society as a graduate trainee and became an Estate Manager in 1974. I was responsible for the management of a large dairy farming unit in



Tim Skelton with daughter Anna in the Lakes.



'Three old codgers' – Tim (centre) with Martin Hoskins (right) and David McCullagh (all 1968–71).

Lancashire and a mixed dairy and arable estate in Shropshire. In 1982 I joined Whitbread, initially in East Anglia, and then moved to London, running a number of large public houses. I was then appointed Development Director and took on a national responsibility for developing new leisure retail outlets. In 1992 I joined the NHS and took on a variety of Chief Executive posts in large General Hospitals, Community Trusts and an Ambulance Trust.

Since retiring from full time employment in 2007, I have been pursuing a portfolio career with lay member appointments to the Judicial Appointments Committee, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Dental Council and NHS England. During this time I have also been a Non-Executive Director of an NHS Trust in Oxfordshire and a Chair of a Probation Board in Dorset.

One of my more recent appointments is with the RCVS as a lay member adjudicating on

fitness to practise considerations for veterinary surgeons. Although I am considering winding down, I could not resist applying to a newly established professional regulator, Social Care England. Following the training I chaired my first fitness to practise hearing in January 2020.

With my wife Alison, we have recently moved into the centre of Salisbury. We are enjoying the grandchildren, cycling and now walking to the pubs!

Andrew Hubbard (1985–88 Ag Econ) wrote:

I have recently moved to work in Malawi in Southern Africa, as Deputy Headmaster of Kamuzu Academy. Kamuzu Academy is a co-educational boarding school for students aged 11–19 where they study for IGCSE and AS and A level qualifications. It was founded by the country's first President Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda and still enjoys outstanding academic, recreational and sports facilities on our large campus two hours north of the capital.

Malawi is a beautiful country, with one of the largest fresh water lakes in Africa, Lake Malawi, as well as mountains, savanna and wildlife in fabulous National Parks.

Malawi is also one of the poorest countries in the world but with a generous, hard-working and friendly people. I previously taught in a very nice secondary school in the UK, but in comparison, the students at the Academy are incredibly polite, hard-working, motivated and independent – it's a great joy to work here without some of the unnecessary stresses which have crept into schools in the UK.

The students at the Academy are incredibly polite, hard-working, motivated and independent

I would be very happy to welcome any alumni to visit if they are passing. Please could you update my address: Andrew Hubbard, Kamuzu Academy, Private Bag 1, Mtunthama, Malawi. Tel: 00265 996 026 123.

1980s

Kate Harris (née Adam, 1987–90, RES) wrote:

What follows are some updates from a small selection of fellow Wye reprobates who I'm still in touch with and who were kind enough to email, Whatsapp and text me at short notice across the miles. There seems a fairly common thread, all of us sliding into our 50s and facing the bleak prospect of our kids' university fees! In no particular order – starting with us.

Richard ('Tricks') (1986–89, Ag Econ) and Kate Harris wrote:

Armed with post-Wye ACA accreditation, Tricks moved swiftly from Coopers & Lybrand's Agric & Bloodstock Dept to Cork Gully Insolvency, then Booker Tate Ltd, an international sugar consultancy. He worked with Belize Sugar Industries for 12 years, overseeing the project development and final construction of a 32.5MW bagasse-fuelled* cogeneration power station.

Kate gained an MSc from Oxford in Forestry, working both at the university and in Sri Lanka and Tanzania on tea estates, and then in Belize writing a blockbuster book *Trees of Belize*, home-schooling, and volunteering at the national zoo. After four years in Central America, they settled back in the UK in 2010 to pastor a church in the Cotswolds, and raise three terrific kids now aged 22, 19 and 16; the whole family are committed Christians. After a few, eventually futile, years working as Head of Project Finance on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project, Tricks is now Senior Lead for new renewable fuels at Drax Power. Following their recent move to West Yorkshire (yay, fly fishing!), they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year – no doubt punting on Oxford's River Cherwell. And perhaps visiting **Paddy** (1987–90) and **Annabel** (née **Jacklin** 1988–91) **Kane's** Laughing Bishop comedy club in Bishops Stortford. Unfortunately, the airmiles have all dried up.

**For the uninitiated (like me – Ed) bagasse is the pulpy residue left after the extraction of juice from sugar cane.*

Ben and Jane Steward (née Bliss, 1986–89, Agrics) wrote:

Ben and Jane live in Norfolk and have come a long way since their Wye days. Jane juggles family life and a madcap spaniel with being a successful Vegetable Consultant Agronomist.

Ben qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in '94 and spent 11 years working for Savills in the rural then commercial property sectors. He then ran his own consultancy specialising in property development, before setting up a strategic land promotion business five years ago. In his spare-time he is a Trustee of the Norfolk Rivers Trust and Vice President of his school alumni. Last year they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary, and together they have raised three strapping lads – Harry, Freddie and Guy – after passing on the strong Steward/Bliss genes of hockey, rugby, guns and fishing. They keep up with **Stafford** (1987–90) and **Sue** (née **Rider**, 1987–90) **Proctor**, and **Adrian Dieter** – and no year is complete without the annual shoot with **Bob Spencer** (1986–89), **Christy Kilgour** (1986–89), **Mike** and **Amanda** (née **Ash**, 1985–88) **Barker**, and **Chris Featherstone** (1985–88)!

It takes Nick back to the days of scampering over muddy fields on Romney Marsh with the Wye Beagles

Nick Rickett (1987–89) wrote:

Nick and his wife Claire have been in South Lincolnshire for almost 30 years now and feeling slightly old as their three kids start their university days; but Nick is still playing water polo competitively (somehow) with their team finishing Herts League champions in 2019 (yes, that's how far they have to travel for matches). The family decided that this wasn't keeping Nick sufficiently trim, so he has also started 'Couch to 5K' in 2020, which is a revelation and takes him back to the days of scampering

over muddy fields on Romney Marsh with the Wye Beagles. His own business in residential estate agency – www.nortonrickett.co.uk – is now in its eighth year, with 2020 looking more optimistic than the past two years. In his spare-time he's heavily involved with their village shows, which last year had a turnover of over £80K, enabling them to distribute just over £19K to associated projects and causes; needless to say, most of his work is running the bar or organising the food.

Antony Jackson (1989–92) wrote:

After leaving Wye, Antony stayed broadly within the fringes of the agri-business sector for the first six years, starting as a manager of a mushroom farm on the Irish border and moving pretty swiftly from that to the cosier habitat of agricultural commodity trading in Belfast. Thereafter everything moved sideways! Brief stints in the fresh flower trade and as a restaurant manager were followed by entry into the wine trade in 2002 where he has remained ever since. In 2015, he bolstered his boozy credentials by setting up a gin distillery (www.ballyvolanespirits.ie) in County Cork with an old school friend. Earning a crust aside, he has been happily married to a lovely creature called Henny since 1998, and they have two children who are coming to the end of their schooling. They live in County Armagh with three dogs, hens, sheep, and a couple of pigs. Antony was lucky enough to forge some splendid friendships whilst at Wye, and regularly sees **Guy Riches** (1989–92), **David Macaire** (1988–92), **Henry Farr**, **Andrew Fox-Pitt**, **Jamie Coulson**, **Matthew Ruoss** (1989–93) and **Jono Clark**.

Mark Daniels (1989–92, Ag Econ) wrote:

Mark was formerly a sugar trader with Glencore; he spent almost 12 years living in and working out of Johannesburg. Always up for a challenge, he clambered to the summit of

Kilimanjaro in 2008. Since 2010 he has been Managing Director at Geneva-based Scipio SA, which specialises in the physical movement of soft commodities (grains, sugar, rice and soya) within Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mark is at last hitting 50 and dictated this whilst heli-skiing in Alaska!

He and his lovely South African wife Katherine live on the shores of Lake Geneva, Switzerland, with their two children and faithful border terrier, Nimrod. They are avid attenders of the annual Paleo rock festival held in Nyon. Mark remains an active participant in British country pursuits – particularly involving **Hugh Davies** (1989–93) and anything pheasant-like. He is at last hitting 50 and dictated this whilst heli-skiing in Alaska!

William (1985–88) and Maxine Gittus (née Hill Archer, 1987–90) wrote:

William has worked for the Jockey Club since 2006 and is currently their Group Property Director. His personal highlights include coming fourth in the Newmarket Town Plate and meeting Kylie! Meanwhile, after leaving Wye, Maxine worked for Knight Frank, and then Sotheby's. She has since been self-employed as a florist (*stunning Christmas wreaths!* – KH) and interior designer whilst raising two boys who are now 19 and 16. They live in Suffolk with various dogs, cats and chickens and are busy renovating a new home.

They keep in touch with **Robert Hall** (1985–88) who farms in Dumfriesshire, and has an agency business selling Falkland Islands wool, **Kathy Birch** (née **Strover** 1987–90) who lives in Norfolk with her family, and **Lorenz Von Schintling Horny** (1986–89) who farms and

runs a property development business with his wife in Berlin.

Robert Lewis (1986–89, Ag Econ) wrote:

One might think that an Ag Economist, now working for Australia's largest Recruitment company, had lost his way; but Rob hadn't really intended to end up there (in some ways, he is still the backpacker who arrived in late 1989). However, he does get a kick out of working across Australian industry and has been very fortunate to collaborate with Australian businesses from all corners of the country. It was whilst backpacking that he stumbled across the love of his life, Helen, at an Aussie BBQ. They've since settled in the Yarra Valley in Victoria, where their garden is his outlet for the frustrated inner farmer – and occasionally frequented by kangaroos. They have two children, a son, Kanit, and a daughter, Jaruwan. Why such unusual names? Well, beginning in Thailand, they have their own fascinating stories ... which are far more interesting than Rob's.

Alessia Poynton (née Castelfranco, 1986–89, RES) wrote:

Alessia graduated from Oxford with a MSc in Forestry and an Aussie husband-to-be in tow (Scott). She worked with the Woodland Trust (Surrey/Sussex/Kent) for four years and then lived in Viet Nam where she worked for Care International, Australia for CSIRO and the Australian Government on forestry policy. She and Scott now live in Switzerland where Alessia works for the UN Migration Agency. She never thought she would cover RES-related work again, but is happy to have come full circle, and is a Fund Administrator for a programme that supports developing countries implement projects on, among other themes, adaptation to environmental challenges such as droughts and floods. Alessia and Scott have two sons and love living in

Switzerland (but not so much the fondue!). She is still happily in touch with Wye friends around the world, one in the village next to where she lives! Alessia would d be keen to get her hands on that film produced in third year by the students. Any suggestions? Her biggest achievement is surviving five bedridden months during her second pregnancy and delivering a healthy, vibrant boy who is still, after 18 years, a force to be reckoned with!

Alessia would be keen to get her hands on that film produced in third year by the students

I am fascinated by the surname Poynton. I was born in a village of that name; it's in Cheshire, between Macclesfield and Stockport. It's the first time I have ever seen it as a surname. Whereabouts in Oz does Scott originate from? – Ed

David Macaire (1988–91) wrote:

David celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary last October to his wonderful American wife Alexa. They have five children; the eldest currently at Leiden, and the second eldest starting at Oxford in September. The remaining three do 'home-schooling' by correspondence from the USA. They live between Umbria, London and Islay. In Umbria they've been learning how to manage a small olive and almond grove and speak Italian.

On Islay they run a mixed farm with continental suckler herd, Scottish blackface and barley for Bruichladdich whisky along with numerous conservation projects, especially woodland creation. Farming on Islay is complicated by the 40,000 over-wintering

geese and wild west coast weather! Recent excitement involved the adoption of a gorgeous Great Pyrenean puppy from Cote de Bordeaux wine-producing friend of **Jerome Young** (1989–93), named Balou. He lives with them in Italy but only speaks French.

On Islay they run a mixed farm with continental suckler herd, Scottish blackface and barley for Bruichladdich whisky

Louise Maclennan (née Murray, 1989–92, Animal Science) wrote:

Louise insists she is not famous and has no idea when she last read the *Farmer's Weekly*. She now lives in Cornwall having moved for career reasons; her husband Alasdair had been headhunted, and she transferred areas with the pharmaceutical company she was working for, as a Veterinary Business Manager. Two kids, two dogs and four horned sheep later, they have set up a Vehicle Hire and Storage Business, have a beautifully restored holiday cottage let on Bodmin (the Bullpen), and Alasdair is Director of a seed potato trading business. She says one of the joys of Cornwall is that most people end up down there at some point or another. She started her time at Wye in 'H block' with **Abby Kersley** (1989–92) next door and **Fiona Howell** (1989–92) opposite; Abby now lives in Cornwall and their kids are at school together whilst Fi lives in Devon (on the opposite side of the Tamar). All visitors welcome!

Chris Philpot (1988–91) wrote:

Chris has spent far too many of the past 29 years working 24/7 for himself/the family business (his words). Soon after he and his brothers **Andrew** (Wye 1990–93) and **Stuart** (Wye 1994–97) graduated, their parents decided to split the business and allow their sons more independence.

They all now run their own, predominantly, agricultural businesses in Essex which each has developed to suit his own passions and beliefs. In 2015, with 10 days' notice, Chris was invited on a private trek to the South Pole. Having been absent for several weeks, he returned to an empty desk – and now trusts others to run the business day to day. With the new mantra of 'life is for living' (i.e. not always working), he was found trekking to the North Pole in 2018, in support of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. He and his wife undertook 50 new experiences in 2019 to celebrate their 50th birthdays. They have three children, the eldest of whom is starting his ABM course at Reading in Autumn 2020.

Martin Rowe (1987–90, Hortic) wrote:

After four years with ADAS and then a private consultancy, Martin returned in 1996 as the first of the third generation to enter the family flower-production business in Somerset, growing chrysanthemum flowers and plants from 26 acres of glasshouses. In 1996, he married Jenny, to 'hybridise in' some Cirencester farming genetics.

Following rapid growth with supermarkets and DIY stores, the business went into administration in 2004. During that time he was a Non-Executive Director of Horticulture Research International for six years, overseeing a £20m research budget across five sites including East Malling in Kent. He left in 2010 to set up a mail-order gardening business, YouGarden.com, based in Spalding,

Lincolnshire. This has since grown rapidly, last year shipping one million parcels of plants direct to UK consumers, making it the UK's second largest garden mail order company. Martin still lives in Somerset, but commutes weekly to sunny Lincs. He has two extremely tall and sporting sons, one at Durham Uni, one about to take A-Levels. He is still regularly in touch with local SW Wye folks especially **Mark** and **Jo Clayton** (1992–93) **Fiona Howell** (1989–92) and many more, randomly and electronically.

Ian Pigott (1989–92) wrote:

I left the City to get away from **Charlie Squire** (1987–90) and **Matthew Ruoss** (1989–93). I married Gillian in 2001 and we now have two teenagers. I am still farming, the trendy regenerative Agric way, and still writing a regular (largely irrelevant) column in the *Farmer's Weekly*. When not up to my neck organising this year's Sentry Farming Conference, I am running my Farm Education Charity, The Farmschool, in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. I am very lucky to see lots of old Wye graduates on the farming treadmill.

That's what I did! – John Parker (1955–59) didn't move far from Wye with the girl he met at college, but he certainly put his Hortic degree to good use.

Around 65 years ago, I arrived on the steam train at Wye station with my bike and trunk in the guard's van. The trunk went up to the college on the horse and cart (*presumably, old Ben Coulter's trap – Ed*) and so started my Hortic degree course. Three years of hard work at rugby, hockey, beagle-chasing, second year reviews, corrugated iron tobogganing, weekend escapes and fines for getting caught, and lots of lectures in between. We were all so lucky to have been at Wye in the 1950s and able to enjoy a wonderful experience that was probably unique in undergraduate life.

After the course, I must have been one of the most stay-at-home students as I remained in Kent for nearly the next 40 years. I started work at the then Ditton Laboratory, next door to the East Malling Research Station, where I got involved in what we termed 'post-harvest physiology'; experimenting with ways of storing and transporting all sorts of fruit and vegetables. I helped with full-scale trials of transporting strawberries from Southampton to Glasgow, by rail, before the days of cool chains. Later on, I spent several stormy days out on the Atlantic in the pitching hold of the SS Scillonian, trying to record the fate cargoes of Scilly Isle flowers, on their way to the London markets. Some of the research was quite exciting; for instance, developing ways of measuring minute traces of ethylene and the effects they had on fruit ripening. But a life in a lab was not for me.

In 1966 I moved to the Kent County Council where I was suddenly involved in gardening on an almost industrial scale. Under my wing was the regular mowing of around 5,000 acres of school playing-fields, as well as managing the lawns, shrubberies and borders of numerous establishments, from children's homes to police stations, all of which wanted the best of attentions. I learnt a lot about earth-moving and building sports pitches, about land drainage, roadside trees and country parks and, above all, about people. These were all the groundsmen and gardeners who regarded me as their boss but also the lawyers, accountants, various big white chiefs and, of course, the politicians. Somehow, I managed my way amongst them all. Local authorities may seem dull to an outsider but even planting thousands of trees on the banks of new highways and motorways was as much about contractors and chaps with spades as the tiny saplings trying to grow in the highly

compacted soil that the engineers had constructed.

Now, of course I'm put out to grass and Jenny and I have retired to rural Dorset where there are no motorways. We enjoy some local volunteering, including a bit of tree-planting and a modicum of horticulture in our own large garden.

We manage to make some of the Agricola Club annual reunions, if they are not too far away. We have happy memories of meeting with **Roy Kellaway** (1955–58) in far-away Sydney and we regularly see **Ken Crundwell** (1955–58) in Devon and **David and Enid Hart** (1955&1956–59) from Cardiff. As always, we enjoy recalling our happy days at the Wye that was.

Four Little Maids

Four little maids, not one contrary
Margaret, Eleanor, Schim and Mary
Dispensing Chemistry, pest and food
Potting up plants for the common
good

Lucky for us this was their home
And that they never heard of the
Wye Syndrome!

Prof I W Selman

*Who can tell me what the Wye
Syndrome was? I really don't know! –
Editor*

Letters and emails

Feedback on last year's journal, thoughts on the future of the Club, and much more besides ...

David Gooday (1957–61) wrote:

Dear John

I must congratulate you on an exceptionally fine journal this year. You must be possessed of wonderful persuasive powers to get so many people to respond to your request for material! Congratulations! There is so much to read about what people are doing, and this is both interesting and, at times, inspirational!

Francis Huntington is to be congratulated on the fact that a survey was taken on the opinion of members and there appears to be plenty of support for a continuation of existing activities and a possible revival of others.

I just have one problem – not with the journal, but with the club. Time rolls on and cannot be stopped! We are all getting older, and some of us are very aware of the fact! There is a distressingly large number of 'lost members'. I graduated in 1961. There are 55 lost members earlier than my year, and 386 'lost' members after my year. I suspect that many of the latter-day lost members may never have been found! But the point is that interest in the activities of the members of the Agricola Club is apparently far less among the more recent graduates, and now there are no new members joining. In other words, the membership is a dying cadre!

There isn't much we can do about generating new graduates from Wye College, but there will come a time when the number of active members is so reduced that it becomes questionable as to whether the Club should continue. I wonder if thought has been given to this inevitable fact? When this point is reached, one solution is just to stop the

journal, regular meetings, assistance given to eligible applicants, support for Wye Heritage, etc. Another alternative is to merge the Agricola Club with some other suitable organisation. This could be with some other organisation in Wye itself; alternatively, it could be a merge with whatever former student organisation exists with the Cirencester Agricultural University or some other Agricultural College or University?

While you are Chairman and Editor, the Club will clearly prosper! But the day will come when the issue I am raising has to be considered very carefully.

Very best wishes, and carry on for ever~

David Gooday (1957–61)

Southern Africa rep in Eswatini (which was Swaziland until quite recently)

John Walters replies:

David

Believe me. We (some of us) are acutely aware of the unrelenting march of time. And we have, and do, constantly devote time and effort into considering how and what strategies we should adopt as we go forward. For the immediate, we have been making sure that there are a few younger (ie. less than 75 years old!) enthusiastic members on the Agricola Committee. That's important for carrying us through the next decade or so.

But, as you point out, that's only a part of the story. Membership is the bigger issue. For some time, numbers have remained fairly static with new members (from the ranks of lost or 'never interested at graduation but am

now') tending to balance the losses. Clearly, that is of no real relevance in the medium/long term. Fact is, we are bound to shrink and as Paul Webster so clearly showed a few years ago, our financial reserves will gradually erode. Meanwhile, I have resigned my post as Chairman after eight years in the role and made room for some younger blood in the form of a new Chairlady, **Jane Reynolds**, who continues to give so much of her time to the Club, between feeding her husband Chris and running her own garden design business.

Jo Buffey (1975–78) wrote:

May I also thank and congratulate you and the rest of the 'production team' on a really great improvement to the Journal in recent years – so much more lively and interesting to read in a more modern format.

I know we should all be going down the digital route but I still like to have my 'hard copy' to thumb through. Could I therefore ask you to update a postal address for me. As I have a rather itinerant life-style at the moment, it is best to use my brother's address for the Journal and any other postal items.

See Jo's 'Life After Wye' piece on pages 82–83.

When Martin Hay (1954–57) switched his wellingtons for army boots on leaving Wye, the 'Nix Pocketbook' came in very handy:

Dear Editor

I was sorry to read of the death of Professor John Nix as his Pocketbook became so invaluable to so many who worked in agriculture. I am delighted to see it is being continued with new sections being added constantly.

After leaving Wye in 1957, I was commissioned in REME and sent as a House Officer to the

joint RASC/REME Junior Leaders Unit at Blackdown Barracks in Surrey. Almost immediately, the powers that be in REME decided they would have their own unit at Arborfield Depot training boy soldiers to become future Warrant Officers.

Being newly established, we received visits from the Army's top brass, from the General in charge of the Aldershot Area to a number of even more senior officers in Whitehall and elsewhere. As the only officer with any experience in managing boy soldiers, I was made responsible for showing them our facilities. Realising I was a National Service Officer, the conversation very quickly turned to my background and their interest turned completely to things agricultural.

In those days, all officers above the rank of brigadier lived in Army-supplied, detached houses with large gardens and several acres of land. They seemed to range from some two acres of permanent grassland to 10 or more acres, some of which were arable. Sandhurst and other army training had never given the occupants any help in how to look after a garden or a field. I recall being told on at least one occasion they had approached the Ministry of Agriculture in Whitehall to no avail. Their visits to our unit were virtually guaranteed to end with a discussion in my office on how to manage their grass, wheat or barley. Much of the required contractors' services were supplied by local farmers, some of whom charged almost next to nothing, while others sought to profit from their operations. My knowledge of costings obtained at Wye were of immense help, and I have always assumed that these were cleverly collated and developed when John Nix arrived at Wye a few years after I had left.

The Adjutant at Arborfield had a real dislike of National Service Officers, thinking that it was

wrong to allow National Servicemen to obtain a commission in under six months from joining. Twice he charged me with breaking Army Rules and Regulations, and I was sent before the General in Aldershot. On each occasion the dubious charge was quickly dropped, and I was made to sit at his desk and answer a stream of questions about haymaking and rotation of his pasture! He had bought his teenage daughter a pony, built training facilities and had seen her win rosettes galore at gymkhanas. He much appreciated my help and was enjoying his new found activity.

As a postscript may I add that, while at Arborfield I met a school teacher in Reading. Ann and I are looking forward to celebrating 60 years of marriage this October.

Congratulations from all in Wye and beyond!

Jane Reynolds (1973–76) wrote:

Dear John

I thought I would share this with everyone!

I have just enjoyed a protracted breakfast, sitting at the table glued to the latest bumper edition of the Wye Journal (the 2018–19 version)! You've done it again, well done! I have merely 'scraped the tip of the iceberg' and thoroughly enjoyed flicking through all the photos ... there is obviously much of interest and lots to be enjoyed for many hours to come. You obviously work really hard at pinning people down to actually put pen to paper and it has paid off handsomely.

Many thanks for all you do for the Club

Best wishes, Jane

Joy Larkcom (1954–57) wrote:

Dear John

Like so many of us, I was so impressed with the last journal, and the many tales of lives lived

to the full and to such good effect. What a credit to Wye College, and the way its education stimulated rather than stifled so many of its students. Such a loss. I've been half meaning ever since to put pen to paper, and this is the result (*see her Life After piece on page 84*). I'm not quite sure if it fits, but it's on offer, with some fragments of news about other members.

All good wishes, and thanks for your part in keeping the Agricola flame alive.

Joy

Libby Scott (née Orton, 1966–69) wrote:

Her redacted response to an appeal for material for the journal.

Hello John

I feel you have done such a brilliant job over all these years that you deserve a bit of support when you send out a request for more material (*see her Life After article on page 71*).

Hope to be down again for the September reunion.

All the best,

Libby

Ridley Nelson (1961–65)

Dear John

Keep up the exceptional work on the journal. We all owe you a huge debt (*see his new book, highlighted on page 162*).

Frank Thomson (1954–57) wrote:

It's always interesting to read in the Journal about the wide range of careers we followed after Wye. My writing about **Ian (Stratford – see Obituaries, page 66)** resulted in my inviting **John Cole (1954–58)** and **Patrick Dobbs**



Vanessa Clark as 'Lord' Withersdane, Graham Harding as 'Lady' Withersdane and Martin Attwood as the chauffeur.

(1954–57) to the Domus Dinner at Trinity. Sadly, it has just been cancelled, so that reunion will have to wait.

The first one I held was in 1994 when **Joe and Sue Johnston** (1953–56 and 1954–57, respectively) visited from Australia. **Elaine Baker** (1954–57) suggested that I did something and Denie volunteered to sort out the invitations to our contemporaries and their partners/spouses. We had dinner in the SCR at Trinity, then next day went punting or visited the Botanic Gardens followed by lunch in our garden at Crawley. It was Joe's 60th birthday; I thought he was a Scot, born and bred, but in fact he was born a mile away from our house on the edge of what would then have been Witney aerodrome.

Subsequently, we held another dinner in Trinity for Renee when she was recovering from cancer. Another we held here for Hannah Lillian who was on a visit from Israel with her husband.

John Cole, I remember, kindly provided the wine and **John Lampitt** (1953–56) the asparagus.

Mike Anderson-Upcott (1953–58) and I also organised another at the Farmers Club. I am still happy to organise reunions for people who were at Wye between 1954 and 1957.

A tribute to the late Graham Harding – Martin Attwood (1970–73) wrote:

I was sorry to read that **Graham Harding** (1971–74) had passed away (Wye, vol MXVIII, No 9, 2018–19, page 25). Although I had not seen him very much over the years, nevertheless, the memories came flooding back and in the back of an old photo album I found this photograph that had appeared in the local press in 1972. Maybe it will kindle memories in others.

The theme was Lord and Lady Withersdane arriving at the sports field in an open-topped saloon car on some sporting occasion (see picture above). Needless to say, Graham was in the middle of it. **Vanessa Clark** (1971–74) was dressed up as 'Lord' Withersdane, Graham as 'Lady' Withersdane and I was roped in as

transport with my Morris 1000 convertible. My memory fails me, but I think the occasion was a charity rugby match or similar (the gathering was certainly at one end of the sports field).

Graham and I also worked together one summer vacation for Birds Eye, harvesting French beans in West Sussex where I managed to put a Ford Cortina 1600 sideways into a ditch cornering too fast in the company radio car whilst on night shift.

Back then he was known as Nipper and I was Nitram. Great days!

After a short career with RHM, followed by a similarly short career with ADAS, I left agriculture and joined the family firm in my mid/late twenties and have just retired and closed the business – hence the change of email address. (now martin.w.attwood@aol.com).

Thank you for another excellent journal.

Rosemary Atkins (née Hinge 1964–67) raises some big challenges about a TAA student project that the Club is supporting:

Palm Oil and its problems

Having now read the 2019 Wye Journal from cover to cover (it takes me a while) I notice that the Agricola Club has financed an MSc student in Agroforestry, specifically oil palm in Northern Brazil for smallholder farmers. The student, Abi Beath, is researching into a more sustainable method of cultivation that maintains carbon stocks, nutrient cycling and floral and faunal biodiversity under oil palm plantations. I understand that oil palm cultivation has already started in the Brazilian rainforest and that Ali's research, if successful in achieving its aims, could help prevent a similar disastrous effect to that of oil palm plantations in Indonesia.

There is no doubt that oil palm plantations in Brazil will not be limited to the smallholders but will be taken up by the big guys. That thought, with all the fires started deliberately in the Amazon forest in order to clear land for cattle ranching and mining over past decades, even before the huge increase in fires this year that are at the top of the news bulletins at the moment, makes me fear for, not just the Amazon, but the entire planet and us, along with it. Will there be more forest devastation in order to spread oil palm plantations further? Not to be too melodramatic, is this the beginning of the end?

I just hope that Abi's research was positive and will bear fruit. She concludes: 'I hope it may spark more thorough, in-depth research to determine fully whether this is a viable investment for small farmers.'

I hope it will go further than that – that it could work on a large scale – even that Indonesia could benefit from the uptake of the new agricultural technology.

That to me, was the most thought-provoking report in the Wye Journal this year.

Rosemary

See Rosemary's feature article on page 94 of last year's journal.

John Luckock (1964–67) wrote:

Dear John

... Meanwhile, thank you again ... to you, Francis, Gillian and others who have done so much to keep memories of Wye alive. I thought the 2017–18 journal was excellent and was particularly envious of Charlie Brown and his Spitfire, which I would love to have flown (but not in battle). I hope some of the younger alumni will step in to succeed you.

John – it's already happened. Jane Reynolds is taking over from me as Chair of the Club – Ed

Bernadine 'Denie' Shirley-Smith (1954–57)

The message below was written on a beautiful card that was decorated with a watercolour by Charles Rennie and Margaret M Mackintosh entitled *Anemone and Pasque*, Walberswick, 1915. Bernadine wrote:

Dear Editor

Thank you for a splendid Journal. I appreciate the hours of work that go into its production. The various articles make fascinating reading.

Regards

Bernadine 'Denie' Shirley-Smith

(She described herself as a 'Real Oldie!' – Ed)

Letter for 2020 Journal: this is an 'Oops!' letter from Barbara Ruffell (née Hawkins, 1949–52)

Dear Editor

Firstly, may I say a huge thank you to everyone, under your leadership, who must spend many hours putting the magazine together.

I am getting very ancient so it is interesting to see any reference to one's fellow students from all those years ago

I have just been looking through the magazine and have found an error!! (*Sacre bleu!* – Ed).

It is in the obituary for Pay Bisset on page 48; far be it from me to correct her son William but Pay is the one on the front left of the tennis team (*not on the right as we had indicated: this may have been my fault* – Ed). The one on the right is the late Carolyn Hardy (née Evanson).

I was a contemporary of Pay – I think there were only three women doing Agriculture; Pay, Jane Crossley and I – all the others were 'hortics'.

I thought I was in the tennis team, but I am not in that particular photograph. If I searched my archives, I know I could find photographs of the hockey, squash and athletics teams which we were all in as there were so few of us!

We even competed in athletics at Motpur Park when another college had a girl who had competed for GB in the 1948 London Olympics! I had to race against her in the 400yds. Quite a laughable situation to think of now - we didn't train - we just took part.

With best wishes and again, thank you!

Barbara Ruffell

Obituaries

Dr John Dennis Roberts 1941–2019 (1961–65)

*This is a redacted version of tributes from John's brother **Martin Roberts (1957–60)** and also from **Geoff Goodson (1961–64)** given at John's funeral.*

John grew up on the family farm and after a year of practical farming away from home he followed his elder brother to take a degree in Agriculture at Wye.

He was a conscientious student and always ready to help fellow students with carbon copies of his lecture notes – A popular, social student and friend. While at college he played football, tennis, squash and cricket.

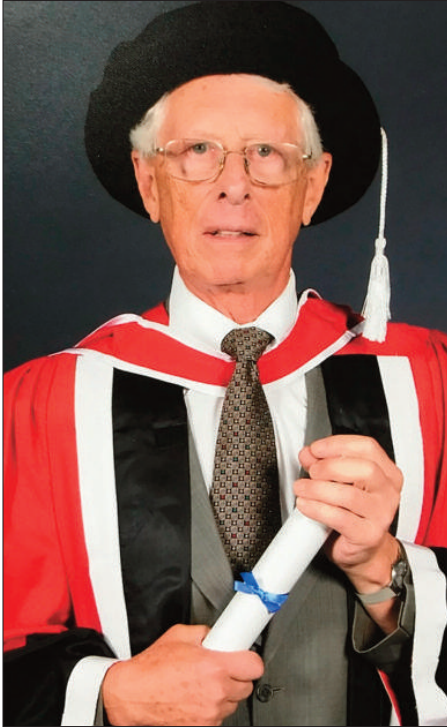
In the summer of 1963 he went with two friends on an apple-picking trip to the USA.

John stayed on at Wye after graduating to take a Masters degree in Farm Management, and from there was appointed as a lecturer at Writtle College in 1965 where he remained for his whole career.

His greatest single achievement was probably the introduction of computer-based learning during the 1970s and 1980s, as this must have been a pretty challenging innovation for both staff and students. He was the ideal person for the role as he had a very analytical mind, the ability to focus on detail without being confused by the bigger picture and a willingness to work all the hours that were needed to achieve his aim. John also did much



John, Peter Youngs and Geoff Goodson, apple picking in the USA 1963.



to support student life that was way beyond the call of duty both within his working life and for many years after his retirement.

In September 2016, John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (left) for his services to Writtle University College by the University of Essex .

John was never a man for sitting down, he always had to be doing something. In his retirement, for example, he became caretaker of the local Village Hall.

He had clearly been very popular at Wye and many of the friendships from those days continued for the rest of his life.

He was happily married to Enid for over 50 years and very proud of his children and grandchildren The fact that he spent his whole career in Writtle and all his married life in the same house is evidence that he had no wish to be anything other than who and what he was.

Sadly he succumbed to progressive dementia in December 2019.



1962 farm walk: Peter Youngs, David Jones, John, Robin Reeks and David Sexton.

Dr Margaret Anderson (1970–2000)

Margaret was one of the 'early adopters' of the RES degree course as a mature undergrad who then went on to become a committed lecturer, as explained by Alan Rogers.

Dr Margaret Anderson, who died in December 2019 aged 82, initially trained to be a schoolteacher – a fact which was always evident in her meticulous approach to her later lecturing duties at Wye. She taught briefly in Britain and then in the United States for two years. Returning to England, she trained as a secretary and then worked in the Extra-mural Department of London University.

A more rewarding experience followed when she went to South Africa to work with the eminent American academic Gwendolen Carter on a research project looking into the new Homelands Policy of the Nationalist Government. She helped prepare the resulting report in America and then returned to England where, for four years, she worked at the American Museum near Bath. There, she became the first education officer, organising visits to the museum, arranging conferences and lecturing in schools and colleges.

This appointment was perhaps appropriate because, behind what appeared to be a very English exterior, was someone who was, in fact, partly of American heritage through her mother who was a graduate of Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

Margaret came to Wye in September 1970 as one of the very first group of 10 students reading for the new degree of Rural Environment Studies (RES). While she was 15 years older than her contemporaries, she had no problems in fitting into student life, graduating in 1973 with a first-class degree. She then joined the Countryside Planning Unit, working especially with Robin Best and



Margaret Anderson first came to Wye in 1970 as a mature student on the RES degree course.

initially researching issues of self-sufficiency in home food supplies.

Margaret's main research area focused on the role of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the subject of her doctoral thesis for which she was awarded her PhD in 1980. A variety of publications followed, culminating in a major study on AONBs, published in 1990 with Professor Gerald Smart for the Countryside Commission. Her interest in protected areas led to her joining the Council for National Parks in 1982, serving until 1991. Subsequently, she developed other areas of research and publication, notably concerning the Channel Tunnel from the mid-1980s, and a major research programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council involving methods of public participation in planning and the potential for environmentally friendly transport methods in towns.

Beyond Wye, Margaret made visits to the Universities of Michigan and Guelph, and in 1988 was Visiting Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kyoto. This last appointment led to a period of joint research and publication on land planning issues with Japanese colleagues.

Generations of RES and other Wye students will have initial memories of Margaret as a rather imposing figure but soon saw her as a warm personality, a committed teacher and a very supportive Director of Studies. She was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1991 and chose to take early retirement at the end of 2000, having worked part-time since 1997. She moved to Chichester where she engaged fully with local community life, continuing her long-

time involvement with the Soroptimists and practising both tai chi and the Alexander Technique. Latterly, she enjoyed the community programme at Pallant House where she produced some amazing paintings under the auspices of the disability charity Outside In. Her health had deteriorated in recent years, but she remained independent until a few months before her death, well supported by her sister, family and friends.

Dr David Hodges (staff from 1962), founding Editor of BAH Journal and a central figure of the organic movement

Redacted version of a tribute written by his successor on the Biological Agriculture & Horticulture (BAH) journal, Dr Margi Lennartsson, Wye graduate from the 1980s: First published in BAH in 2019. Volume 35:4. 215-218; Reproduced by kind permission of the publishers Taylor & Francis.

David Hodges (pictured below) was born in 1934 and spent his early childhood years in places close to London and then in Devon. He studied Zoology at Exeter University, where he met his wife Ursula. After graduating in 1957, David moved to London to undertake research

for a PhD at the Institute of Urology. Just at the point of submitting his thesis in 1960, he was drafted in for national service at the Royal Army Medical Corps, hence the completion of his PhD had to be delayed until 1962. According to Hodges himself, one of the most valuable things he learnt from his time with the army was the futility of war, and he became a pacifist not long afterwards.

Ursula and David married in 1958 and, in 1962, after his national service, they moved to Ashford in order for David to take up a lecturing post at Wye. His role was initially intended to be mainly associated with research into the physiology of laying hens, and he spent a number of years investigating calcium metabolism and digestive function in battery hens. His research experience in intensive poultry production opened his eyes to what was happening in industrial food production, and this, together with reading Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, soon began to change his whole outlook. He was convinced that the industrial approach to agriculture was morally wrong and that in practice it would create more problems than it would solve. He developed a strong interest in all matters related to organic agriculture and, although his work at the College was mainly teaching and undertaking research in the field of animal physiology, being in a School of Agriculture gave him the



necessary justification to become involved in the wider aspects of organic farming. In the years that followed, he came to have a very a prominent role in the organic agriculture movement in Britain.

Drawn to organic farming

In 1972, David joined the Soil Association and between 1976 and 1993 he was a Council Member. With his personal interest in gardening and horticulture, he was also a Council Member of the Henry Doubleday Research Association between 1982 and 1994. Hodges was closely involved with the early development of organic farming standards and, in 1980, he helped to set up the British Organic Standards Committee.

Between 1975 and 1987, David was a prominent member of the International Institute of Biological Husbandry (IIBH), working as a colleague with its founder David Stickland, who was also the founder of Organic Farmers and Growers in Britain. David served on the IIBH Board and was involved in most of the projects related to the scientific development of the Institute. Its annual meetings attracted prominent speakers from all over the world. David himself also addressed many important national and international meetings, presented lectures and participated in public and televised debates to bring forward the scientific evidence of the benefits of biological/organic agriculture. At many of these events he was the only proponent of organic agriculture, but he always very capably stood his ground and was much respected for his contribution. In contrast to today, when the adoption of organic farming is no longer controversial, the 1970s and 1980s was a time in Britain when almost everyone involved in agriculture, whether they were farmers, advisors or researchers, were in two very distinct camps,

those for, and those against organic agriculture, and, of course, the latter were in a large majority.

Founding editor of BAH

One indirect outcome of his involvement with the IIBH was the establishment of the journal *Biological Agriculture & Horticulture: An International Journal*. The institute had always intended to have an associated scientific publication, and in the early 1980s this became a reality when David was approached by A B Academic Publishers, Berkhamsted, England, with a request to publish the proceedings of an IIBH annual conference. The discussion resulted in not only publishing the conference proceedings, but also in the creation of the new journal BAH. Initially, this was the *Official Journal of the IIBH*, but the links with the institute soon became more tenuous, as Hodges, as the Chief Editor, and his Wye College colleagues Drs J M Lopez-Real and A M Scofield, as Deputy Editors, took on the lion's share of the work to edit and promote the journal. The first circular for the journal proclaimed it as 'the first scientific journal to focus on the development of biological husbandry as a viable form of agriculture'. In the first issue, published in 1982, David

In an excellent review of David's work and philosophy, Cornford (2011a) mentioned a particular local encounter. 'Hodges came to know Cdr Noel Findlay who, since 1949, had farmed at Hastingleigh, near Wye. Findlay persuaded Hodges to support him in a television debate on organic farming, which was followed by a debate between Hodges and an agricultural officer from ADAS. Hodges was also in demand with the Soil Association, being persuaded to stand for its Council, on which he served from 1976–1993.

outlined the premise for the journal in his editorial 'Agriculture and horticulture; the need for a more biological approach' (Hodges 1982) and welcomed papers from all disciplines associated with agricultural and horticultural science and with the production of food generally, as long as the content was scientifically robust and was clearly related to alternative approaches and in particular to the biological/organic systems of production.

Already in the early issues of the journal, David and his colleagues at Wye College published a number of seminal articles on topics including: agricologenic disease, a review of the negative aspects of agricultural systems (Hodges & Scofield 1983); homeopathy and its potential in agriculture (Scofield 1984); the microbial potential and the microbiologist's challenge (Lopez-Real 1986); the environmental effects of conventional and biological/organic farming systems (Arden-Clarke & Hodges 1987a and 1987b); the origin of the organic farming name (Scofield 1986); and the potential of sewage sludge and composting in sustainable agriculture (Witter and Lopez-Real 1987).

Spiritual and paranormal

David was not only interested in investigating and gathering the evidence related to the natural and social sciences, or the economics of organic farming systems, but also in spirituality and paranormal phenomena, including the effects of spiritual healing. In 1991, Scofield and Hodges reported on their study demonstrating a healing effect in the laboratory using a simple plant model (Scofield & Hodges 1991). They went on to review the evidence supporting the reality of healing as a scientifically attested phenomenon, the techniques and mechanisms of healing and the potential value of this therapy if it was developed and integrated in medical services (Hodges & Scofield 1995).

After handing over the editorship of BAH to Professor P J C Harris, Coventry University, in 1995, Hodges retired from all active involvement in the organic movement, having devoted more than 20 years to it. He continued to retain an interest in BAH and from time to time he assisted the new Editor when wisdom and experience were needed to resolve conflicts of interest. On a personal note, I will be for ever grateful for having had the opportunity to meet Dr Hodges on a number of occasions, first in the early 1980s when I was an undergraduate student at Wye College, where Hodges, and his colleagues Scofield and Lopez-Real, provided much inspiration for those of us interested in organic agriculture, and then when I worked at the Henry Doubleday Research Association, UK, where Hodges was a Member of the Council. For me, it is now a great honour to be the Editor of BAH, the journal that was so successfully established thanks to Hodges' foresight and commitment to demonstrate the scientific case for organic agriculture.

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Dr Tony Scofield, formerly Wye College, adds:

I was fortunate, as a colleague at Wye College and good friend, to know and work with David for many years. It was David who introduced me to organic farming, a field I am still involved in to this day, particularly in certification, and also to dowsing which subsequently led to our work in healing. In both these areas we worked together and published many papers. Fortunately for our collaboration, David's approach to research was meticulous and painstaking, resulting in work that is still held in high regard to this day.

David's involvement in organic farming was not always greeted favourably by the College authorities as they felt he was straying into areas in which he was not qualified. We were, however, fortunate in having as head of department, an old style professor who believed in the liberal values of a traditional university and, although not approving of the work, and particularly editing BAH, he wasn't going to stop him. So, David being David, continued as before and in the end, with an ever-growing appreciation of the values of organics, brought credit to the College and, in my view, was vindicated for his interest.

Dr Margi Lennartsson, Editor, *Biological Agriculture & Horticulture*

Apart from his work in organic farming, our work in healing, particularly our publication on healing stressed cress seeds, gave him great satisfaction and it was in the area of healing that he tended to focus on in the latter part of his life. Indeed, David became very interested in reincarnation and published a review of the literature on the subject. I expect David is now finding that his beliefs were right all along!

On a personal note, I will be for ever grateful for having had the opportunity to meet Dr Hodges on a number of occasions, first in the early 1980s when I was an undergraduate student at Wye College, where Hodges, and his colleagues Scofield and Lopez-Real, provided much inspiration for those of us interested in organic agriculture, and then when I worked at the Henry Doubleday Research Association, UK, where Hodges was a Member of the Council. For me, it is now a great honour to be the Editor of BAH, the journal that was so successfully established thanks to Hodges' foresight and commitment to demonstrate the scientific case for organic agriculture.

Emeritus Professor Stuart R Hill, Western Sydney University, Australia, adds:

David was a valued colleague with whom I and many others on the Editorial Advisory Board of BAH shared experiences of being, for many years, unjustly critiqued by those who were part of the dominant, seriously flawed, paradigm of conventional agriculture. I will miss his friendship, support and wise council. I valued his leadership, persistence in the face of challenge, and openness to think and conduct research 'outside the box', and to mentor and support others interested in also doing this. I will miss him deeply.

The Right Honourable The Lord Northbourne, DL FRICS, 1926–2019

John Walters looks back over the philanthropic life of Lord Northbourne, long-serving former Governor of Wye College.

The 5th Baron Northbourne (Christopher George Walter James) was raised at Northbourne Court near Deal, Kent, and was one of the first pupils at Northbourne Park School in Betteshanger – a rambling Georgian country house owned by his parents and rented to the school. From here, he went to Eton, and towards the end of the war served with the Royal Signals in Egypt and Greece before reading Agriculture at Magdalen College in Oxford.

He became a consultant agriculturist working in Malawi and the US state of Georgia. In 1959 he married his French wife Marie-Synge and took up the Catholic faith. They had three sons and a daughter, and he was grandfather to eight grandchildren.

In the 1970s, he ran Betteshanger Farms and Kent Salads, producing spring onions and iceberg lettuces – which had previously been regarded as a Californian luxury.

In 1982 he succeeded his father (Walter James, the 4th Baron Northbourne, the man credited with the first use of the term 'organic farming') in the House of Lords. He served as the crossbench spokesman for families and children. Since his own schooldays he had been involved in the welfare of young people, being a governor of Northbourne Park school along with a school in the East End of London. To offer city children the chance to spend time in the country he organised week-long camps on the 2,500 acres of land at Betteshanger. The camps were run on the same lines as scouting (without the uniforms), with the children staying under canvas. Christopher,



Official parliamentary portrait of Lord Northbourne who served in the House of Lords until 2018.

known as 'Skip', would sit around a camp fire in the evenings and in the daytime teach the children to fish, tie knots and sail.

He was deputy chair of nearby Toynbee Hall school and had been chair of Betteshanger Farms since 1997. From 1999 he was chair of the Parenting Support Forum and Governor of Wye College. Previously, his father had been a Governor for 40 years, including the period of the merger of Swanley College with Wye College.

In 1999 he was elected to remain in the Lords where he sat until his retirement in 2018. Since 2002 he had been chairman of the Stepney Children's Fund. He was a Deputy Lieutenant and a fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Christopher was a keen gardener – sadly his beautiful garden near Canterbury, is not generally open to the public. He was also an accomplished watercolourist.

His wife, Marie-Sygne, survives him with their children: Charles, who runs the family estate and who succeeds in the barony; Anthony, a partner in a patent office; Sebastian, who is a member of the Bullington Club with David Cameron and Boris Johnson, and is now chief executive of Boots UK; and Ophelia, who is raising a family in Salisbury.

4th Baron Northbourne

Walter James Northbourne (1896–1982). Christopher's father and Manager of the Governing Body of Wye College for 40 years and its Chairman and Provost from 1925 to 1965.

Described by Dunstan Skilbeck (Principal of Wye College from 1945 to 1968) as a man of great vision, decisiveness, quiet humour and kindly authority. The 4th Baron was a widely read man with deep philosophical understanding.

He was very shy, a talented artist, a capable linguist, a keen sportsman and an Olympic silver medalist, a graduate and lecturer in agriculture of the University of Oxford, a lifelong farmer. He was also profoundly spiritual, an accomplished author and a wordsmith.

Walter's interest in biodynamics led him to visit Switzerland in 1939 to invite the leading advocate of the times, Dr Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, to present the first conference on biodynamic farming in Britain, and it was in the following year that *Look to the Land* appeared. Rather than the mechanics or the practices of organic, Northbourne's book presents the philosophy, the rationale, and the imperative of organic farming.

See page 134 for a short feature about the history of the Northbournes.



Mike Palmer (1958–61), a true polymath

From colleague and friend, James Trounce (1976–79).

I first met Mike (pictured above in 1991 while working at Morley) in 1985, when I arrived at the Norfolk Agriculture Station (NAS) as the newly appointed NIAB trials officer, fresh from three years in Zimbabwe, but still green when it came to Norfolk farming and the needs of malting barley and sugar beet. Mike was there, seconded from ADAS, working on malting barley and oilseed rape husbandry, in a team led by another Wye graduate, Perry Mclean. This was his second stint at NAS, having started his career there in the early 1960s, followed by a stint lecturing at Sparsholt and then time spent with ADAS on various of their EHF's.

As I got to know Mike better, I found a man of diverse and varied interests – a talented artist and cartoonist (I still have some of his watercolours of Norfolk scenes) – he had a passion for all things Scandinavian including a collection of old Saab cars, one of which he drove to the North Cape. I am also fortunate to have been the subject of Mike's skill at photography and am grateful to Fran, his wife, for passing on the prints. Several happy evenings were spent at Mike and Fran's cottage at Snetterton enjoying wine tastings led by Mike. There are many other aspects to Mike – a true polymath – to which this short tribute does not do credit.

Leonard 'Len' Thomas Budd (1967–70)

Prepared by friend and colleague Charles Adams (1965–68) with inputs from Len's daughter Anna and Dr Ian Lane.

Len Budd felt he owed Wye College such a lot that, when it closed, he set up *PhoenixWyeCollege* in an attempt to ensure the college remained in education, ideally delivering something akin to its land-based role. Despite the difficulties in marketing his ideas (but advertising more widely than the owners had done), the group received interesting offers from as far afield as Japan and Canada.



The happy couple in December 1978 when Len and Seija were married in Christ Church, Arusha.

The University of Buckingham explored the possibility of setting up a Liberal Arts degree on a campus, similar to their base. A more unlikely proposal came from a private university offering degrees in accountancy and law with very modern premises in London, Leeds and Manchester. However, as the financial crisis of 2008 took its toll, the 'baby Phoenix' returned to the ashes.

Len's undergraduate experience at Wye, running from 1967 to 1970 and his tour of East Africa in 1969, sent him into development work. Paul Latham, at the Farmer Training Centre just outside Nairobi, was a major influence. After gaining some more practical experience in farm management, he took a post of Crop Husbandry Officer in NW Province of Zambia, moving on to Eastern Province where he had the responsibility for Phytosanitary Supervision of Groundnuts for Export and Seed Certification.

In 1977, after a year 'resting' at home in the UK, he took up the post of Seed Production Manager for the Tanzania Seed Company, a joint venture between the Tanzanian government and the UK's Commonwealth Development Corporation. This involved overseeing the operation of contract growers spread throughout the North, Coastal and Southern Provinces of Tanzania, three seed-processing and storage factories and eventually the growing of the eight inbred lines of the four hybrid maize varieties. Bearing in mind the size of Tanzania, this role involved a lot of travel on often pretty poor dirt and unmetalled roads ...

The Tanzania Seed Company headquarters in Arusha had a seed-processing facility in Njombe. This is where, in 1978, Len, as their Seed Production Manager, met Seija at a time when both were due home leave. She was planning to visit London for shopping en route



Len at work on the fruit farm in Mystole Kent, where he and Seija settled in 1982.

to Finland which is where both ended up. They became engaged on one of Seija's visits to Arusha where they were married shortly afterwards.

Illness brought them back to his flat in Beckenham, but two years later, in 1982, they bought the 50-acre fruit farm at Mystole, near Chilham, Kent, a place they found idyllic.

Their daughter Anna was born in the December and they moved into the farm shortly afterwards. Five years later, Len returned to Wye College to study for an MSc in Agricultural Economics. This reboot of his career led to a post with the Natural Resources Institute at Chatham Maritime, supervising a Horticulture MSc Course and managing a variety of publications.

Len was an active church member and in response to the report that the proportion of young people attending Sunday School had fallen from 50 per cent post-war to 5 per cent nowadays, *The 100-Minute Bible* (2005) was produced in conjunction with Rev Dr Michael Hinton. This was followed up with *The 100-Minute Bible Reflections* (2007). And because Len thought that in our multicultural world we should all understand the religious scriptures that underpin other faiths of our neighbours in our global village, the 100-Minute Press has added *The 100-Minute Torah* (2010), *The 100-Minutes with the Qur'an* (2010) and *The 100-Minute Buddha* (2010).

Richard Casswell (1966–69): Morgan Sports Car Club (MSCC) Vice Chairman 1982–85

Written by Rick Bourne and originally published in the Morgan car magazine and spotted by fellow Morgan car-owner Laurie Lissett (1966–69); it is reproduced here by kind permission of the publishers.

Heading this 'MSCC Vice Chairman 1982 to 1985' is a bit like saying, 'Richard Branson – Record Label owner' inasmuch as Casswell's contributions to life would fill this page simply listed one after the other.

Born and brought up near Donington, Lincolnshire, Richard studied agriculture at Wye before joining his father and grandfather in the family farming partnership. Six years later he and his wife Jackie (1967–70) won the competitive tender to take on Priory Farm, a Crown Estates property, where they would build the business for over 40 years, joined latterly by their son James.

He bought 'a rather ratty old car' – UBY4, a 4/4 with a Lotus twin-cam engine

Also in business, Richard was chairman for 15 years of Lingrain, England's most successful grain storage company and a board member of Openfield, at the time England's largest arable co-operative.

His involvement with Morgan cars began in 1978 when he bought 'a rather ratty old car' – UBY4, a 4/4 with a Lotus twin-cam engine. He realised that several people were racing them, probably due to Mary Lindsay (the Mrs Motivator of the Morgan Racing World). He was very competitive in 750 Motor Club racing



Richard at the Willhire 24 Hour Race in 1982.

along with the Combined One Make Car Club race series, and a team member in the successful 1982 Bulldog Morgan Team – Willhire 24-hour entry at Snetterton.

Richard became known to the greater club community in part for his regular submissions to the club magazine 'File under miscellaneous'. Appointed Club Vice Chairman in July 1982, it was in the Kentagon at Brands Hatch in 1984 that he offered his support in turning the Morgan Challenge Race Series from an idea to reality, that reality now acknowledged to be one of the friendliest and most successful Marque Race Series on the calendar.

In 1985 he hosted the 'Big Morgan Snore In' when what seemed like hundreds of Morgans were parked in a spud store, while their drivers tried to sleep, all amassed on his dining-room floor listening to Frank McClain break the 110 db barrier. Perhaps that was why he retired from the club board that year!

Going on from Morgan racing (can you?), he raced an MAE engine Chevron Formula 3 single seater, several Formula Ford Sports 2000 cars and enjoyed races in Thunder saloons with his lifelong friend Joe Ward. A group 6 GRD sports car would prove to be the car too far when in 1997 potato profits couldn't cover the continuing costs of racing. His involvement with Morgans continued, however, albeit on the road, when he bought an ex-Gerry Marshall +8 to enjoy on the pre-speed camera Lincolnshire roads.

In 1997 potato profits couldn't cover the continuing costs of racing

Living in the wilds of the Fens, one has to be a good host or no one would bother to spend the hours required to visit. Casswell took hosting as seriously as everything else in his life, always ready with bed and board and, of course, a fine single malt. His ability to discuss most topics knowledgeably was only challenged by the aforementioned dram.

This has been but a snapshot of a fantastically full life, which, whilst ended prematurely, was lived to the full and, in his own words, shared last summer at the 30th anniversary Morgan Challenge meeting: 'If someone had told me when I was 20 that I could have what I've enjoyed, but would have to leave the party early, I'd have taken it right then.'

Richard Casswell, one of those rare people that simply everyone liked and an example to us all in how to live life to the full, both in health and adversity.



Richard Casswell (left) and John Millbank at Brands Hatch in 2015.

Ian Trewin Stratford (1954–58)

Husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and rugby fanatic.

Ian was born in Doncaster in 1932 and was at school during the War, having first been evacuated to Bude and then to Marlborough College. In his final years at school he attended a summer holiday camp organised by the Ministry of Agriculture to provide workforce for the harvest, and this was to spark his life-long interest in farming.

School was followed by National Service, where he was sent originally to Korea in 1952 and then on to the Suez Canal Zone just prior to its handover to the Egyptians. On his last tour of duty, he became ill and was demobilised and sent home after being diagnosed with jaundice and hepatitis.

Ian then went for an interview at Wye College where he was accepted, subject to his completing a year's practical which he did at a mixed farm in Chipping Norton.

Frank Thompson (1954-57) takes up the story:

Energetic, a bit of a maverick, risk-taking extrovert, but reflective at times, he was a good friend with a wide range of skills. Ian was a many-faceted memorable man whose

subsequent career bears out his abilities and what he gained from his time at Wye.

Ian and I found ourselves in 'J block' in our first year and struck up a life-long friendship. Unlike me, he was an extrovert with great enthusiasm and boundless energy. He enjoyed pop music, composing songs about fellow classmates, and he loved all of the college reviews. You could not ignore his raucous voice and impressive delivery of a wide range of songs and jokes.

You could not ignore his raucous voice and impressive delivery of a wide range of songs and jokes

He was a keen rugby player, captain of the 1st XV and thoroughly enjoyed all that that entailed; in fact, he was always ready to join in all manner of sporting activities. Probably his crowning glory was the year (1956) that he captained the team that won the London University Rugby Seven-a-Side Cup. He was also an enthusiastic helper with the annual bonfire and torchlight procession to the Crown and during his third year was very involved in



Ian at a formal dinner (left) and enjoying a drink with colleagues.

J Block Agrics Tug of War team which, despite their novel sports kit, had little success!
 Left to right: Peter Jukes, Peter Diggers, Tim Threadgold, Ian Stratford, Julian Pardoe and Frank Thompson.



the Wye Carnival and Float procession. In a typical Stratford piece of good fortune, following his second-year rugby dinner, he was involved in the traditional Withersdane raid on the girls' quarters; he was the only one to escape the wrath of the late **Jean Ingram**, by climbing over an upstairs balcony to make his escape and disappearing into the night.

At the end of the third year, Ian failed finals, as did all three of the students who had done National Service before college. He was allowed back to retake the exam on the proviso that he did not stay in College. The following year he succeeded in passing his degree and went on to have a very successful and rewarding business and social life. In fact,



Winning '7s team in the London Universities cup with Ian as captain holding the trophy. From left to right: David Larr (dec), Tim Calcutt (dec), Brian 'Boris' Lovelidge, John Daleymont (grandfather of Brad Barritt, current England player), Liam Murray, Ian Stratford (dec) and Cyril Groom. Photo by David Hart.



Rugby Club dinner in the mid-1950s. Judging from what they have on the table in front of them, other than half a grapefruit with a cherry on top, they were quite an abstemious lot. It could be Ian Stratford second from the right standing at the back.

Ian returned to Wye quite regularly to play in the annual Agricola Club v College rugby matches which he thoroughly enjoyed.

He worked for Christopher Hill at Poole and then as a pig advisor for Richards and Preece (Nitrovit) in Essex. From this he frequently found himself in Denmark and Sweden, learning about their pig production and slaughtering, and how to drink Tuborg.

In 1965, he was working for Nitrovit as well as Buxted and eventually decided to go on his own before getting involved with the Farmer's Pork company in 1970. At the end of his full

employment, he worked as a consultant helping farmers with grant applications.

He was president of his local cricket club and a local councillor for Great Tey ward.

His experiences in the Korean War and with the Korean Veterans Association played a huge part in his life. There were annual gatherings and meetings and Remembrance Day marches, including leading the march past the Cenotaph on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

His interest in agriculture led him naturally to the Farmers Club and he thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of his membership.



*In January, Wye had very heavy snow falls, so, with no prospect of rigger, Ian, **Tim Calcutt**, **John Cole**, **John Dalymount?**, **John Colyer?** and I made our way with **John Harris** to the Beagle kennels. John provided us with two sheets of corrugated iron one end of which we crudely bent up. Then, two fencing rails were nailed to the sides and three pairs of bailer twine rope loops were added. We then dragged our sledges up to the Devil's Kneading Trough. Ian, Tim and I formed one team. Tim sat at the front, I was in the middle and Ian, after launching us down the hill, jumped on at the back. Initially, desperate to break the sound barrier we tried going down the steep, 45-degree, south eastern-facing slope.*

Unfortunately, beneath the snow were mounds or tussocks that decelerated the sledge while we carried on. It wasn't long before we were bounced off the sledge and proceeded down the slope as a group on our backsides. The following weekend the snow melted somewhat so that the sledges exposed two small mortar bombs lying on the run. These were simply disposed of by popping down a convenient rabbit burrow. They were probably smoke bombs as there was an old army rifle range at the bottom of the Trough, built when Montgomery had Withersdane as his headquarters after Dunkirk.

Frank Thompson (1954–57)



Emeritus Professor George F Pegg (staff 1954–80)

'a teacher and researcher who laboured mightily in and for his science' – Prof I W Selman

Prepared by John Walters, assisted by the family.

Born in 1930, George Pegg read for his BSc and MSc degrees at Nottingham University where he received First Class Honours and a Distinction, respectively, before completing his PhD in London. He joined the staff at Wye in 1954, working in the Department of Biological Sciences headed by Professor Ireson Selman.

Pegg's particular interest was phytopathology with an emphasis on *Verticillium* wilt. Indeed, he published over 30 scientific papers on this subject, often under his own name alone or occasionally with his department head Professor Selman or co-workers of the time, Professor Geoff Dixon and Dr Tom Hill, amongst others.

George's time on the staff at Wye spanned some 26 years although in 1966 he took a sabbatical and travelled to the USA with his wife Mary where he worked as visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin.

One of his major contributions to the

understanding of *Verticillium* wilt was the co-authoring with Beryl L Brady, of the International Mycological Institute, a monograph on *Verticillium* Wilts, released in 2002. Having said that, some 30-plus years earlier, whilst still at Wye, he collaborated with P W Talboys, East Malling Research Station, on the structure and staging of the first International *Verticillium* Symposium; this was held at Wye College in 1971 with scientists from 18 countries. The symposia continued to be held after various intervals at different locations around the world, with the eighth being held in Cordoba, Spain, 30 years later, in 2001.

For George Pegg, his involvement in the birth of these symposia led to much international collaboration on the subject of *Verticillium*, as well as lifelong relationships with new and old colleagues and friends.

In 1980, he took over the Chair of Horticulture in the School of Plant Sciences at the

In the 1980 Journal, on the occasion of his departure from Wye, following a description of George's scientific skills and devotion to teaching and researching: Professor Selman wrote:

'It is pleasant to recall that other activities were not impeded by the rusts, the moulds and the mildews whose hyphae daily permeated his lively mind, for sailing, music, gardening and three daughters left no time for mental hypertrophy. He entered wholeheartedly into social activities especially in his bachelor days. We retain humorous memories of George in the front line of the chorus at the Warden's Folly, dancing prettily and singing (forte-ly) Love and Marriage and of his lugubrious singing in a Biological Sciences quartet "And when I die, don't bury me deep – just spread my bones on the compost heap".'

University of Reading. He continued to publish widely on plant pathology matters and presented the Presidential Address at the 1985 British Mycological Society Symposium under the heading 'Life in a black hole – the micro-environment of the vascular pathogen'.

Amongst his many committee memberships, he became Chairman of the International Standing Committee of *Verticillium* Research Group, President of the British Mycological Society, Governor of the ARC East Malling

Research Station and Governor of Wye College, to name but a few.

When he retired from Reading in 1991, he and the family moved to West Chinnock, South Somerset, and then in 2017 to Wells, where they enjoyed a relatively quiet life in a very attractive part of the world. George enjoyed his hobbies of sailing, gardening and travel in retirement. He died on 12 December, 2019 aged 89, leaving his wife Mary and their three daughters Sally, Rosalind and Anne and seven grandchildren.

Peter Morris Smith (1966–69) died aged 72 in October 2019

Chris Major (1966–69) writes:

I first met Pete on our first day at Wye in the corridor of D Block. He was carrying a double bass and I was wielding a hockey stick. They say opposites attract and never was this truer. Son of an Essex farming family, he inherited the values of kindness, empathy, mischievousness and hard work that were to continue to be the hallmarks of his life, together with a characteristic shift of his spectacles on his nose which accompanied both amusing and serious observations. Accompanying this steadfastness was a talented musical acumen and a gift for playing the organ.

It just so happened that in our first year at Wye, my sister was to be married in our local church in East Sussex and the organist booked for the event fell ill at the last moment. I mentioned to my sister that I knew someone at Wye who played the organ and might be prepared to stand in. Pete, being Pete, kindly agreed and arrived early on the day of the wedding for a short practice. When my father went to the Church to check that all was ready with the preparations for the wedding, he was somewhat perturbed to find the organ in pieces on the floor of the church as Pete sought to fine-tune

the organ to meet his high standards. Needless to say, my father's concerns were unfounded, and the organ restored to its former glory with Pete at the keyboard was a resounding success. A very similar story was relayed at Pete's memorial service by **Peter Johnson** (1965–68) who had asked Peter to play at his daughter's wedding a few years ago, and once again the church organ was dismantled to great effect ahead of the rehearsal and the music chosen by the happy couple subjected to detailed scrutiny by the organist as to its suitability for the instrument in question.

After Wye, Peter returned to the family farm close to Stansted Airport to farm with his father and brother John in the early years and more recently with his wife Susan and two of their sons. At a packed memorial service attended by over 270 people at Little Easton Church in Great Dunmow, Pete and Susan's four children and their partners and their thirteen grandchildren played a prominent part including, the youngest fittingly named Peter. Also present were **Peter Johnson** (1965–68); **Mike Walker** (1966–69) and his wife Brenda and **Robert Pickard** (1966–69). There was also a huge presence from local farmers and the community, including representatives of five local churches where Peter played the organs for many years.



Posted by Amanda-Jane Amiss on Our Place Wye.

Origins and links: or, how on Earth did I end up here?

Libby Scott (née Orton, 1966–69) meanders through her family life before and after Wye, including idyllic time tending their own woodland with husband Eric and the founding of a successful Plant and Craft Festival.

I've always had an interest in how people meet, where they end up and the various paths leading to that. Sometimes a well-worn path through generations of family farms, or maybe a completely new direction aided by an inspiring lecturer or contact. Or a real interest, taken up and developed into a satisfying career.

I was born in Corbridge, Northumberland, in the Tyne valley and although I am really 'hefted' here like a hill ewe, I was the first generation to be born this far north (beyond even the wildest promises and dreams of HS2!).

On my mother's side of the family, her grandfather Stephen Hart farmed at Westwell,



The 13-acre woodland that Libby bought for Eric in the 1980s in its autumn garb. They had wonderful times entertaining kids from the village with summer activities every August for some years when their own two children were small, and it was a favourite place for birthday picnics with camp fires. Libby used to feed birds and red squirrels up there; now it's trapping greys. There are enough local people doing it to keep pockets of reds going.



What we get up to in the wood! Our grandchild always loves a fire with sausages (don't they all?!). So does the son-in-law, whom we are training into the ways of the far north, he having lived in Enfield all his life and recently moved up to Northumberland, close to Libby in Hexham.

near Ashford. Three generations of Stephen Hart's, starting in 1856, were directors, chairmen or managers of Ashford Cattle Market. I remember, whilst at Wye, the last bit of Hart family land on Romney Marsh being auctioned in the late 1960s.

She was a rabid teetotaler and an autocrat. She quarrelled with the Vicar who refused to sign the pledge

My great uncle, Stephen Harold Hart, was born just after his father died; my mother had a story that his father had gone to the Ashford

market with a very smart but not very warm waistcoat on, caught a chill, and died, leaving a widow with two daughters and a son on the way. There is a gap in my knowledge here, but Stephen Harold ended up with a tenanted farm near Checkendon on the Chilterns, between Wallingford and Reading.

My mother lost her mother at the age of 11 and spent much time with her Uncle Harold and his wife on the farm. She went on to do a dairying degree at Reading and was employed travelling around Hampshire farms testing milk before and during the war (*presumably for the Milk Marketing Board? I guess that's right since the MMB started in 1933 -Ed*).

On my father's side, my grandfather was born not far from here at Hallbankgate, near Brampton, where his father was the village schoolmaster. Lady Carlisle apparently had a

great deal of input in both church and school and my great aunt recalled; 'the church living was in her gift. She was a rabid teetotaler and an autocrat. She quarrelled with the Vicar who refused to sign the pledge or do anything she desired in the parish.' My great grandfather also got weary of her ways and the family left and moved back to Stockport from where they had originally come.

My grandfather became an engineer through the usual channels of technical schools and apprenticeships; his speciality was the design of the diesel engine. I still have a copy of the book he wrote on that. His last job before retirement was working for Armstrong Whitworth's on the Tyne at the Scotswood works in Newcastle.

By this time in the 1930s, my father was at Oxford doing an agriculture degree, having done a year's practical work on a farm in Northumberland. His tutor was one Dunstan Skilbeck and these two remained friends for the rest of their lives. Dunstan and Elspeth bought a cottage up in the Cheviots near Kirk Yetholm, so were regular visitors to the farm.

Father's first job was at King's College, Durham University (now Newcastle University), as a technical assistant in the Farm Economics Dept. This involved collecting financial and physical data from farmers within a defined area and assisting in the subsequent analysis for research and advisory purposes. (I see from a reference letter written for him by his boss that among other plus points he had 'an unusual facility for probing the mysteries of farmer's psychology and economic motives!')

The next job was as a Junior Lecturer at Reading University to Agriculture and Dairying students in Crop Husbandry, taking farm classes, and doing experimental work on grassland and investigating the problems concerned with manuring of crops. He was

also an assistant to the University Farm Manager.

In 1940, he was seconded from Reading to join the War Agricultural Executive Committee as a District Officer based in Huntington. I remember him regaling us with stories of his 'gang of land girls' helping to clear land that had reverted to scrub in the 1930s depression. The place was Piddley-cum-Fenton, so what else could he call them but his 'Piddley women'!

But before he left Reading, he met my mother over supper with friends. She was doing some work in the Poultry Department at the time as a fill-in job.

Father then got a farm tenancy in the Tyne Valley, with glowing references from the farmer he had worked regularly for all through university, so my parents married and moved to the farm. It was 350 acres, 350 feet above sea level, and half arable, half pasture. They farmed here for 38 years until retiring in 1980, and it was where the three of us children were born. I decided on studying Horticulture as I had always loved gardening as a child and was sure my brother would take on the farm tenancy. Sadly, he died during my first year at Wye.

My first job post-Wye, in 1969, was as a Landscape Assistant in Northumberland County Planning Department (thanks to the late Tom Wright: we were his first intake of students, and he was a huge inspiration to so many Hortics in our year). Landscape jobs at that time were many; I was the only applicant for the job but seven years later, when I left, there were well over 400 applicants!

I shared a flat and an allotment with Sally Pearson Craven for two years while she did a postgrad Landscape Design course at the university to become qualified as a Landscape Architect. I tried the hard way, by doing it as an external student, in my own time after work.



Libby's garden pond is supplied by roof water feeding into an open channel across the lawn, and beside it is a wildflower meadow with orchids, greater burnet, betony, field scabious, wood and meadow cranesbill, hawkbits and snakeshead fritillaries amongst other things.

I got to the finals and failed. The site given for the design was a chunk of York city; amongst the comments on my efforts from the examiners was: 'this is totally unacceptable'. So, at that point I welcomed the excuse to give up and enjoy socialising again! The landscaping job was hugely varied; work on newly – acquired country parks, work in the Northumberland National Park, new road schemes, tree preservation, forestry in the Cheviots (this was the time when there were many conifer plantations being developed as a way of investing to avoid large tax bills for the rich), felling licences, dune restoration on the coast, and much more.

But I also had a longing to get back to horticulture so, after seven years, I went to Wolverhampton Technical Teaching College to do a Certificate of Education and got a job teaching horticulture to day-release students at Durham Agricultural College. Only one brave female student in those days, the rest were lads from the local parks departments and golf courses.

By this time my parents were looking for a retirement house and found the perfect one in the south Tyne valley, west of Hexham. It belonged to Bob and Rosemary Seeley. Bob had been at Wye as both student and lecturer and remembered having lectures from my



Stunning views across local Northumbrian countryside looking up to a Roman wall on the skyline.

father at Reading when Wye students were evacuated there during the war! Rosemary had also done Dairying at Reading like my mother. We kept in touch with Bob until he died; he moved to Stromness in the Orkneys where his daughter Jenny lives and we had a fine holiday up there with him.

It was Bob who suggested my giving the late Christopher Lloyd a hand in his amazing garden at Great Dixter in Sussex, during my summer break from lecturing at Durham (they had been students together at Wye). I lived in the attic for a few weeks and learnt a huge amount from him. I also enjoyed visiting Phil Merricks and family near Rye. But it was the death knell for the lecturing career; why teach it when you can enjoy doing it?! At that point,

I had no plans to get married so the thinking was that I could come back to teaching later when I was no longer feeling like doing the physical side of gardening.

So, the next move was to help my parents retire from the farm; there was the last lambing, a drystone-walling course with the Agricultural Training Board so that there were no dilapidations to be paid, and a huge accumulation of 'stuff' both on the farm and in the pretty large farmhouse. Once they were settled into retirement, I started my own gardening business. Word of mouth was the best method for obtaining new clients, and I soon had a wonderful bunch of friendly, interesting customers with some beautiful gardens on a regular basis. I used to be asked

down to Raby Castle, near Barnard Castle, for a week at a time to sort the borders out and several times stayed with **Johnny** and Moppit **Cooke Hurle** (1967–71) at Startford Hall nearby. Great entertainment to be had on those occasions! (I called on them last year when in their area; they were just about to downsize to a nearby cottage, leaving a son to live in the Hall).

Once my parents had moved, I met my future husband Eric, who lived just 300 yards away at the other end of their village. He pointed out that we had met in the 1970s when he had the contract to build the drystone wall around the Vindolanda Car Park (Vindolanda is one of the key Roman sites just south of the Roman Wall here). I was supervising the main car park construction contract and we had chatted briefly. Apart from being a dry-stone waller, Eric also did agricultural fencing and forestry

work and gate-making. Marriage followed in 1984 and we have two children; our daughter is now a renewable energy consultant and, just as I write, about to move back north to Northumberland from Enfield with husband and child. Our son is an arborist and forestry worker, married and based in Vancouver (because the downhill biking is so good along with all the other mad sports he likes! It's also a rather fine part of the world).

Apart from being a dry-stone waller, Eric also did agricultural fencing and forestry work and gate-making

When I was left a sum of money in the 1980s, I thought what better way to use it than buy a wood, just up the road from where we were living, as a present for Eric? I cannot think of anything else that has given us so much pleasure; 13 acres in total, about 5 acres of which is a mature, mixed woodland with a dene and burn running through it, the rest being permanent pasture of not very good quality. Eric planted up another two acres of this with a Farm Woodlands Grant from the Forestry Commission in the 1990s and we planted the rest up with help from the Woodland Trust just six years ago, completed just before Eric died of myotonic dystrophy after many years of struggling physically. A hard end for someone who loved his work so much.

I have thinned the 25-year old woodland and used the thinnings to supply the logboiler which heats the house and am coppicing the hazel and willow in the most recent planting.



Libby and son Nick on his wedding day over the Pond in Canada.

Apart from that I have a three quarter-acre garden, used for growing most of my own vegetables, soft fruit and top fruit, as well as a pond for wildlife with associated meadow area. I don't do 'neat gardening', but have a wealth of wildlife as a result. Aside from my garden, I run the Community Garden in Haltwhistle, the local town, and with the weekly team, keep the town's planting in some sort of respectable state; we all get much entertainment from that.

13 acres in total, about 5 acres of which is a mature, mixed woodland with a dene and burn running through it

For the past 21 years, a small group of us have organised a Plant and Crafts Festival where specialist nurseries come to Haltwhistle for a day to sell plants. We put on local and fairtrade food and quality local crafts. It has become one of the town's most popular annual events and there is, of course, a spin-off for town tradespeople. We used to give the proceeds to a charity of our choice but have handed over the running of the event to the leisure centre which is badly in need of the money raised.

After Eric died, I felt I needed to get out of the parish more, so started learning the Celtic harp, or clarsach, to keep the grey cells going. I shall never be much good at it as my brain is too slow, but we have a monthly workshop and that means meeting others. Also, I joined a project in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty called 'Plugging the Gaps' which involved collecting hay meadow flower seed from verges and hay meadows in the South Tyne, Weir and Tees

valleys, sowing them and rearing the plugs on our small nursery, and planting them back into hay meadows to improve diversity. This was after finding farmers happy to oblige, of course, and to go along with the zero artificial fertilisers and the later cutting regime that it entails to qualify for Higher Level Stewardship payments.

Good hay meadows are now a rare habitat; there has been a 97% loss to more intensive methods of fodder production involving fertiliser use and silage-making, but our northern upland meadows are some of the very best remaining ones. To many it would seem an unnecessary way of retaining or improving diversity, but with this improvement come more insects, better pollination and bird life and no one involved in rural life can argue that we don't need to do more about this.

After spending years based in and around Newcastle, I do feel remarkably 'at home' back in a rural setting and in a community where I know a vast number of people. It helped, of course, to get married to Eric, who was already part of this community where he was known by all and had a great reputation as a first-rate craftsman. I feel very privileged to live in such a beautiful place, and still be in excellent health.

I've had a few Wye friends get this far to visit; Sally Emerson is a regular as she usually comes to help with the Plant Festival and has a yearly visit to a cottage on the Northumbrian coast. **Chris Baines** (1966-69) and partner Nerys have been – Chris gave a talk at our local Café Scientifique. **Tom and Gill Cusack** (1966-69) have visited and **Ferris and Margaret Whidborne** (1966-69) have stayed, on the delivery trail for Ferris' Flurry Launcher invention (see page 140). More always welcome.

The spirit of Wye still burning: 50 years on

Judith Weatherill (née Wood 1969–72) reflects on the ties that keep this 'band of sisters' bound together with memories as fresh as if yesterday.

During the past 50(!) years since we first met at Wye College in October 1969, a small group of us has kept in touch and met up from time to time, sometimes with our families. Ann Thomas, Jan Farmer, Lu (Elizabeth) Rollinson (née Baker), Sheila Masterman (née Clarke), Vickie Wheeler and myself Judith. And we never forget our dear friends Katie Addison and Ursula Waterston, who were so much a part of our lives back then, until their untimely deaths some years ago.

As a friend said to me, 'Look out, Oxford!'

With the approach of our 'golden' anniversary, we were determined to mark the occasion with a weekend away. As we are fairly widespread around the country, Oxford was chosen as the

meeting place and, as a friend said to me, 'Look out, Oxford!'

However, that city's inhabitants needn't have worried as we spent the entire time chatting as we have done so often in the past. The two husbands accompanying – Paul (Jan's) and Rob (Vickie's) – were incredibly patient, as of course most of the chat was reminiscing. The weather, accommodation, food and surroundings were glorious, the whole weekend judged a total success and we all agreed to do the same thing this year.

The thing binding us together is our years at Wye and the affection in which we hold that time and place

During all our lives there have been joyous times, happy times, sad times and the occasional tragedy. But the thing binding us together is our years at Wye and the affection in which we hold that time and place. We share that bond with many thousands of people around the world, and I read the Wye Journal every year with interest. My late husband's interest was in any people I had known, as he had gone to Cirencester! The contributions in the journal are many and varied and I have often thought about writing myself, but beyond farming, raising a family



The band of sisters – plus two husbands – at their golden anniversary celebration in Oxford last summer: plans are already afoot for a repeat performance!



Jan Farmer, Lu (Elizabeth) Baker (née Rollinson), Sheila Clarke (née Masterman), Ann Thomas, Vickie Wheeler and Judith Weatherill (in front).

and the odd spot of teaching, there is nothing outstanding in the career sense of the word.

Within our 'group', our lives have also followed different paths, some in agriculture and horticulture, others in different roles. In spite of that, we have all used our education and experiences in those three years at Wye to the benefit of others, not least our families.

For myself as a miner's daughter – my mother's family were all farmers – and coming from a Yorkshire Grammar School, Wye was something of a shock to the system! Travel and communication were vastly different from nowadays, and today's teenagers are so much more streetwise and confident. What made it seem so much more like home was all my Leeds United football paraphernalia on my bedroom walls! I am sure we will always be very grateful to everyone there, but particularly for me the three lovely Irish ladies at Withersdane, Jean Ingram and the college

nurse 'Sister', whose name, I am ashamed to say, I cannot remember, despite her many kindnesses to me (*Sister Fawcett, by any chance? – Ed*). But above all, I treasure our continuing friendship, which I hope will be for many years to come.



The flag of Judith's beloved Leeds United: it was Judith's Leeds United paraphernalia on her bedroom walls that made Wye feel like home!

A full life (after)

Jo Buffey (1975–78) finally persuaded herself that she did have a story to tell after all. And boy! Has she led an interesting life!

I have often felt I should submit a contribution to the Journal given how much I enjoy reading about how the lives of other Wye graduates have panned out; but sometimes the illustrious achievements of some make this task a little daunting! I may not have achieved any great career heights, never married or had children, but have led a very varied and interesting life involving a lot of independent travel, living and working in some weird and wonderful places.

Our undergrad days now sound like a bygone age

I'm sure Principal **Ian Lucas** had me weighed up when, at my graduation in 1978, I was awarded a prize, not for academic attainment (impossible in my case) but for my '*Contribution to the community life of the College*'; in other words, 'Jo enjoyed a great social life'! So did most of us, I think, and I look back on those days as a time of immense fun and community spirit and the formation of friends for life (in regular contact with Sue Stebbing, Charles Dods, **Louise Virgo** (1975–78), **Kathy Start** (1973–76) and more). How sad that it is no longer available to students in this time of societal fragmentation and impersonalisation.

Our undergrad days now sound like a bygone age: all lecture notes and assignments handwritten on file paper, printed hand-outs from lecturers if we were lucky, expensive and therefore brief phone calls made to parents on the payphone in the Porters' Lodge, personal

social invitations on gilt-edged, printed cards and the wonderment of the 'cutting-edge', room-sized mainframe, college computer!

It was my love for and concern about the future of the rural environment that attracted me to take the then, almost ground-breaking, radical BSc Rural Environment Studies (RES) course in 1975. I remember that we undergrads and the staff who taught RES were often maligned and mocked for our 'flaky, green' ideas by the more traditionally minded Agrics; but I am sure many of them now realise how much it was the beginning of the now world-wide movement towards a greater understanding of and concern for the impact of human activity (modern agriculture and horticultural practice, particularly) on the natural environment and rural communities.

I remember that we undergrads and the staff who taught RES were often maligned and mocked for our 'flaky, green' ideas

I have often thought that people like Prof Gerald Wibberley, Margaret Anderson, Bryn Green *et al* were ahead of their times – so many of the outcomes and issues they prophesied have come to pass, and many of the mitigating solutions they dared to suggest are now accepted as mainstream practice; I think of Agri-Environment Stewardship Schemes, pollution control legislation,

recognition of the need to protect biodiversity, etc. However, it is sometimes hard not to feel somewhat jaded when topics such as plastic pollution or the decline of biodiversity are treated by the media as something 'new' when in fact, thanks to the efforts of such forward-thinking academics, some of us have been aware of the issues and banging on about them for over 45 years! There is still a seeming reluctance, in some parts of the world, to wake up to the urgency of acting on the sustainability agenda and addressing issues of climate, land and resource use. Let's hope sufficient action can be taken in time to safeguard the rural areas and natural environments that so many students came to Wye to research and learn about.

Appropriate to my RES credentials, I had a few years working for two Rural Community Councils (Bedfordshire and North Yorkshire), then DEFRA – post-Foot and Mouth 2001 - on Environmental Stewardship Schemes, and for North York Moor National Park. In order to be more employable whilst travelling, I did my ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) training and taught English in Spain, Sweden, Wales and finally New Zealand, where ironically, they were not interested in my green credentials but happy to give me residency to teach English to the huge influx of Asian students they were experiencing!

After 10 years, as my enthusiasm for teaching English waned, my interest grew in the slightly trendy concept of 'sustainable' or 'eco' tourism, as it had in NZ. So, as a result of some useful practical experience, I ended up as a lecturer in the subject at Nelson Polytechnic for a mostly international clientele who sometimes needed language support. It was a great way to combine my interests and skills. I came back to the UK principally to attend to

my mother's failing health. Whilst here I did a Masters in Environmental Management/ Sustainable Tourism which at least got me a job as Technical Advisor for the Northern Region for the Green Tourism Business Scheme (accreditation scheme for sustainable business). Rural tourism/farm cottages were my speciality. However, the economic squeeze came along and such 'frillery' was dismissed and redundancy notices handed out. Not a welcome event aged 56!

Personal events determined a major move last year from my roots in North Yorkshire to start afresh in Monmouthshire – a lovely part of the world. I keep myself busy doing lots of tree-planting and other voluntary work, along with some paid gardening. I lived last summer in my caravan on a pleasant pitch just outside Abergavenny. For the winter months, I rented a flat, but the dreary weather and politics got too depressing so I decamped to the hot, dry Canaries for a while! In these uncertain times, there's a lot to be said for maintaining a low-impact, flexible lifestyle. Happy to welcome any passing Wye folk – just give me a call on 07790905638 or try my email: jobuffey@hotmail.com.

Life during and after Wye: a hopeless case made good?

A somewhat self-deprecating Joy Larkcom (1954–57) admits to having struggled with the science at Wye but flourished amongst the plants, developing an unquenchable curiosity for them.

One thing is sure. If Wye was still functioning and selecting students, there's no way I would get in today.

Girl needed

My main recollection of that original interview, about 65 years ago, was that I was accepted 'because we need girls to run the dances'. (Little did they know how little aptitude I had for running dances). My scientific qualifications were way below what was required, or suggested. I had 'A' levels in French and English, and my only vaguely scientific qualification a strange 'O' level amalgam of Physics with Chemistry, in which I barely

scraped a pass. My boarding school didn't do science. To offer me a place they must have been desperate for girls to run the dances, but I think I salvaged their consciences by promising to do evening classes in chemistry during my year's practical.

I still remember phoning for that interview, a trunk call via a phone operator. What number do you want? 'Wye 1' I replied. 'I haven't got time for games,' the operator snapped. I had to convince her the number really was Wye !!

My sister's godfather drove me down to Wye. A retired brigadier, he was the one who had suggested that I might like to do

Tribute to Joy by Alys Fowler, horticultural editor of *The Guardian*

Two women have moulded and influenced the way I garden. The first is my mother and the second is Joy Larkcom. No one else manages to marry a relaxed, joyful approach to gardening with science and trialling. You can truly trust what she says.

Her book *Grow Your Own Vegetables* is a masterpiece of good sense; I have read it more than once. And her *Creative Vegetable Gardening* is, as books go, my happy place, one I head back to whenever I feel uninspired by my own garden.

So imagine how excited I was when I got an invitation to her retirement vegetable garden that sits on a windswept corner of West Cork. She and Don, her husband, converted it from a paddock in just under 10 years.

As a garden, it is everything I hoped for. Relaxed. A little messy perhaps to some (but not to the wildlife), joyous with colour and filled to the brim with food. I squished many cabbage white caterpillars in return for some lemon verbena tea. If you want to read more about her garden, buy *Just Vegetating*. It is much more than simply a memoir – it also takes in her travels in pursuit of the best vegetables from Europe and Japan.

horticulture ... seeing that all I really wanted, other than being a vet, was to have an outdoors career. We had a great day, and interview apart, the main thing I remember was a couple snogging under the stairs. That looks fun, I thought. A wartime upbringing in a largely female environment meant I was only dimly aware there were two sexes. Well, that gap in my knowledge was filled in the ensuing three years.

I glowed for weeks ... but had nightmares about chemistry exams for years

The Wye years

It was harder to fill the scientific gaps. Botany ... cutting sections. I had absolutely no concept of what was required. Thin enough to see cells? And draw them? The great day came when I thought I had succeeded, neatly drew a stack of cells, and went off to break. I returned to find someone had added a row of cats, sitting on top of my brick wall look-alike cells.

Chemistry, especially biochemistry, was another minefield. I would sit enthralled by Prof Wain's lectures – he was a brilliant lecturer – then realise there wasn't a word of sense in what I had written down. The high point of my academic achievement was asking a question in one of his lectures, and his response included: 'That's an intelligent question.' I glowed for weeks... but had nightmares about chemistry exams for years.

Physics was another form of torture. Those practicals on Saturday mornings where, one by one, experiments completed, people left for the lovely café ... the Wife of Bath –



Joy Larkcom: one of Wye's most famous (and modest!) horticulturalists.

was it? (*No, I guess it was the Wye Hill Café – Ed*)

I was almost always the last, close to tears of frustration! Mechanics was yet another cause for despair. We had what I suppose would now be called a module. I still look at a coffee percolator and marvel, uncomprehendingly, at how it works. Then someone recommended the *Puffin Book of Engines*. Off to a Canterbury bookshop. 'It's in the under-five's section,' I was told. It did the trick. I can still see its clear coloured drawings. I passed and always thought I had a slightly better understanding of two and four stroke engines than my Detroit-reared husband.

In the end, I got a degree and only once did the strain of late night into early morning swotting lead to my throwing a hard-boiled egg at the dining room wall in Withersdane. I think I owe Hannah Lilien a debt for getting me through.

She often made carbon copies of her clear, logical lecture notes for me, and I would find notes on my bedroom room desk offering to unravel something she knew I would find difficult. Several years later, many of her notes were destroyed, at sea I think, and I was able to replace some of them.

It's not every day you get tied to the railway tracks at Wye

I may have struggled with the science, but I emerged with an appreciation of the bedrock of science which underpins horticulture; I developed, above all, a love and unquenchable curiosity about plants, from trees to alpines, with a few vegetables in between, which has been a key element in my life since. Wye, of course, was so much more than a degree course. With its small student body, its relative isolation (only a handful of us had cars or motorbikes to go anywhere else), taking part was the norm. Photography, the nature club, singing in a choir, beagling, hockey, bird-watching trips to the coast, writing for Cardinal, the end of year revues, a production of *Murder in the Cathedral* were just some of the many things I was involved with. And best of all, the black-and-white silent film, *The Great College Pudding Mystery* – my only leading role ever! It's not every day you get tied to the railway tracks at Wye and rescued in the nick of time before the oncoming train by the late Tim Calcutt.

The small numbers led to friendships across the board – from the profs and lecturers to the domestic staff. We were on Christian-name terms years before it became the norm it is today. So many friendships stood the test of

time. Not so long ago I did a rough count and realised I was still in touch with at least 20 people from my student days. That's some testimony to those happy years. Virtually all of us are octogenarians now – so communication is primarily by phone or email. For the record, so far this year (2020) in Australia, I had phone chats with **Sue and Joe Johnston** (1953–57) (pavements melting in Canberra), **David Bennett** (1953–56), **Roy Kellaway** (1954–58) and **Keith and Diana Jones** (1952–57) – all flourishing; back in the UK with **Elaine Warrell** (1954–57) (moving to Wales), **Margaret Hewitt** (1955–58) (already in Wales) **Meisje Annear** (1953–56), **Denie Shirley Smith** (1954–57), **Jane Sutton** (1954–57), **Peter Siggers** (1954–57), **Sally and Mike Festing**; (1955–60) and, over in Canada, **Chris and Maggie Mills** (1953–56). We had all overlapped at Wye, at some point between 1954 and 1957.

You were always one of the ones we hoped would get married quickly

I don't think I realised at the time how much the staff cared for us students. I'm currently working on my archive (destined for the Garden Museum in London) and am finding so much correspondence from the 'Prin' (Dunstan Skilbeck), 'Jacko' (Alan Jackson) and 'Schim' (Freda Schimmer), advising me about getting travel grants, putting in pleas on my behalf, encouraging me and helping me in so many ways. I last saw Schim the week she was preparing for her 99th or 100th birthday party in her house. Space was at a premium. Did I think the 60-year olds could sit on each other's knees? I probably suggested it depended on

how many had had knee replacements!

On a trip back to Wye a few years after leaving, I was chatting to 'Wilkie', fondly remembered lecturer in fruit, and he volunteered 'You were always one of the ones we hoped would get married quickly' (presumably because our horticultural prospects were so poor!). Well, I'm afraid it was 10 years before I met my renegade American soulmate at a Valentine's Day party in Chelsea ... and got back into horticulture.

The interim years

In the intervening ten years, I did all sorts of things. First, I taught the children of American Presbyterian missionaries in Chiangmai, North Thailand (where my father was the British Consul) and wrote plays for them. Then I emigrated to Canada and worked in the Science and Medical Division of Toronto University Library, dabbling in radio as a side-line. I returned to the UK to qualify as a librarian but instead took a part time job on *Discovery* magazine, which led to a full-time job, and eventually editing an industrial magazine, *Personnel Management and Methods*. Next move was to a careers column on *The Observer* which was when I met Don, got married, and moved to Haddenham, in the Fens, near Ely.

The only money I made from horticulture in that decade was writing a report for the World Bank on 'The present and possible future of the horticultural industry in North Thailand'. That started badly. I was intending to go north to investigate orange growing, and, knowing a little Thai, asked at the station if the train on the platform was my train. They said it was. But I didn't realise two trains were back to back and I got into the wrong half. And there was only one train a day. By one of those strange coincidences, the man in the seat opposite had asked my father's advice on apple growing and

I had sent him material. He returned the favour by persuading the train driver to make an unscheduled stop and by way of rural cycle carts and rice trucks, I eventually worked my way back to my point of departure, and a little wiser, set out again the next day. I wonder what happened to the report.

On our return, we pioneered the use of cut-and-come-again techniques (aka baby leaves)

The vegetable years

Don and I rented an allotment when we got married and later bought a small property in Suffolk and so started growing in earnest. After the long gap it was stimulating to rethink all one had been taught, about spacing, and the unquestioning use of chemicals, for starters. I began a weekly gardening column on *Garden News* and was later commissioned to write a book on vegetables for small gardens for Faber and Faber. That led to curiosity about old-fashioned, intensive techniques on the continent, forgotten European plants, and the need to conserve old heritage varieties. The upshot was the life-changing year we spent travelling in Western Europe – August 1976 to August 1977 – in a camper van towing a caravan, with our two young children, aged seven and five when we set out.

And it's been vegetables ever since. On the trip we had collected seed of over a hundred heirloom varieties which were sent to the Wellesbourne Seed bank. On our return, we pioneered the use of cut-and-come-again techniques (aka baby leaves), and introduced



Joy demonstrates seed-sowing to students in Skibbereen, Ireland.

forgotten salad plants and the concept of mixed salad packs.

Several books on salad-growing ensued. While Don continued to work as a part-time teacher, we ran a small experimental market garden. Research into oriental vegetables followed, learning a bit of Chinese and travelling in China, Japan, and later the USA and Canada before writing *Oriental Vegetables*.

So, thank you, Wye, for taking me on. And against the odds, I did make use of that horticultural degree

Another passion was the concept of 'potagers', making kitchen gardens as beautiful as any traditional garden. *Creative Vegetable Gardening* was the outcome in this case. And the last book, *Just Vegetating* was a blend of

old articles and autobiography, written from 'retirement' in the West of Ireland.

It has all been rewarding and great fun. One way and another, vegetables took Don and me to all corners of the globe, all sorts of events and enterprises, and to a wonderful range of experiences we would never have had otherwise. (Sadly, Don died in 2017.) So, thank you, Wye back then, for taking me on. And against the odds, I did, in the end, make use of that horticultural degree.

Joy's memoir, Just Vegetating, was published by Frances Lincoln in 2012.

The living Thames – no longer that 'dirty old river' parodied by the Kinks in the '70s

Chris Baines (1965-68) has not only compiled an award-winning film about the newly cleaned-up river, he has also received a top 'on screen talent' award. So, as he says, maybe those happy hours MC-ing the Wye Folk concerts was time well spent after all.

Ray Davies has a lot to answer for! The Thames estuary is world famous – but much misunderstood. We see it on TV most evenings as the setting for Parliament; we sang about 'old father Thames' in school, and it has inspired artists and writers for centuries; yet it is probably the Kinks' *Waterloo Sunset* that has set the tone for its public image.

By the 1950s it was officially biologically dead ...

In fact, though, the Thames is not a 'dirty old river' – far from it. This is now the cleanest urban estuary in Europe. True, by the 1950s it was officially biologically dead. A century before that, the 'great stink from the Thames' drove Parliament to consider leaving Westminster and prompted the development of Joseph Bazalgette's pioneering sewage disposal system. Now, there are more than 120 different species of fish in the estuary, including super-sensitive salmon and smelt. Cormorants and harbour porpoises hunt beside the House of Commons, but still the overwhelming public image is of a murky, brown and lifeless tidal waterway.

In 2017, the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) determined to try and change that image through the making of a film, and I was asked

to present *The Living Thames*. The Partnership was established 20 years ago as an independent charity, supported initially by the Environment Agency and English Nature (now Natural England) and hosted by University College London. I have been TEP's Honorary President almost from the beginning. The aim of those early sponsors was for TEP to act as an honest broker of creative partnerships between the estuary's many stakeholders.

... the 'great stink' drove Parliament to consider leaving Westminster

The value of the idea was recognised immediately by large and small organisations alike, from the Port of London Authority (PLA) and industrial users such as the marine dredging companies, shipping lines and water companies at one extreme, to local angling societies, bird watchers and rowing clubs at the other. The spectacular recovery of the tidal Thames has been achieved through the investment of time, knowledge and money by a great many different players, and the film aims to illustrate that complexity of contributions whilst bringing the truth



The pumping station at Crossness was opened in 1865.



Aerial view of the River Thames.

about the modern 'living Thames' to many more people.

We were extremely lucky from the start. A very skilled and enthusiastic independent film producer, Dorothy Leiper, was passionate about the importance of the film, and we were also blessed by Sir David Attenborough's willingness to introduce it. Sir David lives in Richmond and believes fervently in the Thames as London's natural lifeblood.

The film aims to illustrate that complexity of contributions whilst bringing the truth about the modern 'living Thames' to many more people

The structure of the film is simple. I take a journey from Teddington Weir, at the very top of the tidal Thames, all the way down to the salt marsh and mud flats of Essex and Kent and the cockle beds of Maplin Sands. On that journey I meet many different stakeholders. There are pollution experts from the Environment Agency, commercial river traffic planners from the PLA, ecologists from the Zoological Society of London and the Institute of Fisheries Management. There are major commercial investors from the water, transport, fishing and development industries. There are also historians and archaeologists, and professionals from major conservation charities, such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildlife Trusts.

To complement the work of all those professionals, there is a whole variety of

passionate volunteers who devote their time and energy to particular aspects of the Thames. Some take a general interest, through foreshore litter picking or citizen science campaigns to monitoring fish fry or migratory birds. Others take on much more specific tasks, and two groups that really inspire are the enthusiasts who have lovingly restored one of London's most historic wooden fire ships, moored in St Katherine's Dock, and the bowler-hatted Victorian look-alikes who paint and polish the amazing steam pumps in the Bazalgette-inspired 'cathedral of iron' at Crossness, beside the Erith marshes.

The film runs for an hour and builds a sense of great achievement by a host of very contrasting contributors. It took two years to complete, was financed entirely by donations from TEP supporters and benefitted from the generosity of all the many individuals that I met along the way. TEP entered *The Living Thames* for the 2019 UK Charity Film Awards and – to our amazement and delight – it won! Pitched against 150 other charity films, featuring everything from abandoned pets to sick children, this was quite an achievement for a film about a 'dirty old river'. The film has also won major awards in film festivals worldwide, including top prizes in Madrid, at the UK Latitude festival, in Milan and in the particularly prestigious Independent Film Awards.

TEP is keen to see the film used as widely as possible. It is available to view at the click of a mouse anywhere in the world. For a 2 minute trailer see: <https://vimeo.com/298270735> and for more details of the film and the TEP go to: <https://thamesestuarypartnership.org>.

See *overleaf* for a photograph of Chris Baines and the Wye College Folk Club in 1967.



Wye College Folk Club 1967. In the photo, I am the one on the right. The taller one on the left is John Beath (1966–68), then an agric post-grad and now Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of St Andrews. The rest of the club line-up included Prof Bill Holmes' two young daughters Paddy and Margery (I took Paddy to her first ball!), John Meadley (1965–68) and Peter (Sedge) Wright, the fiddle player and by far the best musician. I did go on to tour with the Albion Band 20 years later, recorded an album with them and wrote a number of the songs for my 'Wild Side of Town' show, but rose no higher than spoon player in the instrumental rankings. However, that skill has gained me a good few beers in ski resorts and elsewhere over the decades, and so much more portable than a piano.

The history of Withersdane Hall

Lucy Huntington (1961–64) joins in the comings and goings of a house with a fascinating and complex history. The following details of the history of Withersdane were put together for an exhibition in Wye Heritage Centre in 2019. Local resident Anne Findlay, who was born in Withersdane, provided much of the original material.

The following quotations from books on Wye and Kent give details of Withersdane before the current house was built in the 1840s.

The South part of the parish below the town is full of small enclosures and the soil deeper. In it is a hamlet, called Withersden, formerly accounted a manor, in which there is a well, St. Eustace's well. **Hasted, 1798**

Withersdane was a hamlet. Most of the ancient tenements are either fallen to decay, or been taken down. The oldest, belonging to Mr Matthews, has the date of 1631. Most of the Withersdane property now belongs to Fuller, Esq of London who has recently built a mansion on the most favourable site; at which his nephew Captain Davies resides. **Morris, 1842**

Withersdane (or den) comprised a collection of loosely grouped farmsteads to the south-east of Wye Town. Its name comes from the Old English 'wider' meaning stream against or at right angles to a river and 'tun' meaning farm, and is first recorded in 1312 as 'Witherestun'. With names deriving from families who farmed them such as Germans, Raymonds, Illendens, Bakers and Agmonds, these farmsteads were surrounded by small paddocks, orchards, meadows and arable fields. The site of what was to become Withersdane was a field called 'Ottaways'. Between 1833 and 1840 Bakers and Agmonds farms were pulled down, possibly a consequence of the sale of the land from Dr E. Scudamore to William Fuller. **Bannister, 1997**



A painting of the original Withersdane Hall by Miss Beard.

1830s–1870s: the Davies family

In the 1830s, William Fuller bought several fields in the hamlet of Withersdane and then demolished the existing buildings and built a house at the top of the field known as Ottaways. The house was called Withersdane Hall and Fuller leased it to his nephew Captain Arthur Davies and his large family.

Subsequently, in 1840, Captain Davies, his wife Catherine and their nine children moved in together with a governess, a tutor and six servants. A few years later, the 1851 census lists Captain Davies and his wife plus only five of his children still at home with four servants; then, the 1861 census lists Arthur and Catherine Davies, plus their son Arthur Davies junior, his wife Eliza and their two children, all living at Withersdane together with Arthur Junior's brother and two of his sisters. In 1862, Arthur Junior dies, followed by his mother Catherine in 1863 and his father Captain Davies in 1867.

1870–1912: John Sawbridge Erle-Drax

Following the death of Captain Davies, the Withersdane estate was put on the market and was bought by John Sawbridge Erle-Drax, who lived at Olantigh and who already owned most of the land around Wye. There is no record of what happened after 1867, but in 1881 he leased the estate to William Ayliffe, a market gardener, and then two years later to Frederick Beard, a land agent who had two sons and eight daughters. Little is known about these two tenants except for the dates of the tenancies. Then, by 1898, the records show that the house was occupied by Dean and Mrs Crake who proceeded to build a billiard room onto the side of the house. They brought with them John Pennell as their gardener and his wife Caroline as cook. Mr and Mrs Holland also worked for the Crakes and lived in Withersdane Hall

Cottages where George Holland was born in 1890.

Despite the billiard room, the Crakes moved to London in 1901 and the house was left empty until in 1903. Olantigh was destroyed by fire and Wanley (son of John) Sawbridge Erle-Drax and his family moved into Withersdane whilst Olantigh was rebuilt. The Erle-Drax family moved back to Olantigh in 1910 and again Withersdane was left empty.

Despite the billiard room, the Crakes moved to London in 1901 and the house was left empty

1912–1940: the Barnard years

In 1912, according to George Holland, his father, who still lived in the cottages at Withersdane, was informed by Erle-Drax that Mr and Mrs Barnard had leased Withersdane; Subsequently, Andrew Bigoe Barnard, his wife Florence and their three children, Rosamond, Andrew (known as Chippie) and Joanna, plus Miss Biddlecombe their governess, moved into the house. During the First World War, the Barnards remained in Withersdane with Florence Barnard running the Wye Hospital Supply Depot in Wye College. There is a list of the servants in 1926 which include Norah Brice, Mrs King as housekeeper/cook, Daisy Newport as parlour maid, plus Annie Rogers as housemaid, and Edith and Queenie as kitchen maids – a total of seven indoors, along with a chauffeur, grooms and gardeners outdoors.

Later Daisy married Mr Figg the chauffeur and they lived in one of the cottages; they were still living there in the 1960s.



Photograph of Withersdane Hall showing Dean Crake's new billiard room.

In 1928 Andrew Bigoe Barnard died and two years later Florence's father, James Worrall, also passed away. He left her his house which she sold and used the money to buy Withersdane Hall from Jack Erle-Drax. She then demolished the Drake's billiard room and replaced it with a picture room (the dining-room in the college years) and a loggia. She also added an Entrance Porch to the front of the house which was demolished as part of the restructuring in 1947.

In 1934 Andrew (Chippie) Barnard married May Wagemans from Belgium and then was posted to the Sudan leaving May with his mother at Withersdane where, in October, their daughter Anne (now Anne Findlay) was born. On Chippie's return they all moved to London, but in 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, Anne and her younger sister Bridget, together with other evacuees from London, were sent to live with their

grandmother at Withersdane whilst Andrew and May Barnard remained living in London.

Tragically, in 1940, Andrew Barnard was killed in a car accident returning to London after visiting Withersdane. Then, in October 1940, Withersdane was requisitioned by the Army and became the Divisional Headquarters of the operation to repel invaders for most of mid-Kent. The general and staff were housed in Withersdane and bomb-proof underground shelters were built under the trees at the north-west corner of the garden grounds whilst a range of pigeon lofts were built on the side of the house to house carrier pigeons.

1945–2000: Wye College

After the war, in September 1945, Florence Barnard sold Withersdane for £10,000 to Wye College which needed the building to provide accommodation for the girls of Swanley College who were joining the men of Wye



Swanley girls outside the dining room in 1947 before the new buildings were added and before Mary Page replanned the garden – a rose hedge, part of the Barnards' garden, can be seen on the left.

College. Between 1946 and 1948, the female students were housed in Withersdane Hall and in newly erected outbuildings – later the bicycle sheds!

Between 1947 and 1949 plans were drawn up by Richard Sheppard for a hall of residence. The accommodation was to be built in three stages:

- 1 a three-storey block of study bedrooms plus a flat for the Warden/Vice Principal on the ground floor, which was completed in 1948;
- 2 more bedrooms, foyer, heating and cloakrooms, which were completed in 1949; and
- 3 a general purpose assembly room (Swanley Hall), plus kitchens and extra bedrooms, which were completed for the opening in June 1951.

The new hall of residence was intended for women only, but there were not enough to fill all the rooms, so the original three-storey block was used to house male students, with locked doors between the men and the women – at least that's how it was in the 1960s!

Female students were housed in Withersdane Hall and in newly erected outbuildings – later the bicycle sheds!

During the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, whilst most of the students lived there or in college, Withersdane became the hub for our social life, with frequent dances, film nights, concerts and



Architect's model for the new hall of residence.

dramatic performances. In the vacations, it was used by college staff and their families with, the highlight of the year, the children's Christmas party when, amongst other delights, a slide was created by laying hardboard sheets over the whole of the staircase with no consideration for health and safety!

Then in 1973 an appeal was launched to build a Centre for European Agricultural Studies on the side of the building at Withersdane; the appeal was a success and the centre was opened in 1975.

Below: the later addition of the Centre for European Agricultural Studies – opened in 1975.





Withersdane Hall from the side lawn.

In the 1980s, as the student numbers increased, particularly the number of postgraduates, three additional halls of residence were built in the grounds of Withersdane. These were: in 1986, Lloyds Bank Hall; in 1992, Dunstan Skilbeck Hall; and in 1993, Bernard Sunley Hall – this included larger units for the postgraduates.

Withersdane became the hub for our social life, with frequent dances, film nights, concerts and dramatic performances

In 2000, Wye College merged with Imperial College and student numbers drastically declined to the extent that Withersdane

gradually emptied. For the next few years some of the accommodation was used by police cadets, but when, in 2009, Imperial College closed Wye College, Withersdane was left empty.

In 2014, an operation called Promis leased the buildings and set up an addiction rehabilitation clinic using most of the three newer halls. Promis refurbished the original house – removing asbestos, renovating all the rooms and making some of the smaller rooms into bathrooms so that all the bedrooms were en suite. Sadly, Promis's tenure did not last and the organisation left in the summer of 2018. Imperial started looking for new tenants but then decided to put the buildings up for sale in 2019; in August they were purchased by a private Italian University.

So, degree students will be back to study in Wye and the history continues ... Watch this space!



Withersdane Hall: situated in its spacious grounds.

Breaking news! Age-old crime at Kent University solved after 55 years

Peter Cooper (1964–67) finally reveals the shameful truth behind one of the great unsolved mysteries of yesteryear.

A bit of background to the crime.

In October of 1965, during my second year at Wye, a local newspaper headlined the shocking news that a gang of 'Canterbury Thugs' had invaded the campus of the new Kent University on 11 October, the night the first 500 students registered, and had rampaged around the campus all night long, letting off literally hundreds of 'penny bangers'. The police had been called in, but, despite prolonged efforts and aided by university staff, they had failed to apprehend a single one of the young criminals involved. Nor indeed had the 'thugs' been deterred by

the police presence but had continued letting off bangers throughout the night! What a curious crime it was, and, to this day, it remains a 'cold case' and one of the Canterbury police's great unsolved mysteries.

However, I understand that the 'Statute of Limitations' has passed, and, even if it hasn't, two of the 'criminals' involved have fled to Australia, and I am assured that it is unlikely that extradition procedures will be enforced. In addition, I am safely hidden away in deepest rural Dorset. Perhaps now is the time to reveal the shameful truth of the matter, but before doing so, I need to back up a bit.



Ariel view of the Kent University campus as it is today.



Internal view of Eliot College.

The Great Wye College debate: a missed opportunity.

The opening of this new university, just outside Canterbury, was really quite a big event as far as Wye was concerned. Of course, we had known it was coming for some time and were looking forward to welcoming the first batch of students. The Debating Society had even previously considered a motion something like: 'The Students of Wye College recommend to the Board of Governors that Wye should become a college of Kent University instead of London University.' However, the then principal Dunstan Skilbeck had waded in strongly against the motion which was, ultimately, roundly defeated, along the lines of better the devil you know, etc.

Incidentally, it is rather poignant to reflect that had the Board of Governors in fact been persuaded to pursue the very real opportunity

of Wye becoming an agricultural college of Kent University, instead of remaining with London, the college as we knew it then might well still be flourishing today. Ah well! *Ne lactis effusi causa flerem*, as we Latin scholars are prone to say!

The shameful truth: what actually happened on that night?

As I have said, Wye was keenly awaiting the opening of Kent and to welcoming the first batch of students as our 'new neighbours'. Indeed, fellow second-yearers **John Luckock**, **Jon Llewellyn-Jones** and myself felt that the night of 11 October and the arrival of the first 500 students should be a night that was fully celebrated and hopefully never forgotten. And so we developed a cunning plan, largely based on the assumption that given it was the first night for everyone, it was bound to be just a tad chaotic.

We planned to attend the registration, posing as postgraduate students since we were likely to be several years older than most of the new students, and then attend the inaugural dinner.

But not just that ...

We also planned to take along with us 20 or so ropes of 'crow-scarers' of which a plentiful supply existed at my father's fruit farm in Benenden, used each spring to keep bullfinches out of the orchards at fruit-bud time. These crow-scarers consisted of a length of rope impregnated with something that ensured that, once lit at the bottom end, it would gently smoulder all the way up to the top over a period of about eight hours. Inserted into the rope at regular intervals were several explosive bangers which would go off with a thunderous roar when the smouldering rope reached them, thus ensuring an eight-hour period of intermittent and very loud bangs! We felt that 20 of these ropes strategically hidden around the university campus would provide a memorable first night for the new students. A kind of celebratory fireworks display!

And so it was that, come the night of 11 October, the three of us plus our crow-scarers set off to Canterbury; Luckock and I in my 'Twin Cams' MGA and Llewellyn-Jones in his Mini Cooper.

It couldn't have gone more smoothly. As expected, we were easily able to pose as postgraduate students without anyone questioning who we were and then sit down to the inaugural dinner with the rest of the students. And a good dinner it was too with some rousing welcoming speeches all round! After dinner, we went along to the students' bar and settled down with a pint and continued our mingling with the new students who seemed to be a very happy and

enthusiastic lot. As time passed, the crowds gradually thinned as folk retired to bed and we felt that the time had also come to retire to our cars and pick up the crow-scarers.

We had about 20 minutes from the time the first rope was hidden and lit before the first banger went off, so we didn't waste any time as we hung the ropes all around the grounds, putting most as near to the buildings as we felt it was safe to do. Having completed our mission, we then drove quietly away up the main driveway and parked down a small side turning which gave us an excellent but unobtrusive view of the now darkened campus. After a few minutes the first bang went off and nothing happened! Nothing stirred! However, shortly after that the bangs started going off all over the place and continued to do so. Lights started coming on and, after about 10 minutes of thunderous bangs, the whole campus was a blaze of lights and several figures emerged with torches and started searching the grounds. And the bangs continued with splendid regularity. Just as planned – how happy we were!

But suddenly we heard sirens wailing and two police cars roared down the main driveway with blue lights flashing. Ooops! – that was *not* quite as planned so we felt that discretion was the better part of valour and drove quietly back to the safety of our digs in Wye.

The aftermath

Shortly after that a local paper, either the *Kent Messenger* or the *Kent and Sussex Courier*, ran that shocking headline! I had a copy of the article for many years, but sadly it is long gone and in spite of attempts to find it in newspaper archives, it remains lost. It was my father who, with a raised eyebrow, first drew it to my attention with words along the lines of 'Look at that Peter, the things people get up to – eh?' I had, of course, asked him if I could 'borrow'



External view of Eliot College.

some crow-scarers beforehand and he hadn't questioned why, but I suspected that he now knew!

From the article it turned out that both university staff and police had been convinced that it was indeed a gang of Canterbury thugs, armed with penny bangers, running around the grounds. So, every time a bang went off they rushed over in that direction looking for a Canterbury thug! They never did realise that it was hanging ropes of crow-scarers they needed to be looking for, and so the bangs continued uninterrupted all night long which exceeded our wildest expectations by a country mile!

Luckily, the three of us had kept our plans pretty much to ourselves beforehand, and, given that the police had become involved, we decided to keep it that way. One just never knew who might say what to whom, but there was no doubt that it had been a gloriously

successful evening and the temptation to brag about it had to be strongly resisted!

Until now!

Postscript: apologies are due. I don't imagine that any of the police officers who attended the university on that night are still on active duty, but my apologies to them all for wasting their valuable time! I hope that the fact that the crime was unresolved at the time hasn't weighed too heavily on their minds for the last half century! But they can rest easy now.

A tilt at windmills in Kent

Arguably the most universal of all rural buildings found in England, and directly connected with agricultural production, are our traditional tithe barns. In Kent possibly some of the most recognisable agricultural buildings are our oast houses. There is, however, another category which, whilst not unique to Kent, is still well represented, and this is the county's unique set of windmills.

Michael D Payne (1978-81) has compiled this fascinating pictorial account.

Watermills had been in existence long before mills powered by wind. Indeed, archaeological evidence of the Roman watermill at Wye found only last year shows that the idea of using the elements to power industrial scale flour production in Kent is not new. Indeed, by the time of the Domesday Book, over 300 watermills were surveyed throughout England and a later example still exists by the Stour at Wye.

On the other hand, windmills in Kent are able to trace their origins back to between the years

1200 and 1227 in Canterbury. There, the first '*molendinum ad ventum*' was granted to the Hospital of Eastbridge by the prioress and nuns of the Church of St Sepulchre. More recently, the smock mill of St Lawrence stood on, or very near, this very same site until the end of the nineteenth century. There is still a windmill standing in Canterbury at St Martin's.

The earliest form of windmill was the post-mill, where the whole body of the mill, with its sails or sweeps, as they are known in Kent, swivels on a central, usually massive, post. A



Wye Mill



Wye Watermill

second type of mill has a round tower constructed in stone or brick, and the sweeps are attached to a cap that revolves to face the wind. Later wooden windmills have their main body, usually octagonal in form, also constructed in a fixed position. These, when clad in weatherboard from top to toe, resemble the smocks of the millers themselves, especially when painted white. Hence, such windmills are known as smock mills and, like tower mills, also have revolving caps and sweeps.

It is therefore little surprise that a windmill was thus eventually constructed at Wye. It was a white octagonal smock and stage mill, typical of many of the mills found in Kent and often associated with those of the Canterbury firm of millwrights, Holman Brothers (1816–1968). Built on a brick base, Wye mill worked two pairs of stones and had four spring sweeps. The miller for the years around 1878 was George Harris. Unfortunately, this windmill was pulled

down in about 1920, though the base was still in existence in 1933, having been converted to a store. Nothing now remains at the site of Wye windmill, which was to the rear of the new village hall. Sir Charles Iglesden wrote of the mills at Wye: 'the windmill, standing sentinel-like just off the street, and the white watermill overlooking the Stour, as it winds along the fields, splashes over the sluices, sparkles in countless eddies under the bridge and hides itself from view while streaming along the valley past Olanteigh, towards Chilham'.

A total of some 450 windmills have been recorded as having been in existence over the centuries in Kent. Today, only 30 windmills remain in working or near complete form and many of these have been converted to private residences. Amongst those still in working condition is the black smock mill at Stelling Minnis. Indeed, this was Kent's last working mill, remaining in production right up until

1970. Today, it is one of eight windmills in the ownership of Kent County Council (KCC). Not only does it have its own volunteer group and tearoom but also its original Ruston Hornsby lamp oil engine of 1923, installed to power the mill on windless days.

Another mill worth visiting, also within the ownership of KCC, is Draper's Mill at Margate. It too is complete with an engine, being the 1920 Crossley gas engine originally from the Mason Pearson hairbrush factory at Bow, though installed at Margate much later. Once again, the windmill and engine are cared for by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers.

Both Drapers Mill and nearby Herne Mill were constructed by the aforementioned Holman Brothers. On 25 October 2019 a plaque was unveiled in Holman's Meadow, Canterbury, to mark the site of this famous firm of millwrights; at least one member

of Wye Heritage was in attendance whilst another representative was at the biennial meeting of the Kent Mills Group held on the same day! Sometime after construction, Herne Mill was raised by lifting the whole structure two stories to rest above a brick base. This would have been an impressive feat of engineering but gave the windmill better access to the one element crucial to its operation, namely wind!

It is usually assumed that the sole purpose of traditional windmills was to grind corn. The last traditional mill to be constructed in Kent,



Wye Windmill

however, was actually a precursor of the twenty-first century. Constructed in June 1929 at St Margaret's Bay near Dover, it was built for electricity generation. A traditional smock mill with a brick base, it had a dynamo which was later removed during the Second World War and the mill has since been converted into a private house. Another interesting survivor is the brick tower of the Copton water pumping windmill. This is the sole survivor of this purpose in Kent and is still in the ownership of a water company, namely South East Water.

Ashford Borough Council is another local authority that owns windmills with those at Woodchurch and Willesborough in its care. The latter windmill also proves to be a popular wedding venue. Others in the ownership of KCC are two post mills at Chillenden and Wittersham and three further smock mills at West Kingsdown, Meopham and Cranbrook. Indeed, Union Mill at Cranbrook is perhaps Kent's best-known windmill; rising majestically above this Wealden market town from whichever angle it is viewed. Meopham, by contrast nestling by the village green, is the last remaining example of only three six-sided smock mills in Kent. Again, both have volunteer groups and are worth visiting when open.

There have been both notable successes as well as unfortunate losses in recent years. For instance, Barham windmill was acquired like others by KCC as one of the best examples of its kind and as owner of last resort. Unfortunately, during restoration in 1970, it was accidentally burnt to the ground!

Conversely, Sandhurst mill has risen again having been restored as a private dwelling, replete with *five* sweeps to replicate the original and only ever such windmill in the county. Another mill in private ownership currently undergoing restoration to near original condition is the Black Mill at Whitstable.

The English idiom 'tilting at windmills' meant attacking imaginary enemies and originated in the novel *Don Quixote* by Cervantes. The closest one might literally get to attack a rotating object in a military sense these days in Kent is the quintain on the village green at Offham. This is in itself an unusual survivor from a bygone age, namely jousting. I suspect that as old as it might be, though, the quintain itself is probably like Trigger's broom in terms of the number of replacement parts it may have had over the years! Certainly, the same is true in order to keep our remaining windmills in a state of preservation for the education and enjoyment of generations to follow.



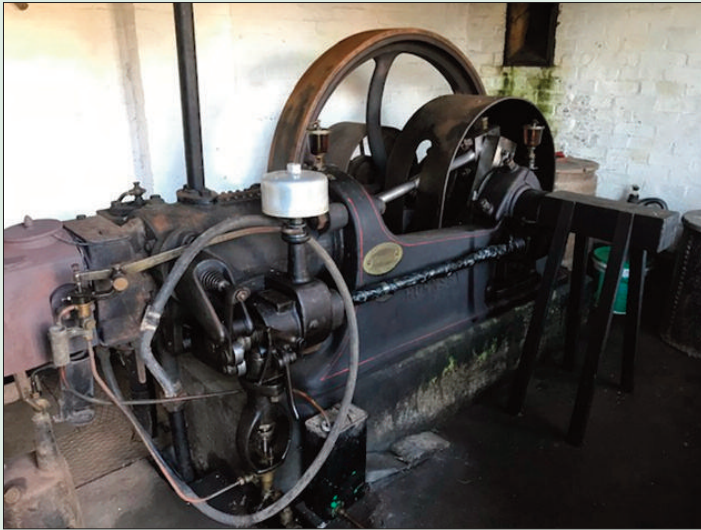
Chislet Windmill and its millstones, now in use as a garden path



Copton Pumping Windmill



Drapers Mill, Margate, and its Crossley engine



*Stelling Minnis
Windmill and its
Hornsby engine*



Wittersham Windmill



Stanford Windmill



Whitstable Windmill



Chillenden Windmill

Herne Windmill



This is a green informational poster for Holman's Meadow. On the left, there is a map of Canterbury showing the locations of several windmills: Waterville, Margate, Ramillie, Dover, and others. The main text on the right provides historical context, mentioning the Holman family's ownership of the land and the construction of the windmills. It includes two photographs: one of an 'OFFICE' sign above a door and another of a windmill in a landscape. At the bottom right, there is a small circular logo with a windmill and the text 'THIS MOUND WAS DONATED BY THE LOTUS NORTH GROUP IN THE 1970s AS A GIFT TO CANTEBRARY MUSEUMS'.

Holman's Meadow in Canterbury, site of the Holman Brothers millwrights firm

Our biosphere: we are messing it up – here's how (along with some ways we might soften the blow)

This briefing paper was first presented by one Philip de Jonge to a Haslemere U3A discussion group. Malcolm Alexander (1963–67) was there and thought it might make a good piece for our Journal. *I heartily agreed!* – Ed

'Oddly enough the overriding sensation I got looking at the Earth was, my God that little thing is so fragile out there.' – Mike Collins, Apollo 11

The biosphere comprises all the living organisms of planet Earth and is dependent for its existence upon the constitution and behaviour of the atmosphere, hydrosphere and geosphere that are the inorganic components of the planet.

There is now a plethora of indicators that our biosphere is in trouble, and thus we too are in trouble. The purpose of this paper is to briefly examine the nature of the emergency that is unfolding and then examine the range of things we might do to avert this existential threat.

The nature of the beast (the scary bit)

Humans claim a certain primacy among living organisms, with some justification. They are the first species to leave the planet and have created and employed technologies so powerful that they affect Earth-system physical processes – we now live in the *Anthropocene* geological period.

Atmosphere

Although Earth's atmosphere technically extends 480km above the planetary surface, most of it is just 16km thick. Heat derived from solar radiation is then redistributed around the planet by the atmosphere (and the hydrosphere, as ocean currents), the consequence being climate and thus weather.

Heat is effectively delayed from leaking back into space by the presence of greenhouse gasses, of which CO₂ is the best known, but they also include methane and water vapour.

For the past million years, atmospheric CO₂ levels have been between 172 and 300 parts per million (ppm), but these started to climb with the arrival of human agriculture and since the industrial revolution have risen sharply, to 411ppm in July 2019 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data). The principal contributor to this nett increase is the burning of fossil fuels for energy, exacerbated by the destruction of carbon sinks such as forests.

Average Earth temperature has now risen; World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) data shows that average global temperatures in July 2019 were about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. However, this is not evenly distributed, and in many regions warming has already surpassed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. More than one-fifth of all humans live in regions that have already seen warming greater than 1.5°C in at least one season (NASA data).

Hydrosphere

Water has a high heat capacity which makes it an excellent heat reservoir. Water bodies

absorb heat directly from the Sun, but also from interfacing with the atmosphere (warm air melts ice at night). When warm enough, water evaporates, providing rainfall but also reinforcing the greenhouse effect.

Ocean currents redistribute heat, their movement dictated by the positioning of the continents and differentials between water masses in regard to temperature and salinity, and thus density – cold, salty water sinks below warmer fresher water. Hence, climate warming will impact rainfall and, as ice melts and oceans heat, ultimately, ocean currents. Unusually, warm air temperatures last summer have caused record melt across Greenland. Approximately 90% of the surface of Greenland's ice sheet melted at some point between 30 July and 2 August, during which time an estimated 55 billion tons of ice melted into the ocean, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center (nsidc.org).

Melting ice caps and glaciers (on 16 August Iceland held a funeral for the Okjökull glacier, destroyed by climate change) are raising sea levels and affecting regional ocean salinity. This also decreases the reflectivity of the planet, enhancing absorption of solar radiation, thus amplifying warming.

The detritus of human activity now to be found in the hydrosphere includes plastic (an estimated 150 million tons currently, entering at a rate of 8 million tons per year, according to the environmental advocacy group Ocean Conservancy), while 300–400 million tons of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other wastes from industrial facilities are dumped annually into the world's waters. Fertilisers entering coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 ocean 'dead zones', totalling more than 245,000km² – a combined area greater than that of the UK (UN Global Assessment 2019).

Geosphere

This is our planet, a pebble in the cosmos upon the surface of which the other systems reside. Apart from the extreme surface, this remains largely unaffected. We have dug some holes to extract minerals, and engineering projects have altered sedimentation patterns. We are having profound effects on the eroded rock/organic residue melange that is soil – it is estimated that 24 billion tonnes of fertile soil are lost to erosion each year (Global Agriculture data). This is principally down to land management practices.

Biosphere

We are living in the midst of the sixth great extinction, with extinction rates estimated at up to 1000 times the background rate (Pimm, *Science* 2014). This is principally driven by a combination of factors of human origin – climate change, introduction of exotic species, pollution and habitat destruction. The forces that underpin these drivers are to be found in human population growth and over-consumption.

This matters because the rate of change in our biosphere is increasing, and every species' extinction potentially leads to the extinction of others bound to that species in a complex ecological web. So, numbers of extinctions are likely to snowball in the coming decades as ecosystems unravel. Already 40% of all insects are declining and a third are endangered (Natural History Museum), while vertebrate populations have declined 60% on average since 1970 (Worldwide Fund for Nature).

Plant extinction is also underway with 571 species of seed-bearing plants having become extinct since the start of the industrial revolution (Kew and Stockholm University study, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, June 2019); this is twice the number of birds, mammals and amphibians that have gone

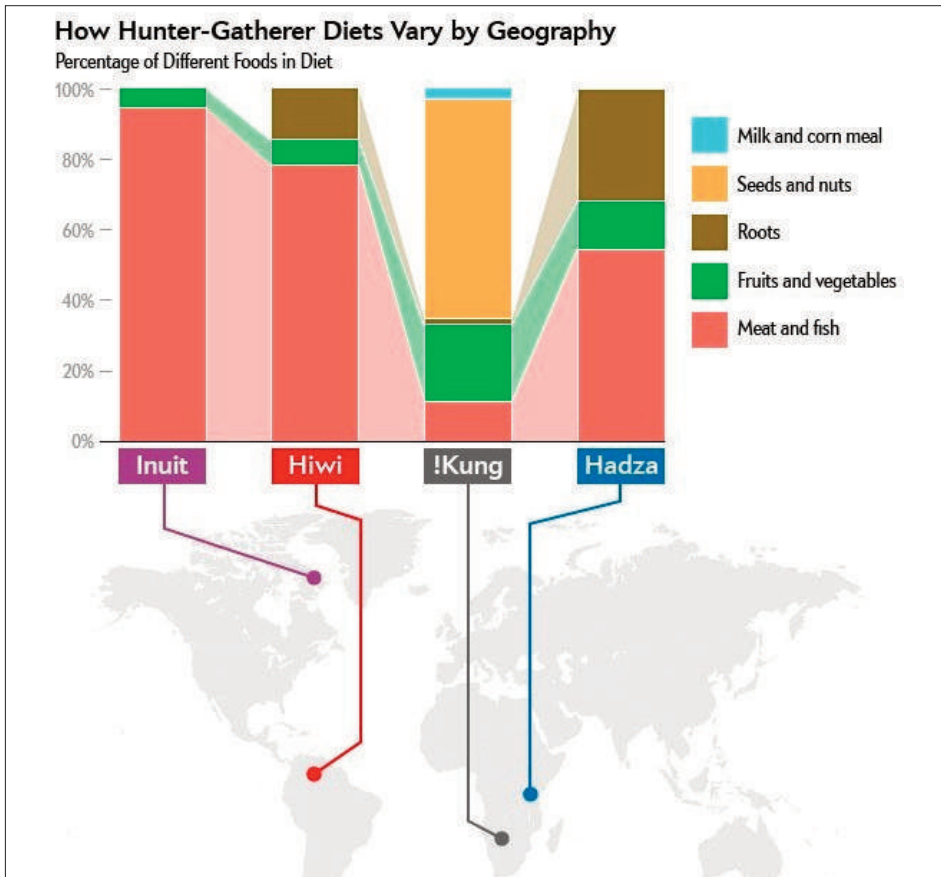
extinct in the same period. This year's UN Global Assessment report estimates that 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, 'many within decades'.

Fending off the beast (the options open to us)

We forget, or ignore at our peril, that we are part of the biosphere and depend upon it for our own survival. We do not need to save the Earth, but we do need to save ourselves, which means looking after the biosphere and that

means looking after the whole planetary system. We can still do this if we have the will and imagination.

The 'beast' is undoubtedly of our making, which means that to unmake it we cannot take a 'business as usual' approach. This implies some radical behavioural changes that will need to apply across individuals, politics and the global economy. So, here are some options for changes to what we do and adaptations to what cannot now be avoided that warrant a degree of examination.



1 Change what we eat: how far should we take this?

Provided we ingest appropriate amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates etc, it matters little what we eat. Vertebrate animal protein was certainly essential to hunter-gatherers, but now our species is agronomist, which provides many more options for dietary flexibility. Production of vertebrate protein is inherently inefficient and the agri-business that now delivers it has a high carbon footprint and uses a lot of water. Logically, therefore, moving to

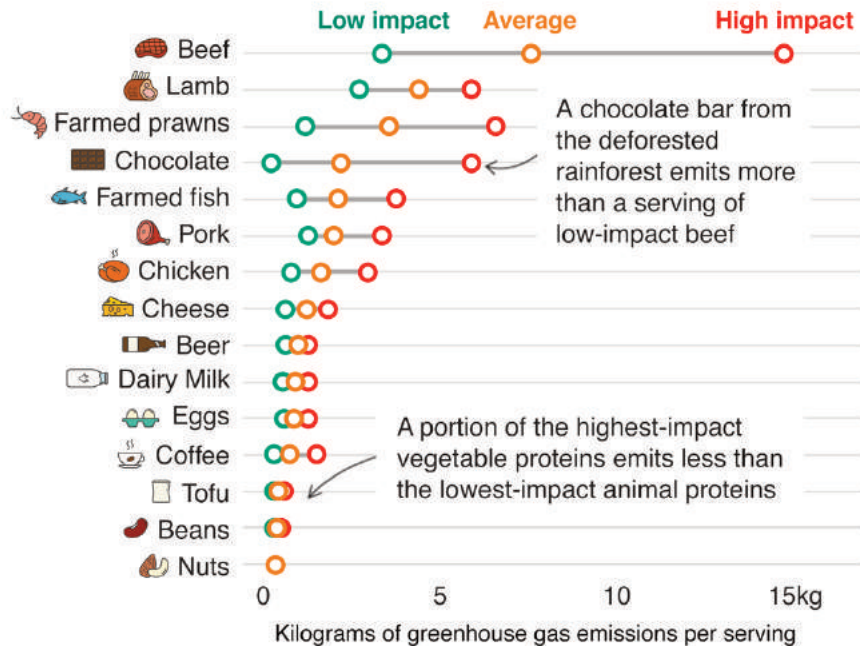
a more plant-based diet would not threaten human well-being, would reduce carbon emissions and water use, and make more efficient use of available land. So, flexitarian, pescatarian, pollotarian, vegetarian, vegan, etc are the options.

2 Change how we produce food: which options should we adopt?

There are 7.7 billion people to feed. Ocean productivity appears to be falling due to climate change, over-fishing and pollution (North Atlantic productivity has fallen 10% during the

Beef has the biggest carbon footprint - but the same food can have a range of impacts

Kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per serving



Source: Poore & Nemecek (2018), Science



industrial era according to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute). Terrestrial agronomy compromises land (soil) degradation, desertification, climate change (drought/flood intensity), invasive (introduced) species, and resistance to herbicides and pesticides. Direct drilling and not ploughing, accepting GM crops, rigorous biosecurity, permaculture, silvo-pastoralism, aqua-culture, hydroponics and laboratory-grown food are all potential ameliorating options.

3 Change with what and how we build: should we change local regulations?

Cement production accounts for some 5% of global CO₂ production, while fired bricks release over 800 million tons of CO₂ – more than all air travel – annually. But we could encourage the use of other materials such as wood, engineered wood, bio-bricks, rammed-earth, bamboo and so on. Also, flood proofing homes, new designs for extreme heat (and cold) and high wind velocity, along with improved drainage infrastructure, could be mandated.

4 Improve public transport, increase pedestrian zones and cycle paths, re-wilding: how can we 'green' our urban environment?

Modern urban environments are designed to accommodate motor vehicles. This is clearly deleterious to our well-being (air and noise pollution, physical dangers, loss of space). The World Health Organization notes: 'Green spaces such as parks and sports fields as well as woods and natural meadows, wetlands or other ecosystems, represent a fundamental component of any urban ecosystem. Green urban areas facilitate physical activity and relaxation, and form a refuge from noise. Trees produce oxygen, and help filter out harmful air

pollution, including airborne particulate matter. Water spots, from lakes to rivers and fountains, moderate temperatures.'

5 Turbo charge electrification of ground transport: can we afford to rely on 'market forces'?

The UK government spends £10.5 billion on fossil-fuel industry subsidies each year (Eurostat data). This money could be spent on dramatically improving our electric transport infrastructure. This could include increasing charging points, accelerating research into super-capacitors, a scrappage initiative to remove fossil-fuel vehicles, or supporting hydrogen fuel cell technology.

6 Zero waste: can zero waste be achieved, and if so how?

Our current economic system is based upon the proposition that there must be growth, year on year. It originated because it appeared to be effective and emerged when the world seemed to be an endless resource. Earth Overshoot Day is a calculated, illustrative calendar date when human consumption surpasses the Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources. In 2019 that date was 29 July; if everyone consumed, as we do in the UK, this would be 17 May. Clearly, by any yardstick, this is unsustainable.

Europe currently sends some 300 million tons of solid waste to landfill each year (European Economic Area data 2019). Landfill generates huge quantities of greenhouse gases; it is estimated that if global landfill were a country it would be the third largest carbon emitter after the US and China. Zero waste means moving from the current take-make-chuck linear economic model to a circular maintain-reuse-remanufacture-recycle-biocyte model. The Netherlands has committed to becoming 100% circular by 2050.

It is estimated that if global landfill were a country it would be the third largest carbon emitter after the US and China.



7 Adapting to sea-level rise: defend or abandon?

Since 1900 global average sea level has risen by 20cm. The rate of rise has accelerated since then and is currently at 3.2cm/decade and looks set to increase. Coastal and estuary communities are therefore vulnerable to inundation, as are cities such as London. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (May 2019) has indicated that a 'business as usual' approach will produce a 2m rise by 2100. Options open to us are improved sea defences, restoration of coastal wetlands and relocation of communities.

8 Preparing to deal with climate refugees/migrants: assist, accept or repel?

Climate change will force population movements by causing certain parts of the world to be much less viable places to live, by causing food and water supplies to become more unreliable and increasing the severity and frequency of floods, storms and droughts. These effects are exacerbated by human action such as local environmental degradation (e.g. deforestation), lack of preparedness, geographical vulnerability, or consequential

armed conflict (e.g. water wars). Estimates vary as to how many people will be displaced, but all are in the tens of millions, possibly hundreds of millions by 2050. Options for coping will require international agreement, so what should our collective position be?

The strange case of the Wye weed incident ... and other 'highlights' from the past

Mike Boddington, MBE (1967–72 and staff), from the safe distance of his home in the Lao PDR, spills the beans on a dark tale of 'pot' smoking amongst students in the '70s, along with a few other 'highlights' of the period.

I have long thought about writing up the matter of drugs in Wye – well, weed, actually. Don't let's get too excited! What follows is a potted (pun intended!) history of the 'Wye Weed Incident'.

In April 1971, I discovered that one of my directees was smoking pot. Giving him a hard time and putting him under some pressure, I encouraged him to reveal that there were others. I got the names of 22 students from him – I recall that they were all male. When they came back to College after the Easter vacation, each had a note waiting in their pigeon-hole at the Porter's Lodge, inviting them to come and see me. Beforehand, I had consulted Dr Gerry Flack, the village GP, to establish what the potential downside of weed was: his view was that it was serious.

One-by-one, the students came to see me: my message was 'Stop, now ... or else!'



The weed at the centre of the Wye College incident.

Meanwhile Gerry had contacted the Students Warden, **Cliff Martindale (1966–2000 & Staff)**, who contacted the police in Canterbury. The message came back to me, via Gerry, that I should give the names to the police: there was a telephone number to ring. I rang the number: the police inspector spent half-an-hour trying to persuade me to give him the names, which I did not.

That was the end of that, and it was the end of the Wye College Weed Incident – unless, of course, someone else knows differently?

A story that needs to be told ...

Then, there was the case of Bruce Parker. His story needs to be told because he took longer than anyone else, ever, to get his degree and his subsequent life was full of challenges which, eventually, he overcame. I think that he did his first year in 1968–69. He failed his exams at the end of the year and spent a year out. When he failed, he was sent to see me because I had gained an NDA before going to university, and it was thought that Bruce might go that route – an NDA, foregoing the university. But, I had other experiences which led me to support Bruce's determination to gain his degree.

Eventually, he managed to pass the first-year exams, but he failed at the end of the second year – and so forth. In the end, he took seven years to get his degree. As a result, the College changed the rules and made it an impossibility

for anyone else to go that route – I believe that a limit of five years was put on the process of gaining a three-year degree – which, I think, was a shame. Bruce's achievement stands as a College record (a bit like the late Ian Carruthers' record at the College Sports, throwing a cricket ball the farthest: in the subsequent years, that was dropped from the agenda, so Ian's record stands for all time). Bruce eventually went into irrigation and drainage and spent time in the Middle East. I am not sure whether he and Chris Baines (1966–69) ever worked together out there. After Bruce moved back into the UK and established a drainage and irrigation partnership with A N Other, he married a past student from Wye named Maria, and they had two children, but the marriage did not last.

His mother was a very rich lady, with a farm in Hertfordshire, but she disowned Bruce. She thought he was a ne'er-do-well, and she scorned him. Subsequently, Bruce had a breakdown and withdrew from society for some years. About 10 or 12 years ago, he had an epiphany and managed to crawl out of his dark hole. He moved into some special council flats for mentally challenged people, in Richmond, Surrey, and, there, he met his second wife – I think a Hungarian lady, whom he married. Mrs Parker Snr came to the wedding and expressed herself most happy with her new daughter-in-law. Bruce worked on gardening jobs as much as he could and earned a little pocket-money.

When his mother died, she had relented and left Bruce 50 acres of land in her will on which he now runs a small farm. I have not seen him since 2012, when he was in the council flats. I have had one recent message from him in which he told me, in the briefest terms, the events of the period since we met.

I think that it is an interesting human story and, whilst Bruce is not an Agricola Club member, he will be remembered by very many students from the 1960s and 1970s, and his story is one of perseverance, of difficult times, of rising to meet the challenges and, finally, of winning through.

The College Wine Circle

There is also the story of the Wye College Wine Circle (otherwise known as WC2) which included Cliff Martindale, Eric Maddison, Bernard Sparkes from Horticulture, me and one other whom I have temporarily forgotten.*

We went every year into the orchard where there was a row of damson trees along the boundary – they were never harvested. We took a tractor and trailer and tied a tarp along one side of the trailer. My job was to climb the trees and shake them vigorously. This way, we would collect a trailer-load of damsons, which we then turned into wine. Each of us would have some five or six gallons of the stuff, which we made in demi-johns, with bubblers. It was a much sought-after beverage.

**It was Ted Pilkington – Editor. How do I know? Because, coincidentally, Bernard provided a write-up on this boozy gathering on pages 117–119 of the 2017–2018 Journal.*



Mike Boddington receiving the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Quinton Quayle, British Ambassador to Thailand and Laos.

The Women's Land Army at Wye College

Lucy Huntington (1961–64) provides a commentary on the arrival and impact of the female land army that descended on Wye College at the beginning of the Second World War.

In the spring of 1939, with Hitler on the march into Europe, Britain prepared for war. Amid all the preparations, the Women's Land Army (WLA) was reformed. The WLA had originally been established in February 1917 to train women to replace men on the farms as more men were conscripted into the armed forces. At the end of the First World War, the women were sent home and the WLA was disbanded in 1919. Once reformed, the WLA started training women ready to again take on farm work if war was declared and during the summer of 1939, a small group of young women arrived in Wye to receive a week's course in tractor driving and were lodged in one of the Wye tea shops. It is not recorded as to who trained the Land Girls or whether they practised their tractor-driving skills on the College farm.

Then, with the outbreak of war, the government ordered that all the male students studying agriculture at Wye College were to continue their training at Reading University and the College was instructed to receive 180 WLA females in their place. They arrived on 18 September and were mostly London women who had been office workers, students, actresses, cooks, shop assistants or hairdressers. They lived in College in the study bedrooms previously occupied by the men and spent the day working on the land with an hour's lecture in the afternoon. They were given tuition by the same lecturers who had been teaching the male students; they used

the same facilities and laboratories and worked on the College farm. One of the only differences was that the women were expected to clean their own bedrooms whereas college staff had cleaned the rooms for the men. And there were a few extra rules which included no smoking in the streets, no visiting public houses and no gathering at the front of College.

The Land Girls were expected to work 48 hours a week in the winter and 50 hours a week in



The first female students arrived at Wye in the summer of 1939.



One of the first skills the women learnt was tractor driving.



WLA Land Girls looking after the poultry at Sidelands and wearing a variety of different outfits!



Hedge cutting on road to Silks Farm.

the summer for which they received 10 shillings (50p) a week whilst training and then 28s (£1.40) a week when employed on a farm. Male farm workers received 38 shillings (£1.90) for the same work! For some reason, the women at Wye only received 9 shillings 7½ pence which was doled out to them each week by Bill Munt who was still working at College well into the 1970s (many will remember him as in the accounts office). They had weekends off, but no holidays.

There was a set timetable for the weekdays:

5.00am: get up, have a cup of tea, and start work if milking

6.00am: get up, have a cup of tea and start work in the fields

8.15am: return to College for breakfast

9.00am: back to work outside with a mid-morning break for a cigarette and conversation!

12noon: lunch at College

1.00pm: back to work outside with an hour's lecture during the afternoon

4.30pm: return to College

6.00pm: high tea

Evening: free time – They were able to use the student's common rooms in their free time and played darts, table tennis and had regular sing-songs with the then Principal R M Wilson. They also organised concerts and dances.

10.00pm: lights out in the week

11.00pm: lights out on Saturdays

The Land Girls had expected to be issued with the regulation WLA uniform of green jersey, brown breeches, long socks, brown lace-ups and hat when they started their training. There was obviously a supply problem and no uniforms were available, so the women had to make do with navy blue dungarees, wellington boots and a mackintosh.

From the photographs it is clear that some of the female workers didn't even have dungarees or boots and had to wear whatever they had that was suitable.

An account that was sent to Donald Sykes years later by one of the Land Girls says that they had



Female students training in the use and handling of heavy horses with Harry the stableman.

been told by a male student, who was still in College, of an entrance through the cellars which could be used to gain access to the College after lights out. Apparently, she found the entrance again when she visited the College in 1986. As far as I know, this particular method of getting into College after hours was not used in the 1960s, but it would be interesting to know if anyone knows where it is!

The Land Girls were able to choose whether to look after poultry, milk cows or work with the heavy horses. Some jobs were harder than

others; milking cows required getting up an hour earlier, walking up to the dairy in the dark and sometimes having to have your manicured nails cut by the herdsman, with his penknife, on your first morning.

It wasn't long before the press found out about the women working at the College and they descended on Wye in considerable numbers. The BBC made a short film and the magazine *Picture Post* featured a five-page article written by Macdonald Hastings in its edition published on 13 January 1940. By January,



Some of the land girls and the College Principal Mr Wilson at Coldharbour.



A group of Land Army girls in 1945 wearing their uniforms. The girl in the top right-hand corner trained at Wye and still lacks a hat!

however, all the Land Girls had left and the 138 men sent to Reading had returned to Wye to continue their studies.

The men stayed until the end of the 1940 academic year, but in the vacation it was announced that there would be no more agriculture taught at Wye and that the College would be requisitioned by the army. The Principal, Mr Wilson, died suddenly, shortly after this, and it was widely considered that he died of a broken heart from seeing the dispersal of the students and staff whom he loved and the loss of the College.

A total of 290 Land Girls were trained at Wye in the three-and-a-half months between 18 September and the end of December 1939, some training for eight weeks and others for 12 weeks – not a very long episode in the life of Wye College but it had one very important legacy. The male staff had initially been very

hostile to the idea of having women at Wye, the consensus in the press at the time being that females were unskilled, unsuited, unwanted and of no use to agriculture. However, the staff found that, despite their relatively sheltered previous lives, the Land Girls willingly worked long hours outdoors in all weathers and remained cheerful throughout their time at Wye, only one having to leave because she found the work too hard. By their behaviour the women gradually earned the respect of their male tutors. So, when, at the end of the war, it was suggested that the female students of Swanley College should join the male students at Wye College, the idea was readily accepted. Many of us, myself included, might never have been accepted to study at Wye if the Land Army girls hadn't paved the way.

Now there's a challenge! (or is it a joke??)

Shooting the breeze

Three gentlemen who had studied agriculture at Reading University in 1984–87 had a letter in *The Times* in November last year about pheasant shooting:

Sir. It is with dismay that we read your piece about the ban on pheasant shooting on the land of our alma mater, Reading University. Not only will it condemn the many people who work the university farm to the job centre, it is damning the very community that put Reading on the map as the finest agricultural learning establishment in the world.

You have to assume that was written with tongue in cheek or at least none of the authors were sober at the time of writing! – Ed

Local brewery pays homage to College's hop-breeding heritage

Local Kentish craft-beer makers, Docker Brewery, have named their latest beer after the College to commemorate the role of the ARC Hop Research Unit in developing the high-yielding variety Q43 or 'Bullion'. Docker's Peter Nelson shares the story.

In our new beer, 'Wye College', we pair Kentish Bullion with the US hop Mosaic to create a very special pale ale with mango, pine and blackcurrant flavours.

The brewery is based at Folkestone Harbour, and just ten miles up the road – nestled beneath the North Downs – lies Wye College, the home of modern British experimental hops. Some of the most famous and widely grown hops in the world were developed there - many by Professor E S Salmon in the early

20th century, including Q43 or 'Bullion' in 1938, which we feature in our new pale ale: Wye College.

Salmon aimed to produce hops with high resin content and introduced American hops into his breeding programme. In those days, many British brewers rejected the hops on account of their American aroma, which at the time was considered brash and stinky. The mother was a wild hop from Manitoba, Canada, which was open-pollinated in 1918. Bullion was one



of two plants selected from the resulting seedlings. The other plant was Brewer's Gold.

Fast-forward 80 years and British brewers (including Docker) are buying 80% of all US hop exports because they want these kinds of flavours. With this in mind, forward-thinking growers like Hukins Hops are bringing back some of these older varieties.

Sadly, as readers are well aware, Wye College was closed down by its then owner Imperial

College London in 2009. However, the hop-breeding programme happily lives on with Wye Hops Ltd, which is funded by the British Hop Growers Association. Unfortunately, future of the beautiful buildings of Wye College remains uncertain.

For more information about Docker Brewery visit, www.dockerfermentation.com.



The brewing process in operation.

Wye College Choral Society: a brief history

Berkeley Hill (staff, 1970–2005), Emeritus Professor of Policy Analysis, Imperial College, and former conductor of the Wye Choral Society recalls the glory years.

One of the unexpected pleasures of home confinement during the Covid-19 epidemic has been the rediscovery of tapes of concerts given by the Wye College Choral Society over the period 1980 to 1999. Not very carefully stored or labelled, and with only a few of the printed programmes that accompanied them, these nevertheless provide evidence of what was, at the time, a remarkably accomplished singing group that, accompanied by professional orchestras, mounted a series of choral works that even now sound good. I thought a brief account of the College Choral Society's history might be of interest, particularly to alumni at Wye in the last two decades of the 20th century.

When I joined the staff in the Economics Department in 1970, I was struck by how vibrant the student community was. I had

been an undergraduate at a similar establishment in the East Midlands that, at the time, had all the disadvantages of small size and none of its potential advantages.

In contrast, Wye was a real community of proactive individuals and possessed an impressive range of clubs and societies that only large universities could normally support. Most undergraduates seemed to be the chair, secretary, treasurer or committee member of some or other group. The students' union had an enlightened policy of giving grants to this wide range of societies, though the biggest grants went to the sports clubs.

Young and intelligent people retain 90% of the progress made in rehearsal

A heap of sheet music in a cupboard of the Old Hall bore witness to a singing group (male voice only?) existing at College long before my time. Apparently, Principal Skilbeck was keen to promote culture in what could have been a rather isolated and insular institution by hiring-in choir trainers to run the singing.

Gerald Trodd, who was organist at Wye Church, was the last of these, finishing in 1971, after which **Dr Geoff Chapman** (staff from 1971, that great initiator of projects) organised some informal singing for a few years.



Berkeley Hill ran the Choral Society from 1979 to 1999.

Birth of the Choral Society

But the Choral Society, as it became, really grew out of conversations I had in about 1979 with some students in connection with assembling and rehearsing a choir for Commemoration. They found that I had become Musical Director of the Folkestone Choral Society and choirmaster at Hythe Parish Church. Led by **Bill MacDonald** (1979–81), they offered to form the Choral Society and run it if I would be its conductor. 'Let's start with something big – Handel's "Messiah",' was their demand.

Tackling a major choral work with a group, few of whom had ever sung this type of music before and who mostly claimed they could not read a score, was a challenging prospect. But I had clearly underestimated Wye College students. What I had not realised was that (a) young and intelligent people retain 90% of the progress made in rehearsal, unlike the population in general where 40% retention is more typical; (b) a can-do mentality can overcome lack of experience; and (c) enthusiasm and joyfulness both builds the group and encourages friends to come along to performances, making them economic and artistic successes. Rehearsing during two lunchtimes (13.05 to 13.55) each week, in seven weeks we had learned not only the simpler choruses but most of the difficult ones as well – the students were always keen to tackle more. Some staff and wives also sang; those such as Dr Tom Hill and Prof Denis Britton were experienced in this sort of music, but students dominated numerically.

Through the Folkstone Choral Society I had contacts with professional orchestral players, many from London, and soloists to fill the gaps where no student was available; grants from the union were vital in enabling these to be engaged.

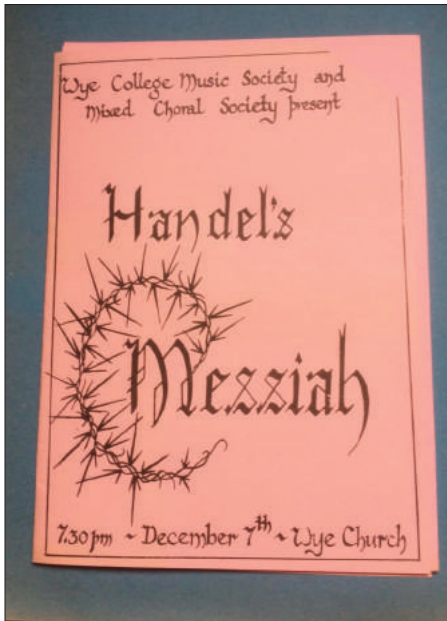
Often morphed into the Opera Society

The performance of Handel's 'Messiah' in Wye Church before the end of term (Sunday 7 December 1980) was a huge success both financially and in audience numbers. Only slightly shortened from the original, it really took off musically, particularly after the interval when everyone realised that we had brought it off. It set the pattern for the next two decades, with concerts in the first and second terms. While we started out having two big choral events per year accompanied by orchestra, this soon proved financially impractical, resulting in the second being more modest and using music that needed only an organ or harp or small ensemble.

**Enthusiasm and
joyfulness both
builds the group and
encourages friends to
come along to
performances**

But we always did things 'properly' in terms of what the composer requested – if the score specified three trombones and a contra-bassoon in the orchestra, that is what we fielded. In the summer term, when examinations rather got in the way, the Choral Society often morphed after the exam period into the Opera Society, performing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas or shows such as 'Salad Days' and 'The Boyfriend'. These productions, which sometimes took place at other times of the academic year, had a tradition that stretched back into the 1960s and require a whole separate article.

For the annual Commemoration ceremony, the Choral Society became the College Choir,



Programme for the first performance by the Wye Choral Society at Christmas in 1979.

singing splendid anthems at the morning service, with Parry's 'I Was Glad' a regular feature at the start as the procession of the Chancellor (HM the Queen Mother), or another distinguished visitor, made its way into the church. The choir also did some engagements outside College; I recall conducting the choir at two weddings at the request of our singers (one near Gatwick).

In terms of membership numbers, programmes listing singers show that, at the 1980 'Messiah' performance, the choir numbered 66 and at one stage (1983) the Choral Society had 71 singers, of whom 66 were College members or their spouses, a substantial proportion of the whole Wye community. The other five were 'extras' (mostly tenors) brought in to achieve a good balance (the first 'Messiah' only had eight in contrast with 25 sopranos).

Later, the choir was smaller – more typical was the 49 of 1990 and the 35 of 1994. In the last concert (1999), there were only 17 College singers and another choir (the Shepway Singers) had to be invited to collaborate in order that the combined choir carried sufficient vocal weight. Students came from across the subject spectrum; an odd feature was that the most dedicated tended to be on degree courses where economics (my subject) was not a component (perhaps the others knew me too well). Most were undergraduates but enthusiasm could be immense among MSc students, especially from overseas for whom English choral music was culturally novel.

There were some individuals with exceptionally good voices who made a major contribution to the sound

A feature of the Choral Society was the youthful and exciting sound it generated. As the recordings illustrate, there was enthusiasm from all sections, with enough volume to dominate the orchestra. In particular, the sopranos displayed a beauty of tone that is associated with youth. Accidents rarely happened during performances, at least musical ones, though I remember a near-disaster at one concert; half of the soprano section, whose chairs were locked together, gracefully disappeared over the edge of the staging, somehow managing to keep the singing going, and no one was hurt.

Over the years, there were some individuals with exceptionally good voices who made a major contribution to the sound; at this

distance I recall, from different periods, the sopranos **Alison Ley** (now **Milton**, 1979–82) and Pippa Allington (who had a particularly pure voice), among the mezzos Sharon Coutts and Lois Faux (a remarkably versatile singer), tenors Pete Taylor and Gordon (also a cellist) and two baritones (**Mike Walker** (1978–81) and **Nick Gauntlett**, 1988–91) who possessed a to-die-for natural voice; but there were many others. Many of these did not realise how talented they really were!

Not only did it deliver the musical goods, but its spirit of youthful enjoyment was contagious

Similarly, but less often, there were good instrumentalists among the students. Where possible, vocal solos at concerts were taken by College people, and good instrumentalists were used in the orchestra or played concertos (Alan English's Vivaldi flute concerto in 1981 was a fine example). But the stand-out feature of the concerts was the choir. Not only did it deliver the musical goods, but its spirit of youthful enjoyment was contagious; hard-bitten professional musicians were always keen to come to play for concerts at minimal fees.

David Flood, then assistant organist at Canterbury Cathedral and who later became organist and Master of the Choristers there, in particular liked coming to play for the Choral Society concerts and for the College Choir's contribution to the Commemoration Service because of the fine attitude of its singers.

Looking at the list of music performed in the years to 1999 (see table at the end) there is an

obvious reliance on the standards of the choral repertory. Handel's 'Messiah' was repeated several times, as was Vivaldi's 'Gloria', the requiems by Fauré and Mozart, Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' and 'The Creation' (the second as the 1994 Wye College Centenary Concert, with a subsidy from the Principal). Others were one-offs, including Britten's 'St Nicolas', Bach's 'Peasant Cantata' and Orff's 'Carmina Burana' (a chamber version performed in Swanley Hall, Withersdane). Because no one told the singers in advance that some pieces were 'difficult', they tackled them head on and achieved commendable results; an all-Britten programme (1985) was an example. Because of the natural turn-over of students, repetitions were not a problem for the performers, as 'Messiah' or the Vivaldi 'Gloria' (scores of which the Choral Society had purchased) could be introduced to a new generation of students at three-year intervals, even if staff members had sung them multiple times before.

Why did the Wye College Choral Society have such a vibrant early life and then eventually fade away, even before the merger with Imperial shifted the cultural goalposts? By chance, its early years coincided with a College intake of exceptionally musical young people, especially the 1979 cohort. They also undoubtedly benefited from male students who came from schools at which music in general, and choirs in particular, were taken seriously. Each September, the College Registrar used to circulate to College staff a list of new students which contained the names of schools attended. It was a fact that, in the 1970s, a substantial proportion of the men came from public schools, and often those with good music departments and chapel choirs. Over time, the balance shifted towards state schools with their weaker and declining musical tradition and, worse, what

seemed to be an inbuilt antipathy between sports activities and music. Girls interested in choral singing did not seem to be as influenced by their school, but a shortage of men (which is what developed) is a severe constraining factor on the sort of music a mixed-voice choir can sing. But another was the gradual shift in balance in the College ethos from providing a good breadth of education (in which agriculture and related degrees have a head-start) to a system driven by examination results, both at the level of the individual and of the institution.

A shortage of men is a severe constraining factor on the sort of music a mixed-voice choir can sing

In the final days of Wye College, I remember being criticised for skipping an entirely ineffective lunchtime administrative meeting on the day before Commemoration in favour of a choir practice; my reply was that students and parents were far more likely to recall for the rest of their days a thrilling performance by the choir that would come from one more rehearsal than any benefit that might flow from me rubber-stamping a degree classification that was entirely dependent on numerical scoring and, by that stage, unalterable.

Conducting the Wye College Choral Society (and many of the opera productions) drew on the experiences I had accumulated as a choir trainer and gave me a great deal of fulfilment. It was also the opportunity to get to know the young members in a way normally impossible to an academic, to admire their skills, enthusiasm and hard work, and to help (I

hope) in developing their talents in ways that would not usually be possible in a small institution such as Wye.

Rediscovering in March 2020 the recordings of concerts was a pleasure. These tapes were made on a professional-type analogue cassette recorder (as used by broadcast journalists at the time) and decent AKG microphones. However, the set-up was often rushed, switched on and left untested, and thus less than ideal. The inconvenience of a break after 45 minutes to change sides sometimes led to material being lost. Nevertheless, the tapes give a reasonable representation of the performances. I have transcribed them to CD and digital storage. There are some gaps, and the original tapes of the very first Messiah performance seem not to have survived in my collection (though a copy has been found). If former singers still have recordings or programmes to fill the gaps, I would be delighted to receive copies; already **Bill MacDonald** (1978–81), **George Hosford** (1978–81) and **Lester Bowker** (1979–82) have been invaluable in providing information on the early years. The intention is to deposit a complete set of recordings (and programmes where available) with the Wye Heritage Centre for safekeeping.

I will also make available a compilation of the best bits, though anyone wanting a complete performance is welcome to contact me for a CD, possibly in exchange for a small donation to the Agricola Club.

Year	Works for which a recording is available	Programme
1980	'Messiah' – Handel	Yes
1981	'Gloria' – Vivaldi; 'Goldfinch' flute concerto – Vivaldi; 'Hear my Prayer' – Mendelssohn; 'O Praise the Lord' – Handel.	Review in local paper
1983	'Messiah' – Handel (incomplete)	Yes
1984	'Requiem' – Fauré	
1985	Music by Britten; 'Festival Te Deum in E', 'Ceremony of Carols' (with harp), 'Rejoice in the Lamb', plus audience carols. Organ – David Flood	
1985	'O Praise the Lord' – Handel, and 'Come Ye Sons of Art' – Purcell	
1986	'Nelson Mass' – Haydn	
1986	'Peasant Cantata' – Bach, plus music by Albinoni and Vivaldi	
1988	'Creation' – Haydn	
1988	'St Nicolas' – Britten	
1989	Messiah – Handel	
1990	'Gloria' – Vivaldi; 'Requiem' – Mozart; 'Organ Concerto' – Handel	
1991	'Messiah' – Handel	
1992	'Nelson Mass' – Haydn; 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' – Vaughan Williams; 'Adagio' – Albinoni; carols	
1994	'The Creation' – Hayden (Wye College Centenary Concert)	
1994	'Cantique' – Fauré; 'Come Ye Sons of Art' and 'Bell Anthem' – Purcell	
1996	'Gloria' – Vivaldi; 'Little Organ Mass' – Haydn; 'Cantique' – Fauré; 'Organ Concerto' (Cuckoo and Nightingale) – Handel	
1999	'Gloria' – Vivaldi; 'Requiem' – Fauré	
<i>Others</i>		
1981	Commemoration Service – includes Parry 'My Soul There Is a Country' and Vaughan Williams 'Let All the World' plus hymns and readings	
Unknown	'Carmina Burana' (chamber version) – Orff	

A brief history of the Northbournes, Betteshanger House and Park and the School

This brief history, prepared by John Walters, is a look at the role of the James family of Northbourne Park and their contribution to the local community. The 4th Baron, Walter James, is widely acknowledged as the progenitor of organic farming.

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England ...* Rupert Brooke, 1915

So, begins one of the most enigmatic poems from the Great War, *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke. Composed over Christmas and New Year, 1914/15 by Brooke, it is thought by many that he drew his inspiration from his time at Betteshanger in September and October of 1914. Brooke, a Sub-Lieutenant in charge of 15th Platoon, D Company, Anson (8th) Battalion, 2nd RN Brigade, first joined the Battalion at Betteshanger on 27 September 1914. Conditions at the camp on Lord Northbourne's estate were basic, but the officers were permitted a bath at the Rectory in between kit inspections, route marches, boxing, football and drill.

On 4 October, the Brigade received their orders and marched to Dover, accompanied by Lord Northbourne, the 2nd Baron, Walter Henry James, where they embarked for Dunkirk. Marching to Antwerp in Belgium, Brooke's baptism of fire came in the short, but violent defence of Fort 7, before a general withdrawal was ordered and Brooke found himself briefly back at Betteshanger on 18 October 1914.

The manor and seat of Betteshanger (formerly Bettshanger or Betteshangre), was amongst those lands granted to Hugo de Port for

assisting John de Fiennes in the defence of Dover Castle in the late 11th/early 12th centuries.

In 1850, the 180-acre estate was sold to Sir Walter James, 2nd Baronet of Betteshanger who, following his spell as High Sheriff of Kent in 1855, engaged the architect George Devey to remodel the house and grounds in 1856. It was Devey's first major commission and it created his reputation for originating the 'Old English' country style house. In 1884, Sir Walter, a close friend of the Liberal Prime Minister William Gladstone, was raised to the peerage as Baron Northbourne, a hereditary title.

Sir Walter died in 1893. His son, the 2nd Baron, continued the work of remodelling and between 1893–99 the house was further modified along with the Stable Court. With the 2nd Baron's death in 1923, the title and estate passed on to the 3rd Baron, Walter John James, who only survived his father by nine years. The title then passed to Walter Ernest Christopher James, his son, and a new era dawned for the estate.

The 4th Baron was an accomplished rower, representing the losing Oxford Eight in both the 1920 and 1921 Boat Races, as well as rowing in the silver medal-winning Leander Eights for Great Britain at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp.

James studied Agricultural Science at Oxford and is generally accepted to be the progenitor

of 'organic farming', the term being coined in his celebrated book *Look to the Land*, published in 1940. It was a response to what he dubbed 'chemical farming', and from the outset he presented these as two mutually incompatible, and contesting, agricultural methodologies.

In 1933 James decided to lease out the house and its environs as a small, Progressive Preparatory School. Starting out with just five pupils, Betteshanger School encouraged an intimate family environment, instilling in each child a love of learning and an enthusiasm for finding out about the world around them.

One of the School's earliest pupils was the artist John Craxton, son of Harold Craxton, pianist, musicologist and professor at the Royal Academy of Music. He thrived at Betteshanger under the art tuition of Elsie Barling, later referring to her as 'an inspired teacher'. Along with other pupils' work, Craxton first exhibited at Bloomsbury Gallery in 1933 to national press acclaim.

Through the following decades, the Northbourne family stayed in close touch with

the school, even as far as serving on the Board of Governors' and the school prospered, becoming a Limited Company in November 1954. In April 1980 the school merged with the nearby Tormore School in Deal to become Northbourne Park School.

Over the years, Wye College Alumni filled the key posts on the staff at Betteshanger Farms Ltd. Farm Manager, the late David Powell, was instrumental in modernising the in-hand farming of the estate and amongst the Assistant Farm managers are listed **Robin Graham** (1958-61), **Francis Huntington** (1961-64) and Howard Carr.

The 4th Baron died in 1982, his son Christopher George Walter James becoming the 5th Baron. He maintained close links to the school and along with the School's Bursar and Maintenance Team, they forged a sympathetic understanding with the planning authorities allowing Northbourne Park to evolve whilst maintaining its Grade II listed status: No doubt George Devey would have approved!

See page 60 for our Obituary for the Lord Northbourne, 5th Baron.



Northbourne Park, Kent: home of the James family.

The Jersey – ‘the cow for all seasons and all reasons’

Steve Le Feuvre (1976–79), himself a Channel Islander, is currently President of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau. Here, he shares his passion for the breed and memories of some of the places it has taken him.

With an estimated global population of over eight million, the Jersey breed is the world's second most numerous dairy breed, behind the Holstein-Friesian, and is the only one where numbers are increasing. I consider it a great privilege to be the head of the Jersey breed worldwide, but with that comes a huge responsibility to the many thousands of farmers who rely on her rich creamy and high protein milk to provide an income to sustain them and their wider families.

I had three very happy and productive years at Wye studying Agricultural Economics whilst spending, some will argue, a disproportionate amount of my time at the squash courts and in the roads and lanes around the village running to keep fit (there were no gyms in those days, to my knowledge). My Wye cohorts will recall that, even in those days, I had a passion for the Jersey cow; it developed from my childhood in Kenya, being brought up on a dairy and coffee farm, and of course from my family origins being the Island of Jersey where this great breed of dairy cow was developed over many centuries.

The WJCB

In June 2018, at the World Conference held in Ohio, USA, I was extremely honoured to be elected as the 12th President of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau (WJCB), the global umbrella organisation for the Jersey breed. Up against me in the election for this three-year term was a prominent Jersey cattle breeder from the USA, and I was amazed to win by a

2:1 majority. All being well, I will seek re-election in 2021 for a second and final term that the rules allow; this will be at our next world conference to be held in Australia.

I maintained my interest in agriculture, the environment, and above all the Jersey cow

Following my three years at Wye, I farmed in Jersey for six years on a rented farm, milking 40 Jerseys and growing main crop potatoes and outdoor flowers, as well as indoor peppers. In the mid-1980s, with interest rates in the high teens and land and property prices escalating at a crazy level, I decided to switch career and went in to law, specialising in Intellectual Property. Thirty-five years later this is still my ‘day job’, albeit now just mornings only; but throughout those years I maintained my interest in agriculture, the environment, and above all the Jersey cow, all of which have consumed my ‘spare’ time.

I became a life member of the WJCB in the mid-1980s, and for the past 22 years have played an active role on its council and as an officer, serving as Honorary Treasurer from 2005 to 2018 prior to taking on the presidency. During that same period, I served as President of the

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society (RJA&HS) for six years and as Treasurer for nine years; and my passion for the Jersey cow has been the driving force behind all of that honorary service over the years.

'Jersey Inka Nziza' means 'Beautiful Jersey cow'

Jerseys in Africa

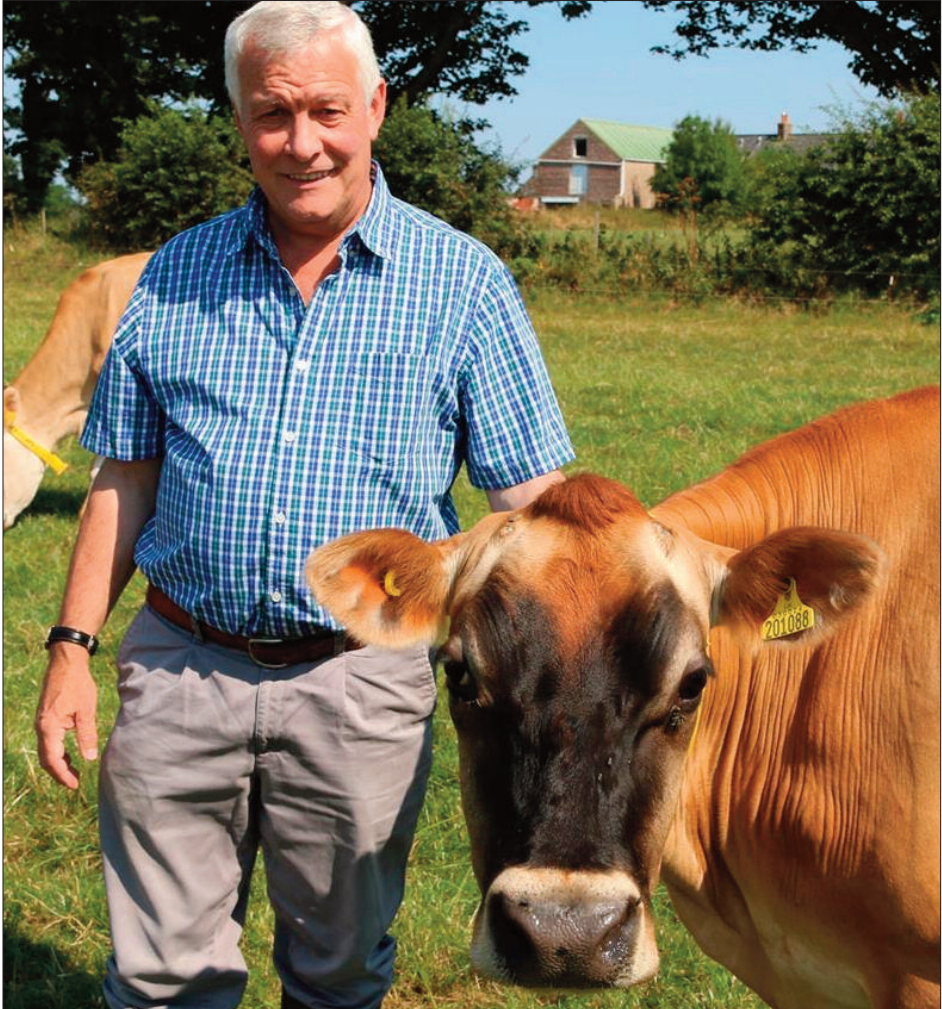
The Jersey breed is well established in Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and these areas of the world provide the sires to move the breed forward genetically and economically. There is huge demand for the Jersey in Africa, and, in taking on the world presidency for the breed, I have pledged that during my time in office the

WJCB will focus its efforts on creating a proper structure for Africa so that the individual countries of this magical continent can cooperate and move the Jersey breed forward. The aim is to create a cow with the appropriate genetics and phenotype to cope with the harsh conditions of climate and management that so very often exist.

The first step to achieving this goal was to hold the WJCB's annual meetings in the heart of Africa. So in June 2019 Jersey breeders and enthusiasts from around the world assembled in Kigali, Rwanda, to see for themselves the tremendous progress that the breed has made in this wonderful country over the past decade or so. I have been involved with a dairy development project in Rwanda coordinated by the RJA&HS since 2005, helping the country's Girinka (One Cow per Poor Family) programme; more recently the scale of this has been escalated by partnering with 'Send a



Steve Le Feuvre addressing the WJCB's Regional Dairy Conference in Kigali, Rwanda – June 2019.



Steve Le Feuvre, President of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau, with one of his beloved Jersey cows.

Cow' locally and funding coming from Jersey Overseas Aid, the project now being called 'Jersey Inka Nziza' which means 'Beautiful Jersey cow'.

Dairy farming and agriculture in general in Rwanda suffered greatly during the horrific genocide when in 100 days during 1994 almost one million people lost their lives. The

horrendous social and economic impact on families has been long-lasting and is clearly evident today; so the RJA&HS's involvement has always been to provide poor families with a Jersey animal, coupled with training on how to look after it and grow appropriate fodder, thus giving them a sustainable route out of poverty.

Where resources are scarce, cows with Jersey genetics (sometimes just a straight cross from the local Ankole cow), have real and instant benefit, producing much higher yields of particularly nutritious milk. The majority of the population of Rwanda depend on small-scale farming for their livelihoods, although the government is doing a tremendous job developing service industries to ease the unemployment issues, particularly amongst the younger generation. However, because agricultural productivity is generally low, many are living in poverty and 37 per cent of children under five years old are stunted due to malnutrition. The impact of this stunting sadly lasts throughout their lifetimes.

It would appear that the Jersey breed is right there at the top, and this can only bode well for the future of this 'little brown cow' in Africa

During the WJCB's week-long meetings in Rwanda in June 2019, a Regional Dairy Conference was organised, attracting over 120 delegates from a dozen African countries, with the theme being '*Why Dairy? Why Jersey?*'. As a result of this tremendous event, the African Jersey Forum has been established with the aim that in the future this will form the foundation for cooperation between African countries to promote and develop the Jersey breed throughout the continent, under the watchful eye of the WJCB.

After our time in Rwanda, the WJCB tour delegates spent an enjoyable and rewarding week in Kenya where the Jersey breed has been

established for over 100 years. We visited some great Jersey herds, large and small, as well as artificial insemination and research facilities where genomic and field work is being carried out to establish which breed of cattle is the most suitable for tropical Africa. At this early stage in the research, it would appear that the Jersey breed is right there at the top, and this can only bode well for the future of this 'little brown cow' in Africa.

An ongoing passion

My passion for the Jersey breed remains as strong as ever, and a slogan I like to quote is that 'the Jersey is the cow for all seasons and all reasons'. It is most certainly proving so in Africa, and for that matter, all around the world.

A fortunate and inventive life

Ferris Whidborne (1966–69) takes us on a tour of his novel devices, designed to overcome barriers and provide better service around the farm.

(Ferris was too modest to record the fact that he represented Wye at hockey, squash and cricket during his time there – Ed)

Ever since I was at school, I have been an inventor of sorts. One possible reason is that I am basically lazy and hate any sort of repetitive work. I get bored very easily, but I like a challenge. In fact, there is no better challenge than being told I can't do something!

The early years

My first notable invention came when I, for some reason, had a spare term at school. I had done 'A' levels but decided to leave after the next autumn term. I was given some projects to do, one of which involved chromatography. For that, I mashed up some of those multi-coloured leafy house plants – I'm sure some of you will know the name of them – in a pestle and mortar with alcohol as a solvent. This I poured into a column with chalk in it and then added more alcohol on top. The colours all went down the column and separated out. Different colours go through at different speeds. Of course, the alcohol coming out of the bottom has to be caught, preferably in little batches. Now there would be machines to do this in a proper chromatography laboratory, but not in Tonbridge School's botany lab.

I decided to get an old wind-up gramophone, put a large plywood disc on the deck with about 30 holes around the perimeter to hold test tubes. I then made a see-saw type receptacle that caught the drips, and when it had the right amount to fill a test tube, it tipped and emptied into the vessel. Once empty, it tipped back again and, like a clock escapement mechanism, the disc rotated to

the next tube. I ended with all the test tubes full of all different shades of the colours; very pretty it was too!

I didn't think too much of it at the time but, about 10 years later, I went back to play in a cricket match versus the school and my old cricket master took me round some of the new buildings. We went to a chemistry lab and, lo and behold, there was my machine on one of the shelves, certainly not gathering dust. I was quite moved by that!

Next, I went to Africa for my eight months' practical, to my uncle's cattle ranch in Zambia. Africa is different; you have to do everything



Squash team: (1967–68): back row – Johnson, Beresford and Roberts; front row: Whidborne, Hardingham and Walker.



Ferris's self-propelled hop sprayer: it was his first invention for the family farm ...

yourself and have to rely on your own judgement when farming. There is no one to ask, not where we were anyway. Unfortunately, we had an awful car accident when we rolled over at a dirt-road corner. In the event, my aunt was killed and was taken back to the UK for burial. I was left in charge of 36,000 acres and 120 African employees; one grows up terribly quickly under those circumstances!

I then went to Wye where I found we were pretty much going over the 'A' levels I already had done and quickly got bored. Hindsight: I should have gone into something more practical, perhaps engineering. But I stayed on and got a Third (Hons). Back home at that time, I was already building up my workshop. Father and I had lots of arguments, and my workshop was where I was happiest.

Repurposing old tractors

When I finished at Wye, problems were brewing with pest control in hops, notably

aphids. They were fast becoming resistant to the organophosphorus chemicals, requiring more and more water per acre and much reduced spraying intervals. We grew hops on hillsides, but the new Drake and Fletcher sprayers, on tractors which towed a tank of water, could not climb. So, I decided to make a self-propelled sprayer from an old MF35 tractor. In the picture, it's at the end of its useful life, having sprayed our hops for more than 15 years.

The following winter, I decided to make a rough-terrain fork truck. This was mostly because father had set me on shovelling grain into a Mayrath auger which seemed a particularly silly thing to have to do. This was a long time before there was a device called a Teleporter! I used another MF35, of which we had plenty, and turned that round. It had a 1.5-ton grain bucket, a bale grab and a muck fork to go with it. It did all our handling until we bought a Sambron RTF in about 1975. It



... and then came Ferris's rough-terrain fork truck – still in service to this day as a yard truck.

remained as a 'yard' truck and is still in operation, 50 years after it was built!

I was beginning to get ambitious, so the next real challenge was crop spraying. Growth regulators and fungicides were becoming the norm in cereal growing. Spraying wasn't just once a season and done when the plant was just tillering. These sprays went on much later and so the tramlining systems had to start.

Sprayers needed to get much wider. At this time there were none commercially available, so I decided to build one. I bought an old MF165 tractor and my experience with the hop

sprayer, which was very bouncy over rough ground, had taught me that the booms (which were 20m unfolded) and the driver needed to be between the axles. The water tank (400 gallons) needed to be where the driver was, and the booms had to fold within the width of the tractor. Once built, this machine enabled me to do all the spraying on the farm myself. It was in full use from 1973 to 1990 when I stopped farming. I'm afraid I don't have a picture of that one.

The next 'opportunity' was straw burning. We were early on in the game of continuous wheat growing. This necessitates a good burn of the straw and stubble; we had some very good fires, and some that got out of control as well. Making a good fire break without ploughing around the headlands was the problem on the heavy ground. Burning without a suitable firebreak was banned, and quite rightly so. I decided to build a machine that would mow the stubble really short and put the chopped straw and stubble down behind a pair of subsoiler tines into the subsoil and away from the fire. This machine never really got used to any degree because the straw burning was



Next – Ferris' stubble-mower.

soon banned altogether. There were all sorts of weird and wonderful ways of trying to get rid of combine straw at the time, and P J Parmiter took an interest in my ideas. Of course, they would have liked to bury a whole combine swathe, and so I got taken on as an adviser! They built a colossal experimental machine, but it was an impossible task, mainly because the straw had to be chopped. That required huge amounts of horsepower. In the end it was found that the right place to chop the straw was on the combine, and harvesters with enough extra power soon became available.

The mad farm inventor

However, I had become known as a 'mad farm inventor', and at the Royal Smithfield Show that year (1984) I had three inventions on one stand, as well as the 'Strawgon machine' on the Parmiter one. One of the three cut old car tyres into two sidewalls and a tread. I was featured in an American magazine called *Farm Show*, and the tyre (or tire!) cutter was the main interest. To cut a long story very short, I ended up going out to Denver to meet a sales guy called Mel Browne and making a tyre-cutter for him. I took another invention of mine, a pneumatic post-basher, and offered that to him as well. At the time, we were on a stand at the Western Stock Show; the post-basher was very useful because it made a lot of noise which attracted lots of attention.

Unfortunately, that night my wife (Margaret) rang to say my father had died. I had to come straight home and there was some thinking to do.

The hop growing had come to a sudden end; possibly it was that which finished my father. I did not think our farm was going to be sustainable without the hops. I ended up buying some of the ground we rented from Winchester College, plus the set of buildings.



The American Farm Weekly magazine that featured Ferris's tyre-cutting machine: the result was a trip to the USA.

Soon I was able let out one of the buildings for more than we were paying to rent the farm. Then, I put all the farmland I could into the five-year set-aside scheme, and with my remaining staff we used our landscaping skills to build a golf course on some of that. We started building in May 1992, and we opened weekends-only with a clubhouse, nine holes and a driving range, in May 1993. We opened full time in August. Margaret looked after the punters, and I did the green-keeping. We added another nine holes in 1995. There were lots of farm-made pieces of equipment on my golf course, and I am still adding to them now. My daughter runs it. Times are not as good as they were though.

Once this was all sorted, I could return to the workshop to do more interesting things. The Wool Marketing Board asked me to look at their handling of the wool sheets (the sacks that farmers put their wool in, similar to the one in the House of Lords). They weigh anything from 100 to 300kg and, as most farming folk will know, are difficult to handle. They are floppy, greasy and need at least two to lift them.

Obviously to me, they needed bundling up into a bale, and then handling with the squeezer fork trucks which the Board had in abundance. I made a trailer version which I took to Bradford for an appointed demonstration. I squeezed up about 10 sheets

into a bale and tied them up with straps. The Board's fork truck was able to pick it up easily.

It was quite amusing because the Wool Board members come from all the far-flung corners of the country, where most of the sheep are, often with strong dialects. I shall never forget the various comments when I was successful, such as: 'Oh Boyo, I never thought that was possible!', but there were other, very colourful ones.

I got the job. The board wanted eight stationary machines which I made over the next couple of years. As far as I know, they are all still working.

I have done a great deal of shooting in the past, but have now stopped. However, we



The baler that Ferris designed for the Wool Marketing Board.



The Flurry Launcher for clay pigeon shooting has really taken off!

have a nice little shoot at home, and I didn't see why my son shouldn't be able to invite his friends to it. I ended up being the keeper for one day a year; James would come down with his friends and their various girlfriends, all of university age. They did the shooting whilst I, a farm-hand and the girlfriends did the beating. We might get 25 pheasants in the day, and sometimes I would have to take a gun myself to ensure we had enough for them to take one home!

But anybody that has managed a line of lady beaters, of which only a few were country types, will know that to find something else to do would probably be a better idea! I thought it would be kinder to put on some clay pigeons

for them, as well as the easiest pheasant drives, and that would make a nice day for them. Then perhaps the girls could have a go at shooting as well if they felt inclined. The trouble was there wasn't a clay trap available which would do what I wanted. All our high banks have trees on the top of them, so in order to throw clay pigeons from there, the trap needed to be mounted in a cherry picker. Then, of course, the traps don't have enough range to go far enough over the guns, so they stall and come down close behind them. Also, the traps don't fire them out quickly, one after the other, to allow a line of guns to be entertained together. So, I decided to have a go and build something that did.

I tried the pretty crazy idea of leaving an arm rotating all the time and dropping the clays onto it. I abandoned the machine into the nettles several times, but, when I finally got it out again, I managed to make slight but useful improvements. I don't really know how I managed to get it all to work, but I did eventually get what I wanted, and James' day came. They all had a lot of fun, and we never shot a pheasant again. Looking back, I would never have thought it was possible to get the results that I now have.

Well, I thought, if I have got the something I wanted, others might want it too. I took it down to Barbury Shooting School, near Swindon, and showed Hugh Stevens. The upshot was he wanted three, and I agreed we could develop it together and I wouldn't charge him. At the end of that season, I had got it into a marketable machine, and he bought three more. By the end of that season, I had sold about 20 and I was off! I only had a little website and word-of-mouth for sales, but that was enough.

I have now sold 250 and have a very nice little business for someone of my age. I meet all sorts of people and get to travel to all sorts of places. I have them in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Sweden and Denmark. I shall soon have some in Belgium, I think. I make them all myself with jigs that I have made. I buy in the motors from China and speed controllers from Cambridge. I suspect it is the most powerful clay trap in the world, the quickest firing and the safest (because it is inert when it is not in use). It all fits into the boot of a car. There are a lot of people out there having a lot of fun with them, and that is lovely. To see more photos, go to flurrylauncher.com.

I would be very lost without my workshop and an interesting project. That is where I am still at my happiest!



Hockey team: (1968–69): back row – Turney, Tinsley, Miles, Fletcher, Hodge, Gill; front row – Thomson, Whidborne, Macauley, Major, Walker, Cobbald and Youngs.

Foresights from the past

Professor Geoffrey R Dixon (1962–68) puts the spotlight on two of the major influencers in the re-birth of Wye College after World War II.

Horticultural industries have well-earned reputations for the rapid assimilation of new discoveries in science and technology. The principle driver is survival in a highly competitive environment. But this must now also demonstrate social responsibility and environmental sustainability, while also cutting costs and improving the bottom line. Currently, automation and robotics have removed human muscle-power from most field husbandries. Shortly, linked with artificial intelligence (AI) and satellite tracking (GPS), selection for maturity and quality will shed the need for human intervention in harvesting. Advances are based on applications of plant physiology and breeding, combined with revolutions in electronics. Shortly, 5G technology will provide linkages of information and operations throughout the supply chains. Science-based technologies which cut carbon footprints, reduce waste, promote soil health, conserve public goods and mitigate climate change will form horticulture's shape in the short-term. Appreciating the true impact of these advances requires an understanding of horticulture's evolution in the longer-term. That also identifies some far-sighted discoveries whose relevance now becomes apparent.

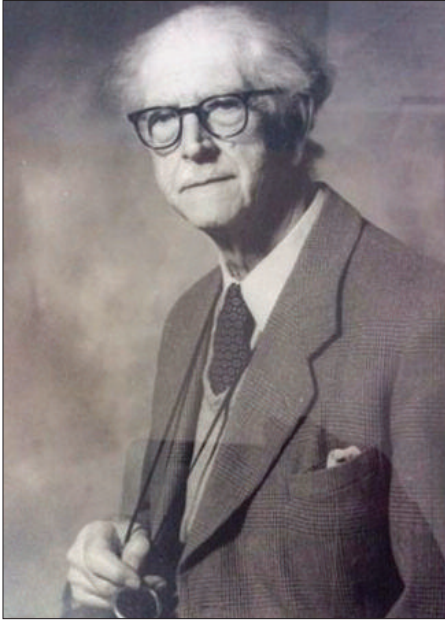
Context

Publication of critically reviewed horticultural science started in 1919 with the birth of the *Journal of Pomology* (now the *Journal of Horticultural Science and Biotechnology*). Edward Bunyard founded this publication recognising that horticulture would become increasingly a science-based discipline (Dixon

2020 a&b). The context was a world ravaged by World War 1 needing increased and reliable food production. Emerging tools for this were the Harber-Bosch process for fixing atmospheric nitrogen and the rediscovery of Mendel's rules for the inheritance of traits. Horticultural science was in its infancy; for example, William Bateson, Director of the John Innes Institute, had only just coined the term 'genetics'. Studying this evolution of horticultural science and the spin-off industries identifies the early research of two particular researchers which chimes with current requirements for sustainable production. Both eventually helped in the rebirth of Wye College after World War II.

Professor Herbert Miles

Professor Herbert Miles will be familiar figure for horticulturists of the 1950s and 1960s. He and Mary his wife, were a gentle couple, who had both practised as entomologists. Mainly, however, Herbert Miles was known as the Head of the Horticulture Department and for his fascination with the history of horticulture. He published some of his first studies in the *Journal of Pomology*, describing 'biological control' of orchard pests which should rate as foundation research. In the first, Miles (1921) describes the role of crab apple trees and old cider trees in harbouring insect pests. He lists extensive numbers of species present in orchard trees up to 100 years old (ie established c1820s) in the neighbourhood of Long Ashton in Somerset. He recognised the presence of *Adalia* sp, which feeds on aphids, and *Brachytarsus varius*, which lays eggs in *Coccus* spp (scale insects).



Professor Herbert Miles.

He followed this (Miles 1922) by a discussion of the control of apple blossom weevil which identifies ichneumon parasites as efficient enemies of apple blossom weevil. Both these papers were published in the very early days of the *Journal of Pomology*, long before terms such as biological control had entered the scientific language. As Professor of Horticulture he was still active because one of my first recollections of him was a field trip to an old Kentish orchard and being shown biological control in action. Subsequently, Wye College became one of the first centres for structured applied biological control research. Before that the agrochemical era arrived and was touted as providing solutions for pest and pathogen problems. Now, of course, biological control is mainstream and applied almost exclusively in protected cropping industries and increasingly in field production.

Professor Ireson Selman

Professor Ireson Selman, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, would also be familiar to Wye graduates of the 1950s and 1960s. His earlier research interests were in the relationship between environment and the incidence and severity of virus pathogens of horticultural crops and published in the *Journal of Horticultural Science and Biotechnology*. He cites studies (Selman 1947a) which concluded that associations are believed to exist between the incidence of virus diseases and environmental factors. Potato leaf-roll he associated with excess or deficiency of nutrient minerals. In further studies Selman (1947b) concluded that 'soil conditions are related to resistance of the plant to tomato mosaic infection'.

Despite Darwin's assertions accepting the basis for what are now termed 'genotype times environment interactions', these suggestions fell out of favour from the 1950s. Possibly, that was because, at least in part, of the exposure of Lysenko's infamy in Soviet Russia from the 1930s onwards which fraudulently associated cereal yield with spurious treatments. Today relationship is an area of widespread interest as epigenetics, which has developed from the 2000s onwards as knowledge of molecular biology has provided solid scientific evidence.

Here, then, are two examples of research work associated with Wye College which in today's world would be acclaimed as relevant and of international importance. Regrettably, neither man lived to see this come about. Tragically,

Geoff Dixon's latest book: *Garden practices and their Science* (ISBN: 978-1-138-20906-0) published by Routledge is available from the web and all good bookshops.

there is nothing left of Wye College (University of London) where their endeavours might be commemorated as emblems of foresightedness.

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The malus floribunda (right), provided by the Agricola Club, planted in memory of Professor Ireson Selman; and (below) the memorial plaque at its base.



Wye Rustics' Cricket Tour 2019

Last summer the team played their traditional West Country opponents in the annual keenly contested matches in July. Dickon Turner (1982–85) recorded the triumphs and disasters.

Kilmington: 7 July 2019

The flag of the Wye Rustics fluttered proudly below the Cross of St George on the Kilmington Church tower, oblivious to **Charlie Squire's** partially naked body being escorted from the Old Inn following a sudden outbreak of nausea amongst innocent diners.

Fielding first, the Rustics commenced with a Weston-Super mare of a bowling partnership as the home side raced to 100 for 1 in the 18th over. West Indian debutant, Glennico King, majestically halted the batting charge with three wickets in a penetrative spell of off-spin. He was aided by uncharacteristically reliable Rustic fielding; keeper Robert Pinney leading the way with three catches and a stumping. The identity of the fielders was less consistent as a rotation system was employed to

facilitate the releasing of numerous otters back into nature.

The surprising availability of 'Mum' Neild proved a blessing as he snapped up two cheap wickets and Kilmington's batting faded to a modest 224 for 9 from their 40 overs.

The talk at tea was of Glennico's batting prowess, as he was keen to emphasise how he generally starts with a 6. He took the first delivery of the Rustics innings and disappointingly smashed it for 4. Two balls later, a red leather sphere was disappearing over the neighbouring tennis courts, a feat which he repeated once more during his bludgeoning innings of 39 runs from just 16 deliveries. His opening partner, another debutant in Matt Richards, was equally impressive, as he scored 48 (all in boundaries) from 30 deliveries and the Rustics went past 100 in just 8.1 overs.

Solid middle order performances from a third rookie, Tom Anderson (35), and the ever juvenile **John Dinnis** (45*) maintained the momentum. Dinnis caressed two consecutive deliveries onto the pavilion roof with such gentle timing that not a tile was broken.



The Rustics flag on Kilmington Church.



Squire leaving the village pub.



Glennico King eyes up the tennis courts.

Victory was achieved by three wickets, with 12 overs in hand, and the tourists retired to the Old Inn for a little woowooing. Well, the majority of the party did. Anderson decided that a seven-mile run was more enticing, and his absence from the first sitting of the fines committee did not impress the judges. The singing on the minibus journey to the Rustics Retreat was lacking any recognisable tune or coherent lyrics, while **Andrew Craze's** subsequent attempts to park a tiger on Squire's Porsche was lacking accuracy.

Devon Dumplings: 8 July 2019

Batting first on sunny Monday morning, Richards continued his form with the willow hitting four boundaries from his first over. Indeed, his Rustic career reached 60 runs

before he had the decency to run so much as a single. In company with skipper Robert Craze, the Rustics opening partnership reached 105 at drinks before Craze was dismissed for a nonchalant 42. Ryan Waldock entered the scene and hit the ball through his legs, onto his legs and then straight into square-leg's hands. King then produced a remarkable cameo including a lofted drive which sailed over the long-off boundary, hitting the second floor of student block of flats, before ricocheting onto the car park below. The ball was eventually retrieved, and Rustics reached the lunch interval on a comfortable 176 for 3.

The afternoon session belonged to Richards and Jack Upton, the former making batting look effortless as he found gaps in the field



Richards strokes another four in front of the new scoreboard (before Dinnis's indiscretion).



Jack Upton, chatting up the ladies of Exeter.

with such perfect timing that the fielders could only watch, admire and retrieve the ball from beyond the boundary rope. The only person to stop one of his fierce drives was his batting partner who took one square in his midriff and spent much of the evening showing the Exeter lasses his bruise. Richards drove his way gracefully past a century, while Upton pulled and cut his passage to 50 and the partnership reached 146 when Upton ran himself out.

As the remaining batsmen flailed and failed, Richards continued serenely to 190, when his magnificent innings came to a close. Concerned by the scorer's observation that 330 was a losing score on this wicket just two days beforehand, skipper Craze still refused to declare, leaving the Dumplings stewing in the afternoon sun for 54 overs before calling a halt to the innings on 349 for 9.

Super Josh Holmes regularly finds four leaf clovers on the Exeter pitch and once again his

rank long hop was pulled into the grateful hands of **Squire** to give Rustics an early breakthrough. After that the tourists were made to toil, prompting **Dinnis** to nip behind the expensive new electronic scoreboard for a comfort break. Immediately, the illuminated numbers flickered out of action and scoreboard remained blank for the rest of the match.

The Dumplings innings also flickered but then faltered, with Holmes and Richie Turner taking three wickets apiece, the latter removing the hosts' skipper first ball. He would have achieved a hat-trick had Craze senior pouched a difficult catch behind the stumps. (Two balls earlier, Craze had successfully headed the ball into the hand of gully for Turner's first wicket.)

As the younger Rustics partied in the wild nightclubs of Exeter, the more experienced tourists headed for the Seaton Tandoori. As they enjoyed their quiet bhunas and bhajis, the occupant of the neighbouring flat burst into the restaurant to complain of the noise.

Shobrooke Park: 9 July 2019

The tour party descended on Sidmouth for a relaxing lecture on the Jurassic coast conducted by geology graduate, Tom Anderson. Then, attracted by the barely disguised sales techniques of the Sidmouth Beach Paddle Board Company, the boys took to the English Channel on a large single raft, returning briefly to collect the stranded Waldock penguin who was still waddling watchfully across the sharp pebbles of the beach face. Miraculously, all returned to shore suffering only hypothermia and seasickness.

At the delightful parkland ground of Shobrooke, **Martin Hole** and Anderson opened the Rustics' innings with a series of boundaries, but a brief clatter of wickets saw the score slump to 53 for three. At this point, King marched to the wicket with his box of fireworks. He sent the ball screaming into the



Sam Irving poses for the coaching manual.

afternoon sky with an array of sparkling strokes that sent his score rocketing past 50. As he looked to strike his eighth 6 and bring up a dazzling century, he missed a straight scuttler and his display fizzled out. In partnership with **Dinnis** and **Weston**, **King** had scored 94 runs out of 109, in 11 overs.

Useful contributions from the tail included 25 from **Pinney**, who was given a life when several players (including **Pinney** himself) insisted his LBW decision should be reviewed as it clearly struck the middle of his bat.

In replying to the Rustics' 255 all out, **Shobrooke** had to contend with the express pace of the **Great Weston** who steamed in from the lake end and took two wickets for just 11 runs in an aggressive opening spell. However, the hosts' overseas professional kept the scoreboard ticking and at 119 for 4 the match remained in the balance. It was a spell of fizzing left-arm spin from **Anderson** that dramatically turned proceedings. The middle-order batsmen were bamboozled by his tweekers, and once **Waldock** performed a circus juggling act to catch the pro, it only left **Turner** to snare some rabbits and **Shobrooke** had collapsed to 128 all out.

Beaminster: 10 July 2019

A morning swim in the English Channel at **Lyme Regis** should have invigorated the Rustics'

bowlers, but at 80 for 0 after 20 overs it was the **Beaminster** batsmen who were beaming. The aging Rustics' requirement for regular comfort breaks didn't help matters and **Unlucky Upton** saw a catch go through the area vacated by **Neild** while he powdered his nose.

The bowling remained tight, particularly from tidy **Tom Anderson** who made the initial break-through in his miserly spell of 8-2-25-1. The fielding was also sharp with **George Weston** skidding and sliding around the boundary and **Northern** taking a one-handed catch as if it was a red delicious being plucked from an uppermost branch. (His two-handed fumble later in the innings, only corroborated **Newton's** experience with gravity.) So, while Rustics managed to collect just two wickets, **Beaminster's** score of 216 in their 40 overs was far from unsurmountable.

In response, **Richards** was dropped first ball, before producing a series of boundaries with immaculate cover drives. He broke his bat digging out a yorker and was then clean bowled using **Upton's** stick of **Emmental**. **Tom Atkinson** remained dogged at the other end (at one point blocking out 27 consecutive deliveries) but, in a 50 partnership with **Upton**, took Rustics to a comfortable position of 95 for 2 at the halfway stage of their innings. Five overs and three wickets later, all such comfort was lost, and it took a swashbuckling 44 from



The Wye Rustics with Beaminster CC.

Northern to keep hopes alive. With his dismissal, the score was 180 for 8 with just three overs left. Yet, all was not quiet on the Weston front. With a healthy lack of respect, the teenager smacked Beaminster's quick bowler back over his head for 6. In a last gasp partnership with Neild he guided the tourists to within 7 runs when he was bowled, leaving the stage set for skipper **Holborn** to hit the

required boundaries off the last two deliveries. Alas, only a single was mustered, and Rustics fell short of victory by a mere 6 runs in a thrilling match of high quality.

The resurgent Wye Rustics had narrowly failed to achieve a West Country whitewash, but with more youthful cricketers joining the woolly mammoths on the Jurassic Coast, the tour remains stronger than ever.

The Tour Party

Ex-Wye College: Simon Richardson (1971–74), Peter Holborn (1974–75), Nigel Snape (1977–80), John Dinnis (1979–82), Tom Atkinson (1979–82), Andrew Craze (1982–85), Martin Hole (1982–85), Dickon Turner (1982–85), Charlie Squire (1987–90), Sam Irving (1992–95)

Wye College Progeny: Robert Pinney, Richie Turner, Robert Craze

Honoured Guests: Chris Neild, Ryan Waldock, Josh Holmes, Jack Upton, Matt Richards, Tom Anderson, Glennico King, George Weston

Statistics

Kilmington	224 for 9	G King 7-1-29-3, C Neild 3-0-13-2, R Craze 7-0-30-2
Rustics	228 for 7	M Richards 48, J Dinnis 45* G King 39, T Anderson 35
Rustics	349 for 9	M Richards 190, J Upton 51, R Craze 42
Dumplings	221 all out	J Holmes 5.3-1-20-3, R Turner 10-1-64-3
Rustics	255 all out	G King 98
Shobrooke Pk	128 all out	R Turner 4.5-1-11-3, T Anderson 7-2-15-3, G Weston 5-0-11-2
Beaminster	216 for 2	
Rustics	2 10 for 95	Irving 44, J Upton 40

The Tropical Agriculture Association

Harry Franks (1963–66) and Keith Virgo (1959–62) would like Agricola Club members to read this article and consider whether they may be interested in joining the TAA. They would particularly welcome active participation in further enhancing the TAA's unique role in international agriculture development. They encourage you to visit the Association's website: <https://www.taa.org.uk> and emphasise that many of its activities are UK farming-orientated, including the Annual Conference at the Royal Agricultural University, study tours organised in the South West, and the like. See pages 172–179 for reports from four postgraduate research projects funded by the TAA.

Introduction

The Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA) is an international professional association of individuals, institutional bodies and civil society organisations concerned with the role of agriculture for sustainable development throughout the world (not just in the tropics). It now covers a much wider remit than just tropical agriculture, including marketing, environmental and social issues, and economics. It is perhaps unique as an association, independent of institutions or

government in confronting and debating the many serious issues and challenges that face the world as the population continues to expand, soils are degrading worldwide, global warming takes hold and there are growing trends in obesity and malnutrition. Food, fibre and renewable energy production and their impact on the environment (including water resources) are increasingly taking centre stage in world affairs. We believed what many Agricola Club members assumed; that Imperial College foresaw this evolving situation in



Rice Farming, Sri Lanka.



Visit to the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Cambridge.

acquiring Wye College – we were soon to learn that even the most cerebral institution is subject to short-termism!

What is TAA?

TAA is a unique professional association of individuals, businesses and corporate bodies involved in sustainable agricultural and livestock development.

History of TAA

The Association traces its roots to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA), Trinidad. Alumni of the college formed the ICTA Association in the mid-1970s. In 1979, the association was renamed the Tropical Agriculture Association and constituted in the UK. Over the years, the TAA membership has broadened to include all those interested in the many aspects of agricultural development worldwide.

Mission: The Association's mission is: 'To advance education, research and practice in agriculture for rural livelihoods and sustainable development.'

Objectives:

- 1 To contribute to international policies aimed at reducing poverty and improving livelihoods in rural areas in the tropics, sub-tropics and countries with less developed economies in temperate areas.
- 2 To encourage local and other initiatives to arrest the degradation of natural resources and improve the productivity of agriculture, rural enterprises and commercial investment in order to enhance family incomes and livelihoods.
- 3 To support the achievement of the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2, 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture' and Goal 15, 'Life on land'.

See: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals.

TAA recognises the interrelated roles of farmers and other stakeholders living in rural areas, agriculture-related professions and

researchers, government, non-governmental organisations, civil society and the private sector in achieving a convergent approach to sustainable rural development. This includes the importance of the role of women, the effect of climate change, nutrition and food chain aspects, and other social and cultural issues that impact on the rural economy and livelihoods.

What we do

Events: We organise seminars and technical workshops on topical themes, through our branches and in association with like-minded organisations. We also publicise details of technical meetings and conferences from around that world that may interest our members.

Lectures: The TAA hosts two prestigious public lectures: texts are available online: <https://taa.org.uk/publications/lectures>.

- **Ralph Melville Memorial Lecture** by a renowned keynote speaker, held annually

during March-April, usually at a leading UK university or at the Houses of Parliament.

- **Hugh Bunting Memorial Lecture**, an annual lecture on a topical issue related to international agricultural development, published online. The lecture is held at Reading, in collaboration with Reading University.

Annual Conference: In October, we organise a conference on a topical theme, in collaboration with the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester: www.rau.ac.uk.

Topical news: We circulate regular (almost daily) news updates by email to members, covering a wide range of issues concerned with tropical agriculture, international development, social development, new publications and agricultural research, as well as specific TAA news aimed at our members.

Collaborative support and networking: TAA networks and communicates, actively and effectively, to represent the views of UK and



Peri-urban farming, India.



Ploughing in the Himalayas.

international organisations and professionals involved in agriculture for development. TAA is an active supporter of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development, a Partner of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR), and an 'Organisational Member' of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB).

TAAF awards: We provide financial support and mentoring to young graduates to enable them to undertake assignments in developing countries in topics related to rural development or sustainable agriculture. We have to raise funds for these scholarships and the Agricola Fund has generously supported TAAF awards in recent years.

Award of honours: The TAA awards honours to individuals and organisations for services in recognition of their significant contributions to the improvement of rural livelihoods in developing countries through sustainable agricultural development. This year awards

included: Development Agriculturalist awarded to Amir Kassam for championing conservation agriculture globally as a means of managing land productively and sustainably while responding to climate change; and Young Development Agriculturalist (UK) awarded to Emma Amadi in recognition of her work on economically, socially and environmentally sustainable sourcing relationships linking smallholder cocoa farmers and chocolate manufacturers in Ghana (sponsored by Agricola Club Memorial Fund).

Vacancies, student and early career jobseekers: We offer advice to student and early career job seekers and provide a Facebook Group and other platforms to assist early career members in networking and seeking new opportunities. We also publish vacancies and job opportunities for early career and more senior positions in agriculture and rural development fields.

Charitable activities: As part of our remit as a registered charity, we support the following initiatives:

- TAA contributes to LendwithCARE, a peer-to-peer lending relationship between people in the UK and people in developing countries, operated by CARE International.
- The mission of the Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust (BOAT) is to improve agriculture and livelihoods in the developing world by teaching trainers to train more effectively and training institutes and rural development organisations to deliver better quality training and sustainable development services through improved management.
- TAA has close links with GrassrootsAfrica, set up by a member, which aims to provide practical information to small farmers in Africa through links with an expert panel. TAA members are invited to join.

Website: We maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date website available to members, including access to our four-monthly *Agriculture for Development (Ag4Dev)* journal, a Members Directory, information on meetings and transcripts of important papers.

Structure of the TAA

The TAA is run by an executive committee that normally meets in London. The president is Andrew Bennett, past Chief Natural Resources Adviser at the Department for International development. TAA also has active regional branches in the UK and international convenors.

Regional branches: Our UK regional branches have exciting programmes of one-day meetings, often as seminars with presentations and discussions, and field trips for members and guests. The meetings are held at institutes, colleges or universities,

often as joint meetings with the host organisation, and offer opportunities for networking. The subjects are wide-ranging and focus on topics that are of current interest to world agriculture development. Forthcoming meetings are listed in the relevant edition of *Ag4Dev* and on the website events pages.

Overseas

We continue to encourage overseas membership, particularly through our Convenors in India, the Caribbean, South-East Asia, Pacific and Zambia/Southern Africa, aimed at fostering networking and exchanges of ideas between members.

Specialist groups

Agribusiness Specialist Group: An informal group of members interested in agri-business, crop-processing and marketing.

Environmental Conservation Specialist Group: With a membership of the Cambridge Conservation Forum and access to a network of leading environmental, conservation, research and development institutes, and participation in seminars, symposia, etc.

The Land Husbandry Specialist Group: Special focus is given to Conservation



Akola University, India, crop trials.

Agriculture (CA, or No-till Farming), with news releases on land husbandry issues and CA.

Membership: how to join

Join us now to participate in the Association's activities, as an Individual Member, as an Institutional Member or as an Introductory Member. Go to the TAA website <https://taa.org.uk/membership-levels>. It is an ideal way to meet people with common interests and to build new networks of friends.

Individual Membership: Enjoy the benefits of membership that include the following:

- *Ag4Dev* journal (three editions per year) – opt for full membership (£50 pa) with hard copies of the journal or online membership (£40 pa) with access to all editions online.
- Access to the full website services.
- Search for contact details of members, countries worked, key skills.
- Seminars and field trips organised by UK regional branches

- Attendance at the annual conference and lectures

Institutional membership: Enjoy additional benefits as a corporate body, academic or research institution or an NGO. Please complete the application form (adding a brief account of your organisation's activities in the Career Summary box, max 150 words). Once signed-up and paid, please send us a copy of your logo.

Introductory membership: Grow your career with weekly job adverts from leading businesses and organisations and stay informed with regular news updates from the world of tropical agriculture and development. However, you will not have access to members-only areas of the TAA website. Introductory Membership is free and available primarily to those under 35 years of age, but we hope that you will be encouraged to graduate to paid-up Individual Membership so as to gain access to all our services.



Large-scale zero-till farming, Brazil.

Books

An eclectic mix of books written by Agricola members, ranging from John Hosking's account of the magistracy, through Ridley Nelson's travels and life away from Wye to an account of a local jam-making business at Coldharbour that previously provided employment opportunities for many overseas wives and partners.

Our Magistracy: A Democratic Jewel beyond Price

By John Hosking, CBE (Wye College, 1950-53 and Honorary Life member of the Agricola Club)

Published by Waterside Press, in March 2020. Our Magistracy is available in paperback and hardback. See website for full details: www.watersidepress.co.uk.

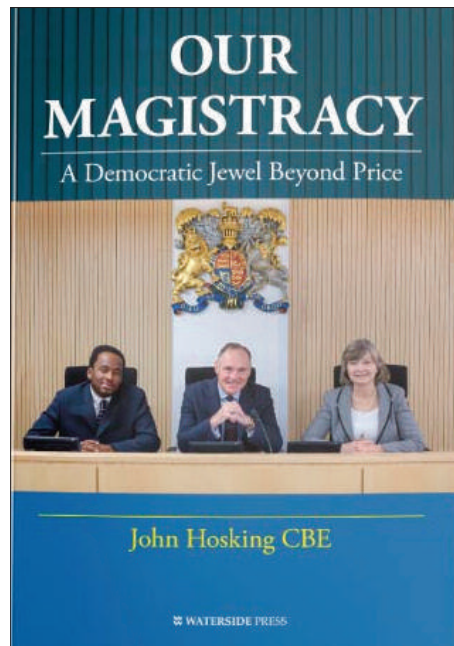
This book is a rare insight and celebration of the magistracy which sets out its core role and values. Critical of threats to a 'democratic jewel', *Our Magistracy* identifies mistakes by politicians and others. The author is a former chairman of the Magistrates Association and published to coincide with the centenary of that organisation.

In this highly informed account of the magistracy, the John Hosking deals with the key issues touching on that institution. Focusing on what Lord Bingham, Lord Chief Justice, described as a 'democratic jewel beyond price', he explains its rationale, goals and overriding values.

Describing the magistracy as a great national institution, independent, respected and a true people's court, the author nevertheless decries a halving of its size, closure of courthouses, remote services and increasing reliance on professional judges rather than community volunteers. Though much has changed for the better to increase competency, meet criticism and maintain integrity, etc, this personal

viewpoint explains how a casualty of such changes has been the very status of the lay magistracy and inroads into the cherished principle of public and democratic participation in the justice system.

John Hosking combined a lifetime in business with service as a justice of the peace. Chairman of the nationwide Magistrates Association from 1987 to 1990, he is life vice-president of the Kent branch (where he served on the Ashford bench). He has acted as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant and was awarded the CBE in 1990 for services to the magistracy.



Echoes from Far Lands: Stories on Cultures, Farming and Life

By Ridley Nelson (1961-65)

Available as paperback or e-book version on Amazon. The release date was March 2020 which is when the e-book version was available online. It is published by Mascot Books in the USA and shipping to UK would be fairly expensive. We have a copy in Wye at the Heritage Centre.

This richly textured book leads you into cultures and farming across five continents. The author takes you on a lush, lively journey from his birthplace in Australia, to Egypt, to English boarding schools, and to sheep stations in Australia. Step onto a merchant ship, or into a quaint English pub or peaceful village church. Glimpse the lives of African smallholder farmers and the iconic Masai tribe. Join the author for wildlife tales around a campfire in Kenya. Listen and learn from the wisdom of a

progressive women's group in India. You will find here tales from a wide swathe of human life laced with heart, humour and warm wit. In this intimate, wayfaring expedition, watch in horror as an aircraft explodes overhead, cast a line for trout in elephant and lion country, observe the human side of war through the author's military ancestors, and, at the end of your travels, take a deep breath and settle into a sweeping final chapter that contemplates meaning and life.

This volume does not cover Ridley's years at Wye which he may pick up in another follow-on book that he is thinking of writing. Here, Ridley just didn't have the space for College reminiscences as he wanted to keep his eye on the main theme of cultures and farmers.

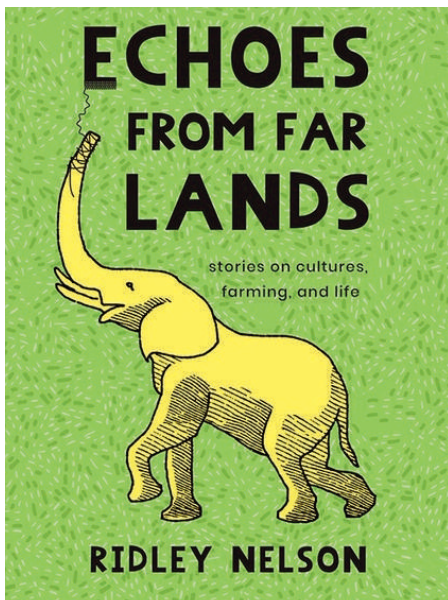
Letter from Tony Williams (1961-65) to Ridley Nelson with comments on his book and reflections on his own travels

Good morning Ridley

Congratulations on the book, it is a great read, well written and sensitive and humorous – quite a feat. Even more so for the evidence of a life well-lived. I enjoyed the last chapter and will re-read more slowly.

I am hoping that I have persuaded my three offspring and five grandchildren to read it, or rather invest the time to get a feel for the lessons that don't get covered in New Zealand, Wales and Bristol. But they all have their own trail to follow.

Even so, one, although still at school, has already been out to Malawi to work at a mission hospital for a couple of weeks. The youngest had plans to go this summer, with his Mum, to Zambia on a trip, in part to see where his Mum was born. Sadly, I suspect Covid-19 will put paid to that.





Ridley Nelson's new book concentrates on cultures of farming and life.

Carol and I were in Zambia from 1965–68 and have our own treasure trove of stories from UDI, being held at gunpoint in the Congo and shoeing chickens from hotel rooms in Tanzania when driving up to Kenya. On that trip we, including 15-month-old Paul, got mixed up in a Masai circumcision ceremony, I with the men, the other three (Mum, Paul and a UK friend) with the women. Happy days.

Time spent in Russia was just as unpredictable. Several days waiting around for short meetings on trade issues in the 'olden' days, then in the new times working with Mafia-backed owners

of fertilizer plants (protected by armed guards) and more productively out in the Oblast seeking a cost/price ratio that would reward progressive private farmers.

Wye has a lot to answer for – no, a lot to be proud of.

Many thanks for the book

And very Best wishes

Tony W

The book that I wrote about the jam we are in

By Nicholas Bolt of the Wooden Spoon Preserving Company, Coldharbour

My name is Nicolas Bolt. I have lived in Wye for almost 45 years. In 2018 I decided to write a book called A Bit of a Stir. It is a tribute to my incredible father who set up a company making preserves (jam!) in Wye, which still exists to this day. The company is called the Wooden Spoon Preserving Company Ltd.

The book tells the story of how a promise made by a friend and business colleague encouraged my father to move his family from the London suburbs to the Kent countryside. This promise was made by the buyer from the prestigious London store Fortnum & Mason. It was one summer's day in 1973; Wally, an Australian, and his wife had arrived at my parents' house for Sunday lunch. My father, my sister and I had been picking strawberries the day before so that my father could make some jam. He worked in the city but his hobby was jam-making.

The friend caught the smell of the jam in the air and asked if he could taste it. So impressed was he that he immediately made my father this wild promise: 'Peter, if you ever decide to make this jam commercially, Fortnum & Mason will be your first customer.'

And he kept to his word. My father scoured the county of Kent for a suitable location and in 1975 bought the house in Wye which had the village forge at the back. He converted the forge into a large kitchen and started to concoct his recipes. This was done at the weekends and in the evenings since father commuted up to London in the day to his 'proper' job. It was only when the business got established that he stopped commuting and concentrated his efforts full time on – the Wooden Spoon!

My mother slowly got involved and, with ladies from the village, they made quantities of jams and marmalades for Fortnum & Mason. Each week the London store would send its van down to Kent to collect all that had been made. The jars were then shipped all over the world to exotic locations such as the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, and so on. As the business grew, The Wooden Spoon gained further prestigious accounts such as the National Trust. But the pinnacle was to supply jams and marmalades, with bespoke packaging, to the royal gift shops of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Sandringham, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. During this time, my parents made presentations to various members of the royal family including the Queen and the late Queen Mother.

In 1988, when I graduated from university, my father persuaded me to help him out whilst I tried to find a job in the sporting world. I agreed. Unbeknown to me, however, he soon implemented an expansion programme and



approached the then principal of Wye College to enquire if there were any large disused buildings in the area where he could expand the business. An abandoned oast house, which was then storing farming machinery, at Coldharbour Farm in Wye was offered. Father bought it and the building was converted into what it is today, a jam making 'factory'. I decided to stay on and my sister, Carol, also became involved. Extra help, however, was needed to meet the growing demands, and this was when the business got even further involved with Wye College by employing many of the spouses of the overseas students who were studying there, both undergraduates and postgraduates. It was an incredible place to

work with people from all corners of the world.

Running a business has its highs and lows and the book I have written touches on both. Father sadly passed away in 2002, and our family decided to sell the business soon afterwards. In 2005 The Wooden Spoon was sold to an old university friend of mine, Jeff Higgins. The company has gone from strength to strength and thrives to this day.

Copies of the book are for sale. If you would like to learn more about my family, our association with Wye and the special relationship that we were privileged to have with the many Wye College students who worked at the Wooden Spoon, then please contact me at: nicolaspeter@yahoo.com.



A mini League of Nations kept the jam pots boiling. Row 1 (left to right): Loreto (Chile), Ida (Malaysia), Noraya (Malaysia), Luis (Chile), Luisa (Mexico), Alex (Mexico), Virginia (Brazil); row 2: Eli (Mexico), Binta (Nigeria), Dina (Greece), Lalan (with moustache, Sri Lanka), Liliana (Columbia), Krisha (Sri Lanka); row 3: Heliane (Brazil), Jacek (Poland), Carolina (Chile), Lili (Bulgaria), Ceci (Mexico), Shirani (Sri Lanka).

A Year in the Luberon

By Wendy Gibbs

Those of you who knew Chris Gibbs (1963–66) during his college years would doubtless have met his lovely wife Wendy. She was not associated with the College, other than through marriage to Chris, but they lived together in Wye for a few years, and that's when many of us got to know her. She is a talented artist – indeed, we

have one of her botanical studies of wild orchids on show at home. Wendy and Chris now live in the South of France, in the Vaucluse region of Provence, and Wendy has produced a new book, A Year in the Luberon which is richly illustrated with her botanical paintings. The flyer reproduced here is to advertise the book launch, which will have come and gone by the time you read this. Nevertheless, its a beautiful poster and a gorgeous example of Wendy's work – Ed.



Aquarelles de Wendy Gibbs à l'Espace Sylla

Wendy Gibbs est née et a grandi près de Londres où elle a fait des études de beaux arts et donné des cours de professeure d'école à l'université de Londres.

Depuis 1966, elle a beaucoup voyagé et fait des séjours en plusieurs pays. Artiste botanique, elle a pu peindre la flore du continent d'Afrique, de l'Asie, du Canada et des Etats-Unis. Depuis 2004 elle vit en Provence à Villars, dans le Vaucluse.

Wendy Gibbs peint les plantes et les insectes et travaille l'aquarelle à partir de sujets vivants. La précision et la minutie des détails de ses tableaux reflètent sa connaissance et son amour pour les plantes. Ses oeuvres ont été exposées dans de nombreuses parties du globe et ont été acquises par des entreprises et par des collectionneurs privés.

Elle a donné des cours d'aquarelle botanique au Canada, aux Etats-Unis à l'école d'art de Georgetown et au jardin botanique des Etats-Unis à Washington, à Genève au conservatoire du jardin botanique, et au Vietnam. Elle a illustré aussi plusieurs livres au Vietnam, en Malaisie et aux Etats-Unis.

Wendy Gibbs exposera ses oeuvres à **l'Espace Sylla du jeudi 3 avril au jeudi 30 avril avec un vernissage jeudi 2 avril à 18h**. L'exposition inclue les illustrations originelles pour son nouveau livre "A Year in the Luberon" – "Un an dans le Luberon."

espace
SYLLA
EXPOSITION

AQUARELLES ET LANCEMENT DU LIVRE DE WENDY GIBBS



A year
in the
Luberon

Du 2 au 30 avril 2020

Ouvert du lundi au samedi de 9h à 19h

ESPACE SYLLA – 406, AVENUE DE LANCON – 84400 APT – 04 90 04 60 37

Wye College and its World: A Centenary History

We are delighted to be able to include some extracts from this book by Stewart Richards, published in 1994 by Ashford Wye College Press.

The more I get into this book, the more impressed I am by the wonderful job Stewart has done pulling together so many disparate strands and sources of information.

Here are a few gems that appear towards the end of the book that I missed on first reading (ironically, in a chapter dedicated to the Agricola Club and Swanley Guild!). Reproduced here to give pleasure to our readers although sadly, I guess you have to be of a certain vintage to fully appreciate the content. – Editor

Not all of us began life at Oxford or Wye and the atmosphere to a new boy was electric. The candelabra (not electric), the impeccable waiter service, the college grapes, the port wine, and overall the thrilling rhetoric from the lips of the great man himself pouring like a baptismal fount over our innocent heads ... Dunstan (Skilbeck) had that precious faculty of impressing upon the young the desirability of using a silver salt cellar that doesn't pour in preference to a plastic one that does.

Professor I W Selman

*Although, in the swinging sixties, 'my lot' of angry 'lets-tear-down-everything establishment' students managed to turn that magnificent waiter-served dinner each evening into a self-service buffet arrangement, it seems this decision was reversed in the seventies, as explained by **Tim Skelton** (1968–71):*

How often I have heard it said that it is so regrettable that Wye is changing so fast? Next session we move back a step in history. After opting for a cafeteria evening meal, many students realized how valuable a formal one was. Thus, in October 1971, the formal dinner in the Winter Terms will return.'

During my second year at Wye (1947), I was invited by two young men to take Coffee with them in the old college. They wanted to talk about the opportunities for social contact between the sexes. I think men were allowed to visit Withersdane, then a women's hostel, once a week to take tea on Sunday afternoons.

Dr Allan 'Jacko' Jackson

About the Wye Hill Café run by the Kilns, in the 1930s

When an aunt came to live with (the Kiln) family, they had a storey built over the Café. This also gave room to provide student lodgings, always in great demand in the village. The café was dubbed 'The House of Lords' when Lord Mornington, son of the Duke of Wellington, Lord Walpole and the Hon Childe Villiers, brother of the Earl of Jersey, stayed there together. They were an ebullient trio, much addicted to practical jokes ...'

See page 184 for further extracts from this book.

Agricola Club Accounts

Accountants' report for the year ended 31 July 2019

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 18 August 2014 we have compiled the financial statements of Wye College Agricola Club for the year ended 31 July 2019 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

The financial statements have been compiled on the accounting basis set out in note 1 to the financial statements. The financial statements are not intended to achieve full compliance with the provisions of UK Generally Accounting Principles.

As a member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance.

This report is made solely to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval, the financial information of Wye College Agricola Club and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report in accordance with the guidance of ICAEW as detailed at icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of Wye College Agricola Club for our work, or for this report.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2019 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the accounting basis

and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

B P Wilkinson FCA

Chavereys

Chartered Accountants

Faversham

Date: 20 September 2019

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2019

1 Accounting policies

- i) The club prepares accounts on an accruals basis, using UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as guidance.
- ii) All income, except interest on investments, is derived from members or from sources outside the scope of Corporation Tax. As such the club is covered by Mutual Trading exemptions.
- iii) The club elects to write off the income from 'lifetime membership' applicants in the year of application.

Wye Agricola Club

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 July 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Sale of ties, prints etc.		197		65
Subscriptions		1,617		1,577
Donations		2,000		-
Annual dinner		4,760		-
Hog roast		1,830		-
Memorial Fund journal contribution		16,000		10,000
		<u>26,404</u>		<u>11,642</u>
Expenditure				
Opening stock	271		339	
Purchases of ties, etc.	722		-	
Closing stock	<u>(843)</u>		<u>(271)</u>	
		150		68
Annual dinner	5,096		-	
Hog roast	1,628		-	
Wye Journal	16,112		9,219	
Website expenses	598		137	
Meetings, expenses and secretarial	1,708		970	
Wye Heritage donation	2,000		-	
Insurance	349		340	
Support for Rustics Caps	-		330	
Accountancy	<u>312</u>		<u>312</u>	
		27,803		11,307
		<u>27,952</u>		<u>11,375</u>
Net (deficit) \ surplus		<u>(1,549)</u>		<u>267</u>

Wye Agricola Club

Balance sheet as at 31 July 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Debtor - memorial fund donation	-	10,000		
Lloyds Bank	10,564	2,713		
Stocks	843	271		
Debtors		0		
	<u>28</u>	<u>11,435</u>		<u>12,984</u>
Current liabilities				
Accruals		(300)		(300)
Net assets		<u>11,135</u>		<u>12,684</u>
Accumulated funds				
Opening reserves		12,684		12,417
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(1,549)		267
Accumulated reserves		<u>11,135</u>		<u>12,684</u>

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 disclosing a net deficit of £-1549 and we confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved on 20 September 2019.

Prof J P G Webster

Treasurer

(for and on behalf of the committee)

Agricola Club Memorial Fund Research Grants

The fund provides support for MSc students via the Tropical Agricultural Awards Fund (TAAF). During the year the Memorial Fund continued its support of research projects undertaken by UK-based MSc students. First, Antony Ellman, the scheme's administrator and (retiring) chairman, reports on the processes involved; then the four chosen students provide summaries of their projects.

Tropical Agriculture Association Report to the Agricola Club by Antony Ellman

1 Agricola Club Awards

In January 2017 and January 2018, Wye Agricola Club (WAC) made donations of £2000 to the TAAF, to be used for supporting new graduates from UK universities in subjects related to natural resource use and for helping them to move towards a long-term career in international agricultural development. In January 2019, a further generous grant of £4000 was made for the same purpose.

It was initially intended to use the WAC grant to make one long-term award to a PhD student at the University of Leeds (£2000) and two short-term awards to MSc students at Imperial College and the University of East Anglia (£1000 each), for the studies outlined below:

- 1) Thierze Hermans, PhD student at University of Leeds: 'An Assessment of On-Farm Conservation Agriculture Trials in Lemu and Mwansambo Communities, Malawi, through Farmers' Perspectives'
- 2) Emma Amadi, MSc in Environmental Technology, Imperial College: 'Developing Climate-Smart Cocoa in Ghana's Value Chain: An Exploration of Industry and Smallholder Perspectives'
- 3) Ryan Alderton, MSc Environmental Change and International Development, University of Sheffield.

Unfortunately, Thierze Hermans encountered some personal difficulties part-way through her study and was obliged to leave Malawi after only two months in the field. She was able to complete a Masters degree and hopes to continue her PhD studies at a later stage. She had only received the first £1000 of her TAAF/WAC award, so the remaining £1000 was reallocated to another MSc student at the University of East Anglia:

- 4) Jack Metcalf, MSc Environment and International Development, University of East Anglia: 'Land Use Change, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing in Post-Conflict Colombia'

Summary reports by Thierze Hermans, Emma Amadi and Ryan Alderton are included below. Jack Metcalf unfortunately fell ill with Lyme Disease while in Colombia (probably contracted before he left for the field) and has been given a six-month extension for completing his MSc. His report was delayed, but arrived in time to publish a summary here, once he had completed his degree.

2 Returned awardee workshop

All the 2019 awardees, and some from earlier years, were invited to a one-day workshop held at University College London on 8 November 2019. The participants were asked to make poster presentations on their research and had the opportunity to interact with other awardees

and with experienced TAA members who had mentored the awardees during their field work.

The poster presentations sparked interesting discussions and provided a good opportunity for reflecting on research processes and outcomes. A subsequent careers advisory session covered employment opportunities in consultancy, government, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, NGOs, start-up enterprises and academia. This proved extremely useful to the awardees.

The participants were highly positive about TAA and the support they had received from TAAF and WAC. All said that they want to continue their association with TAA and with each other: a TAA LinkedIn account has been set up for this purpose, and periodic meetings of interested participants in London are proposed. It is intended to repeat the workshop as an annual event.

3 Young Development Agriculturalist of the Year

This Young Development Agriculturalist (YDA) of the Year honour is awarded each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of TAA (assuming a worthy candidate has been identified) to a young professional who has shown particular promise in development work and has a serious intention to continue in this field.

One of the WAC awardees, Emma Amadi, was unanimously deemed worthy of receiving the YDA honour, which was presented to her at the TAA AGM on 12 December 2019.

4 Future plans for TAA and TAAF

In the financial year (2019–20) TAAF had a budget of £15,000, of which around 10% will be retained for a repeat of last year's workshop and the remainder will be allocated to MSc and Standard awards.

Calls for applications for MSc awards were circulated to UK universities in early January

2020, with a deadline of 31 March 2020 for submissions. We hope to be able to give 10 to 15 awards depending on the number and quality of the applications received. We may also give one or more long-term awards if suitable applications are received.

We see the TAAF award scheme as critically important, not only in supporting a new generation of development professionals, but also in maintaining an ongoing supply of active members of TAA. This is an essential prerequisite for lowering the age profile of the organisation and for ensuring that we are able to continue our functions of influencing UK aid policy and of producing experienced professionals to staff the UK institutions which have always been centres of excellence in international agricultural development.

See page 180 for the full list of 2019 Awardees.

Thierze Hermanns, University of Leeds

Assessment of Conservation Agriculture On-farm Trials in Lemu and Mwansambo, Malawi, through Farmers' Perspective

To improve the resilience and adaptation of agriculture to climate change threats, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has proposed the climate-smart agriculture framework, of which conservation agriculture (CA) is the most widely promoted in Malawi. The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) has been running CA on-farm trials for 10 years in two regions of Malawi. This study, supported by TAAF and Wye Agricola Club, assessed from the farmers' perspective the impact of CA practices on soil quality and crop yields, and the constraints to their widespread adoption.

The study was conducted in two sites in Malawi: Lemu Community in Balaka District, Southern Malawi, and Mwansambo Community, Nkhotakota District, Central Malawi. I conducted interviews, participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) (including timelines, labour calendars, field mapping and soil science methods) and focus groups. The main themes covered in the discussions were the role of knowledge and information transfer in communities, farmers' understanding of agricultural systems, and understanding the nature of farmer decision-making.

Despite positive biophysical results from the on-farm trials, CA adoption rates in Malawi have so far remained critically low: it is reported that only 2–3% of farmers are practising CA. In order to understand the low adoption paradox, it is necessary to have a better understanding of small-scale farmers' perspectives, knowledge and priorities.

The PRA and focus group discussions demonstrated the importance of social and cultural dynamics in agricultural decision-making and knowledge. Different levels of education and access to information have a big

influence on decision-making. Furthermore, cultural values promoted by chiefs, such as hard work and respect for tradition, make it more favourable for farmers to stick to traditional ridge and furrow systems. Additionally, the complexity of on-farm trials designed on the research station make it difficult for farmers to understand the relevance of the results to their own situation. There is room for improvement in communication between researchers and farming communities, and in the ways of communicating results.

This project, and the TAAF support which made it possible, have improved my own understanding of the dynamics of decision-making in farming communities in Malawi. Additionally, living within these communities during the 2019 season of heavy rainfall and cyclones made me more aware of the contextual importance and the role research can play in improving community development.

The two farming communities studied were very happy to receive data on previously conducted CA research, and to gain a better



Focus group discussion in Mwansambo community.

understanding of advances in knowledge which can influence their agricultural decision-making. The publications (peer-reviewed journal articles) that will result from this project will highlight the research results in more detail, and will hopefully improve understanding of the need to integrate different forms of knowledge and disciplines for understanding CA's potential and challenges.

Emma Amadi, MSc Environmental Technology, Imperial College London

Developing Climate-smart Cocoa in Ghana's Value Chain: Exploring Industry and Smallholder Perspectives

I conducted research in Ghana for my MSc dissertation in Environmental Technology at Imperial College. I received support from the Tropical Agriculture Award Fund (TAAF) and the Wye Agricola Club, for which I am very grateful.

This research aimed to explore industry and smallholder farmer perspectives on the development of climate-smart cocoa (CSC) production in Ghana. Climate change is reducing the area suitable for cocoa production in Ghana, whilst global demand for cocoa is growing. The sector is also a major driver of deforestation, contributing significantly to Ghana's greenhouse gas emissions. As millions of poor, rural Ghanaians rely on the cocoa industry for their livelihoods, it is important that the sector improves cocoa productivity, whilst increasing farming communities' capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

This research found that Ghana's multi-stakeholder CSC initiatives have begun to lay the groundwork for sustainable increases in cocoa productivity and in the capacity of cocoa farmers and farms to adapt to and mitigate

climate change. Many farmers have been educated about the risks of climate change and the benefits of CSC. Initiatives are also beginning to help them to develop simple cocoa agroforests and to gain access to some basic financial services. New forms of advanced value-chain collaboration have also been developed to promote CSC, through the creation of commercial farmers' groups helping companies to engage with farmers more easily.

However, this research found that current CSC initiatives fall short of achieving diverse, sustainable and climate-smart farms and farmer livelihoods, and that farmers themselves are rarely involved in developing interventions. As such, this study recommends that CSC strategies ensure that they promote diversified agroforest systems with economically useful crops and trees (e.g. mahogany, avocado, plantain, chilli pepper and tomato) to improve the business case for CSC amongst smallholders and industry stakeholders.

Farmers' also need access to financial services, longer-term farmer contracts, or financial compensation for preserving biodiversity to allow them to invest in CSC. Finally, CSC initiatives should promote independent farmers' organisations to help to develop



Ghana Forestry Commission ranger and Emma on a full-sun cocoa farm in Sefwi Wiawoso District.

farmer- and community-led and owned interventions. This will create more locally relevant forms of CSC which will be more sustainable in the long-term and provide a better platform for farmers' views.

The recommendations of this study are also relevant to other cocoa-producing nations and tropical agricultural systems like palm oil and soy, where state and private actors have committed to tackling deforestation and improve farmers' welfare and ability to adapt to climate change. Adopting these learnings at scale would help to produce the multisectoral collaboration needed

to create climate-smart agricultural-mosaic landscapes across the tropics.

Undertaking this field research helped me to understand the complexities of implementing zero-deforestation commitments and climate-smart agriculture. Hearing from the cocoa farmers themselves highlighted to me the need for more participatory approaches in these public and private sector initiatives. The experience also helped me to get a job researching corporate action on deforestation and sustainable agriculture at the Carbon Disclosure Project (now called CDP).

Jack Metcalf, MSc Environment and International Development, University of East Anglia

Land Use Change, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing in Post-conflict Colombia

The TAAF award fund enabled me to carry out primary research in the field in the Tolima region of Colombia. I conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observation focused around the village of San Bernardo. This area has experienced various challenges over the previous decades, including civil conflict and the presence of guerrilla forces alongside the increasing effects of climate change. The aim of this research was to explore how communities could adapt to these challenges in a sustainable way. Climate change and civil conflict represent significant challenges to rural communities, particularly in the global south, and as such identifying and sharing successful adaptation strategies for community resilience is an important area for academic research.

The results of the research highlighted the serious challenges that climate change is already presenting to this community and how

they are adapting to them in a post-conflict scenario. Key strategies include income diversification through tourism and switching crops to cacao which is more suited to warmer temperatures. Cacao also provides positive outcomes for biodiversity due to its preference



A fair-traded chocolate product

for shade, allowing agroforestry-methods to be utilised.

A focus on community development and social enterprise has provided positive conditions for sustainable growth through encouraging the sharing of knowledge and resources and a value system based around respecting each other and nature. The community faces enduring challenges in the form of ongoing threats and violence towards activists, a lack of infrastructure and services and the increasing effects of climate change. Their focus on establishing strong support networks and building community relations will be key to their resilience in the face of future difficulties.

The fieldwork was extremely challenging for me but also provided an incredible opportunity to immerse myself into a different culture and landscape. I learnt a huge amount and was able to see the real-world dynamics and impacts of the theories and material covered in my course. I was humbled by the resilience and positivity of the people and their generous and welcoming nature. I would like to give my sincere thanks to the Tropical



Jack with San Bernardo cacao farmers.

Agriculture Association and the Wye Agricola Club for their support with the grant, without which I would not have been able to do this research.



View from hills above the research site.

Ryan Anderton, MSc Environmental Change and International Development, University of Sheffield

The Proxy War between Pastoralists and Wildlife in Il Ngwesi, Kenya: How Underlying Human–human Conflict is Driving Human–Wildlife Conflict for 'the People of Wildlife'

I carried out research for my master's dissertation on human–wildlife conflict (HWC) in Kenya for two months over the summer, using a grant from TAAF with funds provided by the Wye Agricola Club. I was on placement with a local organisation called Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), which advocates for

the rights of indigenous communities.

I conducted walking interviews with people from the Il Ngwesi community, where I learnt how to implement the research techniques that I had studied on my MSc course. Some challenging difficulties arose, mostly technical and logistical with equipment and meeting people, respectively, but it was ultimately a rewarding experience because I managed to adapt and find solutions. I really valued the whole experience, in particular sharing cultural insights and traditions with local people and laughing together about our differences and unique qualities.

My research found that HWC is intensifying, which is having a severe impact on the wellbeing and livelihoods of people in the community. HWC is intrinsically linked to



Ryan and his supervisor conducting interviews with indigenous women from the community.



An elephant charging towards the vehicle Ryan was travelling in revealed the danger of conflict between humans and animals.

socio-economic conflict because many local people blame nearby private landowners and the government wildlife agency for giving higher priority to wildlife conservation than to people's needs. Consequently, wild animals are being politicised, which I concluded is causing a proxy war where HWC is often the physical manifestation of the underlying socio-political conflict. I recommended IMPACT to approach HWC in tandem with socio-political conflict and to use conflict transformation techniques to address the issues effectively.

This research project and the support from TAAF have been instrumental in enabling me to gain valuable personal experience for a career in International Development. The opportunity to work in partnership with IMPACT also left a lasting impression on how

to support marginalised communities by being actively engaged with them and advocating for their rights.

TAAF Awardees 2019

University/ applicant Edinburgh:	Masters course	Project/country	TAAF mentors
Georgina Hoare	MSc Environmental Sustainability Education	Effectiveness of Conservation Education in Spreading Conservation Messages in Areas of Human Wildlife Conflict, Kenya	Jane Wilkinson
Greenwich: Ibrahim Mukhayer	MSc Sustainable Agriculture	Can We Make a Farmer a lumberjack?: Stakeholder Engagement in Ethiopian Regreening Programmes	Antony Ellman & James Brockington
Imperial: Emma Amadi	MSc Environmental Technology – Business and the Environment	Exploring the Role of Cocoa Producers in Chocolate Manufacturers' Sustainable Sourcing Commitments: A Case Study of Cocoa in Ghana	Laurence Sewell
Lydia Handford	MSc Environmental Technology – Environmental Resource Management	Data Aggregation for Improved Agricultural Practices in Kenya	Paul Baranowski
Oxford: Luke Grenfell-Shaw	MSc Water Science, Policy and Management	How Can Saltwater-Cooled Greenhouses Decrease Freshwater Consumption in Agriculture, and What Are the Barriers to their Adoption in Saudi Arabia?	Islam Abdel-Aziz
Sheffield: Ryan Anderton	MSc Environmental Change and International Development	The Effects of Modern Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Techniques on the Livelihoods and Wellbeing of Pastoralists in Northern Kenya	Naysan Adlparvar
SOAS: Shreya Pillai	MSc Development Economics	Pathways out of Poverty for Ethiopian Working Women	Antony Ellman & Jim Ellis-Jones
UCL: Deimante Lesten	MSc Anthropology, Environment and Development	Impact of Plastic Pollution on Rural Communities of Atitlan, Guatemala	James Alden
Eduardo Superchi	MSc Anthropology, Environment and Development	Cultivation Practices and Conservation Politics in Chiapas, Mexico	Jonathan Stern
Alice Vittoria	MPhil Anthropology	Contested Views of the Forest in the Congo Basin: Logging, Conservation and the BaYaka	James Brockington
UEA: Jack Metcalfe	MSc Environment and International Development	Land Use Change, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing in Post-conflict Colombia	Margaret Pasquini

Agricola Club Memorial Fund Accounts

Accountants' report for the year ended 31 July 2019

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 18 August 2014 we have compiled the financial statements of Wye College Agricola Club Memorial Fund which comprise the income and expenditure account, the statement of assets and liabilities and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

The financial statements have been compiled on the accounting basis set out in note 1 to the financial statements. The financial statements are not intended to achieve full compliance with the provisions of UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

As a member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance.

The report is made to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to you that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of Wye College Agricola Club Memorial Fund, for our work, or for this report.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2019 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the accounting basis

and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

B P Wilkinson FCA

Chavereys

Chartered Accountants

Faversham

Date: 20 September 2019

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2019

1 Accounting policies

The charity elects to prepare accounts on an accruals basis.

Investment assets are revalued to market value at the year end. Net gains and losses are recognised as movements on the retained surplus.

2 Student / member awards

The trustees actively seek suitable candidates with a view to satisfying the objects of the charity.

Agricola Club Memorial Fund

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 July 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Income			
Dividends received		18,176	17,533
Donations		<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
		18,176	18,533
Expenditure			
Student / member awards	2	5,000	4,550
Support of Wye College Agricola Club		16,000	10,000
Governance expenses		<u>3,917</u>	<u>3,986</u>
		(24,917)	(18,536)
Net deficit for the year		<u>(6,742)</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Retained surplus brought forward		<u>510,227</u>	<u>498,958</u>
		503,485	498,956
Net increase in value of investments		2,734	11,271
Retained surplus carried forward		<u><u>506,219</u></u>	<u><u>510,227</u></u>

All receipts are unrestricted funds

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 July 2019

		2019		2018
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Current account		1,602		3,808
Cash held by broker - Portfolio 1		5,753		3,056
Cash held by broker - Portfolio 2		5,373		9,542
Investment assets				
4,104.003 Charifund Income Units		65,505		67,034
Portfolio 1				
846.42 Rathbone Income Units	7,597		7,876	
4,497.70 Artemis Income Fund Dist.Units	10,146		10,620	
7,000.00 Invesco Perpetual monthly inc plus fund	7,334		7,502	
2,650.00 Investec Capital Accumulator Class A	6,321		6,408	
1,717.60 IFSL Brooks Defensive Capital Class B Acc	3,561		3,415	
88.00 Veritas Global Equity Income GBP Class A	18,167		17,393	
121.11 Fidelity Cash Y	121		61	
10,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond clas1	4,269		4,233	
21,079.87 TIME Commercial Freehold Fund Cls D (Inc)	22,855		22,842	
1,746.00 Aberforth Smaller Companies (ASL)	20,812		24,060	
		101,183		104,409
Portfolio 2				
1,472.25 Fidelity South East Asia	17,489		20,081	
27,500.00 Henderson UK Property	27,937		28,245	
17,176.63 Invesco Perpetual Monthly Income Plus Fund	17,996		20,480	
49,211.15 M & G European High Yield Bond X Class	24,251		25,042	
19,000.00 Newton Global Higher Income	-		39,199	
211.94 Fidelity Cash Y	212		336	
45,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond Class	19,211		19,049	
7,400.00 Threadneedle UK Property Trust	5,850		6,405	
4,722.00 Murray Income Trust (MUT)	39,854		37,682	
1,862.00 Aberforth Smaller Companies (ASL)	22,195		25,658	
7,503.65 Stewart investors Asia Pacific Leaders Class A	55,017		54,441	
22,484.83 TIME Commercial Freehold Fund Cls D (Inc)	24,378		24,365	
15,000.00 TIME Freehold Income Authorised H (Inc)	32,742		31,895	
17,411.83 BNY Mellon Global Income (Inc)	40,171		-	
		327,302		332,877
Less accruals				
Accountancy	(500)		(500)	
Donation to Wye College Agricola Club	-		(10,000)	
		(500)		(10,500)
		<u>506,219</u>		<u>510,227</u>

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 5 disclosing a net deficit of £6742 and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 20 September 2019.

Prof. J P G Webster
Trustee

Mrs J D Reynolds
Trustee

More from *Wye College and its World ...*

Cricket featured fairly frequently in dispatches.
–Ed

Mr J Pearson (1898–1901) ... has lost none of the prowess which made his services at Wye so valuable ... We notice that he made 160 for the Shropshire Gentlemen ... and he participated in a match where the opposing side was dismissed for three runs – two byes and a leg bye.

The Wye Rustics Cricket Tour, 1932, was a great success, notwithstanding the absence of many with an ailment called 'Pas d'argentitis'. The skipper found it necessary to inoculate a number with injections of 'Nil Desperandum'.

The match against 'The Men o' Mendip' was well in our favour when the "Hen", having demonstrated much ability with the willow, was asked to give a demonstration with the leather. The batsman, in his anxiety to wipe the smile

off the bowler's face, hit at the ball too soon; as a result it soared heavenward in the direction of the principal actor at mid-on, one known as 'Lord Awk'. This sportsman remembered when he had last played cricket that the hateful voice of the school pro would shout 'Get under the ball, Sir!' so with arms outstretched he called on the gods of cricket to help him, and in answer an egg started to form on his forehead, the size of which was a marvel to behold.



Mr Edward Rigby (Edward Coke 1897–91) has been taking part in "Waterbabies" during the late successful run of Mr Rutland Barrington's play at the Garrick Theatre. The 'lobster' is a part of some importance and was undertaken by Mr Coke in a very successful manner, the more so, we should imagine, because previous training at Wye may have enabled him to ascertain, from his zoological researches there, the most recent and up-to-date customs and habits now in vogue among the Crustacea.

Wye College Agricola Club Privacy Policy

Privacy statement

INTRODUCTION

This privacy policy sets out the basis on which any personal data which is collected from you, or that you provide to us, will be processed by the Wye College Agricola Club (WCAC).

The WCAC is committed to ensuring that your privacy is respected and protected. Should we ask you to provide certain information by which you can be identified when using our website, then you can be assured that it will only be used in accordance with this privacy statement. We have legal obligations to use your personal information in line with applicable laws.

The data controller is the Wye College Agricola Club Honorary Secretary, Francis Huntington, Agricola Secretariat, Cumberland Court, Church Street, Wye. TN25 5BJ

WCAC may change this policy from time to time by updating this page. You should check this page from time to time to ensure that you are happy with any changes.

By visiting www.agricolaclub.org.uk, or by providing us with any personal data, you are accepting and consenting to the practices described in this privacy statement and other documents referred to in it.

This statement (together with our Terms of Use and any other documents referred to in this statement or the Terms of Use on it) sets out the basis on which any personal data we collect from you or third parties, or you provide to us, will be processed by us.

Please read the following carefully so you can understand:

What our policies and practices are regarding your personal data;

- Our promise to you about our practices; and
- How we will use, store and treat your data
- Who we are
- How do we collect information
- What information we collect
- How do we use the information we collect about you
- Do we use cookies
- Will you be contacted for marketing purposes
- Legal basis for processing your data
- Disclosure of your information
- Where we store your personal data
- How long will you keep my personal information
- Access to information
- Contacting us
- Changes to our privacy statement
- Subject access rights
- Complaints and Compliments

WHO WE ARE

The Wye College Agricola Club is a members organisation whose aim is to keep its members in touch with each other and to preserve the heritage and ethos of the former Wye College. The main means of disseminating information is via an annual Journal and quarterly e-newsletters

Within the context of this privacy statement, 'we' means the Wye College Agricola Club

We promise not to sell or swap any details that our members provide to us with any other organisation or third party other than the Wye

Heritage. (see below the arrangements we have in place with Wye Heritage). We respect your privacy and value your support and interest and the work that you may do with us. Please read this privacy statement to understand how we use your personal data.

HOW DO WE COLLECT INFORMATION?

We may collect and process the following data about you:

Information you give us

- You may give us information about you by responding to WCAC communications, filling in forms which we provide to you at meetings, by mail or on our site www.wyegaricolaclub.org.uk as well other sites and web pages operated by us or on our behalf (our sites) or by corresponding with us by phone, email or otherwise. This includes information you provide when you enquire about our activities, register for an event, sign up for emails, place a merchandise order on our sites, or other social media functions on our site and when you report a problem with our site.
- We will also collect information about individuals with whom we would like to stay in touch at our events.
- The information you give us may include your name, address, years at college, degree, email address and phone number.
- If making a purchase over the phone we will also collect debit and credit card information.
- Websites: In addition to the information you give us when filling in a form, signing up to an event or placing an order on our websites, we collect aggregated or anonymous information about how you use the websites.

For general guests to our website the

information gathered is anonymous, we can capture technical information, including the internet protocol (IP) address used to connect your computer to the Internet, browser type and version, browser plug-in types and versions, operating system and platform. Information about your visit, including the full URL, clickstream to, through from our site (including date and time), information you viewed or searched for, download errors, length of visits to certain pages, page interaction information (such as scrolling, clicks, and mouse-overs), methods used to browse away from the page.

WHAT INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We may collect the following information:

- Name
- Contact information including email address and mobile phone
- Demographic information (ie postal address)
- Other information relevant to membership surveys

HOW DO WE USE THE INFORMATION WE COLLECT ABOUT YOU?

We use information held about you in the following ways:

- For administration purposes (for example we may contact you regarding your membership payments, to check the details that we hold about you are correct or for the event you have registered for).
- To keep a note of your preferences on what and how you want to engage with WCAC.
- To analyse the personal information we collect and combine it with other information which we have collected to create a profile of your interests and

preferences so that we can understand our members/visitors better.

- To provide you with the goods, services or online content you select and any other related goods or services we may provide.
- To invite you to events or to request your support for particular campaigns/surveys that we are running.
- To provide you with information about our work or our activities that you have agreed to receive and to keep you up to date with the work of WCAC.
- We may periodically send promotional emails about our activities, new merchandise, special offers or other information which we think you may find interesting using the details which you have provided.

For other people with whom we work

- Where we work with another organisation for example Wye Heritage with whom we engage or wish to engage, to provide you with information about our work or our activities and to invite you to work with us.

All people with whom we engage

The following purposes are relevant to all with whom we engage:

- For internal record keeping, including the management of any feedback or complaints.
- To ensure that content from our site is presented in the most effective manner for you and for the electronic devices that you use.
- To ask for your help in completing surveys about WCAC and its
- To administer our site and for internal operations, including troubleshooting, data analysis, testing, research, statistical and survey purposes.

- As part of our efforts to keep our site safe and secure and to detect fraud and other abuses of our site.

Where possible we use aggregated or anonymous information which does not identify individual visitors to our websites.

We do not usually collect 'sensitive personal data' unless there is a clear reason for doing so, to ensure we provide appropriate facilities for you to be able to participate in an event/function.

DO WE USE COOKIES?

A cookie is a small file which asks permission to be placed on your computer's hard drive. Once you agree, the file is added and the cookie helps analyses web traffic or lets you know when you visit a particular site. Cookies allow web applications to respond to you as an individual. The web application can tailor its operations to your needs, likes and dislikes by gathering and remembering information about your preferences.

We use traffic log cookies to identify which pages are being used. This helps us analyse data about web page traffic and improve our website in order to tailor it to customer needs. We only use this information for statistical analysis purposes and then the data is removed from the system.

Overall, cookies help us provide you with a better website, by enabling us to monitor which pages you find useful and which you do not. A cookie in no way gives us access to your computer or any information about you, other than the data you choose to share with us.

You can choose to accept or decline cookies. Most web browsers automatically accept cookies, but you can usually modify your browser setting to decline cookies if you prefer. This may prevent you from taking full advantage of the website.

WILL YOU BE CONTACTED FOR MARKETING PURPOSES?

Email and other electronic channels: We will only contact you for marketing purposes by email or other electronic means such as SMS and social media if you have agreed to be contacted for these purposes. We shall continue to contact you unless you tell us otherwise.

Post: Where you have provided your postal address we may send you correspondence by post about our work unless you have told us that you do not wish to receive such information by post.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING YOUR DATA

Where you provide your contact details (ie postal address, email and/or mobile telephone number) to us and signify that you consent to us contacting you.

Please see the information below under the heading called 'Contacting Us' if you wish to change the way in which we contact you or to ask us to cease contacting you.

We also rely on the legitimate interest legal basis for some processing, which applies to the following:

- Where you are a member and we are contacting you about our activities.
- We consider that we have a legitimate interest in continuing to contact you by email, post and/or telephone once you have provided your details and there is no overriding prejudice to you by our use of your data in this way and for these purposes subject always to our carrying out appropriate checks.

DISCLOSURE OF YOUR INFORMATION

We will only use your information within WCAC for the purpose or purposes for which that information was obtained. We may share

your information with selected third parties such as suppliers including printers and mailing houses and sub-contractors for the performance of any contract we enter into with them or you. We require such suppliers and any third party that processes data on our behalf to sign a legally binding contract that requires them to comply strictly with our instructions on how they may use your data and which requires them to comply with data protection law.

We will keep your information confidential apart from:

- Printing your name, years at College, postal address and email address in our annual Journal 'Wye'. Members and non-members are reminded that no one may lift any of this information in order to bulk email members.
- We are under a duty to disclose or share your personal data in order to comply with any legal obligation, or
- In order to enforce or apply our terms of use or supplier terms and conditions to protect the rights, property, or safety of WCAC, or others.

WHERE WE STORE YOUR PERSONAL DATA

We are committed to ensuring that your information is secure. In order to prevent unauthorised access or disclosure, we have put in place suitable physical, electronic and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure the information we collect online. We are also on the Data Protection Register.

All information you provide to us is stored on secure servers. Where we have given you (or where you have chosen) a password which enables you to access certain parts of our website, you are responsible for keeping this password confidential. We ask you not to share a password with anyone.

Although we take appropriate measures to protect your personal data, the transmission of information via the Internet is never completely secure, and any transmission is at your own risk. Once we have received your information, we will use strict procedures and security features to try to prevent unauthorised access. We regularly run tests, including commissioning third parties to run those tests that check the security of our systems.

We will ensure:

- that all personnel who have access to and/or process Personal Data are obliged to keep the Personal Data confidential.
- We comply with our obligations under the Data Protection Legislation with respect to security, breach notifications, impact assessments and consultations with supervisory authorities or regulators
- We will notify you without undue delay on becoming aware of a Personal Data breach

Your debit and credit card information:

If you use your credit or debit card to buy something or pay for a registration online or over the phone, we will ensure that this is done securely and in accordance with the Payment Card Industry Security Standard. Find out more about PCI DSS standards.

We do not store credit or debit card details following the completion of your transaction. All card details and validation codes are securely destroyed once the payment has been processed. Only staff authorised and trained to process payments will be able to see your card details.

HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

We will hold your personal information on our systems for as long as is necessary for WCAC's relevant activity and in accordance with

applicable legal requirements and tax and accounting rules, e.g. we will keep a record of financial transactions for at least seven years.

For those individuals working for other organisations we will retain your data for as long as we have a working relationship with you at that organisation or any other organisation which is engaged in work which is relevant to our activities. Where your data is no longer required we will ensure that it is disposed of securely.

We will only contact you according to your preferences that you have chosen, you can request to be removed at any time.

Where you contribute material to us, e.g. for inclusion in the Club Journal –Wye, we will only keep your content for as long as is reasonably required for the purpose(s) for which it was submitted unless otherwise stated at the point of collection.

Hyperlinks on this website:

Our website may contain links to other websites of interest. However, once you have used these links to leave our site you should note that we do not have any control over that other website. Therefore, we cannot be responsible for the protection and privacy of any information which you provide whilst visiting such sites are not governed by this privacy statement. You should exercise caution and look at the privacy statement applicable to the website in question.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Act gives you the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance with the Act. For further information about how you can obtain that information please refer to the paragraph below 'Subject Rights' and www.ico.org.uk/for-the-public.

CONTACTING US

If you wish to contact us either to obtain information about our work, to amend your preferences or to stop us sending you information about our work and activities, please contact us:

- by emailing us at contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk.
- by phone on 01233 813884
- by post to Agricola Secretariat
Cumberland Court, 24 Church Street, Wye
TN25 5BJ

CHANGES TO OUR PRIVACY STATEMENT

Any changes we may make to our privacy statement in the future will be posted on this page and, where appropriate, notified to you by email or post. Please check back frequently to see any updates or changes to our privacy statement.

SUBJECT ACCESS RIGHTS

An individual has the right, subject to certain exemptions, to access the personal information that an organisation holds about them. Accessing personal data in this way is known as making a subject access request.

Upon your request we will delete, destroy or return Personal Data and copies thereof to you unless required by Applicable Law to store the Personal Data.

COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

If you have any queries about this privacy statement, please contact WCAC directly.

If you wish to make a complaint about how we use your information, please contact us at contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk. If you are still unhappy, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office via their website (<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>).

Wye College Agricola Club: Regulations 2002

The following revised regulations were approved and adopted at the 2002 AGM.

1. Objectives

The Club shall be called 'The Wye College Agricola Club' and its objects shall be to keep all who have been at Wye College, Swanley College or Imperial College at Wye in touch with one another and with the College and to promote the professional development of its members.

2. Members

The Club shall consist of full and honorary members. All full members must have been students of Wye College, Swanley College, Imperial College at Wye, (including the External Programme), past or present graduate members of the Teaching, Research or Administrative Staff who have been in post for one full academic year.

Exceptionally, full membership may be extended to senior administrative or management staff of comparable professional status.

3. Honorary Members

Honorary members shall enjoy all privileges of the Club except the right to vote at meetings of the Club. No subscription shall be requested and they shall be entitled to receive a copy of the Journal in each year.

Only at the Annual Meeting and on the recommendation of the Committee can honorary members be elected.

4. Committee of Management

The management of the Club shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of the President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary

Editor, Honorary Secretary and members formally advising senior management of Imperial College at Wye, up to ten full members, and up to three co-opted members. The President and Vice-president of the Imperial College at Wye Students Union and the Imperial College at Wye Provost shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. The Trustees of the Discretionary Funds shall be de facto members of the Committee.

5. Election of President

The President shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a period of three years. Nominations for the office of President shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual Meeting. Nominations must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the nominees expressing willingness to serve. In the event of more than one nomination being received, election shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting. Invitations for nominations must be posted in the Journal of the preceding year.

6. Election of Honorary Life Vice-Presidents

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents may be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall not exceed five in number. Nominations for the office shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual Meeting. Nominations must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the nominee expressing willingness to serve. In the event of more than one nomination being received for only a single vacancy, election

shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting. Invitations for nominations must be posted in the Journal of the preceding year.

7. Election of Officers

The Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Editor and the Honorary Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Club. Their period of office shall be for three years and they shall be eligible for re-election. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

8. Election of Full Members of the Committee

The full members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the club. Ordinary Members of the Committee shall hold office for three years, and may be re-elected for a further two terms. This rule shall not apply to elected Officers.

9. Co-option of Members to the Committee

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than three persons who are full members of the Club. The period of service of co-opted members shall not exceed one year without further election.

10. Committee Chairman

The Committee shall elect its own Chairman for a period of three years, with power to re-elect at the end of that period if desired, or to fill any vacancy in the meantime. Candidates for the Chair must have served for at least one year on the Committee before becoming eligible for the post.

11. Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary but at least twice in each year. Notice of such meetings, together with an agenda, shall be sent in writing by the Honorary Secretary to each member of the

Committee at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

12. Imperial Trust

The Committee shall nominate up to two members of the Club to be appointed as Trustees of the Imperial Trust. The Trustees shall report to the Annual Meeting of the Club.

13. Wye College Agricola Club Fund

The Committee shall nominate three members of the Club to be Managers of the income of the Fund. They shall be the Chairman and Treasurer of the Club and the Agricola Club nominated Trustee on the Imperial Trust.

14. Basil Sydney Furneaux Fund [Part of the College Foundation Fund]

The Committee shall nominate not less than three members of the Club to be the managers of the income of the Basil Sydney Furneaux Fund which shall include one of the Agricola Club Trustees and the Chairman and Treasurer of the Club.

15. Agricola Club Memorial Fund

The Committee shall nominate not less than three members of the Club to be appointed Trustees of the Agricola Club Memorial Fund for a period of five years. Trustees shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further two terms.

16. Membership of Club

Every candidate for membership of the Club shall be proposed by a full member of the club, seconded by another full member of the Club and elected by the Committee. At least 75% of the Committee shall approve or reject the nomination of any candidate, a quorum of ten being present, without giving the reason. The responsibility for membership approval shall be vested in the Committee and no candidate shall assume full enrolment until approval has

been obtained at a Committee meeting. Prior to this every candidate shall sign a form undertaking to abide by the Regulations of the Club. This form when completed shall be sent with the subscription to the Membership Secretary. The Committee shall have the right, by unanimous vote and after written notice, to withdraw the privilege of full membership from any member without giving the reason there for.

17. Meetings

A General Meeting of the Club (the Annual Meeting) shall be held at least once in every year, at which any business connected with the Club may be brought forward. Any amendments to the Regulations shall be set out in the Agenda for the Annual meeting as also shall any recommended change in subscriptions. The Agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be dispatched by the Honorary Secretary to all members at least 28 days before the meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Club at the request of the President or at the signed request of thirty members.

18. Journal

A Journal shall be issued annually reporting the affairs of the club. Every member shall be entitled to a copy of each issue of this Journal. The Journal shall be withheld from any member until his/her subscription has been paid covering the year of publication.

19. Subscription

Subscriptions shall be such as are recommended by the Committee and passed by resolution at an Annual Meeting of the Club, notice of which shall have been given in the published agenda. The name of any full member whose subscription is two years in arrears shall be brought before the Committee with a view to cancellation of membership.

A joint subscription, payment in advance, (both former members of the College) shall be accepted. Joint membership covers the supply of one copy of the journal and one set of communications to one address.

20. Accounts and Finance

The accounts shall be made up to the end of July in each year, examined by an accountant and approved by the Annual Meeting. The statement of the income and expenditure and balance sheet shall be published in the Journal in the year following the Annual Meeting.

All monies of the Club shall be paid to a bank approved by the Committee and cheques shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and one other nominated officer of the Club.

All monies not required for current purposes may, on the authority of a resolution of the Committee, be invested on behalf of the Club with power for the Committee at any time to vary such investments and any existing investments, and the Committee may invest the whole of the funds in the wide range of investments authorised by the Trustee Investment Act 1961 or its successors.

21. Club Colours

The Club colours shall be alternate red and yellow stripes on a grey ground.

22. Regulations

A copy of these regulations shall be supplied by the Honorary Secretary to each person on election to membership of the Club or on request.

Agricola Club Members' Lists

Message from the Database Administrator, Siân Phelps

Back in the dark ages, the forenames of married women alumni were recorded as just an initial – the initial of their husband. It seems incredible now but that's how it was. I would be very pleased to amend your record to your full forename. In fact I would be pleased to amend any record where we only have initials, and you are welcome to have the name by which you were known when at College rather than your formal names, if you wish.

Please would you check your start and graduation dates (both maiden and married names) and let us know if they are incorrect – there are some that appear to be rather odd.

With UK addresses, please include the county. Just occasionally the committee asks me to produce a list of counties with the number of members in each so it helps to include the county in the address.

Finally, Francis Huntington sends out an e-newsletter three times year; please let us have your email address if you wish to receive them.

Contact: database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk

Reunion Dinner

6.45pm for 7.30pm

Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Kent TN25 5EJ

All the arrangements are in place and we look forward to welcoming you to Wye on 26 September 2020. As previously, we are targeting particular years: this time it is those who graduated in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. However, all years are, of course, welcome. In addition, if you arrived in Wye in one of these years you might like to celebrate.

Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit.

To reserve a place please complete the booking form contained on **page 347** within the green pages at the back of this Journal. Please encourage your contemporaries to come, and we will seat you together.

MENU

Pear and Stilton Tart

Laced with tomato vinaigrette

or

Melon Fan and Fruit Coulis

Fanned melon garnished with mango and raspberry coulis

Breast of Chicken Chasseur

Casseroled chicken flavoured with white wine, mushroom and tarragon

or

Baked Fillet of Salmon

Marinated with lemon, dill and served with Hollandaise sauce

Both mains served with seasonal vegetables and hot new potatoes

Chocolate and Orange Cheesecake

or

Blackberry and Apple Crumble and Cream

Freshly brewed Tea and Coffee and Mints

There will be some wine on the tables with more available to purchase plus a bar.

Wye College Agricola Club

Annual Reunion and Dinner

Saturday 26 September 2020

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel no _____

Email address _____

Years of attendance at Wye College _____

Please reserve _____ places @£40 (inc VAT) per person _____

Please list full names for the seating plan _____

Is there anyone else your party wish to be seated near? _____

***** See overleaf for menu choices and special dietary requirements. *****

Menu options (please indicate numbers)

Starters:

Pear and Stilton Tart

Melon

Mains:

Chicken

Salmon

Desserts:

Cheesecake

Crumble

Please indicate any dietary requirements: _____

Please return this form & your cheque payable to the 'Wye College Agricola Club' by 10 September 2020 to:

Mrs Jane Reynolds

The Pent

Postling

Hythe

Kent CT21 4EY

Any queries to info@janegardendesign.com or **01303 862436**.

You will be acknowledged by email (please write it clearly!), otherwise send an SAE.

Wye College Agricola Club

News please

Marriages, births, deaths, changes in career, or anything else of interest. Photos are welcome; please send via email or supply copy prints, since we cannot promise to return them.
Copy deadline 15 January.

Name _____ Name at Wye _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel no _____

Email address _____

Is this a new address? Yes

No

Current date _____ Years at Wye _____

*Do you live overseas? If so, would you be prepared to represent the Agricola Club in your country?
This would involve advising any visiting members and occasionally sending us news.*

News. Please email, or else write clearly or type. _____

Continue overleaf or add another sheet.

Return this form to Mrs Jane Reynolds, The Pent, Postling, Hythe, Kent CT21 4EY
info@janescgardendesign.com

Wye College Agricola Club

Application for membership

Surname/family name _____

Name at Wye _____

First name(s) _____

Permanent address _____

Postcode _____ Tel no _____

Email _____

Applicant's academic details: graduate/MSc/PhD/staff (*Please delete as appropriate*)

Year of entry _____ Year of leaving _____

Degree course (dept if postgrad or staff) _____

Declaration

I offer myself for election to the Wye College Agricola Club and agree to abide by the Club Regulations (copy available from the Hon Sec or visit www.wyeagricolaclub.org.uk). I authorise the Club to publish my name and address and email in the Wye Journal and agree to pay the annual membership fee, currently £10 per annum, by standing order.

Signed _____ Date _____

On receipt of your signed application it will be placed before the Committee for acceptance.

The Hon Sec will send you a standing order form to complete.

Please return this Application to:

Francis Huntington, Hon Sec, Agricola Club Secretariat, Cumberland House, Church Street, Wye, Ashford TN25 5BJ

Wye College Agricola Club

Change of address or email

Surname/family name _____

Name at Wye _____

First name(s) _____

Permanent address _____

Postcode _____ Tel no _____

Email _____

Applicant's academic details: graduate/MSc/PhD/staff (*Please delete as appropriate*)

Degree course (dept if postgrad or staff) _____

Years of attendance at Wye _____

Data Protection Act

For many years we have published members' names, postal addresses and emails in the Wye journal. When you provide us with updated information we are now asking you to confirm that you give your permission for your contact information to be published in future Wye Journals and on the Club website.

I confirm that I give permission for my details to be published in the Wye Journal and to be accessible to members on the Club website.

Signed _____ Date _____

Wye Heritage

Our past shapes our future

Please support the work of the Wye Heritage Centre by becoming an annual member and help us to preserve the archives, photographs, artefacts, memories and ethos of the former Wye College. Now housed in the Latin School, Wye.

Membership annual fee £10.

Surname/family name _____

Name at Wye _____

First name(s) _____

Permanent address _____

Postcode _____ Tel no _____

Email _____

I agree to my details being held on the membership database

Signed _____ Date _____

