

# WYE

*The Journal  
of  
The Wye College Agricola Club*



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# WYE CAMPUS - LATEST NEWS

Just as we were going to press, we learnt that Imperial has sold the main College campus and village houses to a large property management and development company, Telereal Trillium. Many alumni will already have received an email announcement from Imperial explaining some of the headline information. Little is known at this point about the new owner's plans but naturally there are many speculations doing the rounds! It is hoped that the free school and the Heritage Centre will retain their 'homes' but since the deal will not be finalised until October 2015, the school will need to make interim arrangements to accommodate this year's new intake.

In keeping with their much-lauded commitment to agriculture, Imperial have retained ownership of the farmland and renewed leases of the two operations currently utilising the arable space for a further 10 years. 2025 will be an interesting and challenging time to be around Wye! We will keep you up to date via the newsletter.

## Crackling good time at the 2015 Reunion



Our thanks to the Janaway family who kindly hosted a Hog Roast for over 150 at their Whitewater Potato farm in Hook, Hampshire. The chairman would also like to thank his wife Jane, who is an honorary member of the club, for applying her superb organisational skills to the ticketing, communication and liaison with the hog roaster and the Janaway family as numbers grew (and pointing out to any non-members present of the opportunity to change that status!).

Full report and more pictures in next year's journal.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

2016 reunion dinner on 24th September, probably at Wye School.



# Wye College Agricola Club

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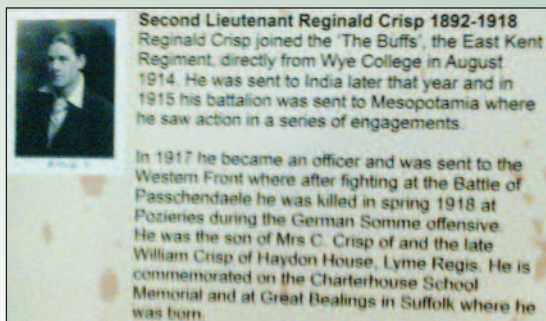
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## Remembering WW1 at Wye



*It is estimated that some 500 men closely associated with the college – including 252 members of the Agricola Club – were on active service during the Great War. Of these 127 were either killed in action or died from disease. On November 11th 2104, a small contingent of the Agricola Committee took part in a short service and laid a wreath in their honour on the centenary of the outbreak. The photo shows the oak and bronze memorial tablet that hangs in the cloister quad.*

*In April 1916, an airfield was established on flat ground off Bramble Lane, beyond the railway crossing. Initially used by the Royal Flying Corps for reconnaissance and bombing sorties, it was later taken over by an American Squadron flying Sopwith Camels and Pups. In August 2014, the above commemorative stone dedicated to all who served there, was unveiled on the village green.*



*Discovered by the Editor in a museum in Lyme Regis.*



*College flag at half mast.*

*Within the first weeks of the hostility, more than 200 college men had joined the 5th Buffs Regiment. This eventually reached 450, one of the largest single contingents enlisted. In Mesopotamia, where they saw active and bloody service, three Wye men formed the nucleus of the Agricultural Department of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force which grew and supplied green vegetables in an effort to counter scurvy.*





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# Editor/Chairman's Report

**John Walters (1964 – 70) Agricola Club Chairman and Journal Editor**

If ever I have doubts about whether or not the time spent putting together the Journal, or helping arrange a reunion, or just holding an Agricola Club Committee meeting, is well spent, I merely look back on the End of an Era Ball in 2009 when over 800 graduates, post graduates, lecturers and their partners descended on Wye for a very nostalgic weekend; or I recall the Hog Roast in 2013 when over 100 made their way to Charles Course's farm in Suffolk – on Wimbledon Men's Finals day to boot!; or last year's reunion dinner in the Kempe Centre of Wye College when we had to limit numbers to just 200; or this year's Hog Roast in Hampshire where, as I write this, we have already exceeded our maximum at 120 and accepted 130 so far; or I re-read a batch of emails saying thanks for keeping it all alive for us. Believe me, we had letters aplenty after the Ball and many more expressed their thanks for the excellent weekend in Wye we put on last September.

So it all reinforces our belief that we really are fulfilling a much-needed and appreciated role in maintaining the Agricola Club in the face of a static (not yet declining!) membership and a decaying College site. It's gratifying, too, that a good number of folk have put pen to paper (or fingers to key board) and provided so many articles again this year. I thought 2013/14 was exceptional but this year is heading the same way, thanks in no small way to the e-newsletters prepared by Francis in which he highlights the need for material for the Journal. For some reason this year in particular it has borne a good supply of fruit.

As usual, the subject matter is highly varied,

ranging from a technical article on Club Root prepared by **Prof Geoff Dixon**, through a lengthy 'Life After Wye' from one **Geoff Holman** (1966–69) – by the way, I have just realised that he is NOT a member; we need to change that! – to a litany of student pranks performed back in the 60s, largely recalled by **Bruce Pallet** (1964–68)! I also particularly enjoyed reading the piece by **Nicole Croft** (1983–86) on her career in the French wine industry and the explanation by **Moya Mayercough** (1974–77) about the charity FACE (Farming and Countryside Education). Similarly, I always get a kick out of the colourful reports from **Dickon Turner** (1983–85) on the Rustics summer cricket tours around the country. If you normally overlook them, take a look this time. You really don't need to be a cricket fan to appreciate their antics and his humour.

Returning to past events, the 2014 dinner was a resounding success, held as it was in the upstairs floor of the Kempe Centre. A team of us, led by **Jane Reynolds**, had to work pretty hard to get the 'dining room' ready (it is the school gym normally), and then face the exhausting break up on the next day. But judging by the cacophony during the reception and the dinner, plus the feedback after the event, it was well worth the effort. We had the added bonus of **Sue Atkins'** (1983-86) daughter serenading us on the piano at the reception. Then **Andrew Simpson** (1965–68) tinkling the ivories for a rendition of Farmers Boy (incidentally to a score that he had transposed from the internet!), plus a very informative talk from the Head of Wye School Governors, Margaret Williams, about the genesis of the school and hopes for the future.



A nice bonus last year was the opportunity to take interested parties around Godmersham Park Garden, a part of which had been re-designed by Lucy and Francis Huntington a couple of years earlier. Others were given a tour by **Tom Hill** of Brook Agricultural Museum and then back to the Latin School gardens for tea. All very enjoyable and very civilised.

It's our hope that the Wye school will move into the Edwardian buildings, the dining hall will get renovated and we can make use of it in future years. Actually, for next year's dinner if possible! If not, maybe we can take on the Kemp Centre again. We hope to bring you all back to Wye in 2016!

I always like to acknowledge the part played by your committee and its particularly heartening that we are now up to full complement with the recent, very welcome, addition of **David Simmons** (1976–1979) and **Philip Blair** (1979–1981) who were formally signed in at the September 2014 AGM. We now have a healthy blend of relative youth and extreme maturity to help guide the Club in the years ahead.

But enough from me...please carry on and enjoy the content that follows!



*A view from 1926 sent in by Peter Smit, the great nephew of RM Wilson (see College Treasures on page 42). "I hope the attached photo might amuse you - Robert's wife (Mattie) in the middle, with her sister-in-law Rita Johnston (my grandmother) on the left, and her mother-in-law (Catherine Ellis) having tea in Wye in 1926".*

# Secretary's Report

## Francis Huntington - Honorary Club Secretary

It was excellent to meet so many of you at the AGM and Dinner last September; the numbers attending certainly made the decision to come back to Wye very worthwhile. We very much hope that we can repeat the event in 2016 – do let us know if you have any suggestions on the format for the day.

We have now updated the layout of the website with improved content and by adding relevant detail to the News section on a regular basis. Wye College Agricola Club on Facebook now has a substantial following and I am being assisted with posts by **Sue Atkinson** (1983–1986). I hope that this will lead to a more varied content and will cover a wider range of years and interests.

Please be aware that in line with recent practice, this year we are only publishing email address, not postal addresses. However, we have printed a list of those whose addresses are no longer known to us. We anticipate printing the full membership list with postal addresses in 2016

### Your Committee

As alluded to in last year's Journal, we are endeavouring to bring down the average age of your committee. I am pleased to report that at the AGM in September we elected David Simmons (1976–1979) and Philip Blair (1979–1981) to the committee.

All organisations need to be concerned about succession planning and in order to remain active we need a steady flow of members prepared to serve on the committee. Do be in touch with me if you would like to join or know

a member you would like to propose to ensure that the Club continues to function efficiently and with effective representation.

### Club support for various ventures

The Club has financially supported Wye Heritage's 'Wye Hops' and 'Louis Wain' exhibitions. Last year the Club supported the Wye Heritage Autumn Exhibition which highlighted the role played by the South Eastern Agricultural College's staff and past students in WWI.

The Trustees of the Memorial Fund are continuing to respond to requests for help and support where those requests meet the Funds objectives (see our Treasurer's report on page 47). The Memorial Fund accounts and details of grants are published in this Journal.

### 2015 Summer Event – Saturday 4th July

The Janaway family have generously invited the Club to hold our 2015 summer gathering, a gourmet Hog Roast, at their farm in Hampshire. I hope that you responded to the notification in the e-newsletter. This issue of the journal will arrive after the event, ie too late for you to respond – so all the more reason for you to let us have your current email address.

### 2015 AGM

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Friday evening of 16th October 2015. Please note that you can find the statutory notice of the AGM with the agenda and the minutes of the last meeting elsewhere in this Journal.

We do appreciate that, with no dinner this year,

you may not wish to make a special trip to Wye; however, if you are local we would welcome you and can certainly promise you a chance to attend an Agricola Club preview of the Heritage Centre Autumn Exhibition entitled 'Wye College across the World', a celebration of the global impact made by Wye College over the last 120 years.

### **The Membership database**

We have done our best to keep the database as accurate as possible. We do need you to check your entry and to let us know if we have got it wrong or when you change your email or postal address. Our thanks to our database administrator, Vinny Mclean, who lives in Wye and can be contacted by email should you discover an error in your record, [database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk).

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.

### **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](http://www.wyeagricolaclub.org.uk). The initial content

is modest; however, we will increase the variety and interest in the years ahead. We are very dependent on members to help with content; please be in touch if you have comments or contributions.

As you will have realised, we are developing electronic communications via the web site 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: [database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk)

### **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 as at 1st October 2011 we had a small number of members who still had not responded to our entreaties. Regrettably your committee has 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**

Please check the 'Lost' list at the back of the Journal. If you know of the whereabouts of a contemporary it would be great if you could be in touch with that person or be in touch with us directly. If you notice that we have missed the death of a member it would be a great assistance if you could let us know of that death, 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.

### **The future of the College Campus**

For those who wish to be kept informed about the future of the Campus I have again prepared an update which you will find printed elsewhere in this Journal on the opposite page.

### **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

Prints of the front of College (unframed) £10.00

*The Record – Factors leading to  
and consequences of the merger  
of Wye College and Imperial College* £5.00

*The College at Wye – A Historical Guide* £8.00

Please make cheques payable to 'Wye College Agricola Club'. As usual I will also make sure that these items are on sale at Club events. They will also be shown on the website.

### **Contact**

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

### **Agricola Secretariat**

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Telephone: 01233 813884

Email: [contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk)

Please check at the back of the Journal that we have your correct email address.

We urgently need this in order to improve the effectiveness of our communications with you.

If yours is not listed or needs updating, please send it to [database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:database@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk)

# The Future of the Wye Campus

**Francis Huntington - Honorary Secretary of the Wye College Agricola Club and Wye Village resident**

It remains a matter of sadness that following the College's closure in 2009 there is still a profound sense of uncertainty. All of us who live and/or work in Wye or have strong allegiances to the College Campus are still waiting. We now know, with the publication of Imperial College's 'Master Plan', that the prize for Imperial is to secure planning permission for at least 200 houses. Needless to say, this has not gone down well with many of Wye's residents, many of whom are implacably opposed to large-scale housing development, in spite of the promised benefits of proposed community facilities.

Elsewhere in the village, planning permission has already been secured for a further 70+ houses on two privately owned sites. The village and the parish council are well advanced with the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan with the intent of establishing a community-driven plan which responds to the majority view of Wye residents. It remains unclear how Imperial's aspirations, as laid out in their 'Master Plan', can be reconciled with the now published, albeit in draft form, village plan (see below for more detail).

If you want to catch up with the process you should visit [www.futureofwye3.co.uk](http://www.futureofwye3.co.uk) and the Parish Council's web site.

## Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan for the whole parish is now well advanced with its publication in draft form, and hopefully reflects the wishes of the community at large and sets out aspirations for Wye through to 2030. A great deal of work is being put into the preparation of this plan which has drawn upon professional advice as well as

public consultation. The plan will be examined to establish its viability, sustainability and its compatibility with the frameworks set out in the local, regional and national plans. In addition it will be the subject of a parish-wide referendum before it can be adopted. Presuming that there is local agreement to the Neighbourhood Plan this complex process will probably be complete during 2015.

The significance of this exercise is that, with the relaxation of some planning controls by the last Government, it is incumbent upon local communities to clearly state what they feel are the parameters within which local policy should be framed as it relates to infrastructure, commerce, community facilities, landscape and, most importantly, development.

I believe that this exercise will test how realistic the 'localism' agenda really is when there are resourceful and powerful local landowners and developers who will want to derive the maximum achievable financial benefits from their land holding. All 'stakeholders' will be promoting their own interests; whether compromise can be achieved only time will tell.

You will find some background information on the Parish Council website [www.wyewithinxhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wyewithinxhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk).

## Wye Free School

One piece of positive news has been the September 2013 opening of a new Secondary School, known as 'Wye School', with the third intake of 90 students taking place this autumn. This initiative is a part of the Government's programme of 'Free Schools' operated outside the local Education Authority. The School has a three-

# The Wye Heritage Centre

## “Our past shapes our future”

**Francis Huntington - Honorary Secretary, Committee of Management**

### **The Wye Heritage Centre**

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 15th October 2011. Since then the Centre has been open to the general public on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. The Saturday morning openings have become very popular with a steady stream of visitors enjoying coffee and home-made cakes and becoming immersed in Wye's and Wye College's history.

### **Alumni involvement**

Following the 2009 closure of the College there was a real risk that, over time, the heritage of the College would be lost or at best become inaccessible. The launch of the Wye Heritage Centre was a highly significant step in securing its history and the story of its worldwide impact. Agricola Club members are playing a vital role in gifting material or allowing us to copy material which relates to the College. Thank you to all those who have already offered their help.

In order to secure the future financial viability of the Centre in the medieval Wye College Latin School we urgently need to expand the membership from 230 to at least 500. An annual subscription of £10 by bankers order will enable you to be a part of this vital project. You will find a Wye Heritage Centre application form amongst the green pages at the back of the Journal.

### **The Centre**

Wye Heritage is currently operating as a Members Association and will during 2015 become a Registered Charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Once we achieve charitable status we will attempt to negotiate a long lease on the Latin School in order to secure a permanent home for the Centre. The archives which form the 'Wye Collection' [documents, photographs and archives relating to the former Wye College] as well as the archives of the Agricola Club are being progressively housed in the Latin School. They are currently being catalogued prior to being digitally scanned.

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*Continued from page 11.*

year lease on the Kempe Centre and currently Wye School, under the umbrella of the 'United Learning Trust', is negotiating with the Department for Education's Funding Agency and the Imperial College Endowment Board to secure a long-term lease on the Edwardian Buildings within the Main College and the laboratory area behind. This will provide them with the space they require for a school of 600 students. Sadly, this

latter process has stalled for largely political reasons, thus forcing the school to seek other potential solutions to the accommodation issue.

You will find further information on the Wye School web site [www.wyeschool.org.uk](http://www.wyeschool.org.uk)

I will certainly use our e-newsletters to update members of the Agricola Club when there is anything further of significance to report on any of the above.



## The digital archive

The Centre is equipped with computers, scanning, photographic and recording 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 the Journals of the Agricola Club and the South Eastern Agricultural College will be digitised and be available online. An oral archive is also envisaged; it would be wonderful if a past student volunteered to become a part of an 'Oral Archive' project. Please contact me if you would like to help: [contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk)

## Accessions

During the year we have been gifted a significant quantity of material from a wide range of sources, including alumni and their families.

We look forward to you sharing your personal archives with us.

## 2015 Autumn Exhibition

Plans are well advanced for our 2015 Autumn Exhibition which is entitled 'Wye College across the World'. Over the last 120 years Wye College made a unique and lasting contribution to agriculture, horticulture and the environment across the globe. This exhibition will give a flavour of how this was achieved and document a number of case studies highlighting individual contributions from those who spent most of their careers working overseas.

## Wye Treasures

We are also able to report that the Club and Wye Heritage are in detailed discussion with Imperial College on how best to safeguard the many 'Wye Treasures' which are currently held in store by Imperial. In order to inform members of the Club of these Treasures we have published a list on the Club website, under the title Wye Treasures. 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. Much of this material's 'context' is of course Wye.

## The way forward with your involvement

The activities during 2009 to 2015 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.

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 lifeblood of Wye College. It was an institution that 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 is the organisation that will ensure that the above is achieved and 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'**

## The message is very simple

**PLEASE BECOME A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT AND EXCITING PROJECT BY BECOMING A 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. Gifts or Legacies would be particularly welcome in order to secure the future financial viability of the Centre.

# W e l c o m e   h o m e   –   T h e   2 0 1 4

**The 2014 reunion was held back in Wye for the first time since the End of an Era Ball in 2009.**

**It was a sell-out and judging from the feedback, a resounding success. We will do it again in 2016 if at all possible!**

We held some pretty good re-union dinners at Cirencester in the years between 2010 and 2014. The University staff made us welcome and the food was of a generally high standard. And we had some interesting visits in the area, including that to the farm of Earl Bathurst who rounded the experience off with a lovely cream tea.

But for most of us the reunion was never quite the same, although it was good to see everyone and experience the ever-increasing challenge of trying to recognise each other! And the craic was good. But it lacked the nostalgia and the homeliness of Wye. There was no level crossing to throw insults at, no river to conjure up memories of tugs of war and a soaking, no Kings Head or New Flying Horse, no Crown, no physical memories.

So it was no great surprise to the organisers that the return to Wye last year was a sell-out although nobody was actually refused entry. The numbers worked out exactly – 200 according to Health and Safety; 200 applications received (more or less!). Apparently (and we were unaware of this until the next day) a group of 'youngsters' from the noughties era, rocked up at the gatehouse at around 7.0 that evening, still dressed in 'civvies' and without having booked, and expected to be able to join the dinner.

*The 2014 reunion dinner was held at the Kempe Centre which is now the site of the Wye school.*



*The chairman, John Walters, hosted the evening.*



*Chair of Governors, Margaret Williams, gave an inspiring talk about the Wye School and its ethos.*



# reunion in Wye



Christine from security recognised them and advised them to head over to the Kempe Centre and at least take a drink at the reception. Sadly, we saw neither hide nor hair of them, which I consider was a great opportunity lost, for us and them. I think there were six and feeding them may have been a problem. But I would gladly have given up my meal to ensure they were welcomed and rewarded for travelling down from London because they had got wind, probably from social media, of a 'do' at their alma mater (Christine believes that they fed themselves at local Indian, the Joshan!)

The following pictures provide a glimpse of the events held that weekend. A visit to Godmersham Park or Brook Agricultural Museum was followed by cream tea at the Latin School. The dinner in the evening was the highlight, but more was to come in the form of a lunch the next day at the Latin School hosted by Francis and Lucy Huntingdon in aid of the Wye Heritage Centre.

We are grateful to **Richard Rudd** (1959-64) for most of these photos.

This is the DVD that Richard prepared of the 2014 Reunion. It is available to view on You Tube at [http://youtu.be/\\_fuA0VfKHIs](http://youtu.be/_fuA0VfKHIs)



*Agricola club members enjoyed a visit to Godmersham park hosted by Francis and Lucy Huntingdon who has designed aspects of this stately home's gardens.*







*Lunch at the Latin School, hosted by the Huntingdons.*



# Dinner guests 2104

If you didn't make last year's reunion dinner, look at this list to see who you missed from your year.

## 1940s

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| David Barnitt .....     | 47-51 |
| Christine Barnitt ..... | 47-51 |
| Geoff Perry .....       | 48-52 |
| Patricia Allen .....    | 48-51 |
| Buster Humphrey .....   | 48-51 |

## 1950s

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Michael Barnevelde ..... | 50-52 |
| Rachel Barnevelde .....  | 50-52 |
| John Hosking .....       | 50-53 |
| Jennifer Eager .....     | 51-54 |
| Frank Thompson .....     | 54-57 |
| Janet Thompson .....     | 54-57 |
| Ken Crundwell .....      | 55-58 |
| Margo Crundwell .....    | 55-58 |
| Brian Howard .....       | 56-59 |
| Michael Pash .....       | 57-61 |
| Charles Brook .....      | 58-61 |
| Ingrid Brook .....       | 58-61 |
| John Burrows .....       | 58-61 |
| Richard Fuller .....     | 58-61 |
| Billie-Dawn Fuller ..... | 58-61 |
| Roger Hobcraft .....     | 58-61 |
| Liz Hobcraft .....       | 58-61 |
| Franklin Margetson ..... | 58-61 |
| Bernard Woods .....      | 58-61 |
| Basil Folland .....      | 59-62 |
| Rosslyn Howard .....     | 59-62 |

## 1960s

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Peter Gerrard .....      | 60-63          |
| Glenn Allison .....      | 60-63          |
| Gabby Allison .....      | 60-63          |
| Tony Williams .....      | 61-65/68/69    |
| Angela Edwards .....     | 61-64, S 66-70 |
| Ursula Thompson .....    | 61-64          |
| Tessa Paul .....         | 61-64          |
| Pat Davidson .....       | 61-64          |
| Nicholas May .....       | 61-64          |
| Anne May .....           | 61-64          |
| Stewart Hukins .....     | 61-64          |
| Chrissy Berry .....      | 61-64          |
| Francis Huntington ..... | 61-64          |
| Lucy Huntington .....    | 61-64          |
| Andrew Vivian .....      | 61-65          |
| Ruth Vivian .....        | 61-65          |
| Chris Duncan .....       | 61-64          |
| Bridget Duncan .....     | 61-64          |
| Peter Youngs .....       | 61-64          |

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Sue Youngs .....            | 61-64        |
| Tim Finn-Kelcey .....       | 61-65        |
| Colin Myram .....           | 61-65        |
| Gilly Myram .....           | 61-65        |
| Charles Close-Brooks .....  | 61-65        |
| Lorna Close-Brooks .....    | 61-64        |
| Richard Thorogood .....     | 61-64        |
| Adrienne Thorogood .....    | 61-64        |
| Joy Folland .....           | 61-64        |
| Iain Stowe .....            | 61-64        |
| Jean Stowe .....            | 61-64        |
| Geoff Goodson .....         | 61-64        |
| Judy Goodson .....          | 61-64        |
| Philip Charlton .....       | 62-65        |
| Beryl Charlton .....        | 62-65        |
| Dr Richard Foss .....       | 62-65        |
| Elizabeth Foss .....        | 62-65        |
| Richard Batho .....         | 61-64        |
| Anne Batho .....            | 61-64        |
| John Roberts .....          | 61-64        |
| Enid Roberts .....          | 61-64        |
| Jack Jenner .....           | 61-64        |
| Alison Jenner .....         | 61-64        |
| Alan Smith .....            | 60-63        |
| Mary Smith .....            | 61-64        |
| David Jackson .....         | 61-64        |
| Angela Jackson .....        | 61-64        |
| John Crozier .....          | 62-65        |
| Alison Crozier .....        | 62-65        |
| Paul Whetham .....          | 62-66        |
| Liz Whetham .....           | 62-66        |
| Ewen Maclellan Wilson ..... | 62-65        |
| Kay Mclellan Wilson .....   | 62-66        |
| Angela Buck .....           | 62-66        |
| Judy Rossiter .....         | 62-66        |
| Malcolm Withnall .....      | 62-67        |
| Anna Withnall .....         | 62-67        |
| Geoff Dixon .....           | 62-68        |
| Kathy Dixon .....           | 63-67        |
| Malcolm Alexander .....     | 63-67        |
| Deirdre Alexander .....     | 64-67, 87-02 |
| David Leaver .....          | 64-67, 87-02 |
| Sally Leaver .....          | 64-66        |
| Richard Rudd .....          | 64-66        |
| Jackie Rudd .....           | 64-66        |
| Paul Webster .....          | 64-07        |
| Amanda Webster .....        | 64-67        |
| Dr Gerry Flack .....        | 64-67        |
| Caroline Flack .....        | 64-67        |
| Angela Simpson .....        | 64-67        |



|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Andrew Simpson.....     | 65-73 |
| Margaret Williams ..... |       |
| John Walters .....      | 64-67 |
| Jane Walters.....       |       |
| Gill Bond.....          | 64-67 |
| Roz Bacon.....          |       |
| John Peacock.....       | 64-67 |
| Paula Peacock.....      |       |
| Sally Hunter.....       | 65-68 |
| Michael Slater.....     | 65-68 |
| Sue Slater.....         |       |
| Charles Adams.....      | 65-68 |
| Marjorie Adams .....    |       |
| John Hudson.....        | 65-68 |
| Carol Hudson .....      |       |
| Richard Janaway.....    | 65-68 |
| Sheila Janaway .....    | 65-68 |
| Peter Johnson .....     | 65-68 |
| Sue Johnson.....        |       |
| John Preston.....       | 66-69 |
| Tom Cusack.....         | 66-69 |
| Gil Cusack.....         |       |
| Chris Baines.....       | 66-69 |
| Libby Scott.....        | 66-69 |
| Sally Emmerson .....    | 66-69 |
| Chris Reynolds.....     | 68-69 |

**1970s**

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Mindy Appleby.....      | 71-75 |
| Bud Mills.....          | 71-74 |
| George Streatfeild..... | 71-74 |
| Amanda Streatfeild..... |       |
| William Alexander.....  | 71-74 |
| Caroline Alexander..... | 71-74 |
| Michael Arlington.....  | 71-74 |
| Alyson Linnegar.....    | 71-74 |
| Adam Cade.....          | 71-74 |
| Mary Cade.....          | 70-73 |
| John Simmonds.....      | 71-74 |
| Nicola Simmonds .....   |       |
| Hugh Riley.....         | 71-74 |
| Elisabeth Riley.....    |       |
| Michael Sargent .....   | 71-75 |
| Rosemary Sargent .....  |       |
| Berkeley Hill.....      | 70-05 |
| Hilarie Hill.....       |       |
| Rex Walters.....        | 68-73 |
| Nicola Walters.....     |       |
| Graham Milbourn.....    | 61-77 |
| Louise Milbourn.....    |       |
| Sam Kent .....          |       |
| Bridget Kent.....       | 72-75 |
| Jane Reynolds.....      | 73-76 |
| Anthony Palmer.....     | 73-76 |
| Lynn Palmer.....        | 73-76 |
| Malcolm Hughes.....     | 74-77 |
| Liz Hughes.....         | 74-77 |

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Colin McCabe.....        | 74-77 |
| Diana McCabe.....        | 74-77 |
| John Magnay.....         | 74-77 |
| Pat Goode.....           | 74-77 |
| Cherry Goode.....        | 74-77 |
| Graham Clampin .....     | 74-77 |
| Mark Glanville.....      | 74-77 |
| Frances Boucher.....     | 74-77 |
| Martyn Hartwell.....     | 74-77 |
| Faith Hartwell.....      | 74-77 |
| John Haffenden.....      | 75-78 |
| Elizabeth Haffenden..... | 75-78 |
| David Simmons.....       | 76-79 |
| Rosemary Simmons.....    |       |
| Alex Dyke.....           | 78-81 |
| Cheryl Woolfenden .....  | 78-81 |
| Nigel Bateson .....      | 78-81 |
| Debbie Bateson .....     |       |
| Tom Mellor .....         | 78-81 |
| Gill Mellor.....         | 78-81 |
| Corinna Heddle .....     | 78-81 |
| Ivan Warboys.....        | 78-83 |
| Pam Warboys .....        |       |
| Martin Coffin.....       | 79-81 |
| Gillian Coffin .....     | 79-81 |
| Philip Blair .....       | 79-81 |
| Joanna Blair.....        |       |

**1980s**

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Andrew Featherstone..... | 81-84 |
| Robert Irving.....       | 81-84 |
| Mark Butson.....         | 81-84 |
| Claire Norrington .....  | 81-84 |
| Adrian Wadley.....       | 81-84 |
| Andy Peck.....           | 81-84 |
| Liz Pope.....            | 81-84 |
| Peter Leach.....         | 81-84 |
| Anthony Curwen .....     | 81-84 |
| Angie Curwen.....        |       |
| Jon Powell.....          | 81-84 |
| Martin Coward.....       | 83-86 |
| Joanna Coward.....       |       |
| Chris Waters .....       | 83-86 |

**1990s**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Jo Pazowski .....    | 91-94 |
| Dave Jury .....      |       |
| Andrew Ward .....    | 91-94 |
| Rupert Carter .....  | 91-94 |
| Paul Dronfield ..... |       |
| Deborah Parry.....   | 92-95 |
| Heidi Robinson ..... | 92-95 |
| William Denne.....   | 98-01 |

**2000s**

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Kirsty Massey ..... | 2001-2005 |
|---------------------|-----------|

# News of members

## Births, marriages, deaths and general updates, obituaries and lives remembered

### Births

**Jonathan Holland** (1996–98) and his wife are happy to announce the safe arrival of Sarah Jane Winifred Holland. She was born on Thursday 2nd October at 7:13 p.m. at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, Australia. She was 8 lbs and 1 oz. and 51 cm length and has dark red hair..Her adoring big sisters are totally delighted and so are Mum and Dad.

### Marriages

**Jane Monk** (formerly **Clark**, née **Smith**, 1979–82) wrote to say that she has married for the second time. The service took place on Venice beach in Florida on 3rd July 2013, where she married Thomas John Monk. She held her Hen Party at Ripon Racecourse on Ladies Day and was delighted that **Julie Ryan** (1977–80), **Alison Glennon** (née **Williams**, 1978–81) and **Vanessa Martin** (née **Smith**, 1983–86) were able to attend on a fabulously sunny day.



### Deaths

**Nigel Bowen** (1963–66). Died in June 2011. See *Lives Remembered*

**John D.A. Coppin** MBE (1947–50) Originally reported in 2012/13 journal. See *Lives Remembered*

**Sally Courtney** (1961–64) died on 19th June 2014 aged 73. She had worked for the Milk Marketing Board in Dorset for many years after leaving Wye.

**James Robertson Roger Ellis** (1947–50) died in April 2015, close to his 93rd birthday. He had led a very full life but had been ill for the last couple of years. Geoff Perry (1948–52) represented Wye College and the Agricola Club at his funeral.

**Charles Fox** (1954–57) died August 24th 2013. See *Lives Remembered*

**Ben Garrett** (1952–55) died August 2014. See *Obituaries*

**Thomas 'Tom' Reeve Hawkins** (1965–68) Originally reported in the 2013/14 Journal. See *Lives Remembered*

**Martin Hooper** (1957–60) died on August 9th 2013.

**Mo-Bashir G. Idriss** (1998–2001).

**Richard 'Jesus' Johnson** (1963–67) died on February 23rd 2015. See *Obituaries*.

**Cecil Jordan** (1949–52) died 30th November 2014. See *Obituaries*.

**Rosamond Letts** (née **Nott**, 1953–56) died in September 2014.

**Kenneth S Madge** (1946–1949) died on 19th May 2014.

**James E. Mansfield** (1948–51).

**Jonathan R. Matherson** (1968–71).

**Sudarsan Paul** (1985–88).

**Margaret Pearson** (née **Armour**, 1950s).

**RJG Taylor** (1938–40) died November 2013 after a short illness. During retirement he lived in America and travelled extensively around the globe. He always had fond memories of Wye.

**David 'George' Thomas** (1961–64) died in March 2015.

**Graham Thomas** (1951–54). Originally reported in the 2012/23 journal. See *Lives Remembered*

## News

### 1940s

**Anne Kewick** (1940–43) wrote: "A wonderful collection of names in the Journal! But can you tell me if there is any news of **Betty Matson** of my year? I haven't heard from her for some time. (*incidentally, neither have we and we always used to get her hand written news pieces. Does anyone have any information for us?* - Ed).

You may be interested to know that I have the RHS decoration VMM (Vetch Memorial Medal). I don't use it but it goes along with AK, MBE, VMM, JP.

I am 91 so it is time I faded away! There does not seem to be much news of my vintage. I am still a back door gardener and help with the teachers National Association of Environmental Education (NAEE) of which I am Vice President. In fact, I have long since given up RHS work and judging. To the distress of us all and especially the redundant teachers in Birmingham, the City has closed most of the Environmental Centres to the loss of our local children.

**Eric Cordell** (1948–51) writes to say that he and his wife have moved to an excellent McCarthy and Stone retirement development only half a mile from their previous home, which had become quite isolated for them, especially when they stopped driving. Now they can walk on level ground to the centre of Truro in 10 minutes. No more gardens and bungalow to maintain and as they have a balcony it is still possible to have a small range of flowering plants – all in the delightful county of Cornwall!

### 1950s

**Barbara Ripley** (1950–53) writes: I have recently downsized leaving half an acre garden behind even though I am still a mad keen gardener. I have been patched up a bit but can still reach the weeds and take lots of cuttings!

Although I forget people's names in a few minutes I can still remember the long, Latin names learnt 60 years ago. I used to demonstrate flower arranging a various clubs and teach evening classes, even at Lucy Clayton college.

The estate I have moved to has 18 acres of lawns and gardens but the employed gardeners prune everything like privet hedges to my horror; 50 lilac flower buds chopped off last week. I long to teach them correct pruning but have to bite my tongue. I feed the birds here and get about 10 different types in half an hour in the mornings, at least until the sparrow hawk appears.

I still love gardening and can make many plants increase 10 fold. I still have my picture of Wye over my fireplace and remember Withersdane garden fondly. I have kept my 1.5 allotments so as long as my car keeps going, I can grow plenty. I use a kneeling frame to get up again but still not bad for nearly 84. Only just got my Journal but have enjoyed it. Good luck to you all!

**Olive Aburrow** (née **Hall**, 1950–53) regrets that she has no real news. She says she seems to exist in semi-hibernation!

**Jenny Eager** (1951–55) handed us the programme (see below) for the July 2014 social event of the Sussex Branch of the Agricola Club at St Mary's House and Gardens in Bramber, West Sussex. About 12 members attended.



**Sussex Agricola Club**  
 Social Meet 2014  
 This year it is planned to hold our Spring Gathering at  
**St. Mary's House & Gardens,**  
 St. Mary's House, Bramber, West Sussex, BN44 3WE  
[www.stmarysbramber.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbramber.co.uk) [info@stmarysbramber.co.uk](mailto:info@stmarysbramber.co.uk)  
 01903 816205

**Meet at 12.30 pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
 The Inn, House & Gardens are located in Bramber Village off the A283

**Lunch at The Castle Inn Hotel.** Car park at the rear or public free park opposite Sunday Road E11, other Mains available. Sandwiches from £5.50. Puddings all £5.



**St. Mary's Open 2.00 – 6.00pm** for seniors House & Gardens £7.50. Gardens £4.50  
 Cafe open for Teas and Gift Shop. No dogs allowed.

**Please RSVP to Jenny.** We need to know how many and who to expect.  
 Mrs J.A. Eager 11 Richmond Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2EG  
 Tel: 01403 257919 email – [dick.eager@btinternet.com](mailto:dick.eager@btinternet.com)

**David Bennet (1953–56)** writes

We left for another European tour on April 30th 2014, going first to London to catch up with David's son Adam. We then rented a house in the Chilterns, north of London. We did a number of walks, mainly in the bluebell woods, but also along the towpaths of the Grand Union Canal. We invited all the siblings to spend some time with us and organised a lunch at the local hostelry.

We took the Eurostar to Brussels and then a train on to Bruges to enjoy the sites and were then picked up by the Belgian/Australian company, Quasimodo Tours for a tour of the



*David and Sally in Dockney Wood in the Chilterns, spring 2014.*

battlefields of Flanders. They dropped us in Ypres, where we attended the service at the Mennin Gate and cycled around on electric bikes. Then it was off by train to Aachen to say "hello" to Charlemagne and then back to Belgium, again by train, to Bastogne to look at the landscapes of the Battle-of-the-Bulge, where the Americans turned back the German advance through the Ardennes.

You may recall that Sally had her 60th birthday in Stockholm and she asked David what he would like to do for his 80th in January 2015. He replied that he would like to walk in soft snow. So we investigated snow in the USA and Japan. But in the end the call of the Highlands and the relatives was too much. So David is to ski Aviemore with the Adam family; and then we will hold a birthday party in Rutland. Afterwards we are off to Greece and Istanbul to warm up a bit and break the journey home.

## 1960s

**Chris Warn** wrote: Only a few 'When We' visitors this year – **Malcolm** and **Deidre Alexander** (1963–67) who we met up with in Sydney for the New Year Ashes 5th Cricket Test and then post test stayed with us at FHR. **Tony Moody** (1966–67, ex Tanzania) also joined us at the cricket and stayed at FHR in June en route to Brisbane.



*Six members of the Scarries Rivers Expedition of 1964 met together at the New Flying Horse on 17th July last year for a dinner to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Freetown, Sierra Leone. On the following morning they had a joint reminiscence and commiseration around the College and, to raise their spirits, a conducted tour of the Heritage Centre with John Walters. From the left they are Jeremy Groome, George Goddard, Paddy Johnson, Tony Packman, Chris Warn and Chris Lonsdale.*

Apologies to everyone I did not get to see when we visited the UK last July, but it was short and for three specific purposes. Sadly, the first was to inter my elder brother's ashes who died in March from asbestosis. The second to attend the 50th anniversary of the Wye Scarries Rivers Expedition to Sierra Leone. Six of the eight expeditioners and three wives made it to a dinner in Wye on the 17th July – the exact day 50 years ago that they sailed for SL from Rotterdam. We stayed in Wye with **John and Jane Walters** (Wye 64–67) – wonderful hosts. **Chris and Wendy Gibbs** (Wye 63–66) joined us from France for the weekend and we all met up with **Ian and Jilly Mitchell** (Wye 63–66) for lunch and farm tour to see their lavender project. The third was for the annual gathering of the Warn Clan, held on the date of our parents wedding anniversary; family tradition established after the death of my mum three years ago. Hosted this year by younger brother Allan and his wife Val, this was the first time that I had attended. I also managed to attend a CDC Agric Old boys meeting at the Morpeth Arms on the Thames.

## With apologies . . .

The editor wishes to offer his unreserved apologies to one **Chris Cox** FRICS (1967–70) who wrote to him way back in July 2008 with comments relating to a photograph that appeared in 'Wye' Vol XVII, No 6 (2007/08). The letter, and some accompanying snaps, somehow got buried at the time and has only just re-surfaced. So here it is, in full and in all its glory in the hope that it will go some way to redressing the balance.

Readers from a certain era (the Sixties, yet again!) may recall a picture of a group of students purporting to be working on a Crown clean-up operation. They were in photo pose position, with some leaning on shovels and many looking remarkably, spotlessly clean. Chris chose to take issue with the identity of some of those pictured (see page 24).

"Re the picture on the Crown on page 46 (reproduced again below). I expect you have had others writing in (*we haven't, which makes me wonder...*). All of those pictured are my



contemporaries, so I know them pretty well! The person identified as Tim Skelton is, in fact, definitely Des Lambert. We spent three months in the USA together working and travelling in, I think, 1988. Having spent many nights in the back of a station wagon to save on hotel bills, I think I can rely on this piece of information!

As to the holder of the spade, between John Priest's legs...my best guess is that it is Joe Youdan. It does not look like Andy Paterson to me. You might like to compare with the photo taken just before we all went down in the summer of 1970 (see picture opposite). These are, of course, the survivors of the first year of the examination system that meant if you failed the first year exams, you had to wait a full year before re-entering.

"I thought the piece on the JCR officer and the tortoise keeper, etc, were splendid and pretty accurate as I recall (*Stirring Sounds of the 60s*, page 58). The fountain didn't get a mention.

Installed as a feature and presumably at some expense, it became traditional to 'Fountain' anyone found guilty of high crimes and misdemeanours and was in regular use for this purpose.

I also seem to recall someone (Bob Miles?) having a rather large metal ball attached to his leg rather in the style of the 'Macaulay necklace'; it was propped on a bench whilst he was dining. For what offence, I have no idea, but anyone elected tortoise keeper received a poisoned chalice. Either the beast died and the inevitable switch was noticed, or if it didn't die, everyone assumed it had and had been switched anyway. Of course, the consequences for the holder of the office were dire and this may have been Ferris' (Whidborne) undoing. I do remember him revolving at high speed in the JCR, suspended from the 'wheel'.

All great fun and just a taste of what Wye life was like in those far, distant days."



*Whiter than white: This fine bunch of undergraduates pose for a picture between bouts of unstinting efforts into 'cleaning' the chalk Crown. Some difficulties were experienced when they tried to remember who they were. Best guess is, from l to r: Standing: Tim Daley, Peter Riches, Des Lamberts, John Priest, John Woodman, Bob Macauley, Tony Palk (deceased), Andrew Simpson. Kneeling: Tim Skelton, Bill Fletcher. There is not total agreement about the validity of the above list since some think that Andy Patterson was there (with a spade?); but none were surprised that 'Stippo' Simpson has barely a hair out of place and no chalk on his trousers, despite the nature of the job in hand.*





Back row, from left to right: Paul 'Beans' Benham (now Dr.), Tony Palk (deceased) kneeling, Andy Paterson, Bruce Thompson, Johnny Cooke-Hurle, John Priest, Peter Riches, Tim Day, Bill Fletcher, Dick Spilman and Duncan Henderson. On the ground: Andrew Richards, Claude Soopramanien, John Woolmer, Des Lambert and Joe Youdan. (Also included in his letter were some small snaps of the beer race which were usually too small to reproduce.)

## Never, in the field. . .

It was a disappointing day for the Carnival organisers in 1966 when the chairman **Andrew Simpson** (1965–68) received the following letter from Lady Clementine Spencer- Churchill:

*Dear Mr Simpson*

*Thank you so much for your letter asking me to become the Patron of your Carnival in May. I am so sorry that I will not be able to undertake this as I am not doing any public work now.*

*I do hope, however, that your Carnival will be a great success and that you will collect far more than your target for the worthy charities you have chosen to support.*

*With Good Wishes*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Clementine Spencer-Churchill*

## 1970s

**James and Sue Hick** (née **Roper**, 1973–76) wrote: Jim and I are at present living in Singapore.

Jim is back in the corporate world of management training after five years setting up a microbrewery, Allendale Brewery, and managing a pub – the Crown at Catton. He now works for Impact International as an area director for SE Asia – a complete contrast but he loves it! Any old friends from college days passing through Singapore are very welcome to visit!

## 1980s

**Mufutau Olatunde Animashaun** (1985–86) writes "I am happy to inform you that I have passed my PhD Horticulture oral exam on the 24th April, 2015 and I will return to Nigeria by the end of July. I am a life member of the Wye College Agricola Club. I graduated with a M.Sc. Tropical and Sub-tropical Horticulture and Applied Science in September 1986 and now have my PhD in Horticulture from the University of Essex.

# Obituaries

## Ben Garrett (Wye 1952–55)

*Memories submitted by Bens' brother, John, who spoke at Ben's funeral on 20th August 2014.*

Eulogy is a very grand word for the few memories of Ben I want to share with you. And I don't think of him as a grand person. Just one whose priorities sometimes seemed unconventional, but were always good ones. I remember someone saying to him "Ben, I would love to be one of your cattle, and I wouldn't mind being one of your children, but I would **hate** to be one of your cars".

Actually, I think that was a bit hard on the children! Because in our private conversations, what shone out as the mainstay of his life was the pleasure and pride he took from his children and grandchildren.

### Fun from the simple things in life

He got a lot of pleasure from other simple things. Hilary told me that on the morning he died they were drinking early morning tea together when they heard a thrush singing outside the window. And Ben said "aren't we lucky to live here, where we can hear the birds and enjoy their song together". Many of us would do well to take a leaf out of his book, and enrich our lives by noticing the small and simple things we too often overlook, or regard as trivial.

It was the same when we were children. Everything we did together (and that was virtually everything) was made into fun. It needed to be, because a great deal of our spare time was spent doing the kinds of jobs that today's parents seem to pay other people to do!

Half way through the war we moved to a house which had previously been a temporary prisoner of war camp, so the large unkempt garden was full of trenches. These would have made good play areas, but Ben and I were expected to get the grass back into some kind of shape rather than play in the trenches. This meant cutting it with hand shears, which of course Ben turned into a game in which the



*Ben and his partner Hilary Jones at Wye farmer's market where he sold meat from his Sussex herd raised at Burscombe Cliff Organic Farm near Egerton, Kent.*

grass was Hitler's troops that we were mowing down. We cut down a great many enemy troops, and made use of the time to discuss exactly what we would do to Herr Hitler when we caught him!

### Love affair with cattle

About this time, Ben began his first love affair with cattle, when our Father bought a couple of shorthorn cows in the market. The herd grew to about eight milking cows, soon including some pedigree animals. We were expected to share the morning and afternoon milking – by hand of course. I remember one unfortunate morning when I got distracted by a book. Our Father, whose amiable and easy-going nature could change in an instant to righteous anger, discovered my absence, and the reason for it. I was unceremoniously returned to my bed without breakfast and without books.

An hour or so later Ben crept stealthily into our bedroom and threw a dry Weetabix onto my bed; an early example of his generosity of spirit – and of his courage!

### Racing Roger Bannister

I don't want to give the impression that our childhood was filled with farm work. For a start, we were both away at boarding school for a good deal of the time. Indeed it was this that forced us apart for more or less the first time, because Ben went to Bryanston, but I failed the entrance exam. Thus it came about that I was not present on the famous occasion when Ben raced against Roger Bannister. Of course this was before Bannister ran the first 4 minute mile, but he was a formidable opponent even then. It was a fine race, and Bannister crossed the finishing line little more than a gnat's whisker in front of Ben. A great performance by two fine sportsmen. There was, however, a small fly in the ointment. For Bannister had finished the course, but Ben still had another lap to run!

In those far off times, the days were (of course) longer and the sunshine more persistent, so even in the school holidays, there was time for play as well as cattle husbandry and lawn mowing. We would cycle together and everywhere. Often to the beach to swim, but during race weeks we would cycle to Goodwood, where we could sit for nothing on top of the Trundle with powerful field glasses and watch the racing. It never occurred to me that I was sitting with a future owner and breeder of racehorses. And I sometimes wonder when I recall the pleasure and pride the whole family got from the successes of their home-bred filly Flox, how often Ben remembered those early days of following every race of the legendary Gordon Richards.

Goodwood, of course, is flat racing. We developed our love of point-to-pointing on our annual trip to the Cowdray Hunt Point-to-Point. This was very much a family treat, including our younger brother Tim. We would arrive early, with a fabulous picnic and bag the best parking place beside the track. Much as we enjoyed those days, they scarcely competed with the pride and pleasure with which Ben would later tell me about the successes of his children in that field.

### Cattle showing

It was around this time that Ben got his first experience of cattle showing; our Father entered a young home-bred bull at the East Grinstead show. We set off early with a borrowed trailer and no spare tyres. Two punctures later, our Father finally admitted defeat. He had spent his morning hunting for garages with Land-Rover tyres and phoning the show stewards persuading them to postpone the judging. Ben and I had spent ours directing traffic round a trailer clumsily parked on a blind corner – a task that I found mortifyingly embarrassing until Ben once more turned it into a game.

So his real introduction to showing came during his year of compulsory pre-university practical work, which he did with the once famous Aston herd of Ayrshire cattle owned by our Uncle Bill in Derbyshire.

Uncle Bill is the only person I can think of against whom Ben held a small grudge. He (Uncle Bill) wrongly and unforgivably, reckoned that his neighbour's son was a better judge of cattle than our cousin, and Ben's close and lifelong friend, David Spalton! History shows cousin David to have been one of the finest judges of livestock in the country.

I don't think Ben ever really forgave Uncle Bill for this error of judgement. Nevertheless, Ben learned his showing with the Aston herd, and visitors to his house will be familiar with the picture of Aston Selina hanging on the wall. We too (like most members of the family!) have our own photograph of Selina, which we often use to illustrate what 'real' Ayrshire cows look like – or did before they were 'improved'.

### Move on to Blondes

Perfection though Selina may have been, she could really never compare (in his or my minds) with the Blondes that we associate with Ben and Hilary today. Much later, Ben and I relocated the Sidlesham herd of Shorthorns to his first farm, Bakers Hall in Somerset, where for a month or two I doubled as his temporary farm labourer and cook & housekeeper. I was always a touch disappointed when he switched his unprofitable Shorthorns to modern Friesians – so of course am delighted that Susannah has taken up

the breed (even though the modern Shorthorn is almost as unrecognisable as the modern Ayrshire).

I hope my sketch of growing up with Ben showed that this was always fun. Growing older with him was often humbling (as I began to realise the lessons I ought to have learned from him) and always enriching.

### Pleasure from the casual encounter

I could never describe him as a proud man, but he radiated the pride he took in the things he did: in being a father and grandfather; in his role as a magistrate, doing his best to dispense justice and fairness to those who came before him; and in the successes of his Blonde cattle, to name but a few.

He radiated also his interest in anyone and everyone; he was never short of stories about his customers at farmers markets, his neighbours in hospital beds, strangers in a railway carriage – stories that unconsciously reflected the pleasure he had given and received from the casual encounter.

I have come full circle, from the small thing of bird song, to the small thing of neighbours in hospital beds. From such small things a rich life develops.

George Bernard Shaw has one of his characters say: *"We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it."* (*Candida*). Ben produced little wealth during his life – but he didn't consume it either. He produced a great deal of happiness; so he deserved to consume some of it.

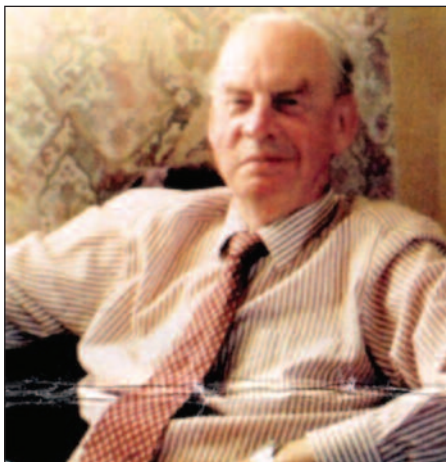
Let us together mourn his loss, cheer him on his way, and most importantly celebrate and give thanks for his life, and for the memories he leaves us with.

According to his partner, Hilary, Ben was always proud to have been one of the first group to study agriculture at Honours degree level. He was awarded the Agricola Club prize of G.M. Trevelyan's *Social History of England* for the year 1954-55 for "outstanding work at Wye College. He went on to research the milk improving qualities of Guinness Extra Stout at Lord Iveagh's farm before starting to run his own pedigree herds of Shorthorns, then British Friesians and later Blond d'Aquitaine beef cattle. He always gave wider service to agriculture in every way he could.

## Cecil Jordan (Wye 1949–52)

Submitted by **Jim Tice**,

with help from son David Jordan



Henry Cecil Jordan, always known as Cecil, was an outstanding Union President in 1951 and a long-serving member of the Agricola Club. He was born in Natal, South Africa, where his father, Albert Thomas Jordan, was starting a business. When Cecil was six weeks old the family moved to England. At first they lived in Chipping Sodbury with two aunts, but soon moved to Chilcompton where Cecil's brother, John Humphrey, was born. The family appeared to be wealthy as the house had numerous rooms and a staff of five. Cecil's mother, Viola Dorothy Jordan, started poultry farming with 2,000 birds.

Cecil was educated at home and could read at four. He then went to Wells Cathedral School, followed by Wynstones School, in Gloucestershire (a Rudolf Steiner School).

His father died in the early years of the 1939–1945 War and Downside House was sold. The family moved back to Chipping Sodbury during the War years.

### The Navy and then Wye

In 1947 Cecil joined the Royal Navy and achieved a

'Superior' Record. On demob he took a 3-year degree course at Wye College and graduated with a B.Sc. (Hortic) in 1952. At Wye he was secretary of the Men's Junior Common Room, President of the Students Union and played in the Hockey Team.

In 1952 Cecil married Janet Faith Anderson in Tilford Church, near Farnham, Surrey and for the next two years he worked the market garden for Janet's father at Normanscourt, Elstead, Surrey. This was very near Runfold where I lived and farmed, and my wife and I often met up with Cecil and Janet for a pub supper and we became firm friends.

In 1954 and 1955 Janet gave birth to Rosemary Sandra and David Robert. Soon the family moved to Basset, Evesham, Worcestershire, where for two years Cecil worked for a seed firm, Yates. Quentin was then born and in 1962 the family moved to Wynstones School where Cecil was a class teacher for 16 years, teaching Biology, Woodwork, Tennis and other subjects.

#### **An expert woodturner**

Cecil and Janet then moved to Podgwell Cottage, near Painswick, Glos and Cecil took up woodturning, creating goods with considerable skill and artistry. He rapidly became one of the very best wood turners in the country before changing his expertise to ornamental turnery, again producing very high quality crafts.

He was appointed to the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen, the Red Rose Guild, and was in the Index of Craftsmen for the Crafts Council and the Contemporary Applied Arts. He became a tutor at Ryecotewood College, at Parnham Furniture College and at West Dean College near Chichester.

Cecil was given the Freedom of the City of London and his work was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. He was a liveryman of the Turners Company, a member of the Society of Ornamental Turners and Master, later Chaplain, of the St. Catherine's Masonic Lodge.

In 1996 with Janet he purchased Kingswood, a 350

acre woodland in Devon, and later, with Janet, Quentin, David and Paula, bought Stanton Court, also in Devon. Later he and Janet moved to Imperial Square, Cheltenham.

Examples of Cecil's work are in: The Victoria and Albert Museum; Bath Study Centre; South West Arts; Southern Arts; The Crafts Council; The Toy Museum and numerous other places

Cecil suffered from cancer in the last few months of his life and died in the Sue Ryder Hospice in Cheltenham on 30th November 2014.

Cecile's wife, Janet, is an accomplished and prolific painter in water colour and her apartment walls are adorned by her works.

## **Lives remembered**

### **Nigel Bowen (Wye 1965–66)**

*A tribute from a clergyman friend given at Nigel's memorial service held on 11 August 2011. He had died in June of that year.*



*Nigel pictured in North Wales on a climbing trip with **Malcolm Ogilvy** (1963–66) and his wife, Sue.*

Nigel was larger than life, some may have found him overpowering, but he left no one indifferent.



I suspect that virtually everyone here today has been described by Nigel as a wonderful person. He was a man without malice who believed others would always see all the positive points that he so generously saw in each of us. So I'm delighted to meet some of you for the first time, people of whom I've heard Nigel speak so often, but like us all, am deeply saddened that it is only because he has left us so abruptly.

I met Nigel in the early '60s. It was at the Sutton Tennis Club. I don't remember what he was like at tennis because he quickly migrated to the squash courts, which were better suited to contain his boundless energy, even if playing against him could sometimes be a dangerous experience, with balls, and racquets and Nigel flying in all directions.

### **Social activities**

For all of us young lads recently out of the cloistered atmosphere of public school this was the time of searching out the prettier sex, and I remember Nigel introduced us to the Kingswood Young Conservatives which seemed to be overflowing with many attractive specimens. There followed the tennis club dances and parties – parties where Nigel demonstrated his particular and quite unique dancing style. I suspect there are even people here today who could confirm that there were some similarities between his dancing and the way he played squash.

And of course his other activities: climbing and driving very fast in his Mini Cooper S until it got smashed up in Scotland. He was always sure that we, like him, were supermen and capable of all that he was. One Friday evening he had me on a coach from the City up to North Wales where we planned to climb – he called it walking – the 10 peaks over 3000ft before we returned Sunday afternoon. But even Nigel could recognise a lost cause, and he accepted after only five peaks that I suffered from vertigo and he let me go home on Saturday. But I do

know from friends in the UK and France that he was a most competent climber.

### **Sailing, bridge and skiing**

Then we must remember he was a sailor; he told me a hair-raising story of how seven years ago, singled handed, he sailed a boat up from the South island with two paralytically useless crew, including the owner, in a force 8 or 9 storm. And he was Head Scout for the North Island. And on a more intellectual level – bridge. In the '60s we had many happy evenings playing with friends in Sutton, but in NZ he migrated to a higher level and became President of the local bridge club. When I was in Whangarei six years ago he invited me to partner him in a tournament with about 40 other pairs. I was delighted when at the end of the day we came second, but Nigel, in a very kindly way, said that for him it wasn't terribly good, as he normally came first!

He was also an intrepid skier. Friends tell the story of him taking a bet to ski down a black run wearing just his boots and his Y-fronts. He won the bet. We can be forgiven for reckoning he was a bit of a daredevil, because there are many other stories of this ilk: like when following a Soho stag party, Nigel, surrounded by the local mafia demonstrated that for him discretion was not the better part of valour, or the battle between a mountain and a helicopter which was resolved with a broken shoulder.

### **A thirsty Jaguar**

The stories are legion but one I hadn't heard before, and I quote *"was from the time he returned from a first trip to NZ and was short of a job, money and transport. We (the writer of the email) had just inherited a rather powerful Jaguar 3.8 from my wife's father which we offered free use of to Nigel whilst he got back on his feet. Knowing nothing of his less than blemish-free driving record, I asked my insurance company to include him on our policy as a named driver, thinking this was just a formality. The insurance company thought otherwise. Having checked Nigel's history, they rang to ask me if I was really serious about*



*the proposal given this gentleman had inter alia written off an army tank transporter! We went ahead anyway and the car was returned very shortly in one piece after the cost-conscious Nigel discovered it tended to do gallons per mile rather than vice versa”.*

But the real question is – who was Nigel? Nigel became an accountant. Like many of us at the time in Sutton he bent studiously over the study papers of Ffoulks Lynch but when he eventually qualified he knew that accountancy was not his first choice.

### **To be a farmer**

What he really wanted then was to be a farmer, so he set off to study at Wye Agricultural College and then disappeared for a year down to a farm near Harwich where he was hopeful of taking over from the ageing and childless farmer. I suspect that the farmer was of as strong a personality as Nigel; it didn't work out. But there were some happy memories. Several of us would go down for weekends in Nigel's broken down old cottage, which was where one of our number wanted to invite a girl he had spied out at the Young Conservatives. But we had to have some toilet arrangements, so a week was spent constructing something very basic to fit the bill. Our efforts were crowned with success, the girl married the boy, and Nigel then had a vastly improved property.

### **International agricultural consultancy**

So after that he obtained a job with an agricultural consultancy, which had contracts all over the world. With much satisfaction he worked, amongst other places, in Nigeria, where he told me stories of playing squash with the local general, who naturally was a really excellent fellow. Nigel had the capacity to get on with everyone – black man, white man, rich man, poor man, unless it was someone he really did not appreciate. He could always see the good in each person he met; he had no social or racial prejudices.

At this time Nigel was still single so I invited him to

meet the four girls in the flat just below mine in London and he took up with a certain Penny; but he rapidly decided it wasn't the right one and he went off to find his own Penny who he then happily married.

By this time the agricultural consultancy had gone bust and Nigel found a job in Oxford. Speaking with Nigel at the time, the only real merit of this job seemed to be that it paid the bills at the end of the month, so when he announced they were emigrating I was not unduly surprised. An emigration which has enabled him and Penny to bring up their two strapping boys of whom I know Nigel was mightily proud.

### **Keeping in touch**

Despite the distance, many of us have kept good contact, as much as anything, due to Nigel's efforts to keep up with his friends. He came several times to Europe to visit us all, and with letters (in a handwriting difficult to decipher but full of character), which later turned into emails (much easier to read), we had a good idea what was going on. While I know Nigel was very happy with his family in Whangarei I think there were occasions when he felt homesick for his old mates and a pint in the local pub. I'm so pleased that I was able to assist at Mark's wedding six years ago. I see the house sitting on a slight hill in semi-tropical vegetation with the avocado trees going down to the swimming pool. I think I can maybe picture him and his surroundings on his last day.

But above all, and confirmed by anyone you speak to, Nigel was always a genuinely and extremely kind person; we were all affected by his enormous and contagious enthusiasm. He was so proud of his family. I remember how he announced the arrival of his first grandchild, with a photo and the caption "I'll believe it when I can smell it". If sometimes his approach was a little unrefined it was never due to any lack of warmth or kindness, but rather to a

certain timidity. I've thought much about Nigel recently and I think he was a bit of a loner and rather unique because he was shy, and he just wanted us to love him as much as he loved us. Penny, like you, we loved him a lot and we think greatly of you, Penny, Mark and James during this, your time of great loss of someone of whom you must have been so fond and proud.

## **John Coppin (Wye 1947–50)**

*Provided by his son Nick Coppin*

John Coppin died on 28th October 2012 at Eschol House, Portscatho, Cornwall, aged 96. Born in Essex in 1916, John grew up in Loughton and around Epping. His first career was in Barclays Bank where he worked as a clerk. As an active member of the TA he was called up early in the war and for his second career, soldiering, he served in India and Malaya.

After the war he decided that his third and main career would be in agriculture and, after working on a farm, for a while he went to Wye College in Kent, graduating in 1950. It was here that he met a young horticultural student, Hazel, who became his wife in 1950. His farming career took them to the Cameroons in West Africa, farms in Kent and Sussex, and then in 1968 to Trelewack Farm in St Ewe, near St Austell in Cornwall. After 18 years here he retired with Hazel and moved to Gerrans on the Roseland Peninsular, South Cornwall.

For John, retirement from the farm didn't mean slowing down; it simply meant finding something else to turn his mind to. For his fourth career he became involved with the recently formed Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, and was a very active Hon Secretary for Cornwall FWAG until 2000. It was an industry that he understood and knew well. He helped to develop the work of FWAG and was instrumental in its success, for which he was awarded the MBE in 1998 for services to conservation and wildlife.

He was always passionate about his interests. As a young man it was his running club. Later he came to love boats and sailing. His enthusiasm, energy and talent for organisation never left him. FWAG, the NFU and Grassland Society during his time in Sussex, then St Ewe Parish Council, secretary and later Commodore of Pentewan Sands Sailing Club all benefitted from this. Latterly the Old Cornwall Society focused his attention on Roseland, preserving those historical details (like granite stiles) often taken for granted until they disappear.

## **Charles Fox (Wye 1954–57) died 2013**

*Submitted by **Hugh Gray** (1954–58)*

Charles was born at Woodford Green in Essex; he went to Forest School and later to Wye College from 1954–1957. He married Ejvor, a Swedish girl at Christmas 1960, and took over her father's farm in Sandhem, Sweden the next year. By 1971 Charles was tired of the snow and cold winters, so rented the farm to the same family who still farm it.

Charles was offered a job in 1971 with FAO in Panama at a research farm. He and Ejvor lived in a small village with their five children (one of whom was adopted), and loved it. They moved to Peru in 1973 doing the same work.

In autumn 1975 he was recruited by the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA) to teach at an agricultural college in Zambia that the Agency had built. He was there until 1979 and then taught in different parts of West Africa.

In 1981 they moved to Mozambique, where he worked as manager of a large co-operative farm, modelled on Russian co-ops, again for SIDA, for the next five years. He started up a successful dairy. When the civil war started they stayed on in Mozambique, working at first for OXFAM, and then for CARITA for another five years. They worked in the war zone organising

food for thousands of refugees, which was dangerous but rewarding work. Ejvor stayed with Charles for most of the time, and there are many people who owe their lives to their work.

They came back to Sweden in 1994, but Charles had not finished travelling (Ejvor says he was not a good pensioner!). He started working for the EU as an election officer. He was in Bosnia for a long time, and then in East Timor for six months. He also worked in Africa, South America and Asia. Ejvor says it was a very happy time for him. They travelled a lot and had a good life until Charles died of cancer on August 24th 2013.

*Editor's note: This should have appeared in an earlier journal, but became detached from the main files. My sincere apologies to the family.*

## **Thomas Hawkins (Wye 1965–68)**

died 2013 at 68

*Given at his funeral and submitted by Edward Thompson, Hereford fruit farmer and hop grower.*

He was

Tom to many of us,  
Dad to young John  
'Unc' to some nieces and nephews.

Born just after the war, in 1946 just ahead of the post-war baby boom. His grandparents were still alive and they were a formidable lot – "TJ" and his wife in Herefordshire and the Mays in Kent. I remember their various arrivals at Pixley during hop picking, the big black car with voluminous seats, I think it was a Daimler, and almost as impressive as the car was the half crown, or was it a sovereign, that was pressed into my hand.

Tom was born into this hop farming and hop factoring family that will have employed in September a thousand or so employees, the Black Country people from Dudley and Stourbridge, the Travellers and those from the local towns and villages.

## **Hops in his blood**

Tom will have picked hops into a crib and will have heard the cries of the bushelling team measuring each crib's production. And he will have absorbed as if by osmosis the relationships that existed between the various parties, not least with the foremen, the hop dryers and the gangers of the time.

The advent of mechanical harvesting brought an end to these things around about the time Tom was sent away to school, but he applied that early in-built knowledge and experience throughout his life. Those of you here today who worked with Thomas on his various farms will know that he valued your contribution and invariably enjoyed both your company and your trust.

Of course in early pre-school years he will have absorbed other sides to life as well. TJ Hawkins was sometime Chairman of Herefordshire Council, of which his father John was also a member.

And he will have seen his father dressing up in City clothes, bowler hat and black umbrella, taking the morning train from Ledbury – First Class with full English breakfast – on his way to The Farmers Club and The Borough. Tom no doubt joined his father occasionally, as indeed I did, and will have witnessed the lavish style of the hop merchants and brewers of the day. Of course, The Borough today as hop growers knew it, no longer exists, and Tom's membership of the Farmers Club lapsed.

Times changed, and Tom read the changes carefully and with great skill and foresight. He saw the demise of the Hops Marketing Board, the transition from Factors to Producer Organisations, the consolidation of the Hop Merchants and of course the ravages of hop wilt. I am going to move now to when Tom was just 26. I had returned to our own family farm together with a wife and two small children. Not something Tom aspired to at that time.

Our local poacher had left a welcoming present of two dead rabbits hung over the kitchen taps. Tom's

welcome was more sophisticated and, for rather different reasons, was likewise not forgotten. Tom wrote a letter. Yes a proper letter, envelope, address, stamp. Inside was an immaculately prepared note, hand written in ink. In it he welcomed us to Herefordshire, suggested it might not all be a bowl of cherries but hoped we would enjoy returning to the family farm. He offered us help and encouragement and indeed in the 40 odd years that followed that was always there when needed, as indeed it was for many others.

When the opportunity was there for Pixley to get into Dwarf Hops he ensured we were able to participate. I remember to this day when, in August 1994, he first rubbed the dwarf hop First Gold in his hands and to his own astonishment declared it to be an aroma hop. As far as I am aware that was the very first such identification, although today it is rebranded as a Dual Variety.

### **An art collector**

I will come to hunting shortly, but first let's explore Tom's less celebrated life as art collector, his life with Sarah at Mothecombe and his travels to Penzance, the Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange where he became acquainted with the paintings of Alfred Munnings and Dame Laura Knight. At Mothecombe Tom used to sleep and unwind for a full day but then he would wake up and take John boating, explore Exmoor and generally relax.

Back home – one day Sarah slipped off to Cheltenham Races and rang Thomas to say there were several Daniel Crane's for sale. Tom said... "Buy anything you want darling". Well they all went for a lot of money and that was that.

Sometime later Tom announced he would be cooking dinner one night. At 5 pm he further announced he had invited a plasterer to dinner. Sarah was not best pleased, but she was used to Tom's ways so let it be.

The 'plasterer' and his wife led the way into the dining room and there mid-table was a magnificent painting of horses going onto a beach. Of course the plasterer and his wife were Daniel and Ali Crane. The painting hangs in the hall at The Farm.

Dame Laura Knight was known to Tom both from Newlyn and from paintings of hop picking machinery and gypsies. Sarah and Tom had spotted one of her paintings in a John Goodwin sale catalogue. Tom picked it up quite cheaply at auction. He recognized the location on a Colwall farm, took it along to the owner and got the personnel in the painting identified, all shearing sheep with the early attempts at mechanical shearing, and in the process dated the unsigned painting. The shearing had been interrupted by the farmer's wife coming out and announcing that France had fallen to the Germans. The farmer responded that that may be as may be, but still half the sheep needed to be sheared. Tom had the painting fully restored and it is now centre-stage in the living room at The Farm. As much a piece of history as work of art.

Of course Tom adored young John who brought him enormous pleasure. You can just hear them singing Hound Dog together in the car. Tom would take him on tractor rides around the farm and to the pub in Bosbury. And he would go to watch him play at the Elms in Colwall. And at night they would read together.

There were other sides to Tom and in particular he enjoyed travelling on business and to international hop conferences. Sarah accompanied him to Belgium to see Ben the Belge, to Slovakia to see Joseph Rosiborn, and wine tasting in Burgundy with Van Molen.

And of course Tom had reserved a special place for his Canadian family, Joseph and his Auntie Jo, now 92, who he quite recently took over to see Bar Morgan-Jones.

## Tales of the hunt

Now I will move to Saturdays. During the hunting season Saturdays were sacred. And the hunt was not confined to the fox. Now this is the censored version. For the unabridged version you need to retire to the pub. Possibly to the pub that Tom infamously took his horse into to share a pint with.

Two greys, Kestrel and Friday, spanned some 20 years. It was Friday that had a reputation for sidling up to the horse next to him. It is said this was a characteristic of the horse, but it was noted he only sidled up to those ridden by the slimmer and younger members of the fairer sex. In any event Friday was not responsible for the frequent invitation that was passed from Thomas to the neighbouring rider towards the end of the day, "Would you like to share a bath with me tonight!"

Occasionally he also hunted with the Ledbury. But his greatest love was the occasional day out with the Radnor. He would pack a leather suit case, fill a couple of hip flasks – a day out with the Radnor was a serious day out. It included a stop off on the way home at the pubs of Eardesley, or was it Eardisland?.

Meanwhile I will leave you with the image of Tom riding Friday boldly to hounds on a Saturday, the highlight of his week, towards the end of the day looking towards the pub and, maybe, his bath.

## Nigel Holman (Wye 1950–53)

Died October 2011

*Obituary submitted by friend and neighbour  
Christine Barnitt née Crocker (1947–50)*

Nigel Trevenen Holman died in October 2011 in the bed he had been born in 84 years earlier at Chyverton House, Cornwall.

He had been educated at home by a governess, then prep school, followed by Blundells. On leaving school he joined the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry in 1946. His company was posted to

Palestine where Nigel played rugby and indulged his hobby of shooting duck and grouse – this qualified as shooting practice!

In 1950 he left the army and went to work as a farm pupil at Chesterton stud in Warwickshire, for a top amateur jockey.

In October 1950 Nigel went to Wye to study agriculture and life. This was at a time of fruitful and exhilarating growth at Wye College. Founded by Cardinal Kempe in 1447, it had passed through many vicissitudes, becoming in 1894 the South Eastern Agricultural College. This was closed in 1940 at the beginning of World War II, and reopened in 1946 as Wye College, London University, with 100 students. By 1950 when Nigel arrived there were 125 men and 70 women. Most of the men and some of the women had served in the forces in the war or had done their National Service, so they were more mature and experienced than normal students.

Being out in the countryside and isolated from other colleges the students organised their own sports and activities in which Nigel took his part. He was one of the few to have his own transport, an open top Alvis. On one occasion returning from a rugby match with a full load of passengers he managed to knock down a telegraph pole which fell the length of the car between everyone – no casualties! Another time, planning to take a party of friends to the College Hunt Ball at a restaurant out of the village, at which students took their own drinks, he learnt that a heavy corkage was charged on every bottle. So, Nigel sent away for a Jeroboam of wine, the equivalent of five regular bottles, and wheeled it into the dining room in a College wheelbarrow lined with straw – one bottle: one corkage.

Nigel met his wife Elizabeth Lole (Horticulture 1949–50) and they married in 1953, returning to farm the Home Farm at Chyverton.

The original house at Chyverton was built in 1730 with two wings added by a mine owner in 1770 who went on to create a Georgian landscape garden. In 1924, Nigel's father and mother purchased the estate, 148 acres of mainly woodland. Like many Cornish gardens it contained some well-established specimens of trees and shrubs propagated from those sent to Britain by the early plant collectors. The first rhododendrons were planted in 1890 and are now magnificent trees, e.g. the hybrid *R. Cornish Red*.

Nigel's father, Treve, developed the new woodland garden in the 1930s encouraged by John Williams of Caerhays Castle and George Johnstone of Trewithen. Shares were taken in three plant-hunting expeditions to the Far East and the valley was planted with many exotics as a result. Harold Hillier of the nurseries in Hampshire made his first-ever advisory garden visit to Chyverton at this time.

World War II was a severe set-back: most of the eight gardeners had gone to fight, and by 1945 neglect had caused many plant losses and honey fungus [*Armillaria mellea*] had taken its toll.

Treve died in 1959 followed by Nigel's mother in 1963. Nigel and Elizabeth moved back into Chyverton house with their son and two daughters. They continued his father's work, especially concentrating on the breeding of Magnolias and Camellias, as these two genera can tolerate the Cornish form of the honey fungus. Elizabeth died in 1994. Nigel continued to collect, breed and propagate specimens, sometimes from Veitch's of Exeter and of course from Hilliers. He was delighted to be able to go on an expedition in 1995 to Yunnan and Sichuan provinces in China, returning with seeds which he distributed to the great gardens of Cornwall. Another expedition followed in 1999 to Chile and Argentina, but this time no seed collecting was allowed.

He wrote articles and had many discussions with

other growers concerning the taxonomy of Magnolias. He called himself a 'Magnoliophile'!

In 2001 Prince Charles made a private visit. He must have been impressed as the thank you letter was addressed, much to the excitement of the local postman, to SIR Nigel.

In 2002 Nigel was thrilled and honoured to be elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London for his work in the collection, breeding and cultivation of magnolias. As he said – "Not bad for an Agric".

A real eccentric and a true Cornishman. He will be missed.

### **Graham Thomas (Wye 1951–54)**

*Reminiscence submitted by Frank Tait (1950–53)*

The news of the death of the Graham in the 2012 Wye Journal reminded me of the changes made in the 1970s. At that time I was Secretary of the Agricola Club and Graham was Journal Editor from 1973 to 1978.

In those days, the printer delivered the Journal in bulk to the College. The names and addresses of members were maintained by embossing their details on metal plates using the Linotype system. The plates were stored in K block and brought up to date each year by Freda Schimmer. The plates were then used to address envelopes. The stuffing of the printed envelopes was undertaken by volunteers recruited from the Committee, friends and family before posting. As the College, and hence the Club, increased in size this yearly task became onerous.

Looking back to 1973, it was the year the UK joined the EU (then the Common Market) and the oil-producing countries formed a cartel to restrict the volume of oil produced and increased its price. By 1974 the price of oil was up tenfold,



causing inflation to soar. It was the time of the three-day week and electricity blackouts. Headleys of Ashford had printed the Journal for 40 years but their charges were increasing and it was decided to look at alternatives. **George Pinney** (1951–54) recommended Yeoprint of Yeovil and a substantial saving was achieved, while Graham ensured that the balance between cost and quality was maintained.

The next step was to see if further improvements could be made. Eric Maddison and Miss Schimmer looked at the possibility of using the College computer but this was not viable. Graham then made contact with London University about the use of their much bigger

computer. This proved possible and, under the guidance of Graham, the committee and other volunteers prepared lists for the transfer of member's details. This resulted in the 1975/76 Journal being despatched using a computerised address system.

At the AGM in 1976 the Treasurer, Dr Smith, reported the cost of computerisation had been just £145 and there was no need to increase subscriptions in a time of soaring inflation.

The foresight of Graham in bringing about this change should be remembered and for the competent, cheerful and thoughtful manner which was his hallmark.

**This is the first of a collection of vignettes from various issues of the Journal collected by the Editor. You will find them scattered through this issue.**

In Ashford she was Mabel,  
 She was Rose in Winchelsea,  
 In Folkestone she was Helen,  
 Just the sweetest thing to see,  
 In Dymchurch she was Doris,  
 The brightest of the bunch,  
 But down on the expense sheet,  
 She was 'Petrol', 'Oil' and 'Lunch'.

*E.J. Carlisle (1906–9, Agricola Journal 1933)*

## Times past

Here are some photos that have been sent that will cause some of our readers to remember how it used to be. It is interesting to see the way in which the general appearance/demeanour of groups of Wye undergraduates has changed over the years (compare with the photos on pages 24 and 25) - unless, of course it is all to do with modern cameras?

1950s



**1956 winners** of the London University 7-a-side rugby competition held at Motspur Park. From left to right: David Larr (deceased), Tim Calcutt (deceased), Brian 'Boris' Lovelidge, John Daleymont (grandfather to Brad Barrit, member of the current England squad), Liam Murray, Ian Stafford (with cup) and Cyril Groom. Photo by David Hart, sent in by Ian Stafford.



**Swanley Hall Ball in the 1960's** and gracing the photo, from l to r: Sally McNeil, Martin Brown, Ann O'Connell (née Lawrence), Tom O'Connell, Richard Rudd and Sylvia Brandram. That looks like a bottle of Harveys' Bristol Cream sherry on the table!

1960s



**Fencing Club 1962** Back row: Not sure, Keith Pike, Richard Rudd, Bill Silvey, Brian McGilley; Front Row: Not sure, John Curtis (Capt), Moira Warland, Peter Jones, Sean Scully. Photo supplied by Richard Rudd.

## It's a family affair

For forty years, the 'lady behind the counter' at the stationers Geerings in Wye, **Dorothy Coulter**, 91, was friend, 'mother', sounding board and sales assistant to hundreds of students as they passed through their education at Wye. She had, and still has, a delightful speaking voice and a ready smile; a charming lady in all respects. Dorothy has many memories to share, particularly about the role that her father 'Ben' (and his predecessors) played in Wye

Most of my life, I have been familiar with dear old Wye College, known previously as the South Eastern Agricultural College, having lived opposite the main campus for 'ever'.

As a pupil at the Lady Joanna Thornhill school, our class was invited to visit the lecture rooms in College in around 1933. When **Robert Wilson** (see page 42) was the Principal of the College between 1923 and 1939, he and his wife had their niece Margaret down for a visit from Edinburgh. We often played together, she being about seven years old and myself nine. We kept up an acquaintance until 2013, the year she died.

When employed at Geerings, in the forty years from 1953 to 1993, I had countless students as customers and I can recall many of their faces. Their names are a bit more of a challenge but I guess that is forgivable now that I am 91 years of age



*Dorothy and her friend May Tuffnell outside Geerings in 1950. Amongst many good on sale were fountain pens, costing between 1s 3d (about 6p) and 37s 6d (about £1.80). The news stands refer to the cost of the foot and mouth outbreak of that year.*

My father John (known by all as Ben) did much work for the College with his horses and carriage, trolleys and his van. In the early years of Dunstan Skilbeck's tenure as Principal (1945–86) he was much appreciated, as highlighted in the extract opposite from a 1960 edition of the Agricola journal.

In addition to the dignitaries highlighted by Mr Skilbeck, there was also the occasion in 1958, when we had the visit of Prince Philip to the College. My



*Dorothy at her counter – a familiar sight to all.*





*Dorothy Coulter pictured in 2015.*

father drove the Prince to Silks Farm from the Silks Lane cow parlour, pulled by his horse Rory. The students had arranged for the Prince to be seated on a bale of straw (covered with a rug!); seated behind him were Dunstan Skilbeck and Rt Hon. Lord Northbourne RA, the then Chairman of the Governors.

This being an election year reminds me of how the students often engaged my father and sister during the hustings sessions for the election to the various Student Union posts. At one election, a show window display was quickly cleared and a student in 'mechanical guise' advertised for whoever was standing at that time. The window soon started to mist up and the stunt attracted much attention and caused plenty of amusement!

After Nora Lepper retired from doing the flower arrangements for functions at the College, I took over the role for several years, during the times when Ian Lucas and John Prescott were Principals. All happy memories of many years ago.

The college closed in 2009 and with sadness, I view the empty building across the road from my home.

## Ben

By Dunstan Skilbeck, MA

It is recorded in the Wye parish Churchwardens' accounts for 1552 that a sum of five shillings was paid to John Coulter for the hire of a horse for 18 days. Throughout these accounts and records, which run consecutively from 1515 to 1663, there are many references to various John Coulters, always associated with horses and road transport. The present bearer of the name, Mr John Coulter, who will be remembered by countless generations of students whose trunks and boxes he has taken to and from Wye Station, represents the last in a long line of carriers who have served the needs of the village over the centuries.

Of recent years it has become customary for Ben to attend at the College on the Saturday afternoon in Cricket week to drive Sir John and Lady Russell up to the cricket field for the Agricola Club match to which we make an almost ceremonial entry.

When the Russells first came to Wye at the beginning of the last century, it was Ben who used to meet them at the Station... It must, too, be a strange sight for the passing motorist to see a well turned out open carriage quite unselfconsciously proceeding along Scotton Street; little do they know of the memories shared by the man on the box and his passengers and less of the long traditions of the Coulter family who were important people in Wye when Elizabeth the First was Queen of England.

## Wye College treasures – portraits

# Robert M Wilson (1885 – 1940)

Robert Melville Wilson was born on 31st October 1885. Wilson spent his early life on the Berwick estate of Lord Low of Laws where his father was land steward. In 1902 he went to Edinburgh University and took a BSc degree in Agriculture; after graduating he was a demonstrator in Botany at the University, followed in 1909 by his appointment as Assistant County Lecturer at Edinburgh and the East of Scotland College of Agriculture.

In 1911 he moved south to become Lecturer in Agriculture and Dairying at the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture at Chelmsford. (subsequently the Essex Institute of Agricultural and, since the 1970s, Writtle College). This was followed by a brief period as an Inspector of the Board of Agriculture. When his good friend and Principal, J.G. Stewart left Chelmsford, Wilson welcomed the opportunity to return as Principal. By all accounts initial scepticism by the farming community was swept aside, in the main due to his undoubted ability to talk to farmers in a language they understood.

It was whilst he was at Chelmsford that he married Martha L. Johnson, whom he had known since his student days. It was a sad time for both of them when their only child, a daughter, died in infancy for they were devoted to children and the encouragement of young people.

In 1922 the Governors of Wye College, then the South Eastern Agricultural College persuaded Wilson to become their College Principal. From 1922 to 1940 he presided over a period of steady growth in student numbers, financial stability, an expanding and increasingly profitable College Farm and perhaps, most

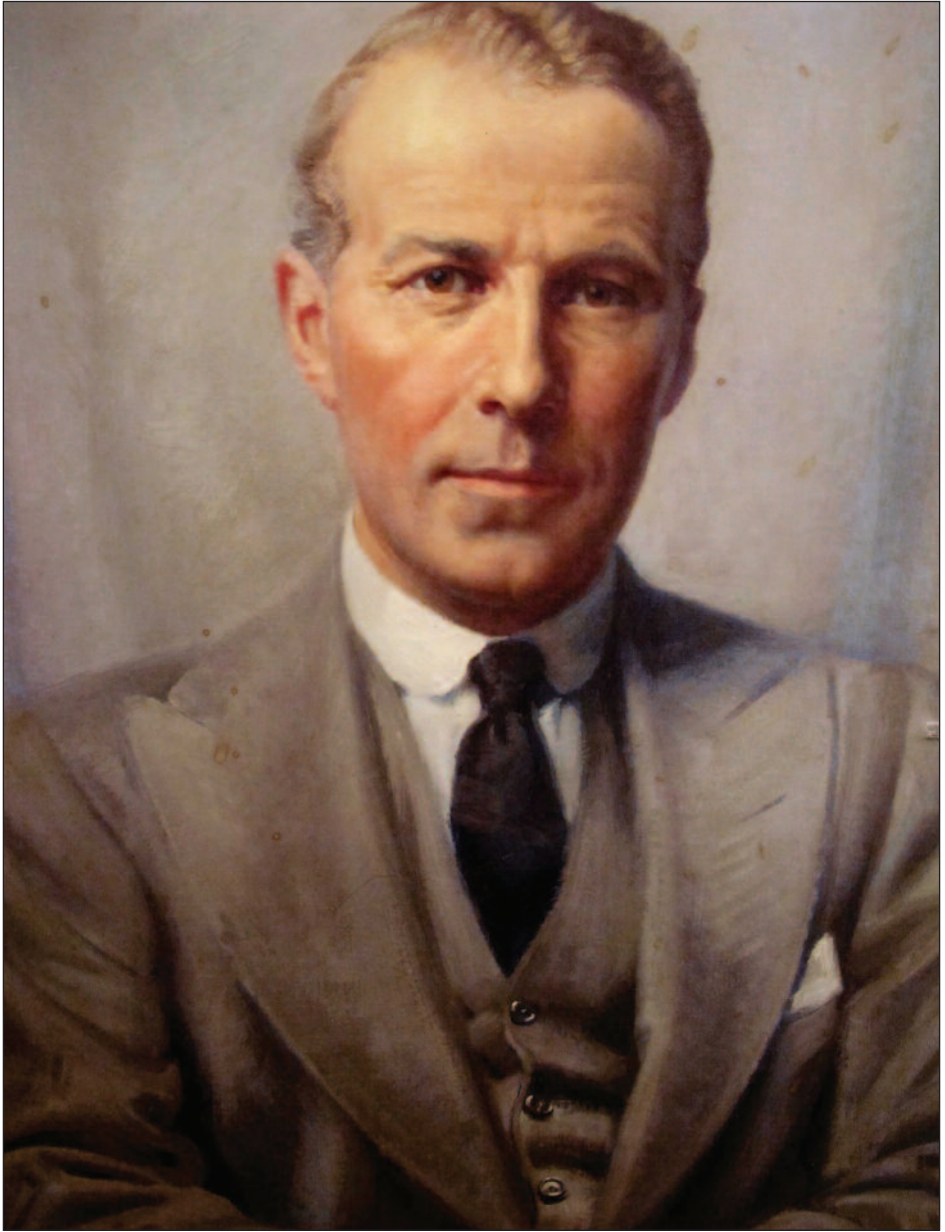
significantly, the final acceptance by Kent farmers that there was much to be learnt from the development and extension work of the College; in husbandry, technology and farm economics.

Wilson was a vigorous supporter of student activities and it was clear from the obituaries written at the time of his untimely death in 1940 that he was an inspirational mentor to students and a gifted leader of his academic colleagues. Amage Farm was added to the College acres during his tenure together with the launch of the Pig Research Unit and the expansion of the work of the Hop, Poultry and Horticultural Departments.

He died in 15th September 1940, when sadly his last days were overshadowed by the thought that with the onset of the Second World War his dreams for his beloved Wye might never become true. As it transpired, this was not to be the case with the re-opening of the College in 1946. It is clear that Wilson's significant contribution to the life and development of College lived on and enabled the incoming Principal, Dunstan Skilbeck, to build on a well-established reputation both locally and nationally.

*We are indebted to Peter Smith, the great nephew of R.M. Wilson, for his contribution to the Heritage Centre display on the 'Life and times of R.M. Wilson' and for the loan of archive and photographic material which was used in the display and helped inform this article.*





**Robert M Wilson (1885 – 1949)**

Principal of South Eastern Agricultural College (Wye College)

1922 – 1940

# Wye College Agricola Club AGM Minutes

## of the 62nd AGM held on Saturday 27th September at 4pm

### Kempe Centre, Wye Campus

#### **Present**

David Leaver (President and Chair), John Walters, Susan Atkinson, Berkeley Hill, Francis Huntington (Secretary), Jane Reynolds, Paul Webster (Treasurer), Chris Waters, Geoff Dixon and 50 members

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Ian Lucas, David Thomas and Charles Course

#### **2 To confirm the Minutes of the 61st AGM held on 3rd January 2014**

The 2013 Annual General Meeting was held on 3rd January 2014 following the January Committee meeting; the Minutes were published in the 2014 Journal and were taken as read. The meeting approved these Minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true and accurate record.

#### **3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4 Chairman's report**

John Walters noted the excellent response to the day's events with 200 shortly to sit down to Dinner. John particularly wanted to thank Jane Reynolds for all her planning and negotiations with Wye School in order to use the Kempe Centre. The Club business had been smoothly handled during the year and John wished to thank Secretary Francis Huntington and Treasurer Paul Webster for all their hard work and all members of the Committee for their support throughout the year. The next planned event will be the 2015 summer event which will take the form of a 'Hog Roast' on Saturday 4th

July. John was looking for a host preferably based in Kent, Sussex, Surrey or Hampshire – details will be sent out in the next e-newsletter.

#### **5 Secretary's report**

Francis Huntington reported that he had sent out e-newsletters in January, April and August and regularly updated the Agricola Facebook page with new posts. The Club's website has been revamped by the new web-hosting company and now needs improved content; Sue Atkinson had volunteered to assist the Secretary. Francis reported that from now onwards the Club Journal will be posted on the website as well as in print. He also reminded members that the 'Wye Treasures' list is also now on the website. Francis thanked the Heritage Centre for hosting the Tea which had followed the visits to Godmersham Park and Brook Agricultural Museum

**Heritage Centre:** 2014 Exhibition – WWI – There is a section devoted to the past students and staff of the South Eastern Agricultural College who served and/or died in WWI. The Club has provided financial support for this exhibition which was much appreciated and helped to maintain the high quality of exhibition material. Francis indicated that a fuller report on the activities of the Heritage centre could be found in the 20013/14 issue of the journal .

#### **6 Treasurer's report and to receive the Club accounts for 2013–2014: y/e 31st July**

Treasurer Paul Webster handed out copies of the accounts which showed a small loss for the year; Paul took the meeting through the accounts.

Questions were invited; in the absence of questions he proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Chris Waters. The accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

## **7 Memorial Fund – Trustees’ report and accounts 2013–2014: y/e 31st July**

The year ending 31st July showed a surplus of £6,190 after the award of grants and Paul explained that the Club had not drawn upon the Memorial Fund during this financial year. Paul drew members attention to the division of the portfolio with Portfolio 2 being the Club Funds.

The accounts as inspected by Messrs Chaverey’s were approved and signed at the AGM of the Memorial Fund held earlier in the day.

## **8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2014–2015**

The Treasurer, Paul Webster, recommended that Chaverey’s be appointed to act as Independent Examiner; the membership agreed. The 2013–2014 accounts will appear in the 2014–2015 Journal.

## **9 Journal Editor’s report**

John Walters reported that the production of the Journal had gone smoothly with the new printers, Geerings of Ashford, who were able to handle colour throughout the Journal. The cost of the enlarged Journal had been held but the increases in postal charges had added to the total cost. He was delighted with the volume of material that had been submitted. He wished to particularly thank Gillian Bond who had taken on the job of compiling the material, improving the layout and readying it all for the printers.

## **10 To receive the draft of the revised Club Regulations**

The Secretary reported that following approval by the Committee, the proposed changes had been printed in the Journal. No objections had been voiced; it therefore only remained for the

revised regulations to be adopted by the meeting which was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Geoff Dixon.

## **11 Elections**

Committee – there were seven vacancies. Retiring by rotation were Paul Webster, Berkeley Hill, Susan Atkinson, Henry Holdstock and co-opted member David Simmons; they had all signified their preparedness to serve on the Committee. The Chairman called for any further nominations; there being no further nominations he proposed, seconded by John Roberts, that those listed be elected *en bloc*. The meeting approved unanimously. In addition, the meeting approved the election of David Simmons (1976–79) and Philip Blair (1979–81) to the committee.

Vice Presidents and Honorary Members – there were no nominations for Vice Presidents or Honorary Members.

## **12 Plans for future Club events**

Jane Reynolds had signified that she planned to take a year off from organising events. John and Jane Walters had agreed to take over the running of the 2015 Summer Event

## **13 Report on the Wye Heritage Centre**

Due to limited time available Francis Huntington referred members to the detailed report in the Journal.

## **14 Update on Imperial College’s current plans for Wye Campus**

Due to limited time available Francis Huntington referred members to the detailed report in the Journal.

## **15 Any other business**

There being no other business the meeting was swiftly closed by the Chairman in order that members could move without delay to the Drinks Reception and Dinner.

# Wye College Agricola Club AGM Agenda

**Friday 16 October, 2015, Latin School, Wye College, Wye**

The 63rd Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16th October 2015 in the Latin School, Wye College, Wye. Starting promptly at 7.00 pm

Please note that this is a departure from our normal arrangement of holding the AGM to coincide with the Annual Dinner. Our 2015 reunion is taking the form of a Summer event and not a September/October AGM and Dinner. The Summer event timing does not allow us to hold the AGM at that time, as the accounts will not have been prepared by then. We have therefore postponed the AGM to coincide with the October 2015 Club Committee meeting and preview of the Wye Heritage Centre's Autumn exhibition entitled 'Wye College Across the World'

## **Agenda**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes - confirm the minutes of the 62nd 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 2014-2015
- 7 Memorial Fund - Trustees Report and Accounts 2014-2015
- 8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2015-2016
- 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 Imperial College's current plans for the Wye Campus
- 14 Any other business

# Agricola Club Memorial Fund

## Paul Webster, Treasurer

### Structure, governance and management

The current Trust was established under a Trust Deed dated 24th April 1950 and modified by a resolution made under section 74(2)(d) of the Charities Act 1993. The Deed consolidated a number of changes made to the original Deed of 1924 which had as its main objective the provision of a memorial to Wye students killed in the 1914–18 War. The objectives were later modified to include those listed below.

The assets of the Trust arise from two sources and are held within separate portfolios. The first arises from the original Memorial Fund referred to above. The second arises from the accumulated life membership subscriptions to the Agricola Club of former students of Wye College. These funds were formerly held by Imperial College on behalf of the Club but were transferred directly to the Trust in 2009 following the closure of the campus.

The Trustees are appointed by the Committee of the Agricola Club for a period of 5 years and are eligible to be reappointed for a further two terms. The Trustees meet each year to receive the annual report of the Chairman and to approve and sign the previous year's Financial Statements. The Treasurer presents a report to the Annual General Meeting of the Agricola Club. The Treasurer also reports to the Committee of the Club at its biannual meetings.

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day administration to the Treasurer who is also the Trust correspondent for Charity Commission purposes. All applications received during the year are circulated amongst the Trustees. Requests are generally circulated and agreed by discussion

using email without the need for a formal meeting.

In 2009 the Trustees lost their long-standing Chairman, Tim Calcutt. Following Tim's death, Charles Course took over as Chairman and Professor Paul Webster joined Jane Reynolds as the third Trustee. Professor David Leaver was appointed as a fourth Trustee in 2011.

### Objectives and activities

The formal position is that Trust income may be "applied for such charitable purposes as the trustees may decide" but with preference given to the original objects and beneficiaries of the charity. Whilst the College was in existence, the Trust generally focused on student hardship cases. But following the closure of the College, the Trustees felt the need to modify the aims. Advice from the Charity Commission was that the sentence above gave sufficient flexibility in the new situation. So with the approval of the Committee of the Agricola Club in 2013, the Trustees agreed the revised wording of the aims of the Memorial Fund.

The aims of the Fund are:

- 1) To assist members or past members of Wye College who are in need.
- 2) To assist a person who has taken a course at the Wye campus to undertake postgraduate studies,
- 3) To support education and research in agriculture, horticulture and the rural environment.

The purpose of the Agricola Club funds held within the Trust is to fund the services provided to Club members for the rest of their lives. In practice this has provided funds for the production and circulation of the Journal.

### Achievements and performance

Over the past 10 years disbursements by the Memorial Fund have varied between zero (in two years) and £6000, with between £3k and £4k in most years. The total over the 10 years has been just short of £30,000. Probably a fifth of this amount has concerned individual hardship cases whilst the majority of the remainder has gone towards two areas of student support.

The hardship cases have consisted in two instances of individual ex-members of College in difficulty and a third instance of a postgraduate

studying agricultural economics at the University of Kent and supervised by an ex-member of the old Department of Agricultural Economics at Wye.

Student support has involved the old Wye Distance Learning Programme now run by the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. CeDEP is now headed up by Professor Lawrence Smith who was another longstanding member of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Wye. The Trust made an agreement (published in the 2008 Journal) with CeDEP to provide financial support to developing-country students whose participation in the programme was threatened by financial difficulties. Last year five students were supported and the list of their projects is given below.

#### SOAS Distance Learning Student Projects supported by the Memorial Fund in 2014

| Name                      | Project  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Hui Xi-Yu Ng              | A study on attendance, performance and health of boys and girls in primary and secondary school that provide free lunch in poor Chinese rural areas.                                       |
| Dana Mock - Muñoz de Luna | Ti Manman Cheri: an assessment of Haiti's first conditional cash transfer programme through a comparative analysis of its monitoring and evaluation process and cash disbursement methods. |
| Karlene V. Richards       | Exploring the economic and environmental benefits of geothermal energy in Dominica.  |
| Colleen O'Donnell         | Ecosystem-based adaptation as a tool for water security in the tropical Andes: a case study of a paired micro-watershed study of the Pocco and Matoc streams in the highlands of Peru.     |
| Sidney YeeLan Yap         | Sustainability of China's national small hydropower ecological protection project; a case study in Guizhou.  |



The second area has involved support to students attending the Worshipful Company of Farmers courses. As many members will know, these are three-week residential courses for midcareer farmers and managers. The courses were originated in 1965 at Wye and run at the College until the campus closed. They are now run at The Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester and at the Duchy College in Cornwall. Both involve significant fees and the Trust has in recent years been able to help a number of participants.

The Agricola Club funds within the Trust have been used mainly to support the production and circulation of the Journal which, depending on the size of the journal has varied between £8k and £11k over the past 10 years. The Club has made other smaller donations to particular causes deemed by the Committee to be in the interests of members.

### Plans for the future

The original Memorial Fund is regarded by the Trustees and Committee as a 'perpetual' fund whose income is available for the stated purposes. As can be seen, support from the Fund has started to move away from individuals with a direct link to Wye College and towards activities and institutions which to a greater or lesser extent carry on the mission of the old Wye College.

**But we do urge Agricola Club members and others to make us aware of anyone associated with the former Wye College who may be in difficulty and who may be eligible for help from the Trust. Whilst the income of the Trust is not great, we can help former students and staff of the College who have fallen on hard times. If readers of this report are aware of any likely suitable case, would they please contact the Treasurer, Paul Webster.**

The Agricola Club funds within the Trust are regarded as an endowment which should be

extinguished over time as the number of members declines. Readers may recall an analysis published in the Journal a couple of years ago which looked at projections of numbers of members and of rates at which the fund could decline over the years. Funds have been transferred to the Club to support the Journal as needed.

### Investment policy and performance

The investment policy of the Trustees with respect to the Memorial Fund is to provide sufficient income to meet current demands and to maintain the capital value of its investments. Hyams, McGilvray & Co. was appointed as the Trust's investment advisors in 1999. Following changes in the regulatory framework, the firm merged with Candour Financial Planning in 2012 with Mr Michael Dewe continuing as the Trust's main contact. In practice the investment policy has meant a diversified portfolio of common investment funds with medium to low risk characteristics. Around 40% of the assets are currently invested in Charifund income units and the remainder is spread amongst eight other funds. Over the last few years the net income for the Memorial Fund has been around £4k p.a. The capital value fell during the problems in the financial markets in 2007 – 2008 but has more than made up in recent years and stood at around £160k in July 2014.

As far as the Agricola Club fund is concerned, the investment policy is to provide an income of £12k p.a. to cover the needs of the Club over the immediate future. Again, the funds are held a diversified portfolio of common investment funds with medium to low risk characteristics. The capital value has grown from the £242k passed from Imperial College in 2009 to around £270k in July 2014.

Paul Webster  
February 2015

## A sip of wine

**Nicolle Croft (1986 – 1989)** explains how her love of vines and wine took her through Wye to a life in Bordeaux and the foundation of small independent producers company.

I was perhaps not the typical Wye College student to graduate in 1989; vines and wines rather than pure agriculture was my chosen career even before setting foot at Wye College three years before. My fellow Agricultural Business Management (ABM) students had grown up on family farms and the ebb of agricultural life flowed through their veins.

I did though have an agricultural background, although perhaps an alternative one. I was born in Malaysia, my father Gordon Barnett, originally a rubber planter, transformed the rice industry there with the introduction of rotavator machinery. He then went on in the UK, after a seven year sabbatical on a coastal farm in New Zealand where we bred Blonde Aquitaine cattle, to invent in the 1970s Codacide Oil, a vegetable oil adjuvant, recognizing even then the need to reduce chemical inputs.

It was genes from my Dutch maternal side however, that pulled me in another direction, that of food and wine. My grandfather had been a Maître d'Hôtel.

### A life's passion

My wine baptism was a short year before joining Wye, at a traditional wine merchant called Lay & Wheeler in Colchester, Essex. I began to learn on the shop floor about the many different types of wine (many from the 'Old World' including Bordeaux but also the first wines from the 'New World' such as the Napa Valley) and became a 'wine student' taking the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) exams in London. I knew wine was to be my life passion. (Over 25 years later I am still busy learning).



### Combining Wye and wine

It was my boss Richard Wheeler, who gave me the opportunity to get a university degree at Wye College whilst continuing to follow my love of wine. For the first two years of my Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business Management I continued to take the WSET exams, travelling up to London from Kent when needed. Tasting lessons from Master of Wine Maggie McNie helped to develop my tasting skills (used more for beer at college).

The two worlds melded well together. Wine highlights during my three years at Wye College included organizing a sherry tasting for the lecturers and also a charity dinner and wine tasting — largely a success due to the ample address-book of Mrs Gray, my landlady at the Old Rectory in Crundale.

There was much to interest me in my chosen course at Wye College. Soil science was a revelation and helped me to understand the importance of 'terroir', so important in vine-growing and winemaking. Years later I continued my soil science studies at the Faculty of Oenology in Bordeaux.

But it was the lessons of Peter Newbound that enraptured me. It was my first taste of marketing and I later made this my speciality when I returned to Lay & Wheeler as their first Marketing Manager in 1991 – an unknown breed at the time.

### **Falling in love with Bordeaux**

But I am skipping ahead. After graduating from Wye College I wanted to see in practice what I had learnt. I arrived on the quayside of the Garonne River (where all of the Bordeaux's historic wine merchants are located) on 23 August 1989 'en Deux Chevaux' (2CV). I was to be the 'stagiaire' at Maison Sichel (part-owner of the famous Margaux, Château Palmer) for the next year or so. In addition to participating in the life of a busy wine merchant and working for someone with such a pioneering mind as Peter Sichel, I also had the chance to work for the promotional body of Bordeaux wines before my ever-extending work experience period finally came to an end a year and a half later and I returned to the UK. I had fallen in love with Bordeaux and being so close to the heart throb of a wine region; I was to return without too much delay.

I have been very lucky in the 25 years or so that have passed by since then, to have seen some great changes in the vineyards, wineries and in the wines produced today from all over the world. Sitting here and overlooking the same Garonne River as I write, my experiences over the years have been varied and rich.

### **Spreading the word**

I have written a book *Winetasting* which was translated into nine languages; I have worked for and set up the wine school for the Queen's wine merchant Berry Bros & Rudd. I was also a co-founder of the largest wine search engine [www.wine-searcher.com](http://www.wine-searcher.com), and I have been 'intronised' as an honorary member of the Commandery of the Medoc, Graves and Sauternes and the Côtes de Bourg!

Today I live in the vineyards of Bordeaux. We often hear of the Grand Cru Classé châteaux but it is the smaller producers that interest me, often just falling on the wrong side of a famous boundary! My company SIP (Small Independent Producers) promotes these wines through communication and wine tourism and commercializes them via the SIP Wine Club, which delivers bottles to the doorsteps of wine drinkers around the world.

Santé!

Wine Blog [www.nicollecroft.wordpress.com](http://www.nicollecroft.wordpress.com),  
[www.sip-wines.com](http://www.sip-wines.com)



# Wye as a springboard for animal nutrition

**Derek Cuddeford (1964 – 1967) ruminates on his life at Wye, including fast cars, beagles and hunting, leading onto nutritional work with sheep and horses, which resulted in some very full brown paper envelopes.**

Having just received the Journal and read the contributions from some of the Agricolae it occurred to me that I have contributed nothing to Wye over the years since graduation (48 years!!). Thus I thought I should make the effort whilst I still can. On reading the 'life stories' of my contemporaries and others I feel somewhat humbled by the extent of their activities and their achievements over the years. It is incredible how much has been contributed by Wye people worldwide over time and it makes me even angrier about the way Wye College has been handled by Imperial.

## Reflections on Wye

I remember, on first arriving at Wye, Dunstan Skilbeck telling the Fresher intake that we were lucky to be there and were in the top 5% and thus should not abuse the privilege. Of course nowadays one would be part of the 50% entering higher education and thus not so special (thanks to a Labour government). Second years *et alia* made us feel very welcome by throwing us into cold baths of water in the middle of the night; a privilege not mentioned by the Prin! Coincidentally my room was on the direct route into College after hours via a convenient drainpipe on the back wall between College and the ARC laboratory. Many a night I got trampled on by returnees from late night carousing; drunkards experienced particular difficulties scaling the drainpipe.

The Timber Batts represented one of the best watering holes in the district and it was from here late one night that, as a passenger, I had a rather nasty road accident. This was followed by a few

weeks in Ashford General. **Charmian Stebbings** (1964–67, now Lewis-Jones) kindly copied copious lecture notes for me during this period and thus studies could be continued. When I first arrived at Wye I only had a provisional driving license but this did not stop me (together with three others – you know who you are!) buying a much used Bedford Dormobile from **John Killick et alia** (1963–66) that was to provide a useful bus service to Nonnington College. Being a physical education college for young ladies meant that Wye males had a ready source of fit girls, many of whom became wives to these young men.

## Horses, hounds and cars

Ironically, the insurance pay-out from my accident allowed me to buy my first car, a Ford Cortina which proved its worth in many different ways. In my second year I hunted the Wye College Beagles, inheriting the horn at the New Year meet from **Mike Bentley** (1963–66) who, together with some input from the late **Martin Hutchinson** (Master of Hounds 1957–59), guided me on my way. Walking hounds out early each morning was a pure pleasure rewarded by a tremendous cooked breakfast served by the wonderful kitchen ladies at Withersdane. Hunting took me all over East Kent and introduced me to a new way of life. I was able to hunt on horseback with the East Kent Fox hounds for free because of my 'status' as a local Master of Hounds and so I enjoyed another aspect of Kent life – definitely living above my station. Of course, like many in the College I went coursing with the John Jones down on the Romney Marshes. The Cortina was ideal for pulling the hound cart and for collecting fallen stock from



farms in the area. I am afraid my studies rather suffered as coursing, going racing, hunting at least twice a week together with collecting 'flesh' left little time for study. This blissful period came to an end when I handed the horn onto **Bob Fiddaman** (1965-68) at the end of the Michaelmas term and got down to some serious study (not before time).

Whilst at Wye I always felt it had a Country Club atmosphere with a touch of public school, although early closure of gates, separate girls and boys quarters also gave it a rather regulated air. Of course, in practice these regulations did not work. The student car park boasted an exotic range of cars including a Riley, Bristol, Marcos and even I graduated from the Cortina to a Daimler Dart SP250 (wish I had kept it as they are now much sought after) and then a Jaguar 3.4 automatic saloon. Hardly the sort of cars to be

associated with undergraduates. I also remember the Porter checking the bonnets of these cars to determine late arrivals and possible transgressors. We got up to all sorts of mischief in our time at Wye and I remember on one occasion near Christmas snaffling one of the Prin's live ducks from the back of his house and dressing it to provide an exotic meal (I was living out of College at that time!). In conclusion, they were wonderful days.

### Scottish roads ...

I had a desire to go far away for a complete change of scene after Wye. I discovered a new one year MSc course in animal nutrition being set up in September 1967 and run by John Topps of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture in collaboration with the Rowett Research Institute which, in those days, was the centre of excellence in the World for animal nutrition. It was also the



home of *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*, a bible for people in that field of work. The Jaguar took me to Aberdeen in a continuum but with some excitement on the way. For those of you who know the A68 to Scotland you might recall the serious switchbacks as you approach the Borders. I travelled this (to me unknown then) road in the dark rather quickly as it was late and discovered to my horror that my headlights were pointing to the sky and the road was disappearing before my very eyes. Fortunately I did not panic and kept straight ahead suddenly descending a steep hill before going up the other side leaving a trail of sparks behind me; the undercarriage had hit the deck! Anyway, I and the car survived the experience of the next few ups and downs. I sold the car in Aberdeen to a Canadian postgrad who got caught by the police going down the wrong side of a dual carriageway!

### ... and Scottish pubs

One abiding memory of Aberdeen was seeing drunks falling out of the pubs shortly after 5pm when I first arrived in town; this was particularly noticeable on a Friday. This was a complete contrast to Wye when the rugby club fell out of the George at closing time.

Anyway, I had a good time in the 'Granite City' and was lectured to by the great and the good of animal nutrition such as Kenneth Blaxter, Bob Ørskov, Colin Mills, etc. I succeeded in getting an MSc but what then? I looked around and was offered good jobs by Rank Hovis, Pfizer, etc but for some reason I had set my heart on obtaining a PhD. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (Edinburgh University) was advertising for a lecturer in what was then the Department of Animal Health, so I applied and miraculously was offered the job.

### Texel metabolism

I was based at the Veterinary Field Station (VFS) about 8 miles south of Edinburgh city. When I

arrived I was shown to a room I was to share with a colleague and left to my own devices. I could hardly believe that no one was telling me what to do, etc and so I nearly left after the first few months; but I decided to stick with it and after some time managed to secure some ARC funding. The project was to investigate calcium, phosphorus and magnesium metabolism in intensively reared male lambs (Texels) that when fed cereal-based diets were prone to form uroliths/stones in the kidney, bladder, urethra or a combination of locations. These lambs proved to be an excellent source of fleeces and meat and eventually, a PhD thesis!

After this, what way to go? Many people cleverer than I were involved in ruminant and non-ruminant nutritional research; it was a very competitive field at that time particularly as resources were becoming more limited. The halcyon days of animal nutritional research were over. It became clear to me that people knew little about horse nutrition although there was a lot of 'muck and magic' about. There was less competition for funds for horse nutritional research so that became my new direction, which I pursued throughout my academic career together with lecturing on animal nutrition generally to veterinary undergraduates and odd postgraduate groups. Like so many academics I wrote a book, contributed chapters to textbooks, wrote some papers, attended conferences, gave papers and so on.

### Life in Provence ...

I eventually retired from Edinburgh University in 2006 but my wife and I had travelled backwards and forwards to Provence since 2005, one time being generously entertained by **John Walters** (1964–67) and his wife Jane in Wye whilst *en passage*. We finally moved from the Scottish Borders to Provence, just south of the Luberon to our house there to enjoy the good life typified in the books written by Peter Mayle; it is everything



that he has described. We experienced many winter nights of hard frost (-8C) and saw plenty of snow on the vines and measured 15cm on our pool cover one winter. We also became a focus for summer visitors – a reverse migration? However, with about 1500m<sup>2</sup> of ground and a swimming pool to look after there was no shortage of physical work opportunities for me; I could cut the grass (not often), clean the pool and from time to time float in it whilst drinking a G&T. I was able to keep my neurone active by continuing my consultancy with its associated travels but I believe in the axiom "if you don't use it, lose it". As one ages it gets harder to maintain physical shape so this eventually stimulated a change of scene and a departure from Provence.

### **... and in Germany**

In 2009 we bought a thatched house in the Ammerland, Northern Germany with just over 3ha consisting of a wilderness mixture of woodland, ponds and grassland. The Ammerland is an area of intensive farming containing many large dairy farms and some pig units all with their own biogas plants. As a result, maize is widely grown since, after ensiling, it is the principal substrate for gas production and this has had a dramatic effect on land prices in the area because of high demand. The locale is also famous for its plant and tree nurseries, exporting material all over the World so horticulture and agriculture occupy the bulk of the land mass.

I have become adept at using a mini-digger and have purchased a John Deere 3036E tractor together with fore-end loader, 4-in-1 bucket and dung grab, which have all been used to landscape and clear the place. We have turned the grounds into largely parkland together with some untamed woodland although the latter has been thinned and managed in order to improve tree quality. Wildlife is plentiful with Roe Deer, Red Squirrels, Pine Martens, Hares, Woodpeckers, Buzzards, Kites, Herons, fish in the ponds and a myriad of wild

birds, both resident and summer visitors. Having acquired a 1.8m wide rotary mower fitted with a mulcher it only takes about 2h to cut all the grass so we have an easy-care system in place.

It is a delight living in a rural community where everybody knows everybody and everything! There are many great traditions that include celebrating anniversaries (weddings, 'round' birthdays, welcoming new inhabitants, etc) which makes for an almost continuous party fueled by bratwurst, beer and schnapps. A popular sport in the Ammerland is that of boßeln which takes place on the roads. This is akin to the road bowling that takes place in Ireland and is enjoyed by all ages although sometimes it is difficult for the older generation to recover the gummiboßel (plastic ball) or wooden boßel from deep roadside ditches; special tools are available to assist. One might expect this activity to be somewhat suicidal but in fact other road users show great respect and restraint. Hard to imagine in the UK...

### **Horse nutrition**

Digestibility studies were commonly undertaken at Edinburgh to investigate the use of novel feed ingredients such as naked oats and oil. These studies were augmented by establishing some new *in vitro* systems that were based on old ruminant methodologies. The new systems relied on using caecal content to investigate fermentation kinetics of different substrates. Such new techniques developed by scientists at Edinburgh have now been widely applied by different laboratories to investigating the modus of horse digestion.

Another innovative development made in collaboration with the Department of Medical Physics (MP) at the University of Edinburgh was the use of nylon bags to partition digestion in the horse. These bags were porous and had a small compartment for food and another to hold stainless steel washers.

The bags were introduced orally to horses. MP designed and made a magnet that could be fitted in the caecum of a horse and which had a light that illuminated once a bag was 'caught' so it could be removed. Thus it was possible to determine how much of a nutrient had disappeared/been digested pre-caecally. Some bags were allowed to pass through the whole digestive tract whereas some were also introduced into the caecum directly and collected in the faeces allowing the determination of the effect of fermentation on nutrient disappearance. Thus it became possible to partition digestion within the horse's digestive tract – something never achieved before *in vivo*.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

My above research interests have resulted in consultancy work for several commercial operations that necessitated travel throughout the Americas, the Middle East and Europe. I had some interesting times in Abu Dhabi and Dubai discussing the nutrition of racing camels as well as that of Thoroughbred and Arab racehorses. Arab horses are also used extensively in some prestigious endurance events throughout the United Arab Emirates.

I have also had some rather amusing incidents. One time I was asked to go to London from Edinburgh to meet an Arab gentleman to discuss racehorse feeding. No fee was discussed and I just bought a return airfare to Heathrow on a Friday and got a taxi into town. After some 2 to 3 hours the meeting was over, I was not offered a fee but was given a bulky envelope that I put in my brief case. Once in Heathrow waiting for my flight home I gingerly opened my case worried that I looked rather suspicious. This feeling heightened when I opened the envelope to find it was packed with £50 notes!! On another occasion in Costa Rica where I was looking at the nutrition of some fine German Warmblood Dressage horses I was also given an 'envelope'. This time it was packed

with Swiss francs, US dollars and euros; there is a busy drug trade there. Finally, work in Mexico was again rewarded with a large amount of cash. On both the latter two occasions I wondered how, if I was searched at the border controls, would I explain possession of so much currency?

Over the years I have written hundreds of articles for the horse lay press in the hope that I could dispel some of the myths associated with horse feeding and to try to bring good information to the horse-owning public. In addition I have given innumerable talks to groups up and down the UK including veterinary practice evenings. By the way, one might expect one's horse vet to have an extensive knowledge of horse nutrition but in general, this is usually not the case. This is probably because the UK veterinary schools only devote a maximum of five hours of lecture time to the subject, which is hardly understandable as the role of nutrition is critical to the wellbeing of a horse.

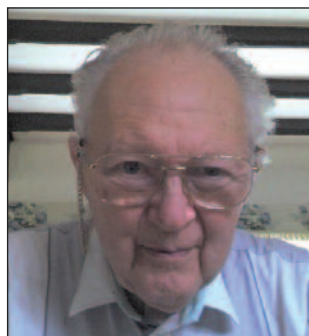
### **Conclusion**

As I am sure many have found, Wye provided an excellent springboard into the real world. Officers of the Agricola Club together with others are to be congratulated on trying to keep the ethos of Wye College alive following the withdrawal of Imperial. As I live in an area of intense agricultural and horticultural activity no one can say these subjects are not important to daily life. Furthermore, worldwide, people are still starving because of inadequate food supplies so there is ever a need for people such as those that went through the Wye College education system.

Wye is a very particular place and certainly for me, College was a great experience and rather different from the usual run-of-the-mill University education as I experienced in later life. I think the old buildings and their history together with the way of life in my time at Wye gave it a very special quality. Fond memories indeed!

# The precision feeding of broilers

**David Filmer (1950 – 1953)** describes his early career and experience leading up to the formation of his own company offering a broiler management system that is now helping to improve feed conversion, flock health and farm profits for meat chicken producers.



After a good life at Wye, Prof Mac Cooper helped me to obtain a scholarship from MAFF, to Cambridge University where both Sir John Hammond and Sir Ronald Fisher were still lecturing. There I learnt the skills of designing, analysing and interpreting farm animal experiments, invaluable to my future career.

After my National Service in the Royal Engineers, I joined the Cambridge School of Agriculture as a Lecturer and Demonstrator in Poultry Husbandry and Statistics, then joined Unilever's R. Silcock & Sons as their first Animal Nutritionist responsible for R&D (100 trials/year) and feed specifications. On the merger with BOCM, I became Agriculture Director of Dalgety Agriculture, their main rival!

Older alumni may remember *Project 360* from Silcocks, the first computer feeding programme for dairy cows, based on the SE (Starch Equivalent) system. That was followed by Dalgety's *Selectaplan*, based on the new ME (Metabolisable Energy) system in the 1970s. Pig farmers got the first *Pig Grower* feed from Silcocks and *Ultraplan* from Dalgety, while egg farmers had the *Milmoor* plan and intake-based diet selection from the same companies in the same periods.

## Development of feeding systems

In 1977, I was head-hunted back to BOCM and in 1988 I set up my own company. Knowledge from

the various livestock sectors contributed to my development of a broiler management system that's now helping improve feed conversion, flock health and farm profits for meat chicken producers.

With over 60 billion chicken reared globally every year, the potential to improve food sustainability and security for the growing world population is clear. Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) brings real benefits.

Work on this approach started in the 1980s with a project between BOCM-Silcock and Harper Adams College. The idea was to shift from three feeds (Starter, Grower and Finisher), with stepwise cuts in percentage protein, to feeding birds a different diet each day, using high- and low-protein feeds from separate silos, automatically blended to gradually reduce dietary protein.

It involved recording feed intake each day and calculating the ratio of the two feeds, so that the correct nutrient intake was delivered to grow birds along a predetermined growth curve.

After much R&D on customer farms, including some integrator R&D sites, a three-year LINK award (LK0612) was obtained in 1998 from MAFF. The 2004 project report (Reference 1) concluded: "combining these results with better regulation of feed intake gives improved

performance". The report included a verification trial on an integrator's site, where four houses used our approach and four the normal approach. It gave over £10,000 extra margin per year per house of 35,000 birds (Table 1), paying initial investment back in a year.

Table 1. Verification trial (8 houses)

| Item          | Control  | Flockman | Benefit |
|---------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Weight sold   | 335t     | 344t     | 9t      |
| Feed used     | 667t     | 636t     | -31t    |
| Weight value  | £167,000 | £172,000 | £4,500  |
| Feed cost     | £88,000  | £86,000  | £2,000  |
| Crop margin   | £79,000  | £86,000  | £6,500  |
| House margin  | £19,785  | £21,500  | £1,625  |
| Annual margin | £129,188 | £139,750 | £10,562 |

Although successful economically, the system needed an extra silo at each chicken house and the farm manger had to enter mortality and feed composition into a computer, and regularly calibrate the automatic bird and feed weighers.

Pressure on margins in the 2000s meant labour cuts on poultry units, and the industry demanded simpler and less expensive equipment. Further research, with input from Bristol University, led to today's system, which achieves the correct daily nutrient intake by controlling feed intake per day using standard feeds, with no blending, and the feeding of several distinct meals each day.

Our new FLOCKMANagement system requires just a simple retrofit to existing feed auger and lighting systems. Intermittent lighting, integrated with specific mealtime feeding, instead of *ad-lib* feeding, is used with 24/7 monitoring of the house cross auger to identify how quickly birds eat each 'meal', so supply can be adjusted in line with the birds' age, breed, sex and genetic potential.

Results are similar but with much less manager effort and lower equipment cost, achieving returns on investment in less than six months.

Natural feeding

Key to the approach is the fact that birds naturally fill their crops several times a day, so feed soaks, cell walls burst and contents are digested more readily. Exploiting that brings better growth and Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR), with less feed protein excreted (less odour).

Nine international field trials, each with a minimum of eight houses of at least 25,000 birds and totalling 2.2 million birds, tested the new system in half the houses, with the others acting as controls. Table 2 shows the average and minimum benefits. Statistically, we are 97.5% sure that if installed and used correctly, broiler growers can expect at least the minimum benefits shown.

Recently, Harry Shepherd, a former Harper Adams student new to broilers, achieved the third highest efficiency factor recorded (430) by the prestigious Ross 400 Club, on his fourth crop, using our system. Three of his 2014 crops topped 400, with Table 3 (below) showing his December results.

The new, simple version of Flockman is proving popular and has been exported to Thailand, Africa, Australia, Brazil and China. Indeed, Harry Shepherd

Table 2. 9 International trials: 2.2 million birds

| Item                  | Average         | Minimum  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|
|                       | Benefit         | Benefit  |
| Mortality             | 335t            | 344t     |
| Liveweight (g)        | 667t            | 636t     |
| FCR                   | £167,000        | £172,000 |
| EPEC                  | £88,000         | £86,000  |
| Margin/bird           | £79,000         | £86,000  |
| Margin/house          | £19,785         | £21,500  |
| Margin/house/year     | £129,188        | £139,750 |
| 6.5 crops cycles/year | 35k birds/house |          |



Harry Shepherd in his 38,000 bird broiler house.

and I have just returned from Abu Dhabi's *Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture*, where I gave an invited paper (see website) and had a trade stand. With 4,000 attendees from 88 countries, there was genuine interest from 25 companies, investors and government officials in our innovation, many wanting to bring their poultry industry into the 21st century.

Professor Wathes, of the Royal Veterinary College, said "Commercially, the only PLF product that has been sold on a significant scale is the Flockman system for broiler chickens"

Last year I gave a paper to the World Poultry Science Association in Chester. See Reference 2.

For relaxation, I play snooker once a week and create two Sudoku puzzles monthly for the local Brent Knoll Village News, available on the internet. There is one at the bottom of this page if you would like to try it.

We've recently updated our award winning website at [www.flockman.com](http://www.flockman.com).  
[david@flockman.com](mailto:david@flockman.com)

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# Adventures Down Under

**Geoff Holman (1966 – 1968) recalls a lifetime in agricultural related enterprises in Australia and New Zealand, punctuated by visits from his contemporaries at Wye.**

*"Agriculture son; the world is running out of food. You will always have a job."* Good thinking Dad but you were wrong by at least half a century.

I was a country lad but not a farmer's son. However, in September '66, having completed the obligatory practical year driving tractors around the Dengie marshes, I found myself at Wye. Not much time for agriculture but great new friends and fun.

**Giles Halfhead, Charlie Schlamm, Andy Turney (1966–69), Pete Bowles, Ferris Whidbourne, 'Punch' Preston, Bob Pickard, Rick Sturdy, Chris Major, Charlie Roydds, Paul Benham, David Stein, Peter Smith, Dick Caswell.** Students of contract bridge, poker, bar-billiards, pigeon shooting, rock climbing and girls.

## What depression??

I have great memories of my time at Wye, but few have an academic origin. I do recall our first economics lecture with Professor Wibberley. "Depressions would not be seen again because John Maynard Keynes had shown us how to expand the money supply when demand fell in a hole." My interest had been ignited because my grandfather had gone down in the 1930s but this one snippet of learning lay buried until 2008 when it surfaced with all the other bubbles and I began to ponder would Wibberley be proved right or wrong? How could it be that a recession caused by mountains of debt would be fixed by even bigger mountains? I think we can say that the extra fuel since 2008 has stoked demand enough so far to stave off depression, but what will be the consequences Prof? I see bubbles everywhere.

## Love at first sight

A more significant event took place in the Zoology Lab. During the fascinating dissection of some poor insect, Punch and I spotted through a window a good looking girl feeding her drosophila in the adjacent room. More importantly she had seen us and was making enquiries. She had a car and would be taking her friend Penny to fireworks night on the Crown. Andy was recruited to look after Penny; I fell in love, and Punch complained for years that he saw her first. Exactly two years later, at the expense of the Australian Government, Fran and I were £10 Poms, winging through the skies to Perth in a 707. London, Rome, Bombay, Singapore and Perth. Bound for new adventures and sunshine.

Fran and I were offered a job at an inland research station 1500 miles north of Perth. I wonder how long we would have lasted in that hot and dusty outpost. I settled instead for a position with P&O in the Port of Fremantle. The trade between Europe and Australia was due to be containerised in 1969. After spending time



*Fran with our two 'boys' Gale and Storm. She was a lab assistant at Wye and is the daughter of Benenden farmer Reg John, who was master of the Ashford Valley Foxhounds.*



learning and correcting the paper and procedures I was released into the many pubs of Fremantle to win the loyalty of agricultural shippers. Wool was the big trade in those days. Trainloads of bales arrived to be prodded, pulled and valued by the hundreds of staff who represented the great clothing houses of Europe and Japan. Once we knew who had bought at auction, my job was to sign up the commitment to our vessels. Similarly with skins and meat from the slaughterhouses south of Fremantle. In winter, train loads of apples came up from the southwest corner to be shipped in chilled containers. A few years later thousands of acres of orchard were grubbed when Britain entered the common market and Australia's preferential position was lost.

### Visits from Wye friends

It may be difficult to comprehend the difficulties of living overseas in that era. Phone calls home were prohibitively expensive and reserved for Christmas. The cost of air travel was beyond the reach of most people. Travel restrictions did not apply to most of the recently qualified at Wye and from time to time we met them in Perth on their way to seek even greater fortunes. **Dave Stein** popped up on his way to Sydney for a short career wheeling and dealing in property and shares, driving a canary yellow Holden Monaro coupe while I pottered along in a Toyota Corolla. Sadly he was drowned in a diving accident in Scotland and we shall for ever miss his 'style'. **Peter Bowles** settled into a Diploma of Education and then began a teaching career at Manjimup until summoned home to Fordingbridge to manage the family farm. He was not cut out for farming and like so many of us should never have been at Wye. He tried many things but never quite found contentment in his work. He passed away far too young and we dearly miss him.



*Geoff with pine trees in August 2005. Note the deep-rooted cape weed (dandelion) in flower – valuable cattle feed in these poor coastal sands.*

**Charlie Roydds** drove overland through Asia but rushed back home to start a flying career. Some 20 years later, I ran into him late one Friday night in a bar of the Parmelia Hilton in Perth. He was making good use of his agricultural degree flying Jumbos between London and Melbourne. Now retired in Surrey he runs a few sheep so the education not entirely wasted. **Punch** didn't find us on his way through Australia. Having roamed around Africa for a year or two he eventually retreated home to County Meath in an attempt to make his fortune growing spuds. He was saved by meeting the lovely and very able Caroline who advanced her reputation and fortune representing Larry Goodman at the Irish Beef Tribunal.

### More visits from Wye friends

**Paul Benham** (Beano) turned up on most doorsteps from time to time, usually in a condition requiring a lengthy stay. To Perth he came with a broken leg and moved in. He



*Geoff and Andy Turner's elder brother, George, inspecting a crop of Pinus pinaster at Gingin, Western Australia, July 2002.*

remained a resident of our flat when in 1971 Fran and I moved out and returned to Britain to see our families. A year or two later he took root with Punch in Ireland until Mr Preston Snr reckoned it would be much cheaper to fill his motorbike with fuel and send him on his way. He made regular stops with **Andy Turney** at Northampton until Andy was declared a capitalist and the visits came to an end in 1977. At about that time he found Fran and I in Scotland when he was employed by MAFF to count the number of cow pats produced by their herd. A rare example of the Wye BSc being put to use. Nowadays he is an infrequent traveller but welcomes friends to his organic farm near Hay on Wye.

The economy turned sour at about the time we left Australia and it was very difficult to obtain work in the shipping industry for which I now had some background and experience. I found work with the Forestry Commission at their London Headquarters. Our three kids came along and the game changed. Security was required so I stayed with the Commission when the headquarters moved to Edinburgh in 1975, and from 1980 did a five- year term at the Welsh HQ in Cardiff. Not much application of

my Wye experience until capped to represent Wales in the 1985 Camrose bridge international! Somewhat uniquely I represented Western Australia at the Australian National Congress 18 months later. Those extremely late nights at Withersdane under tuition from **Giles Halfhead** were of value after all. Fran was also paying attention because in 1984 she and her partner won the Welsh Ladies Pairs.

Having been offered a business opportunity after a chance meeting in Cardiff in 1986, Fran and I headed back to Western Australia to represent a range of medical equipment. Sales grew quickly so that by November 1998 we had our own factory in Fremantle and a large cheque from a multinational which felt it needed control of our business.

### **Investing in New Zealand**

At about that time **Andy** was planning to visit some dairy farms that he and his brother had established in New Zealand. I was included in the trip and thought about acquiring some land. Looking back it is amazing how cheap the land was in New Zealand at that time. The Labour government in 1984 under the stewardship of Roger Douglas had made a U-turn in economic policy. Tariff protection and agricultural subsidies were dismissed at the stroke of a pen. The adjustment was painful for everyone, particularly so for farmers. Many left the land with barely sufficient capital to purchase a modest home. By 1999 the recovery was well advanced. Andy introduced me to his accountant Allan Hubbard, who promised to look out for a farming investment that would suit Fran and I. In November 1999 he found for us a 3,200 acre irrigated farm available for \$5.2m NZD, (\$6.5m including livestock and plant). To put it in perspective, a British Pound purchased 3 Kiwi dollars at that time. This was

too large for us so at settlement Hubbard and his partner took a 50% share of the equity with Westpac putting up 40% on a long term loan.

Together with our partners we developed this land into a large dairy grazing unit milking 3,200 cows at the peak, producing 1.4m kg milk solids, importing only half a ton per cow of milking supplements and winter feed. There was sufficient support land to winter half the herd and rear 1300 heifers for replacements and sale. In 2011 Allan was killed in a road accident and complications arising with his estate led to the farm and stock being liquidated at an auction sale in March 2014. We were reluctant sellers but it had been a profitable investment. In years to come it may be shown to have been a good moment at which to move on.

The farm gate value of milk produced in New Zealand has dropped in the past few months from \$8.60 NZ per kg to \$4.70 which is somewhere close to the cost of production prior to debt servicing. This decline in price is similar to those seen in iron ore, coal and oil, but whereas the value of mines and wells has halved, New Zealand land appears to be holding firm.

One cannot help but deduce that some of Prof Wibberley's stimulus has found its way into land but it is difficult to be certain about these things. Land values in the UK have also risen steeply but there are no capital gains or inheritance taxes in New Zealand to distort the situation. To maintain their value in the longer term, NZ farms must remain profitable.

### Developments Western Australia

On a smaller scale and with more personal effort, Fran and I have developed 1,000 acres of sandy country at Wanerie in the Gingin shire, 100 km north of Perth and 12 km from the

coast. On the ridge in the brighter orange limestone sands the giant Tuart trees were dominant. Interspersed with Redgum and falling away to low banksia scrub mixed with coastal blackbutt, orange flowering 'christmas' trees and blackboys.

When we first inspected the land in June 1999, we were accompanied by two of our agriculturally qualified advisors. **Punch Preston** and **Ferris Whidbourne** who dismissed my imminent purchase as 'building sand'.

Ferris is another one who perhaps should not have gone to Wye. Certainly one of the brightest of our bunch and a wonderful engineer. Early in his career, he designed and manufactured some useful pieces of agricultural equipment but most of his brain power in the last 15 years has been devoted to a replacement for pheasants as shooting targets. One of the early proto-types was a winged kapok '*pheasant*' propelled by compressed air. If your shot hit and wounded the target it became aerodynamically unstable and fell to the ground. Suitably scented you could then send your dog to retrieve it. We have moved on from this novel and unmarketable design. !

The latest machine is now in the market and has been seen around the world. Google 'Flurry Launcher' and you may see it and Ferris in action.

Despite his comments about our building sand, we continued with the purchase of the land at Wanerie and in 2000 commenced a planting programme in the lower lying land closer to the water table. By 2004 we had planted approximately 125 acres of *Pinus pinaster* and 125 acres of mixed eucalyptus hardwoods for flooring and furniture. *Eucalyptus maculata*, *E. saligna*, *E. cladocalyx*, *E. viminalis*, *E. sideroxylon* and *E. grandis* being the better performers.

### Managing pines and Eucalyptus

The Pines were planted at 1800 stems per hectare; eucalyptus at 1250. Despite the harsh conditions, losses were small and the landscape changed very rapidly over the next few years. The pines have remained at their original density so that branches remain small and die, thus reducing the opportunity for large knots to form. In the original silvicultural plan, we had hoped for a commercial thinning following canopy closure at year 9 but by 2010 the chain saw gangs had disbanded and migrated to the more attractive pay and conditions available in the mining industry. The automated felling teams require a greater yield so no commercial thinnings are possible before year 15. The trees are dying and spacing themselves to an acceptable density. Not ideal because some vigorous but ugly trees occupy positions that should have held the straighter stems.

The hardwoods would become permanently stunted if left too dense, so were selectively thinned to 150 stems per hectare at age five. By year 22 we hope to harvest the eucalypts at 55 centimetre breast height girth.

Having this extensive range of eucalypts, in addition to the native trees and plants on surrounding farms, provides blossom all year round. We have taken up beekeeping, gradually expanding to 21 hives. It is part of our programme of commercial development for the grandchildren. They can have at nil cost and sell as much honey as they wish, but they are expected to help with the beekeeping and extraction. It is interesting to note how some make the connection between effort and reward much faster than others. Those that reject our capitalism will be sent to live with Beano.

### Irrigated cropping

Very good water is available in the Wanerie area, and plentiful at about 65 metres, but licensing was a difficult bureaucratic process that took two years. In 2003, following a ministerial appeal, we were awarded a license to pump 2.1 million cubic metres per annum. It may seem a lot of water but in a hot January easterly the daily evapo-transpiration rate might reach 14mm. We developed 300 acres for irrigated lucerne production. The lucerne grew well producing five cuts per annum yielding approximately 20 tons of dry matter per hectare. In 2010 we leased the ground to a carrot exporter for a 10 year term. Carrots grow well in the sandy soil taking only 18 weeks in summer, 26 in winter. Cereal rye is broadcast over the seed bed several days ahead of the precision drilling of carrots. The rye protects the growing tips of the carrot crop from wind born grains of sand until selectively sprayed out a few days after germination. Within 30 minutes of leaving our farm the carrots have been chilled to 2 degrees and one hour later have been selected and packed for export. It is an extremely slick operation progressively deploying an increasing quantity of robots.



*The same trees shown in previous photo, October 2002, roots down and prepared for six months without rain.*

With funds from our NZ sale we have acquired 700 acres of neighbouring land of which 250 acres is to be irrigated for winter potatoes and summer salads. There has been considerable earthworks to re-shape the land and drilling of bores, also the supply of power, submersible pumps, centre-pivot irrigators and a shed. The land price was \$2,000AUD per acre but by the time we lease to the grower the irrigable acres will owe us \$6,000. It does have a perpetual water license for 1.1m cubic metres per annum which we believe will underwrite the value into the future.

### Fond memories

We look back over the past 50 years mostly

with joy at the various things we have done. Some tough times and some much better. Family and friends have occasionally been critical of the decision to apply for Wye College "*Should have done this; should have done that.*" Most are forgiving of the fact that I wasted the opportunity by not buckling down to the academic stuff. Many of us felt that we chose the wrong path but some were disciplined enough to see it through. Growing up in the sixties was rather good and Wye was a very special place. I met my lifetime partner and a group of good mates with whom to share the next 50 years. I suspect that most who were there have a similar fondness for the experience.

## More vignettes from past issues

Wye men are doing great work throughout the world, and this is in no small measure due to the fact that Wye changed and progressed with the times. He was amazed at the variety of occupations of old Wye men, including even the making of sweets and of ladies' underwear.

*Anon, Wye Journal 1931*

What a life we spent in those days and what good fellows were 'up'. Who will ever forget the late Ronald Hardy (1906-08), the most popular and best fellow who ever went to Wye, his cousin Teddy Hardy, well known to both past and present Wye men... and a host of other good fellows?

What a topping time we had!

*E.J. Carlisle (1906-09) Wye Journal, 1933*

Thinking of 1940, I remember harvesting in the College fields on the other side of Coldharbour with the Battle of Britain raging overhead ... The carters turned the horses in the shafts and, as they could not pull a full load, we could shelter under the carts while the bullets dropped.

*J.G.Parker, Agricola Journal, 1938*

# The reality of a student trip to USA

**John Roberts (1961 – 1964) describes the ups and downs of his Wye Student trip to America with two other captains of sport.**

At the end of our second year at Wye, three agriculture students, **Geoff Goodson** (cricket captain), **Peter Youngs** (hockey captain) and **John Roberts** (football captain) decided to fly to New York, buy a car, drive to Washington State and pick apples, peaches, etc. and then drive back to New York for the flight home! Great idea, but fraught with potential problems – how our parents agreed to the trip still amazes us!

The first thing was a visit to the American embassy in Grosvenor Square for a blood test and a chest 'X' ray. Geoff went behind a screen and the nurse pricked his thumb and Geoff commented 'Would he get a cup of tea and a biscuit!'! Then the screen collapsed and the nurse came out and asked for help. Geoff had fainted!

The three of us bought return tickets for £60 each, through the British Universities North America Club for a non-stop flight (on the new Boeing 707) to New York. We left Heathrow on 3 July and landed at Idlewild Airport in New York (the airport was re-named after the death of President Kennedy and is now John F Kennedy International Airport).

Our group was bussed to Manhattan where we had accommodation for two nights. Our first day in New York was 4 July which everyone knows, except the three of us, is Independence Day! All the shops were closed and downtown Manhattan is not the place to buy a cheap car!

So we got on a GG Subway train and headed towards Long Island. As it was a national holiday, all the car lots were closed and we ended up walking along one side of what seemed a very wide street with the Empire State building on the

horizon several miles away! We needed a stroke of luck, and then it happened!

We walked past a Ford Mainline (1950's model) with a 'For Sale' sign on the windscreen. So we knocked on the door of the owner, who was a New York bus driver and we asked him about the car. Three litre, six cylinder engine, but with poor brakes! Now we all had an old car and were familiar with pumping the brake pedal before the car came to a stop. The price was \$300 (the £:\$ rate in 1963 was £1:\$2.80), which we could afford. We explained that we wanted to drive the car to Washington State and back to New York and had got a sleeping bag with us and asked why the car was being sold?

The owner said he was buying a camper van and then seeing an opportunity to sell his camping equipment, he said "Do you guys want a frame tent, some camp beds, a white gas stove and a roof rack to put it on". So we bought the car a day later, paid \$100 for the camping equipment and set off back to Manhattan. When driving across Brooklyn Bridge, there was queuing traffic



*Geoff (standing) and John (left) Peter (right) and camping gear atop the Ford Mainline.*





*Cool Dudes at Cody, east Yellowstone.*

so we had to slow down. That was when we first established the brakes were poor and the brake pedal needed pumping!

We set off going west, drove around Chicago, and stopped at a farm near Des Moines, Iowa. The farming family were very hospitable, took us into town and we had our picture in the local paper the next day. Des Moines is about 1,500 miles from the sea (east, west north and south) and when Geoff explained he lived in the middle of England, 80 miles from the sea, the host family fell about laughing!

We continued west through the 'Bad Lands', of South Dakota and on to Yellowstone Park, where we encountered 'bear jams' and 'Yogi' with his mates in the middle of the highway, before seeing the 'Old Faithful' geyser shooting skyward.

Ten days after leaving New York, we arrived in Wiley City near Toppenish in Washington State where we had the option of living in primitive accommodation or our frame tent (we chose the frame tent) and thinned apples for two weeks.

By now, it was late July. There was a lumber worker's strike and American university students were also looking for work, so when the apple thinning came to an end we headed south. The drive took us to the Columbia River, past Mt Hood, and on to Crater Lake National Park (where we camped at the summit), south past Mt Shasta in northern California, and on to San Francisco, where we drove across the Golden Gate Bridge, the Oakland Bay Bridge and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge in one day!



*The apple thinning team.*



*Mickey says 'smile' at Disneyland in 1963.*

The next stop was Yosemite National Park where we visited mirror lakes and encountered cuddly brown bears raiding trash cans! We drove a further 350 miles south to Los Angeles where we spent a day at Disneyland and then decided on a night-time drive across Mojave Desert to Las Vegas as our car did not have air conditioning. We went into two or three casinos (collected free post cards and posted them home) and moved on towards the Grand Canyon. We drove to the

north rim, and two miles from the Canyon were in a coniferous forest! I think everyone is aware the Canyon is 5,000 feet deep, so at 500 miles from the sea, the top of the Canyon must be over 7,000 feet above sea level, hence the forest. We were lucky, for when we reached the canyon there was a violent storm with flashes of lightning, loud thunder and many rainbows!

Our next stop was Zion National Park and its gorgeous sandstone rocks, and then north to Salt Lake City where we saw the Mormon Temple and went to a diner where you could eat as much as you like for \$0.99. Then it was up to Idaho, and a visit to Craters of the Moon National Monument (a volcanic area where native Indians stored their food) and back to Washington State. After driving 8,000 miles, we thought it wise to have to have two slave cylinders replaced on the car's brakes, which cost \$60, and the brake pedal no longer needed pumping!

We found work in early August at an apple grading station at Goldendale, just north of the Columbia river, where we had to take the tiny red delicious (pee wees) apples off the grading line. Not very interesting work if you do it 14 hours a day for six weeks! We lived in our frame tent, slept in our sleeping bags on our own camp beds and cooked on our white gas stove – and we got paid!



*Timeout on the Trans Canadian Highway at dawn.*



*A map of our remarkable trip*

When it got to mid-September, it was time to head back to New York. We drove north, visited Ellensburg rodeo, through Glacier National Park with the first autumn snow on the top of high mountains. Then it was east along the Trans Canadian Highway to the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls and south to Washington DC and back to New York

At the end of September, the car and camping gear were sold for \$100 and the three of us returned to the UK having had a wonderful trip of 14,000 miles. The total petrol used was 820 US gallons, which cost \$273, and the car averaged 17 mpg (what diligence to record such items!). Each person earned £185 and when we got home we repaid our parents who had financed the return flight (£60 was a lot of money back in 1963).

We had seen many American states and Canadian provinces and it certainly was a trip the

three of us will always remember! Hence this article 52 years later.



*The team at Wye in 2014, left to right John Roberts, Geoff Goodson and Peter Youngs.*

# The wider benefits of a Wye degree

**Michael Winter OBE (1974–1977)** recounts the way his Wye qualification has led to a wide range of very academic rural activities, culminating in his current investigation into 'Sustainable intensification'.

In the years since I graduated from Wye in 1977, higher education has expanded dramatically and yet there are now few specialist rural courses, if any, like Rural Environment Studies. I have remained in the world of Higher Education and am deeply grateful for my RES degree. When I struggle to recruit PhD students or young researchers with a good rural knowledge, I lament the passing of Wye, with its RES, Ag Econ, Agric and related degrees. There is now a shortage of graduates with both first-rate academic credentials and a real practical grounding in farming and the countryside.

## **Food security and sustainable agriculture**

I am a professor at the University of Exeter where I run the Centre for Rural Policy Research. Together with colleagues in Biosciences, we teach an MSc in Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture. I also co-direct the Food Security & Land Research Alliance which brings together like-minded researchers from Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter universities and Rothamsted Research. My big research project at present is co-directing Defra's Sustainable Intensification Platform; the other co-director is **Stuart Knight** (1987–90) of NIAB who graduated from Wye (Agric) in 1990.

We are trying to understand exactly what Sustainable Intensification might mean in practice through talking to farmers, trying out various management interventions at farm and landscape scale, and working closely with industry organisations such as LEAF. We have various case study areas around the country to represent the main farming systems, and the aim is to envisage

and promote farming systems for the future that will deliver the food we need for a growing population in a way that protects the environment and supports thriving rural communities.

When I am not looking at the future of agriculture my great love is its history, and with colleagues at Exeter I am currently writing a book on the history of farming in the west country from the 1930s to the 1980s. We have done oral history interviews with elderly farmers with memories back to the 1950s and '60s – great fun! Thank heavens for a broad-based Wye education! I wish **Gerald Wibberley** was still around to contribute to this debate – he would have had much to say!

## **Getting out of my ivory tower**

One of the many things I learnt from Prof Wibberley, and also from **Bryn Green** (staff 1974), was the importance of academics getting out of their ivory towers and involving themselves in policy. I have done a great deal of that and – mostly – enjoyed it over the years. Hopefully, I have contributed something useful, and the OBE, which Journal editor **John Walters** insists that I mention, was awarded in 2006 for 'services to rural affairs'. This followed the Foot and Mouth calamity of 2001 and my involvement in chairing and contributing to various local and regional rural development initiatives. For one utterly crazy period, I was a commissioner for the Commission for Communities, chaired the South West Rural Affairs Forum, Devon County's Rural Network and a rural generation project centred on the market town of Hatherleigh. I remember in the mid 2000s counting up and finding I was on over 30 different committees!





So I think OBE stood for Over Busy and Exhausted, although some, remembering my left-wing politics at in Wye days, have suggested it should be Old Beliefs Expunged! Actually, even then, before the moderating effects of life and the passage of time, I had an admiration for the Queen, as someone utterly devoted to her calling and I was glad it was she doing the honours when I received the gong.

### Coppicing and pollarding

I live in west Devon with my wife **Hilary** (née **Thomas**), an RES graduate of 1979. We have a 14 acre smallholding;- making hay for sale, three

horses on livery, a few store lambs over winter and, my pride and joy, two acres of woodland that I planted in the mid-1980s. The wood and hedges, which I have let grow up for laying (or 'steeping' as we say in Devon), provide firewood for our wood burner. I have taken to pollarding the trees in my wood because of the problems of deer browsing on the regrowth if I coppice. And don't even mention grey squirrels and the damage they have done to 20-year old oaks! Hilary works part time for Devon County Council on public access to the countryside issues and does some work for Natural England too, and occasional bits of research.

I am still in touch with quite a few Wye graduates and recently attended the wedding of **Pete Mason** (Agric 1975–78), a joyous occasion at Grays Inn as Pete is now a barrister (and also farms). **Paul Cloke** (1975), who did his PhD at Wye when I was a undergrad, is also a professor at Exeter. **Ian Hodge**, now Professor of Land Economy at Cambridge and also a doctoral student at Wye in the 1970s, is working with me on the Defra SIP project. And my closest colleague at Exeter in the CRPR is **Dr Matt Lobley**, who did his masters and PhD at Wye. The Wye traditions live on in academia as they do in the world of agriculture.

Always happy to welcome Wye graduates visiting the West Country.

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## Another vignette

### 1903

The old Latin School is transformed into a billiard room. This should be a most satisfactory innovation, in spite of the fact that it will probably prevent students from obtaining that amount of coaching and sage advice which we believe they were always liable to receive from certain of the 'natives' when playing in the village.

# A life in tropical crops pathology

**David Allen OBE (1963 – 1967) charts his career in tropical Africa followed by ecological work and later career as an author and tour guide leader.**

*The following article originally appeared in a West Country magazine 'Marshwood' and is reprinted here (with a modified opening) by kind permission of the editor. The contributing author was Julia Mear who reported it as an interview. John Walters originally stumbled across it at a hotel in Lyme Regis; the accompanying photograph was staring out at him from the front cover of the magazine in his room and curiosity finally got the better of him! Not bad recognition skills since it was nearly 50 years since he last saw David Allen!*

## **Beginnings in plant pathology**

Having acquired a keen interest in natural history in my 'growing up' years, and completed a year's practical work at the University Botanic Garden in Cambridge as part of my Wye Horticulture course, the direction was clearly set when I was accepted at Exeter University for an MSc in Plant Pathology. This was under the tutelage of Dr S A J Tarr. I emerged successfully and was offered a post with the Tanzania Government as a research officer. I arrived in Dar es Salaam in July 1969 and was posted to the Sisal Research Station near Tanga. Despite a net salary of only £800 a year, I was able to run an ancient VW Beetle and live reasonably well. At the end of my two year contract, and now armed with a Postgraduate Natural Resources Scholarship, I presented myself in Cambridge for interview with Dr Alice Evans who was kind enough to accept me for a PhD.

I was to work on genetic resistance to rust disease in the common bean, with part of the work done under controlled conditions in Cambridge and part in the field at Bunda College of Agriculture in Malawi.

Apart from playing a lot of squash, bird watching was a favourite pastime and it was almost certain that it was at the college fish ponds where I caught schistosomiasis (also known as bilharzia), a disease caused by a fluke transmitted through water by a snail. I returned to Cambridge to write up my thesis but it took about a year to have my illness diagnosed and effectively treated. While in hospital, I met a Scottish nurse called Janet with whom I escaped to the pub, carrying a Winchester bottle for my 24 hour urine sample that was required.

## **Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria**

I completed my thesis in 1975 and, through the international reputation of Alice Evans, soon found a place as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. In due course, Janet followed me to Ibadan where we were married in Mapo Hall, a huge dusty colonial relic. Lola was born in 1979, not long before my return to Cambridge as a Visiting Scientist to write a book, *Pathology of Tropical Food Legumes: Disease Resistance in Crop Improvement*, published in 1983.

My next job came in the form of a World Bank development project in Chipata, on which I was to set up a national grain legume research team. Laboratories had drawers devoid of equipment but plenty of cockroaches and mouse-droppings. We had land and now some rainfall as well as several graduates fresh from the University of Zambia, so we set up a large range of field trials with several grain legume crop plants. I also wanted to be able to evaluate some varieties under more protected conditions, as is possible within a mesh-clad screen house.





### Horticultural research in East Africa

News from home in Stockland, Devon. was that my father had been diagnosed with cancer, and my marriage to Janet, which had become stormy, was worsening. I had had the opportunity while in Chipata to visit the International Centre of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia, ostensibly to select crop varieties suitable for Zambian conditions. In the event, it turned into an interview for a position in the CIAT Bean programme. We flew to Colombia early in 1984 and soon thereafter our son Richard was born. I was given the post of Visiting Scientist and soon became Regional Coordinator for a research and development programme for East Africa at the Horticultural Research Station in Thika (made famous by Elspeth Huxley's book *The Flame Trees of Thika*) and, against advice, I opted to live on an isolated coffee estate nearby. Janet, by now, had retreated to Cambridge.

In 1986, I was transferred to Tanzania where I set up a base in Arusha, from where its famous wildlife parks are easily accessible. While in Cali, I had met Leonora whom I suggested came for a visit. She joined me permanently in Arusha in 1987, no doubt much to the alarm and consternation of her family and friends. Soon Leo acquired an excellent command of Swahili so that communication with the locals, particularly in bargaining in the market, became enjoyable. We stayed here contentedly for the next six years. Early in 1992, we mounted an expedition to climb Kilimanjaro with a band of

motley friends from Arusha, choosing a week-long traverse across the Shira Plateau, including a night at 5000m inside the crater.

Leo and I were married in Nairobi in April 1992. When our contract with CIAT ended we returned to the UK, setting up a home near Cambridge where our daughter Vanessa was born in June 1993. My mother was now in her nineties so the following year we decided to move in with her at Higher Quantock, Stockland.

### Devon and more books

Having seen my mother through to the end in her own home, just short of her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, my attention turned toward local ecology and conservation. We gathered material for a small book on the *Wildflowers of the East Devon Coast* and rekindled my interest in the Axmouth-Lyme Regis Undercliffs where I am now a voluntary warden. Occasional opportunities to return to East Africa prompted the completion of another book, this time on *Wildflowers and Common Trees of East Africa*, on the strength of which I was given the opportunity to lead a safari in Tanzania. Other guided tours have included Galapagos and the Picos de Europa. Nearer home, my most popular guided walks remain a series of wild mushroom forays each autumn.

Stockland parish is fortunate to own some 65 hectares of turbarry; land once used for cutting peat turf for fuel, for firewood and for grazing. Now it is valuable for its wildlife and, over the past 17 years. I have been managing the turbarries as part of a committee answering to the parish council. Much of the land is now under Higher Level Stewardship agreement and the biodiversity regained has been impressive. The parish lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and my involvement with the turbarries led to invitation to joining the AONB's management group and then to the publication of a booklet on *Heathland of East Devon and the Blackdown Hills*.

# Rustics cricket tour 2014

Report by Dickon Turner (1982–85)

**The Tour Party:** *Ex Wye College:* Simon Richardson (1971–74), Peter Holborn (1974–75), Nigel Snape (1977–80), John Dinnis (1979–82), Andrew Craze (1982–85), Martin Hole (1982–85), Dickon Turner (1982–85), Charlie Squire (1987–90), Richard Pool (1992–95)

*Wye College Progeny:* Robert Pinney, Richie Turner, Robert Craze, George Dinnis

*Guests:* Jack Upton, Tom Care, Ed Prest, Hugo Johnson

## Kilmington 6th July 2014

As the Rustics congregated for their annual cricket tour, they were greeted by thunder at the Kilmington ground, and play was interrupted by a brace of sharp squalls. In between the showers, Simon Richardson elegantly left a delivery, which raced off the face of his bat for four, before driving the next ball into the hands of second slip. At the other end, Robert Pinney briefly discovered form but, after 11 overs, he was back in the hutch along with Nigel Snape and Charlie Squire as the Rustics struggled on 54 – 4. Martin Hole and Robert (Micro) Craze took on the task of steadying the ship by pulverizing 80 from the next 10 overs. Hole unleashed a series of terrifying cover drives while Craze chipped with precision to cover, easing his way towards a second Rustic century.

Squire rarely fails to influence a match at Kilmington. After his early dismissal he returned to the pitch as a substitute fielder and proceeded to catch Hole, drop Micro and run out the Rustics' skipper, Peter Holborn. With one ball of the Rustic innings remaining, and Craze on 97, Squire produced his most savage piece of fielding. As the batsmen returned for their third run, Squire threw down the stumps to dismiss Craze's partner, George Dinnis (who was playing in his first Rustic

innings and hadn't faced a ball) leaving Craze high and dry on 99 not out.

Kilmington required 209 to win in their allotted 32 overs but failed to register a single run in the first 22 deliveries as Jack Upton and Martin Hole opened the bowling with uncharacteristic accuracy. The anomalous performance continued into Upton's fourth over when he hit the top of middle and then the top of off stump, before Pinney swooped to clutch a one-handed catch at slip off Hole. When Dickon Turner chipped in with three wickets, Kilmington were reduced to 93 for six and overs were running out.

As the match drew to a close the Rustics' fielding reverted to type, partly due to a nasty patch of treacle in the outfield. This treacle managed to slow the rapid sprints of Holborn and Turner, and prevented John Dinnis from taking the two paces required to hold a regulation catch. Nonetheless, Rustics celebrated a comfortable 46 run victory in



Robert Craze batting in the shadow of Kilmington's Monterey Pine.



*The Woolly Mammoths – (from left) Holborn, Richardson, Dinnis, Snape and Hole.*

The Old Inn, where Upton performed his legendary 'no hands' Woo Woo downer, but when the glass slipped from his jaws, it fell unerringly onto the screen of his iPhone, ending any chance of communication with the outside world for the rest of the week.

### **Devon Dumplings 7th July 2014**

In the bright Devon sunshine, Squire lost the toss and condemned the Rustics to a morning chasing leather across the large Exeter Oval. After announcing it was his birthday, Rustic rookie, Tom Care, was handed the new ball and in his first over was presented with a gift of a wicket when the Dumplings opener dragged a wide delivery back onto his stumps. The Rustics themselves showed no such generosity as catches were spilled and the hosts cruised past 100 without further loss. By now the skies were blanketed by increasingly heavy cloud and at 12:50, rainfall forced an early lunch.

With comedy timing, the covers were removed twice, just as fresh pulses of rain swept across the ground, and eventually the players grew tired of playing with plastic sheeting so the game was abandoned as a 'no result'.

Dinnis and Hole had spent the morning canoeing along the River Otter, searching for the lost West Country beaver. As the Rustics assembled outside the tenpin bowling arena, the courageous canoeists appeared triumphantly displaying a beaver-gnawed log. Unfortunately, Hole's successful manoeuvring of a canoe was not mirrored in his handling of a motor vehicle. Having been involved in a minor RTA with Dinnis's car beside the Otter, Hole showed consistency in his driving ability by leaving the tenpin car park with his nearside wing embedded in Snape's Discovery.

Peter and Henrietta Greig entertained the Rustics with an excellent meal at Pipers Farm. As the woolly mammoths kept warm by the Aga, the Rustic youth celebrated TC's birthday by honouring the nightclubs of Exeter with a display of their dance floor moves. Surprisingly, a local lass by the name of Emily appeared interested. Upton was in no mood to allow birthday boy free rein and as they squabbled over who would take first knock and who would be forced to follow on, Emily sensibly left the field of play. For the second time in the day a 'no result' was declared.

## Beaminster 8th July 2014

Road closures and dodgy diversions almost resulted in a late start at Beaminster, but two of the reliable woolly mammoths, Hole and Snape, arrived on time and were rewarded by opening the batting. A steady 70 run partnership provided the foundation for Hole to discover that he *could* drive straight as he started peppering the sightscreens. The introduction of a young leg spinner called Walkett would surely tempt Hole off course, but the vintage batsman simply pressed the accelerator and hit the ball further out of the ground. Shortly before the lunch break Hole pushed the single which took him to 3 figures. Remarkably, for a man whose batting endeavours are legendary, notably at Beaminster, this was his first Rustic century.

When captaining school sides, not to mention the MCC, Micro Craze could rely on his players knowing the batting order and keenly awaiting their chance to enter the fray. Skippering the Rustics requires different man management skills. When Hole was the fifth man out (with Walkett claiming all five wickets) the skipper realised he had failed to ensure the next two batsmen were a) padded up and b) at the ground. Both were calmly enjoying a pre-lunch beverage in the local hostelry. There was an inevitable delay in proceedings,

during which the Rustic archivists were busily researching whether a batting ton and a bowling 'Michelle' (a five-fer) had ever been achieved in the same pre-lunch session.

After lunch, as the Rustics slumped to 152 for 6, it was Micro who controlled the slide with a classy half-century of his own, steering the tail to a total score of 232.

The tall Ed Prest opened the bowling for the Rustics with a fast and accurate spell of six overs, 12 runs and one wicket, prompting a period of Rustic dominance. However, a fifth wicket stand of 120 bolstered Beaminster's batting and the nerves were showing as the game entered the final 10 overs with all results possible. Dinnis the Younger stepped in with a vital catch that broke the partnership, and Rustics sniffed victory. Prest returned from the top end, and Craze set a 'rabbit netting' field of 7 slips and a gully (see photograph below). Richie Turner grabbed a sharp chance at the second of those slips and Prest cleaned up the tail to finish with 5 for 24. Rustics has won by 42 runs with 3 overs to spare.

There was raucous cheering from the Rustics travelling supporters (the farmy army) which had been boosted by the arrival of **Gilly Van Oppen** (née Francis) and **Lucy Lawson** (née Morrish,



*Ed Prest bowling to a Rustic rabbit netting field.*

1960–63), along with their sons (who were the main opposition in the crunch match against Lucy's Invitational XI). While the Rustics celebrated with over strength Woo Woos, and enjoyed great spirit in the team bus, the protective mothers sheltered their flock to ensure they were fresh and alert for the start of the next day's match.

### Lucy's XI 9th July 2014

As the red-eyed Rustics tried tucking into their full English breakfasts, some of the young opposition were notably absent, presumably consuming their protein shakes at the gym. However, on the way to the ground, Charlie Van Oppen was spotted persuading his mother to stop the car at Costa. As she drew up in the tiger parking zone, Charlie enjoyed a technicolour espresso before they moved on.

Turner Jnr was entrusted with the Rustic captaincy and called correctly at the toss. To protect the more delicate members of the side, he persuaded seasoned Rustics with iron constitutions, Andrew (Mini) Craze and Richardson, to open the batting. They looked surprisingly firm at the crease and moved solidly to an opening stand of 53 in the first hour. It was Seb Lawson's left arm inswingers that accounted for Craze and then Pinney, but Richardson and Micro Craze restored control as Rustics eased to 150 – 2.

Attempts to quicken the run-rate resulted in loose shots and in a mad half-hour, 5 wickets tumbled for 30 runs, the main destroyer being the elder of the Lawson brothers, Ollie, with his unerring spin. Late slapping from Richard Pool and Turner Jnr elevated the score to 221, but on the flat North Perrot wicket, this was considered below par. The Lucy XI's opening partnership, which included Tom Atkinson, underlined this fact as they raced past 30 before the stand was broken in the sixth over. Ed Prest then produced a magic delivery to dismiss the luckless Andrew Featherstone, but Charlie Van

O continued the onslaught with two mighty sixes and the Rustic relief was clear when he skied one to the reliable Care in the deep. By now Turner Jnr was finding bounce and grip as his off breaks, troubling Lucy XI's soft middle order, including his godfather, Holborn, who was trapped LBW for a duck.

Ollie Lawson remained at the crease, showing his all-round cricketing ability as he struck 11 fours in cruising to a half-century. In partnership with Upton, the score cruised effortlessly to within 45 of the Rustic total when Turner Snr floated a 24 yarder onto Upton's boot to claim an LBW and the innings subsided to 179 all out, with Lawson stranded on 56\*

The Rustics had achieved their third victory in the three completed matches. The tour continues to unite generations, ensuring the spirit of both cricket and Wye College remains undefeated.



*Gilly and Lucy studying the form.*



## Some classic Wye College 'stirs'

**Bruce Pallet (1964–68)** reminisces about a trio of very effective Wye 'stirs'. It's not clear if he was personally involved in any of them, but the initials of the ring-leaders will mean something to many.

### Retrieving the Wye College Mascot, Summer 1965.

The college mascot was missing; for two days nowhere to be found near its home outside Prof Holmes' office. There was comment that some attractive girls from a London Uni College had been seen over the weekend loitering in that quad, were in fact, friends of P.D.L.R. Inside knowledge suggested that he knew exactly what had happened.

An emergency meeting, in the main lecture theatre, was arranged and P.D.L.R. was called to attend. Where was the Tortoise? he was asked, do you know anything about its whereabouts?. He was unable to say yes or no. Such response suggested to the those at the meeting that he knew exactly where our Mascot was. The meeting was adjourned for five minutes to allow the jury to discuss and return with their recommendations. A very full meeting waited with anticipation.

On their return they required that P.D.L.R. be sent, by the next train, to London to collect and bring back our beloved Mascot; that he be taken to Ashford station by car, with a single ticket, wearing ONLY his college gown (remember they only came down to just above our knees). Unanimous decision, of course, by the then very large number students in attendance.

P.D.L.R. was driven by car, dressed in gown only, single ticket, no other luggage, followed by a large convoy of Minis and MGBGTs etc. to Ashford station. He was escorted onto the train, marched into a carriage, much to the amusement of fellow passengers, and guarded until the train started to leave.

The college Mascot duly arrived home sometime over the next couple of days.





### The trouble with late night drinking and rugby club friends. Summer 1965

After one of his usual evening visits to the Kings Head, R.A.F returned to his quarters, in C corridor, and settled down to a good night's sleep. Inevitably, his several pints required a visit to the loo. Up he got, opened the door and walked into a brick wall. His mind worked slowly, thinking perhaps he was dreaming. He shut the door and re-opened it, and banged his head again on this solid wall. Now he was fully awake and realised that the outside of his door had been bricked up. The loo was calling urgently; only one option, out of the window, down the drain pipe to the bogs. Similarly, the only way back to his bedroom was up the drain pipe and in through the window. The following morning he obviously realised that he been the beneficiary of a Wye College prank, but bless him, for the next two days he was seen scrambling up and down the drain pipe before he decided enough was enough and the brick wall had to be removed.



### Wye College Window Cleaning Services, Summer 1966

R.S.M. gathered together his new team – it was a bright summers day. White overalls, ladders, cleaning materials, paint brushes were supplied, and he had his business card and letter of appointment as the new window cleaners to the new University of Kent. The team of four set off in two Mini Vans.

On arrival at the University, which had only opened its doors to students the previous October, he was asked at the gate to identify himself and the purpose of his visit. R.S.M. showed his business card and letter of authorisation as the new window cleaners. In they went.

Locating the building with the greatest amount of glass, the team donned their overalls, mixed the window cleaning material in buckets and proceeded to paint the glass with a white cleaning mixture.

More and more glass was covered, the building became whiter and whiter on the outside BUT darker and darker on the inside. A very concerned member of staff came out and asked what the hell was going on. R.S.M explained to him that this was the new way to clean and keep windows cleaner for longer, because, when dry they would be polished, removing the white material and leaving a gleaming, longer-lasting clean set of windows. Surprised but seemingly re-assured, the gentleman left. The team completed the painting of all windows, packed their materials, ladders etc and drove back to Wye.



The team had in fact painted all windows with WHITE WASH and then cleared off without cleaning them. On returning to base, they divested themselves of all incriminating evidence and celebrated a job well done.

It was the heard, on the grape vine, that it cost the University rather a lot of money to have the white wash removed.



## A female take on some 'stirs'

### Bath night

It was Saturday night after a rugby match, and after everyone has settled down for the night, a roar of vehicles heralds the singing of 'Clementine'. Well, we all know that she got rather wet, so I hid in the wardrobe. The rest of the corridor's inhabitants were hauled out and dumped into cold baths; I just held my breath and got away with it.

### Sewing Revenge

The fresher women's rooms were raided by the 2nd/3rd year men, and night garments stolen away. The revenge was to take theirs, and then sew up all the flies and stitch them into one long stream, leg to leg, using the smallest stitch on the sewing machine. I can't see that any were separated.

### Jacked up

A certain 'night hunter' was leaving Withersdane rather late, and after climbing down the drain pipe from the flat roofs of the bike shed, which was accessed through one unfortunate female's room, he jumped into his car that he had left very obviously outside the front door. He put it into gear and revved up, and revved and revved, but go nowhere. The rear wheels had been jacked up on bricks.

Cartoons created by Wye resident, Ian Coulson, Chairman of the Wye Heritage Centre

# Living with Clubroot

**Prof Geoff Dixon (1962–68)** is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Agriculture of the University of Reading and owner of Green Gene International. Here he discusses how research into the control of clubroot took off as funds were pumped in by countries such as Canada and China.

Back in 2003 an email arrived on my screen from a Canadian scientist who was unknown to me. Over the following years, Stephen Strelkov and I were destined to become very good friends and all because of a tiny little microbe! Stephen had found clubroot disease in three fields of oil seed rape (Canola) in the Prairie Province of Alberta and wanted some background information and help. At that time I don't think he quite realised how momentous a discovery this was and the implications that would flow from it. 'Clubrooters' like myself had speculated for decades on what would happen if this Canadian crop became infected; now we know!

## Clubroot and brassicas

Clubroot is caused by a minute soil borne microbe that has the elegant name of *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. It is so small that 100 million spores can occupy one gram of soil without being evident. The resting stage will stay dormant and viable for 20 or more years until a suitable brassica host arrives. Once that happens the spore germinates, invades the root hairs and progressively causes the formation of cancerous galls on the whole root system. Only brassicas suffer from this disease. These are an inordinately interesting set of crops. Collectively the brassicas deliver worldwide: leaf, flower and root vegetables that are eaten fresh, cooked and processed; overwintering fodder and forage; oils used in low-fat edible products, illumination and industrial lubricants, condiments, herbs and ornamentals and soil conditioners. Another brassica, the tiny rock cress *Arabidopsis thaliana*, has become the primary workhorse of molecular biology and was the first plant whose genome was sequenced.



## Research and control

Problems come when trying to study and control clubroot. Working with clubroot is to enter a world of perversity! The microbe, *P. brassicae* cannot be grown in culture, consequently experiments require either culture on seedlings under controlled conditions or extensive fieldwork. No controlling agrochemicals are available in Europe, although one or two are sold elsewhere. Resistance genes are few and those of major effect are restricted in their occurrence. Control relies on 'integrated disease management', which means using a combination of husbandry and crop nutritional strategies. Developing a rational scientific basis for this approach requires concentrated study over many years. Raising soil pH by liming is a traditional element in these



*A brassica root infected with clubroot.*

strategies. Answering the question, "Why lime?" was the work of very many students over three decades. Clubroot research is a long term process and funding agencies shy away from such problems because the outcomes frequently fail to follow a pre-ordained research 'plan'. Consequently, good clubroot research groups have been sparsely spread around the world and have come and gone at irregular intervals with a few devoted (?misguided) individuals hanging on by their finger nails. For some, inoculation with clubroot means a lifetime of fascination.

### **The Canola effect**

What changed in 2003? For the first time clubroot posed a serious threat to a world traded commodity. Canada produces 40% of the world's rape oil. Countries like Japan import their entire supply from Canada. Canola is the Canadian farmers' most important money crop, surpassing their cereals. It is grown on 7 million ha, produces \$can 15.5 billion in GDP and in the production, crushing and supply chain employs 250,000 people whose wages are important elements in the domestic economies of both rural and urban areas. The Canola Council of Canada is a very effective industry lobby body. Demands for research gained loud voices especially as once the disease was identified land found to be infested was proscribed by Provincial statute from canola

production for five years. A background of this magnitude gains political dimensions very quickly, particularly as since 2003 the disease has continued spreading quickly.

### **Research dollars began to flow**

Research dollars began flowing and continue doing so. A substantial research effort developed around Stephen Strelkov in the University of Edmonton, Alberta' and in neighbouring Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Firstly, he developed an effective means of monitoring spread using molecular means that quantified spore numbers in soil samples. Given the huge land areas cropped, control is only feasible by developing resistant cultivars, rotational break crops and effective farm hygiene. The latter is complicated because Alberta is the oil and gas capital of Canada. Consequently, drilling and transmission companies require access in to infected areas. But recognising the legal implications following from spreading this pathogen they are undertaking very costly and substantial cleansing operations of all vehicles and machinery before they move between sites. Subsidiary companies have sprung up that will clean and certify vehicles and machines.

### **New information on the biology of clubroot**

The research programmes have revealed much new knowledge about the biology of this host-pathogen relationship, which answers many questions that had perplexed clubrooters for decades. At the practical level resistance has been marshalled by university and private plant breeders bringing new numbered lines of canola onto the market in less than half the time required for earlier programmes. These keep the Canadian farmers in business even on infested land. We also now understand how this soil-borne microbe spreads so quickly, something that traditionally was not supposed to happen! Winds blowing soil is a frequent hazard in the Prairie Provinces and it disperses clubroot widely.



*Disinfecting farm machinery.*

### Enter China

Serendipitously events in Canada encouraged information exchange half a world away. China we now know produces more rape oil than Canada, all for domestic consumption. It also produces huge quantities of Chinese cabbage which is a staple part of the diet and is a very susceptible host. Clubroot affects more than one third of all the land used for these agricultural and horticultural brassicas and the Chinese class it as one of their biggest disease problems. Predictably they are investing billions of yuan renminbi into research and are collaborating closely with Canadian colleagues.

### Perspective

Plant pathogens are potent devastators of food supplies and other commodities. But research dollars only flow seriously when the threats take on political potency. Europe of course has a

substantial oil rape crop and grows considerable quantities of horticultural brassicas, all of which are subject to clubroot disease. It was also the cradle of clubroot research starting in Russia in the 1870s. Since then small research groups have produced valuable new knowledge but only in a trickle. Now, however, our understanding is being very rapidly clarified and expanded by results from the muscular programmes in Canada and Asia.

The clubroot story is a microcosm of a far larger happening. Accelerating research capacity particularly affecting plants is developing outside Europe and it is becoming reliant for its new knowledge on America and increasingly on Asia. In the race for scientifically sound food security Europe is trailing well behind. Personally, it would be fun to shed 50 years and participate actively in these discoveries!



# Gardening is back – but selling it won't be 'business as usual'

**Ian Baldwin (1966–69) discusses good news from the US National Gardening Survey and wonders if some of the findings will resonate with the industry over here.**

The National Gardening Survey ([www.gardenresearch.com](http://www.gardenresearch.com)), run by Harris Interactive, the same people that do political survey work, has been surveying a statistically representative sample of 1400 USA householders since 1980. It has an accuracy of  $\pm 3\%$ . I have been analyzing and writing and interpreting sections in the report for the past five years. This article is an overview I produced in June 2014 for the USA garden trade press and my website (<http://ianbaldwin.com/services/writing/>)

## Detailed analysis of DIY gardening spend

The householder is asked about their participation in, and spending upon, 16 major DIY gardening activities ranging from Lawn Care and Flower Gardening through Vegetable Gardening to Container Gardening and Water Gardening each year. The survey looks at the spend on the entire project. So, for instance, Vegetable Gardening includes not only the price of the plant or seed packet, but also the fertilizer, pest controls, soil-additives, tools, gloves, plant supports and so on. The survey does not track spending on landscape contractors or employed gardeners; this is DIY only.

From this large report comes an annual figure for the total gardening spend per household as well as the various population sub-groups depending on age, gender, educational level, earning levels, children in household or not, geographical region of the USA and so on. So, for instance, we can drill this down to say just how much was spent per household on Lawn Care by people in the South

aged 36–45. We can also show participation rates for the different groups ('Boomers' are still driving the engine) and even favourite places to shop (Generation Y prefers the local hardware store).

The report is widely regarded and used strategically by many garden industry manufacturers, growers, distributors and retailers.

While I know better than to make any major pronouncements based on one year's data, the fact that the 2013 National Gardening Survey (NGS) saw the biggest annual rise in retail sales (up \$5.4 billion or 18 percent) this century to \$34.9 billion is a fact that many in the industry will savour. This unprecedented increase may or may not mean that garden spending is on the upswing again, but it is surely news that gives hope to beleaguered growers, suppliers and retailers after four years of recession. To give some perspective, the same survey in 2009 saw a 16% decline in sales in one year alone.

## Largest rise in DIY garden sales in 13 years

Another fact to leap from the pages of the NGS is the rise – \$73 – in household spending on DIY gardening; the biggest such rise in the last 13 years. Even allowing for an increase in prices, this 21% rise must say something positive about the consumer's self-confidence after years of cautious spending. The 2013 average spend per household of \$420 is now only \$8 less than in 2007, before the Great Recession.

## Back to pre-recession levels

Within the industry a concern has developed that





only a housing boom like that of the previous decade would drive DIY garden spending back up again, so these NGS results will bring sighs of relief all down the supply chain. In fact the total retail sales at \$34.9 billion restores the size of the DIY garden industry to between 2005 and 2006 levels, the height of the 'equity loan' era. Housing sales have improved remarkably but are nowhere near the heady days of 2005. That said, after several years of minimal spending on larger garden projects involving items like trees, shrubs and landscape materials, householders may now be feeling more confident to spend on fixing up a house to sell it.

Whether the NGS 2013 is a sign of a turn-around or just a very good year, the industry must prepare itself strategically for a much-improved garden business outlook. Despite economic difficulties, the total number of households and population in the USA continues to increase. Now the stock markets are at record highs, corporate earnings are strong, car sales have re-bounded, housing is selling again, airplanes are full and personal debt is on the increase.

But the next up-tick will be different to the last one, driven by the equity loan boom 10 years ago. What sold and how we sold it then may not fit today's lifestyles or expectations. Gardening has changed and will continue to evolve as younger generations, social media and mobile commerce shape our future.

### Specific survey highlights

Demographically, the over 55 year olds' dominance of the entire Lawn and Garden (L&G) market intensifies. In 2001 this age group had 31% of the total DIY sales, now it is 46%! Meanwhile retail sales to 35–54 year olds have declined by over \$10 billion in the same time frame. The good news is that, fueled by their interest in Food Gardening, 18–34 year olds have gained market share. As they represent 30% of the US household population we can only hope this gardening behavior will stay with them as they progress through life.

Around 42% of DIY garden spending went on just four gardening activities Lawn Care, Tree Care, Shrub Care and Insect control. Admittedly, these

totals include items not carried by most Local Garden Centres (LGC) such as machinery, mowers, even lawn food, but that's where the public is spending. This \$15+ billion business is dependent on first-time *consumer* success through good information as well as good prices – opportunity knocks for LGCs!

### **11% spent on food gardening**

11% of total household L&G spend went on Food Gardening (now averaging \$211 per household compared with Flower Gardening's \$64). Does your garden centre's buying focus, inventory, bench space, signage, marketing and training reflect that? *A stunning one in three American households now grow some type of food each year* and the popularity of TV cooking shows can only help that to grow.

Another 'good' number from the NGCs for the Local Garden Centre channel is their increase in DIY market share in 2013, mostly at the expense of the mass merchants such as Walmart. LGCs now have 19% of the market in their shopping cart which should keep the wolves from the door until they re-invent ourselves (see below).

Woody plants made a big comeback, a 49% increase over its all-time 2011 low, but that only restores the category to 2009 levels. I assume the big increase is due mostly to homeowners playing catch up after storms, winter, deer and other setbacks. Woodies are still well shy of their 2004 and 2008 high points.

### **Not Your Father's Market**

Despite years of evidence that today's garden customer has very different needs from those of the 1990s shoppers, let's be honest; very little has changed in a typical LGC. Yes they are better managed now, with a wider product range, exciting new categories and more modern facilities but the model is basically how it was in 1994 and 2004. Even the message is the same: "We have the best

product, the knowledge and expertise, so get in your car in your spare time and come here, trust me, you will like it". Ironically, LGCs are using modern social media methods to promote a dated concept.

The message is still 'Full Service' when a much better theme would be 'Full First-Time Success'. The future consumer will not (does not) understand how to plant an annual, install a tomato cage ("a what?") or appreciate what an inch of water a week on a lawn means. So many consumers are one more generation away from the land now that fertilizer is a challenge, never mind clay-busting or deep watering.

Other NGS survey work in 2006, 2009 and 2012 showed the same top three gardening challenges prevailed among American householders: weeds, soil and insects. Yet no retailer, from mega warehouse to boutique LGC, have yet merchandised their stores or differentiated their businesses in response to this fundamental cry for help. If 83 million American householders are spending money to try to overcome those challenges, we probably should try to help them.

'Fear of Failure' strongly influences a customer's buying decision. If you think something isn't going to work, why buy the top-priced selection or spend more than absolutely necessary?

The traditional LGC response has always been that their staff will educate the customer and tell them what they need. Well that only works when you have a shopper who is confident enough (and patient enough) to wait for one-on-one help and when you have employees trained and confident to approach customers. It also only works when the ratio of customers to salespeople is about 2:1. Any LGC with that ratio in April to July and Nov to Dec has bigger problems! Even this hopeful scenario only works if LGCs have staff that are directed and trained to put customers first before

tasks like filling tables or watering – and at best this is hit or miss for the public (see <http://ianbaldwin.com/invisibleladies/>).

The failure of LGCs to establish themselves as the community resource for first-time DIY garden/landscape success may have driven shoppers to their lower-priced competitors.

### **Re-Inventing garden retail**

Many of today's householders are nervous about seeming clueless when approached. Add in a whole generation who grew up with self-service malls or on-line shopping and you have an entirely different marketplace to 1994. Remember in 1994 there was little or no internet information and in 2004 there were NO smart phones!

Hobbies are dying out rapidly. As consumers get even more time-pressed they are going to choose activities or projects that give them pleasure, like growing and cooking food or decorating the patio for a party. The other use of time will be devoted to activities or projects that save them money. Which section of the industry do you want to be in? Much of the price-competitive garden care business will steadily move to the Do-It-For-Me channel as people feel they can afford to pay others to do it (another trend in the 2013 NGS).

So garden retail will be essentially project-based with shopping, either in-person or on-line, designed for first-time success. Much of the learning will be on-line, although full service and personal shoppers will assist consumers to succeed, maybe for a price. Layout and merchandising will be driven by project and desired end-results, not by product categories as we do now. There will be a mixture of grab and go warehousing and showplace demonstration, like Sophora cosmetics or IKEA home furnishing. *Discover on-line, validation in-store* should be the operational strategy for the 'full-service' LGC store.

### **Crystal ball time**

The future 'First-time-garden-success-centre' will be a resource village of garden, home and personal retail, installation, landscape design/build, maintenance, home décor, cooking, maybe party planning and a community meeting centre too. Sure customers can still drive there on a Saturday morning, but they will expect you to go to their house as part of the relationship. In fact some consumers may never set foot on-site and still spend big money. It's going to be all about trust and time. This is not new in other USA retail segments. The re-invention will use existing retail concepts of showrooms like in home décor, interactive graphics like kitchen design and in home-consultations like the furniture business (a friend recently had a home visit to talk about colour from Lazy Boy Furniture!)

If this is all too much of a stretch, a decent start would be to invest heavily in 'silent selling' such as project merchandising, pull sheets, on-line how-to videos and classes and help-lines.

### **Gardening is back, but needs a new label**

Gardening can be a source of food, personal fulfilment, family activity, connection with nature or the outdoors and a host of other 'grounding' emotions for consumers in an increasingly digital world. The word gardening has an image that doesn't even begin to describe so many of the positive aspects this activity offers – we probably need a new word! But no one is asking for a plastic flowers and concrete lawns ('though plastic lawns are making a comeback'). We have an emotional opportunity to connect with a dream demographic of the country's higher educated, higher earning consumers for many years to come. The opportunity is huge, IF we change the image and operational methods to 'Tomorrow's Garden Centre' and stop operating like a place their grandfather shopped. Sorry!

# Genetically Modified (GM) crops:

## Do we need them?

The following article is based on briefing notes originally prepared by **Malcolm Ogilvy (1963–66)** before leading a local U3A (University of the Third Age) debate on the subject in December 2014.

The factual background to GM crops is described and a number of the most controversial aspects of the subject that concern the public are identified. Often these have been represented in a sensational and misleading way in the media and by environmental pressure groups.

### What are GM Crops?

Advances in molecular biology in the 1970s made it possible to identify specific genes responsible for certain characteristics (traits) of living organisms and to isolate and transfer them from one species to another – hence genetic modification or genetic engineering. With GM, a gene with a known beneficial trait can be transferred into the selected crop from unrelated plants, but also from a range of diverse organisms. Agrics may recall Prof. Wain's introductory lecture on crop protection asking what stopped a potato crop being infected by rust from neighbouring beans, indicating with remarkable prescience that the Holy Grail of crop protection would be the ability to transfer disease and pest resistance from one crop species to another. GM provides just that technology.

### What are the benefits of GM ? What is the attraction to plant breeders?

Compared with conventional plant breeding, GM is faster and much less hit and miss because it is more targeted with less unintended disruptions to the plant's other genes. In particular it is able to deliver genetic changes that would never be possible to achieve with conventional methods. This is seen in the conferring of resistance to

insect pest attack by incorporating a gene from a soil bacterium (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) into crop species. The gene carries a protein that in the gut of certain chewing insects is converted into an insecticidal toxin; hence Bt maize and Bt cotton varieties, two of the most successful GM crops developed so far.

### Current global status of GM crops.

GM crops were first grown on a significant commercial scale in 1996, nearly 20 years ago. In 2013 there were 175 million ha. grown globally, an increase of over 100 fold from the 1.7 m ha in 1996, making it the fastest adopted farming technology in recent history.

In 2013 there were 18 million farmers in 27 different countries worldwide growing GM crops. This includes developing as well as developed nations, representing more than half (60%) of the world's population. The USA, the single largest grower at present, exports GM crop produce to over 40 different countries. Other countries that have adopted GM crops on a major commercial scale are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India and China.

In contrast, in Europe there is only one GM crop approved for commercial cultivation, a Bt insect-resistant maize, 90% of which is grown in Spain. However, more than 70% of EU animal feed requirements are imported as GM crop products. It is unlikely that more than a few new GM crops will be approved in the EU in the short term due to a very slow, costly and dysfunctional regulatory process requiring the approval of all 28 members.

After Wye, Malcolm completed postgraduate studies at Reading university for a masters degree in crop sciences. He then spent much of the next 25 years working overseas on the development of new crop protection products for the international division of ICI. This included postings to Sudan, Indonesia, Australia and Japan. From 1995 to 2006 he worked as an independent international crop protection consultant in the public and private sector and is now semi-retired, running a small grassland farm with sheep and beef cattle in West Sussex.

Fortunately, recent developments indicate that this situation may improve dramatically with a move to adopt the same regulations that apply to pharmaceutical products where decisions to ban or license GM crops are made at a national level.

The main GM crops grown now are maize, soya, cotton, oil seed rape (canola) and sugar beet. This first generation is distinguished by either resistance to a specific herbicide, or by a gene conferring protection against insect attack. In maize both traits may be present. Major advantages for farmers include improved weed and or pest control, reduced use of pesticides, higher yields and reduced tillage with lower risk of soil erosion, and in small scale cotton farming, reduced exposure to pesticides.

Second generation crops include 'Golden rice', aimed at reducing Vitamin A deficiency, and drought tolerant maize. Third generation work is ongoing in many areas including the production of edible vaccines in plants aimed at improving access in poor countries by avoiding the need for refrigeration.

### **Eating GM foods. Are they safe ?**

'Frankenstein foods' was one of the scare

headlines in the tabloid press, but one without any scientific credibility. It is estimated that over 80% of processed foods in the USA contain GM ingredients, but after 18 years of widespread use and over an estimated one trillion (1000 billion) meals consumed containing them there has not been a single substantiated case of any adverse health effects.

Concerns have been expressed at eating genes, but all food contains genes, which are digested and disposed of in the normal way. There is no evidence that food genes enter human cells.

What is the scientific evidence on safety? GM food crops are highly regulated and cannot be marketed without passing the scrutiny of the national regulatory authorities of the countries concerned. A review of research on animals fed GM foods by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that proteins derived from GM plants have not been detected in tissues, fluids and edible parts of farm animals. Internationally respected scientific organisations throughout the world including the American Association for the Advance of Science (AAAS), the World Health Organisation, the American Medical Association and our own Royal Society are in all in agreement that there is no evidence of health hazards in eating GM foods.

### **Are we interfering with nature?**

Yes we are, but that is an intrinsic part of all farming and plant breeding. It is not new to transfer traits across species boundaries as in hybridisation. Commonly eaten varieties of rice, maize and oats among others are results of such crosses. Conventional plant breeders have for decades also employed 'unnatural' techniques such as radiation of plants in looking for useful mutations and a number of commercial varieties of food crops have been developed as a result.

It is an interesting observation that some uses of



*40 grams of Golden Rice a day will save sight and life. (Photo: Golden Rice Humanitarian Board, [www.goldenrice.org](http://www.goldenrice.org))*

genetic modification have been adopted in the medical field with relatively little controversy. An excellent example would be the production of insulin for the treatment of diabetics. This used to be very laboriously and expensively extracted from pancreatic glands in slaughter house offal. It is now produced from genetically modified micro-organisms in sterile quality-controlled conditions. One speculates on how many opponents of GM crops would have the slightest concern about using 'unnatural' GM insulin if they were diabetic.

Environmental impacts have been exaggerated in the press and the decline of Monarch butterflies allegedly linked to GM maize in the USA is a classic early scare case. This was associated with laboratory studies allowing the butterflies to feed on leaves artificially dusted with pollen from GM maize producing insecticidal (Bt) proteins, at rates much higher than would occur in field conditions. A large body of peer-reviewed work on Monarch butterflies has subsequently concluded that the

butterfly would not be significantly affected by the cultivation of this GM maize.

An intrinsic part of the strict regulatory process that all new GM crops must go through before they can be commercially grown is to examine environmental impacts. As in any field of new technology, regulators have to consider the cost benefit risk analysis.

### **The issue of 'super weeds'**

Again much loved by the popular press. So called 'super weeds' are not particularly super, they are just plants that can tolerate a specific herbicide. They develop as a result of natural selection pressure when the same herbicide is used in a tolerant crop year after year. Such resistant weeds already occur in conventional agriculture. They can be destroyed by using a different herbicide and or better crop rotation. Another possible source would be cross pollination between herbicide resistant and wild relatives but there is little evidence of this happening in practice.



## Multinational companies and supply of GM seeds

Large companies have developed and supply most of the world seed markets for the GM varieties that are grown. But it is also true they supply most of world seed markets for conventional and organic agriculture too. This is primarily a reflection of the intense regulatory framework especially for GM crops, long time-scale and associated high costs in getting new crop varieties approved for sale. This is a deterrent to developing new GM varieties of less widely grown, less profitable crops that are important in poorer countries, but public-funded research organisations are heavily involved in India and China and there are many collaborative projects developing GM crop types for humanitarian reasons. A striking example is 'Golden Rice' which has been developed so that even a modest portion of rice contains enough beta-carotene to provide a high proportion of an individual's daily vitamin A requirement. It has the potential to prevent irreversible vitamin A deficiency-induced blindness for many thousands of poor people who depend on rice-based diets. The Gates Foundation is heavily involved in a major international project to develop heat and drought tolerant maize varieties to help more than 300m Africans depending on maize as their main food source. The same foundation is also funding a long term programme aimed at developing nitrogen fixing cereals.

## 'Terminator' technology

This was a proposed method of restricting the use of GM plants by causing 2nd generation seeds to be sterile in order to protect the intellectual property rights of seed companies. This elicited wide condemnation as, for many crops' farmers

have traditionally been able to save some of their own seed for replanting. A global moratorium on this technology was established by the UN in 2000 and it still stands.

## Can GM contribute to addressing world food problems?

During the last 50 years the world's population has doubled to over 7 billion and is now increasing at 75 million people a year. The median UN prediction is that it will reach 9.6 billion by 2050. A major challenge of our time is how to increase food production in the face of this rapidly growing population whilst minimising and even reducing the inevitable impact of farming on the environment. Traditional plant breeding has been very successful, but yield gains are now plateauing. GM is no magic bullet, but can we in Europe afford to ignore this very powerful tool to improve crop plants for *inter alia*, better yields, resistance to pests and diseases, greater tolerance of heat and drought stress, and better nutrient use and improved nutritional value? To do so means that not only will we, particularly in the UK, continue to lose out in the international competition in the development of GM crops, but our place as an acknowledged world leader in bioscience research, contributing greatly to a knowledge-based economy, will be undermined and severely diminished.

## Want to know more?

One of the best and latest reviews with a full list of references is: *GM Science Update*. A report to the Council for Science and Technology, March, 2014. Available on the UK Government website: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/292174/cst-14-634a-gm-science-update.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292174/cst-14-634a-gm-science-update.pdf)

# Inspiring the next generation

**Moya Myerscough (née Feehally 1974–77) discusses the work of Farming & Countryside Education (FACE).**

Every so often the newspapers and broadcasters run headlines about the strange things that children have said they know about the origins of their food. It is certain that there are children – and some of their parents and teachers – who seem to have little understanding about how their food has been produced. This is not necessarily just in towns and cities; many children growing up in rural areas are disconnected from what is happening in the fields around them. Most of the post WW2 generation, those of us who Harold Macmillan said had ‘never had it so good’ and who have lived through the increasing dominance of supermarkets and processed foods, have little or no experience of growing food to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

## **A growing skills shortage**

There is a large and still growing skills and expertise shortage in the farming and food production sector. The farming world has changed; fields are no longer places to play in or wander across and much animal production is indoors and out of sight, and there is the impact of changing government policies and the EU. but that is not for discussion here!

Hopefully, many Agricola Club members are part of all that is being done to re-connect with the British public. Projects such as *Open Farm Sunday* (10 years old in 2015), the *Food For Life Partnership* (working to transform the food culture in schools), LEAF demonstration farms, educational access with *Higher Level Stewardship* (HLS), projects and school events run by the agricultural societies, open farms and

farm attractions, farm shops and farmers’ markets and the many hundreds of farmers across the county who open their gates to school groups for educational visits, are rebuilding the links. Alongside this the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (ADHB) education team is producing teaching resources and courses for teachers and teacher training students. FACE is supporting many of these initiatives.

## **FACE supports school farm projects**

Some 14 years ago, the education liaison departments of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the National Farmers Union merged and became FACE – Farming & Countryside Education - now a charity working across England and Wales to help build the links and support school-farm projects. RHET (Royal Highland Education Trust) has a similar role in Scotland although differently constituted.

FACE aims to ‘inspire young people to learn about food and farming in a sustainable countryside’. To do this we have a small full-time team based at Stoneleigh Park who work at national level, and nine part-time Regional Education Coordinators (REC) across England and Wales. I look after the East of England region (you can find the name of your FACE REC on our website). Currently we have been enabled by generous grants from NFU Mutual and The Prince’s Countryside Fund as well as trusts such as the Garfield Weston Foundation; in addition there have been many smaller grants from businesses and local charities, usually tied to a particular short term project.

The RECs work with both farmers and schools; we lead training sessions and workshops; we organise conferences, meetings and farm visits; we provide signposts to the information and resources produced by the industry.

We also deliver a nationally accredited training course for farmers who are going to welcome schools groups onto their farms: the *Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme* (CEVAS for short). The FACE website includes news, information and resources for teachers and farmers alike.

In addition [www.visitmyfarm.org](http://www.visitmyfarm.org) is being developed as a 'one stop shop' about farm visits – including advice about health and safety and organising school visits to farms and at the time of writing, a partnership of many countryside education groups is nearly ready to launch a new website – The Countryside Classroom – which will act as a hub for teachers who are looking for information about different aspects of the rural environment to support their teaching.

### **Choosing a career in farming and food**

Bright Crop is a cross-industry initiative, being hosted by FACE, which aims to inspire young talent to explore the wide choice of careers in farming and food supply. The Bright Crop website offers information about career opportunities under the headings: Research It, Make It, Raise It, Grow It, Manage It, Shift It, Trade It, Renew It,



### **Farming & Countryside Education**

Change It. In addition to its website, Bright Crop is growing a team of ambassadors who work in the farming and food production industry and who will commit some spare time to linking with a school and perhaps attending a careers evening, meeting with students or talking to the staff about their own career experience. See [www.brightcrop.org.uk](http://www.brightcrop.org.uk)

It was said that 'the future is orange'! No longer perhaps – but the future for public understanding of and support for the farming and food production industries should be *bright*. If you are able to, in any way, please work with FACE and Bright Crop– we are working for farming. For more information visit [www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

# The growing threat to UK food, land and water resources

**Bernard Wood (1958–61) discusses a paper he has recently completed for the Environmental Committee of CPRE (with specialist input from Committee members) and the help he would like from members of the Agricola Club.**

The paper outlines the nature and causes of the growing threats to Britain's food supplies and necessary land and water resources; the apparent blindness to this situation amongst planners, policy makers and the British population generally; the urgent need to raise public awareness and understanding of this situation and its profound implications, and action now needed at both national and local levels. The web address from which the paper can be obtained is: <http://protectkent.org.uk/technical-reports/>

A programme has commenced in Kent to bring together relevant organisations and prominent individuals to draw up a plan of action for the county. Kent is losing farmland faster than any other county and is the first area of the UK to be classified as a Water Crisis Area. Similar initiatives will be needed in other counties: first in eastern counties and those surrounding large urban areas. At the same time, contacts are being established with relevant government agencies and water authorities.

Wye graduates around the country will be aware of the accelerating loss of farmland but not perhaps of the changing international factors affecting our future food imports from abroad – and their profound implications. All readers of the Journal can help by raising awareness and interest among friends and relations. Any help they can provide with useful contacts with people at

agricultural research institutions, universities, the agricultural industry, national media or central government would be most welcome. For those Agricola club members who live abroad, any help with launching similar initiatives in their own counties would be invaluable.

Please do get in touch if you can help: phone 01227 832130; or e-mail [bmwa@btinternet.com](mailto:bmwa@btinternet.com).

## Summary of the paper

The world's population is expected to rise from 7 billion now to over 9 billion by 2050. Britain's population is increasing faster than ever before. All will need food and water. The rate of increase in world food production is falling behind that of global population increase.

Britain now imports over 60% of the agricultural products it consumes. To reduce this percentage, the British government, in 2009, set the target of doubling food production in Britain by 2040. This is an immense challenge, requiring the use of all our existing farmland.

At the same time, irreversible loss of agricultural land is being caused on a huge scale and increasing rate by construction of houses and associated educational, health, recreational and employment-related facilities and transport infrastructure required by the growing population. Meanwhile, some 40% of all food purchased in Britain is currently wasted.

A doubling of food production will require corresponding increases in plant and animal production; these will be dependent on increases in available water. Britain's south eastern counties are major food producers; they are also the driest counties where available water and growing conflict between agricultural, domestic and industrial demands for water will become an increasing constraint on greater crop and livestock production.

An immediate effect of rising incomes is changes in food tastes. This is taking place on a growing scale in emerging economies so creating new markets for many food products which Britain imports - but without the necessary increases in production of those products. Prices of those imported foods are already rising in Britain. They will rise at an accelerating pace in the future as new demand worldwide outstrips increased production of those crop and livestock products. Substantial and continuing rises in food prices in Britain in coming years can cause a breakdown in our social and economic stability.

Work is already under way in the agricultural and water industries to achieve big increases in food production. The overriding need in Britain now is to create the awareness and understanding at all levels of society county-wide of: 1) The nature, urgency and practical implications of the approaching food and water crises, and 2) The action needed to address these. This calls for a national communication initiative and for appropriate action by all planners and policymakers responsible for the conservation of farmland, water and biodiversity.

The nature and causes of the general lack of awareness and understanding of the prevailing food and water situations are discussed and the critical steps needed to address the necessary changes in awareness and behaviour at national, county and local levels are outlined.

## Helping prevent food waste

The Gleaning Network coordinates volunteers, farmers and food redistribution charities in order to salvage the thousands of tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables that are wasted on farms every year across the UK and Europe, and direct this fresh, nutritious food to people in need.

It is estimated that between 20 and 40% of British-grown crops fail to reach human consumers as a result of retailers' excessively strict cosmetic standards and systematic over-production. With 10% of global carbon emissions generated by growing food that will never be eaten and more than 5.8 million people living in food poverty in the UK, this is a colossal waste.

Gleaning Network UK takes its name from the ancient practice of 'gleaning', the collection of surplus crops after harvest. The Network aims to address food waste on farms by harvesting unwanted fruit and vegetables and transport them to groups helping the most vulnerable members of society. The project is managed by the Feeding the 5000 campaign, founded in 2009 by campaigner and author Tristram Stuart to highlight the issue of global waste and promote positive solutions to this problem.

**Gill Bond** (1964–67) has helped on several farms in Kent where overproduction has resulted in crops potentially going to waste. For example, on one fruit farm, the late plum crop ran into the early apple crop. With a limited amount of labour, the farmer diverted that resource to the higher value apple crop as he was able to draw on the volunteers from the Gleaners to pick the remaining plums.

On another farm, the leeks had grown amazingly large – too large for the supermarkets. The gleaners stepped in and harvested them. Even those that had bolted proved to provide a tasty centre to the vegetable. On a third farm, the pick-your-own process had left lots of fruit that was about to go to waste. The gleaners arrived and saved the day.

It all depends on liaison between the growers and the organisation, as the excess crop has to be predicted in time for the Gleaners to mobilise. Many come down from London, and have never picked anything before, but soon get into the swing of it with some instruction from the growers.

For more information see  
<http://feedbackglobal.org/campaigns/gleaning-network/>

# Growing Food – a manual for all

**Tony Winch (1968–71) explains how he came to write his manual for the International Red Cross that covers the principles and practices used in the production of food crops the world over, and was turned into a book by Springer. It is now available at low cost to NGOs.**

I was fortunate enough to be at Wye from 1968 to 1971. After a year of adventures in southern Africa I worked for a number of years in the commercial seed trade, in the UK, Brazil, Canada and North America.

I got married and had my first son Daniel in 1980, who was born in Nairobi due to the fact I was working in Somalia at the time. This was my first job in the agricultural aid and development sector, working for Oxfam. It was quite an eye opener, attempting to help refugees from Ethiopia to set up food producing endeavours of various kinds. This led to jobs with a number of aid agencies, working as an agricultural consultant in Somalia,

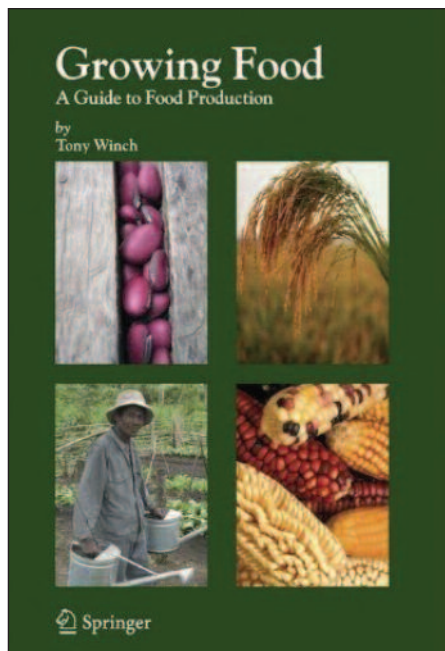
Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and Afghanistan, mainly working for the ICRC (International Red Cross).

In 1987 I was commissioned to write a manual on food production to be used by delegates working with the ICRC. This was eventually published by Springer in book form in 2007, under the name *Growing Food – A Guide to Food Production*. The copyright has recently been returned to me, and I have had 100 copies of the book printed here in England at very low cost.

The book is currently being distributed to various NGOs and others involved in third world food production at what we used to call the grass roots level.

## A review

This specialist handbook is intended as a quick and easy reference guide to be used by individuals and organisations that are involved in the production of food, from both agriculture and horticulture. It is designed to be used as to answer basic questions about how food is produced from plants and aims to demystify the subject of growing food as far as possible. It covers the principles and practices used in agriculture and horticulture, from plant and soil characteristics, farming systems and crop types, to tools and storage. It comprehensively provides easily understood information covering all significant food crops. It will thus form an important reference work to development practitioners working in food growing. The focus is firmly on the technical aspects of food crops; topics such as animal husbandry, agrochemicals and genetic engineering are only briefly mentioned.





There is a strong international flavour to this book, with a view to making it user-friendly throughout the English-speaking community. It is written in a simple and straightforward way and will be easily understood by a wide range of people for whom English is not a first language. It includes explanations and cross references of the terminology, acronyms and terms used.

The book is divided into three sections:

1. Principles and practices used in agriculture and horticulture;

2. Description and characteristics of the main food crops;
3. Naming and classification of plants, seed purchase procedures, conversion tables and statistics, planning and assessing agricultural projects.

If you would like a copy, contact [style.winch@virgin.net](mailto:style.winch@virgin.net). Price £7 a copy in UK, £5 plus postage for overseas). PDF and Word versions are also available, free of charge on request.

## Last of the vignettes

### 1918

The call to arms came at a time when practically everyone who had passed through Wye was still of military age, and it may be doubted if an educational institution in the country has contributed so large a proportion of its members to the forces, or has had to record the loss of so high a percentage of the them (one-quarter killed).

There have been many visits from aircraft over Wye. Zeppelins dropped a bomb within half a mile of the College in the field near Hollands Dairy Farm at Withersdane and aeroplanes machine-gunned the searchlight station on the old racecourse.

### 1925

Above all (the agriculturalist) must have no racial prejudice. He must be able to get on with Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen and Welshmen alike – but particularly with Scotchmen. In our little world of agricultural progress the North Briton is literally everywhere, and if you can't understand what an Aberdeen man is talking about you are truly out in the cold.

### 1931

The Squash Racket Courts were opened on January 26th by Hon. Lord Cornwallis CBE, DL, and exhibition games were played by Capt. Cazalet MP (the British amateur champion) and Commander McMaster. (D. Butcher, the professional champion, also took part).

# The long garden master in the Gold Coast

The life and times of a Colonial Agricultural Officer in the Gold Coast 1929–1947 written by Charles Lynn (1924–27), his wife, Marjorie and daughter Sylvia Lynn. Reviewed by Hugh Brammer.

Charles Lynn followed the common course of colonial Agricultural Officers: Wye College; Cambridge; ICTA (the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture) in Trinidad; and then – after waiting for his 21st birthday to arrive in December 1929 – the seemingly lottery selection of a posting to a colony and to a station within that territory. For Charles, the colony that came out of the hat was the Gold Coast and, after some temporary postings in the south – including the Aburi botanic gardens where Agricultural Officers were still known as garden Masters; his title was later officially enhanced to 'long' because of his height – an eventual posting of 17 years in the Northern territories of which 15 years were at one station, Zuarungu, in the far north. Today, such a career would be impossible, except possibly for some missionaries. International agencies, DFID and NGOs move staff on after a maximum of five – sometimes only three – years. In the supposed interests of career development, oblivious of the interests of the country and the job in hand. That would not have worked in the pioneering days of administration and development described in this book.

## The source of the book

The book describes a highly personal, sometimes day-to-day account comprising a reminiscence that the principal author had started to draft himself, combined with lengthy extracts from letters written to his mother, compiled into a single free-flowing text by his daughter Sylvia, who also provides a lengthy, context-setting preface. The developing story is augmented by lengthy comments, mainly given in endnotes, by two socio- anthropologists who worked with a neighbouring tribal group for three years, providing insights and comments that were often contrary to official administration policy. Both

they and the author make interesting comments on the implementation of the policy of indirect rule then being introduced in what was still socio-politically *terra incognita*. One is left wondering, however, if the anthropologists had had their way, if tribal society would have been preserved in aspic as it were and modern 'development' – for all its faults and problems, but also its eventual social and economic benefits – prevented.

## Early days

Charles spent his first tour of 18 months based on the agricultural station at Temale, the headquarters of the Northern territories administration, but he was almost immediately seconded to control a locust invasion in area further north, which lasted throughout the rainy season of 1930. This provided his first experience of trekking on foot in areas then beyond the limits of motor transport, with 25 or more mean head-carrying his loads, including camping and cooking equipment, all walking 10–15 miles a day. At Tamale, he enjoyed leisure activities including polo and game-shooting in neighbouring countryside. Of the 30 European residents in Tamale at that time, he reported that five died in the six months that he was on his first six months home-leave, and he describes further deaths of several young colleagues and friends in subsequent years: the Gold Coast was still 'the white man's grave'.

## Ground-breaking extension work

On returning from leave in December 1931, he was posted to Zuarungu. 98 miles north of Temale, the first Agricultural officer to be posted to this densely-settled, food-short area, where he was to remain for almost the remainder of his service in the Gold Coast. This is where he did his pioneering work carrying out statistically-

# THE LONG GARDEN MASTER IN THE GOLD COAST

Life and times of a Colonial Agricultural Officer  
in the Gold Coast  
1929-1947



Charles, Marjorie and Sylvia Lynn

*Published and available from Authors Online Ltd, £9.99 plus  
p+p. E-book £4.74. [www.authorsonline.co.uk](http://www.authorsonline.co.uk)*

designed agricultural surveys and introducing mixed farming, bullock ploughing and soil conservation, together with the training of farmers and teaching of agriculture in schools, all under the severe budget limitation of the 1930's depression years. The work involved nearly continuous trekking through an extensive District, mainly on foot or on horseback.

Doing the same job in the same place over a period of years, his tour-by-tour account inevitably includes much repetition of his tasks, places visited, people met, the weather and problems experienced. Yet that's how life was for him and for many of his generation: progress was slow in a region of still-primitive tribal culture, and it took much personal effort and dedication to achieve. That was not always appreciated at high official levels in his first few years: colonial policy was to develop export crops that would generate revenue, not simply improve farming methods and food

security. The value of his work was eventually recognised: he was awarded the MBE in 1943 and eventually transferred to ICTA in 1948 to pass on his knowledge of extension methods.

## **A new bride goes to Africa**

Periodically Charles returned to Tamale to write his reports or to take over as officer-in-charge while the incumbent went on leave. He also describes enjoyable and refreshing local leaves taken mainly on the coast. While on his way back to the UK after his fourth tour of duty in 19d37, he met and soon married his wife (joint author Marjorie), who returned to Tamale and Zuangu with him. World War II broke out while they were on home-leave in 1939, so their next long leave was taken in South Africa in 1941 where Marjorie remained for the birth of their first child Sylvia, joint author of this book – whom Charles did not see for the first time until she was 19months old on his next long leave in South Africa in 1943. Eventually, after the end of the war, they were both allowed to return to live with him in Tamale where he spent the last few months of his Gold Coast career.

## **Why this book is still important**

I enjoyed reading this book, with a growing sense of nostalgia, in part because I later spent ten years soil surveying in the Gold Coast/Ghana myself and so recognised many of the places and landscapes described and knew some of the people named. The book deserves to be read by both policy makers and practitioners (including NGOs) involved in agricultural development in tropical Africa as a cautionary tale against the setting of over-ambitious short-term achievement targets: local knowledge, sympathetic understanding, tongue-biting patience and sustained personal involvement are as much needed now, even with modern communications, as they were in Charles Lynn's day.

Hugh Brammer  
Soil Surveyor Gold Coast/Ghana 1951–61

# Agricola Club

## Accountants' report for the year ended 31 July 2014

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 18 August 2014 we have compiled the financial statements of Wye College Agricola Club 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 Accepted Accounting Principles.

This 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, for our work, or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2014 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 ACA  
Chavereys  
Chartered accountants  
Faversham  
Date: 30 September 2014

## Notes to the accounts

### 1 Accounting policies

The club prepares accounts on an accruals basis, using UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as guidance.

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.

The club elects to write off the income from 'lifetime membership' applicants in the year of application.

# Wye College Agricola Club

## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 July 2014

|                                    | 2014    |                | 2013  |               |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------|-------|---------------|
|                                    | £       | £              | £     | £             |
| <b>Income</b>                      |         |                |       |               |
| Sale of ties, prints etc.          |         | 33             |       | 340           |
| Subscriptions                      |         | 1,594          |       | 1,610         |
| National Savings interest          |         | 99             |       | 28            |
| Annual dinner                      |         | —              |       | 5,409         |
| Hog roast                          |         | —              |       | 1,417         |
| Memorial Fund journal contribution |         | —              |       | 7,500         |
|                                    |         | <u>1,726</u>   |       | <u>16,304</u> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                 |         |                |       |               |
| Opening stock                      | 762     |                | 1,026 |               |
| Purchase of ties, prints etc.      | —       |                | —     |               |
| Closing stock                      | (630)   |                | (762) |               |
|                                    |         | 132            |       | 264           |
| Annual dinner                      | (5,149) |                | 5,494 |               |
| Hog roast                          | —       |                | 1,497 |               |
| Wye Journal                        | 10,076  |                | 7,244 |               |
| Website expenses                   | 122     |                | 128   |               |
| Meetings, expenses and secretarial | 790     |                | 913   |               |
| Insurance                          | 321     |                | 274   |               |
| Donation                           | 250     |                | 300   |               |
| Accountancy                        | 300     |                | 288   |               |
|                                    |         | <u>6,711</u>   |       | <u>16,137</u> |
|                                    |         | <u>6,843</u>   |       | <u>16,402</u> |
| <b>Net (deficit)/surplus</b>       |         | <u>(5,116)</u> |       | <u>(97)</u>   |

## Balance sheet as at 31 July 2014

|                                  | 2014    |                | 2013    |                |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|                                  | £       | £              | £       | £              |
| <b>Current assets</b>            |         |                |         |                |
| National Savings and Investments | –       |                | 8,945   |                |
| Lloyds TSB                       | 15,516  |                | 14,024  |                |
| Stocks                           | 630     |                | 762     |                |
|                                  |         | <b>16,146</b>  |         | <b>23,730</b>  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>       |         |                |         |                |
| Creditors                        | –       |                | (5,149) |                |
| Accruals                         | (300)   |                | (282)   |                |
| Deferred income Subscriptions    | (2,663) |                | –       |                |
|                                  |         | <b>(2,963)</b> |         | <b>(5,431)</b> |
| <b>Net assets</b>                |         | <b>13,183</b>  |         | <b>18,299</b>  |
| <b>Accumulated funds</b>         |         |                |         |                |
| Opening reserves                 |         | 18,299         |         | 18,396         |
| (Deficit)/surplus for the year   |         | (5,116)        |         | (97)           |
| <b>Accumulated reserves</b>      |         | <b>13,183</b>  |         | <b>18,299</b>  |

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 disclosing a net deficit of £5116 and we confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved on 27 September 2014.

**Prof J P G Webster**

**Treasurer**

(for and on behalf of the committee)



# Agricola Club Memorial Fund

## Accountants' report for the year ended 31 July 2014

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.

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.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2014 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 ACA  
Chavereys  
Chartered Accountants  
Faversham  
Date: 25 October 2014

## Notes to the accounts

### 1 Accounting policies

The charity elects to prepare accounts on an accruals.

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 2014

|  | Note | 2014<br>£      | 2013<br>£       |
|--|------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Income</b>                              |      |                |                 |
| Dividends received                         |      | 13,457         | 14,502          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                         |      |                |                 |
| Student / member awards                    | 2    | 3,750          | 4,500           |
| Support of Wye College Agricola Club       |      | —              | 7,500           |
| Governance expenses                        |      | 3,517          | 3,377           |
|  |      | <u>(7,267)</u> | <u>(15,377)</u> |
| <b>Net deficit surplus/(deficit)</b>       |      | <b>6,190</b>   | <b>(874)</b>    |
| <b>Retained surplus brought forward</b>    |      | <b>420,437</b> | <b>378,187</b>  |
|  |      | <b>426,628</b> | <b>377,313</b>  |
| Increase in value of investments           |      | 19,183         | 43,124          |
| <b>Retained surplus carried forward</b>    |      | <b>445,810</b> | <b>420,437</b>  |
| <b>All receipts are unrestricted funds</b> |      |                |                 |

# Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 July 2014

|  | 2014           | 2013           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | £              | £              |
| <b>Cash funds</b>                                    |                |                |
| Current account                                      | 2,551          | 2,139          |
| Cash held by broker - Portfolio 1                    | 852            | 1,688          |
| Cash held by broker - Portfolio 2                    | 7,898          | 1,765          |
| <b>Investment assets</b>                             |                |                |
| 4,104.00 Charifund Income Units                      | 60,399         | 56,689         |
| <b>Portfolio 1</b>                                   |                |                |
| 846.42 Rathbone Income Units                         | 6,936          | 6,764          |
| 37,500.00 M & G High income                          | 42,116         | 38,063         |
| 4,497.70 Artemis Income Fund Dist.Units              | 9,179          | 8,979          |
| 7,000.00 Invesco Perpetual monthly inc plus fund     | 7,904          | 7,734          |
| 2,650.00 Investec Capital Accumulator Class A        | 5,227          | 5,306          |
| 4,592.11 IFSL Brooks Defensive Capital Class B Acc   | 7,756          | 7,485          |
| 88.00 Veritas Global Equity Income GBP Class A       | 14,758         | 14,018         |
| 109.28 SSGA GBP Liquidity Fund INST Stable NAV       | 109            | -              |
| 10,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond clas1         | 4,463          | 4,371          |
|  | <b>98,450</b>  | <b>92,720</b>  |
| <b>Portfolio 2</b>                                   |                |                |
| 15,000.00 Alpha Prop Inv Freehold Income Trust       | 26,814         | 26,058         |
| 60,000.00 Kames High Yield Bond Class A (Inc)        | 33,474         | 32,496         |
| 1,980.00 Fidelity South East Asia                    | 15,284         | 14,418         |
| 8,000.00 First State Asia Pacific Leaders Class A    | 35,658         | 33,489         |
| 27,500.00 Henderson UK Property                      | 26,411         | 25,083         |
| 20,000.00 Invesco Perpetual Monthly Income Plus Fund | 22,584         | 22,096         |
| 40,000.00 M & G High Income InvT ZDP                 | 44,924         | 40,600         |
| 55,000.00 M & G European High Yield Bond X Class     | 23,634         | 24,481         |
| 19,000.00 Newton Global Higher Income                | 26,938         | 27,546         |
| 355.59 SSGA GBP Liquidity Fund INST Stable NAV       | 356            | -              |
| 45,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond Class         | 20,084         | 19,670         |
|  | <b>276,160</b> | <b>265,936</b> |
| <b>Less accruals</b>                                 |                |                |
| Accountancy  | (500)          | (500)          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                    | <b>445,810</b> | <b>420,437</b> |

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 disclosing a net surplus of £6190 and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 24 October 2014

**Prof JPG Webster**  
Trustee

**Mrs J D Reynolds**  
Trustee

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. no \_\_\_\_\_

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 5LS  
[info@janesgardendesign.com](mailto:info@janesgardendesign.com)



# Wye College Agricola Club

## Application for Membership

Surname/Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Wye \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. no \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Academic details: Graduate/MSc/PhD/Staff (Please delete as appropriate)

Year of entry \_\_\_\_\_

Year of leaving \_\_\_\_\_

Degree course (Dept. if PhD 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](http://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

Please return this form before Christmas to:

Francis Huntington, Hon. Sec.

Agricola Club secretariat, Cumberland House, Church Street, Wye TN25 5BJ

Email: [contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk)

Addresses for the list go to press at the end of April, and changes cannot be included later.

Surname/family name \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Wye \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. no \_\_\_\_\_

Degree course taken at Wye (Dept. if Post Grad. 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 Cub website.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Wye Heritage

Our past shapes our future

## Wye Heritage Centre - Membership Application Form

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to my details being held on the membership database

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The current membership fee is £10.

Please enclose a cheque made out to 'Wye Heritage'.

We will then send you confirmation and a Standing Order for subsequent years.

Please return to: Wye Heritage Office, Cumberland House, Church Street, Wye, TN25 5BJ



# Wye College Agricola Club

## Committee Members 2014-2015

| Elected | Retire | Position                     | Name and Address  | Tel no                        |
|---------|--------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 2012    | 2015   | President                    | Prof David Leaver<br>Sole Street Farm, Crundale, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7ET<br><a href="mailto:jdleaver@gmail.com">jdleaver@gmail.com</a>                                     | 01227 700978                  |
| 2013    | 2016   | Chairman &<br>Journal Editor | Dr John Walters<br>Akermans, 38 High Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5AL<br><a href="mailto:akermans38@yahoo.co.uk">akermans38@yahoo.co.uk</a>                             | 01233 812823<br>07969 739974  |
| 2011    | 2017   | ACMF Trustee                 | Mr Charles Course<br>Heathpatch Ltd, Dairy Farm, Semer, Ipswich, IP7 6RA<br><a href="mailto:charles@dairyfarmoffice.co.uk">charles@dairyfarmoffice.co.uk</a>                | 01449 744685<br>07889 218590  |
| 2012    | 2015   | Secretary                    | Mr Francis Huntington<br>Cumberland Court, Church Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BJ<br><a href="mailto:contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk">contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk</a> | 01233 813884<br>07860 390087  |
| 2011    | 2017   | Treasurer<br>ACMF Trustee    | Prof Paul Webster<br>25 Chequers Park, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BB<br><a href="mailto:jpgwebster@gmail.com">jpgwebster@gmail.com</a>  | 01233 812786                  |
| 2012    | 2015   | ACMF Trustee                 | Mrs Jane Reynolds<br>Pent Farm, Postling, Hythe, Kent, CT21 4EY<br><a href="mailto:info@janesgardendesign.com">info@janesgardendesign.com</a>                               | 01303 862436                  |
| 2009    | 2015   |                              | Mr Martin Rickatson<br>Tall Trees, Church Road, Garboldisham, Norfolk, IP22 2SE<br><a href="mailto:jmr.agriculture@gmail.com">jmr.agriculture@gmail.com</a>                 | 07595 031217<br>01935 688531  |
| 2011    | 2017   |                              | Prof Berkeley Hill<br>1 Brockhill Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 4AB<br><a href="mailto:b.hill@imperial.ac.uk">b.hill@imperial.ac.uk</a>  | 01303 265312                  |
| 2012    | 2017   |                              | Prof Geoff Dixon<br>Hill Rising, Horncastles Lane, Sherbourne, Dorset, DT9 6BH<br><a href="mailto:geoffrdixon@btinternet.com">geoffrdixon@btinternet.com</a>                | 01935 387470<br>07774 628641  |
| 2011    | 2017   |                              | Dr Susan Atkinson<br>52 Maxton Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9JL<br><a href="mailto:susan.atkinson@talk21.com">susan.atkinson@talk21.com</a>                                       | 01304 211977<br>07808 435968  |
| 2011    | 2017   |                              | Mr Henry Holdstock<br>The Old Buttery, Homestall Lane, Homestall, Faversham Kent ME13 8UT<br><a href="mailto:henry@georgewebsfinn.com">henry@georgewebsfinn.com</a>         | 07831 320500<br>01795 428020  |
| 2014    | 2017   |                              | Mr Chris Waters<br>2 The Moat House, The Moat, Charing, Ashford, Kent TN27 0JJ<br><a href="mailto:chris.waters@leathams.co.uk">chris.waters@leathams.co.uk</a>              | 020 7635 4009<br>07710 835523 |
| 2014    | 2017   |                              | Mr David Simmons<br>Whitehill House, Brogdale Road, Ospringe, Faversham, Kent ME13 0DN<br><a href="mailto:dhsimmons@btconnect.com">dhsimmons@btconnect.com</a>              | 01795 532100<br>07850 872342  |
| 2015    | 2018   |                              | Mr Philip Bair<br>Bonner View, The Street, Northbourne, Deal, Kent CT14 0LF<br><a href="mailto:blairs@vwclub.net">blairs@vwclub.net</a>                                     | 01304 360317                  |



