

# WYE

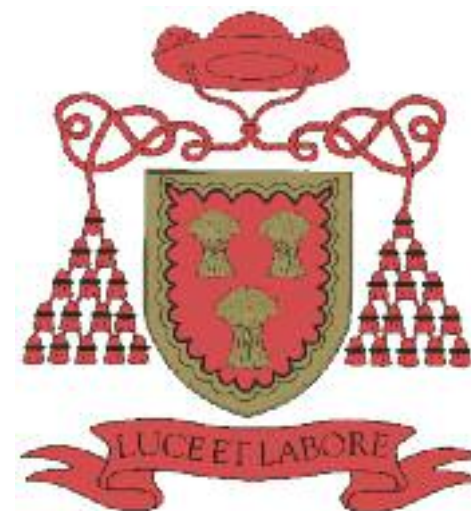
*The Journal  
of  
The Wye College Agricola Club*



*Volume XVIII*

*2015 – 2016*

*Number 6*



## Wye College Agricola Club

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## Schedule of Events

### Lunch

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

### 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Wye Heritage Centre – Latin School, Wye College.

Exhibition: 'Wye College across the World'.

Display of Telereal Trillium's current plans for the College, including a tour of the medieval part of the College.

Tea/coffee and scones will be served in the Latin School until 5.00pm.

### 5.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Agricola Club will commence in the Kempe Centre.

### 6.45pm

Pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Kempe Centre.

A glass of sparkling wine will be offered, and a pay bar will be available throughout the evening.

### 7.30pm

Dinner will be served in the Kempe Centre.

Please see page opposite for menu.

Some wine will be included on the tables.

Please note that for security reasons there will only be access to the College's medieval building (tour), the Latin School (tea) and the Kempe Centre (AGM and Dinner)

**Please do not park in the car park opposite the College – this is reserved for disabled badge holders.**

**Please use the Kempe Centre Car Park – Follow the signs.**

## Annual Dinner

6.45pm for 7.30pm

**Kempe Centre, Wye College, Wye, Kent, TN25 5AH**

We hope to see a good turnout of members to keep the flag flying for Wye.

This year in particular we would like to welcome people who graduated in 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, & 2006.

So please encourage your contemporaries to come and get a table together.

If you started at Wye in any of these years you might like to celebrate the anniversary of your arrival.

(Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suits)

To reserve a place, please use the booking form in the green pages at the back of the Journal.

## MENU

Parma Ham with a salad of Celeriac and basil oil

*V. DF. GF option* Baba Ganoush – smoked aubergine and roast squash

Slow cooked Shin of Beef on a grilled parmesan polenta with cassoulet beans

*V. DF. GF option* – Sautéed Heritage Tomatoes on a barley risotto of olives and peppers

Tropical fruit bombe or Cropwell Bishop Stilton with oatcakes and beetroot chutney

Coffee and chocolates

(There will be some wine on the tables with more available to purchase, plus beer)

# Contacts

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## Editor/Chairman's Report

John Walters – Agricola Club Chairman and Journal Editor

Once again, I have experienced the feeling of a resurgent club, doubtless fuelled by the well-attended Hog Roast last Summer that followed the highly successful Reunion dinner in the Wye College Kempe Centre in September 2014. Let's see if we can't keep it going with another bumper turn-out on the weekend of September 24th this year when we will again be in the Kempe Centre. Not only that, we have the go-ahead from the new owners for a tour of the main college buildings ... strictly external viewing only and it won't necessarily be a pretty sight. But it will be a trip down long memory lane for many of us.

It could be the last opportunity to see the place roughly as we all knew it since at some point the developers are going to want to move in the bulldozers (not literally) and start converting the old bedrooms, offices and other spaces into comfortable (luxury?) accommodation. That may be some time away since they will have many planning hoops to jump through before they can lay a finger on the fabric. But they have plenty of other sites to work on in and around the village and out as far as the old ADAS site.

We had thought at one time that the Free school, currently housed in the Kempe Centre, would eventually move into the Edwardian section of the main campus. It's now clear that this cannot happen, so plans are in hand to expand the facilities at their current site. Not ideal, especially for those of us who had hoped for some continuing educational use within the college; but at least the school has some degree of security now.

Back at the Club ... again I have been bowled over by the amount of material that has been forthcoming from former students for this year's Journal. For example, John Barnes, who graduated in the 50's, sent me an old copy of the *Times Education Supplement* from 4th July 1958 that featured a big spread on Wye College; I couldn't resist reproducing it (with permission!) word-for-word (page 56). He also sent me a more personal account of his 'life before Wye', which spawned a new section in the Journal.

As did an article sent by a close contemporary of mine, Ian Robinson – like me a graduate of the 60's – who has spent much of his working life on agricultural missions around the globe. His thought-provoking piece taking a hard look at development aid caused me to open a new section called 'From the cutting room floor', intended for pieces that at first appear unsuitable but on further reflection are too good to leave out! (It could equally have been called 'from the Editor's waste bin' – you have to allow yourself a bit of fun in this role!).

And then there are the Obits. It's always sad, if inevitable, to have to report on deaths of members and colleagues and probably a little insensitive to highlight one or two over others. But I want to mention the passing of two great characters from the administration side of the college. Firstly, John Orr-Ewing, CBE, MC, who died at the age of 90 in September last year. In the process of gathering some detail of his life, I learnt that this most charming of men, who was profoundly popular with the student and

post grad population, had a distinguished military record and that there were quotations and taped interviews with him filed in the Imperial War Museum. Somehow, he missed out on having an Obituary published in one of the broadsheets, but he did feature in a photo used in both *The Times* and *The Telegraph* accompanying an obituary of a fellow SOE captain who served with him in Italy working with the partisans. Ian Lucas, Wye Principle from 1977–88, kindly helped me put together a tribute (page 81) to John to print alongside a reflection from his daughters on page 27.

Then, more recently, we heard of the death of Dr Ian Lean, virtually the last Wye man left standing when the college closed down. He had been on the staff at Wye for 40 years and was described by a colleague, Professor David Leaver, as the "unofficial manager of the College academic engine room". He had worked tirelessly to keep traditions of the college going until there was no further point.

Not too much has changed in the village since the last Journal, except that the Wife of Bath has closed once again. The attempt to revive it fell at the first hurdle, but moves are afoot to try again. As I wrote this, there was another drama

unfolding just down the road from my house. The Indian restaurant – the Joshan – was on fire and being attended by a team of fire engines. Smoke was billowing from the roof and flames licking out of second floor windows. The damage, from both fire and water, will take some time to repair. So Chinese takeaway it is for a while!

### *Some membership stats provided by Vinny, our data base manager:*

We have about 4100 members of which 400 are 'missing' (no address). Of the total, the majority live in the UK, 90 Journals go to Europe with a further 230 to the rest of the world ... 74 countries. Within the membership the Smiths dominate at 33, the Browns/Brownes number 28, Joneses are nearly keeping up at 23, just beating Taylors at 22.

Some 30 have the title Dr, there are 40 Professors, three Lords/Lady handles, one Lt Colonel and one Major. Comfortingly, there are eight Reverends amongst our flock. That does not stop us losing two to three times as many as the new members we gain each year (currently averaging six).

### College memorabilia

In addition to informing us of the death of her father, George Maughan, his daughter Carol Summers was kind enough to offer us some of the memorabilia from his college days, including a pre-war blazer with a badge that we had not previously seen. He was obviously a SEAC student and the badge presumably represented that. Amongst the other treasures was an indexed collection of seeds - cereals, weeds and grasses, and other crops - labelled South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye. We are happy to include these pieces in the Heritage Centre archive of College material and wish to encourage others to follow suit if they have college-related material that is no longer required.

# Secretary's Report

## Francis Huntington – Honorary Club Secretary

It was excellent to meet so many of you at the hog roast back in July last year – the numbers attending certainly endorses the popularity of this event and a justification for its continuation every second year.

### Your Committee

We continue to endeavour to bring down the average age of your 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, in the past, financially supported three Wye Heritage exhibitions, 'Wye Hops', 'Louis Wain' and 'WWI' exhibitions. This autumn the Club is supporting the Centre's autumn exhibition which is entitled 'Wye College across the World'; this will highlight the impact of the work of past students on worldwide Agriculture, Horticulture and the Environment.

The Trustees of the Memorial Fund are continuing to respond to requests for help and support where those requests meet the Fund's objectives; see our Treasurer's report and the Memorial Fund accounts. Details of grants are given on page 51 of this issue.

### 2016 AGM and Reunion Dinner

The 64th Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday 24 September. We will be back at Wye and will be following arrangements similar to those we enjoyed in

2014. Details are given on page 2. Please use the application form sent with our e-newsletter or the green form at the back of this Journal. You will find the Agenda and minutes of the last AGM further on in this Journal.

### 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, but 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. 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, a small number of members have still had not responded to our entreaties. Your committee has agreed, with regret, 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 contact 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 a possible. 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 page 10.

### 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
<i>The Record – factors leading to and consequences of the merger of Wye College and Imperial college</i>	£5.00
<i>The College at Wye – A Historical Guide</i>	£8.00

Please make cheques payable to 'Wye College Agricola Club'. As usual I will 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 contact me at:

**Agricola Secretariat**  
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**Church Street,**  
**Wye**

**TN25 5BJ**

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**

We were able to share with you via the last Journal the news that the College Campus had been sold to Telereal Trillium. This broke the stated Imperial College policy that they would retain ownership of the freehold. As previously reported, all of us who live and/or work in Wye or have strong allegiances to the College Campus had become extremely frustrated at the slow progress being made by Imperial. However, they did complete their 'Master Plan' and we were all waiting for the next step in the process; needless to say, the sale of the Campus was not the anticipated next move.

## New owners have their own plans

Telereal Trillium do not intend to progress with Imperial's Master Plan but to embark on their own. They are now engaged upon a campus-wide planning and design exercise together with their architects to develop a new plan that fits with their aspirations as property owners, property developers and property managers.

Concurrently, they have lodged a permitted development proposal with Ashford Borough Council for the old ADAS Centre for conversion to flats and have carried out a public consultation on plans for Bexley House and the Wolfson lecture theatre together with housing in the adjacent car park. At the same time they consulted on the re-development of Wolfson House as domestic housing. Ashford Borough Council has determined that change of use from B1a office use to 52 C3 dwellings at the former ADAS Centre does not require prior approval – we all await the next move.

The future use of the Grade 1 Medieval building will perhaps pose the greatest challenge. We certainly hope that their sensitive development will leave room for some public access and use that will benefit the Wye community.

## Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan for the whole parish has now been completed and submitted for public consultation and review by a government planning inspector. It is anticipated that the plan will be the subject of a local referendum in the autumn.

The significance of this exercise is that, with the relaxation of some planning controls by the 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.

Telereal Trillium has already indicated that there are elements of the Neighbourhood Plan to which they do not subscribe. It remains to be seen if it is possible for Telereal Trillium to move forward in collaboration with the community and the Parish Council or if 'battle lines' will be drawn.

## Test for localism

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 and the Neighbourhood Plan on the Parish Council website:  
[www.wyewithinxhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wyewithinxhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## Wye Free School

The one piece of positive news that emerged

from the sale was the signing of an agreement between Wye Free School, United Learning, Telereal Trillium and the Department of Education Funding Agency to secure the future of the school at the Kempe Centre and a part of the surrounding land. This will provide them ➡



*John Walters (left) received the college flag on behalf of the Agricola Club from David Hayes, campus property maintenance, following the sale of the property by Imperial College to Telereal Trillium.*



# The Wye Heritage Centre

## “Our past shapes our future”

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

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 cake and becoming immersed in Wye's and Wye College's history, collections and regular displays and exhibitions.

The Telereal Trillium (TT) purchase included the Latin School, which means that the Heritage Centre has now embarked upon discussions with TT to try to secure the future use of the building. TT are currently happy for us to occupy the space whilst they develop their master plan for the whole site.

It is now even more important that we receive support from members of the Agricola Club. Firstly, to demonstrate the huge importance of securing the history and heritage of the College and secondly to provide funds for the on-going

costs of running the Centre. We believe this can be best achieved by increasing the membership from the current 220 up to 500 and beyond, so that subscriptions give us the guaranteed income needed – the message is very simple!

### **PLEASE BECOME A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT AND EXCITING PROJECT BY BECOMING A SUBSCRIBING MEMBER.**

An application form is provided in the green pages section at the back of the Journal. It costs only £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.

### **Alumni involvement in providing material**

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

*Continued from page 11.*

with the space they require for a school of 600 students. You will find further information on the Wye School web site: [www.wyeschool.org.uk](http://www.wyeschool.org.uk)

### **Withersdane Hall**

This property and the surrounding grounds and gardens are now occupied on a long lease by Promis Clinics who are major providers of facilities and support for those needing treatment for a range of addictions and associated mental health

problems. Substantial renovation has been carried out on many of the buildings and work is now starting on restoring the gardens, which have sadly deteriorated over the last few years.

### **College Farm and rented houses**

The recent sale of the College Campus does not affect the farms or most of the tenanted houses, which have been retained by Imperial College. Most of the farm buildings are not occupied and maintenance of these has ceased.

gifting material or allowing us to copy material that relates to the College. Thanks very much to all of you who have already offered your help and gifted document and photographs. Keep those packages coming!

### **The Centre**

Wye Heritage is currently operating as a Members Association and will, during 2016, become a Registered Charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Once we achieve charitable status we will attempt to negotiate 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.

### **The Digital Archive**

The Centre is now 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 eventually the Journals of the Agricola Club and the South Eastern Agricultural College will be digitised and be available on line. An oral archive is also envisaged; we are still seeking to recruit past students volunteers to become a part of the 'Oral Archive' project. Please contact me if you would like to help ([contact@wyeagricolclub.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyeagricolclub.org.uk)).

### **2016 Autumn Exhibition**

Plans are well advanced for our 2016 Autumn Exhibition, which is entitled 'Wye College across the World'. Over the past 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. To those of you who have already submitted material, we apologise that we had to postpone this exhibition by a year whilst we collected and collated what was needed.

### **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 them. In order to inform members of the Club of the nature 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 of 2009 – 2016 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 life blood 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 that underpin today's work are properly recorded and honoured.



## 2015 Agricola reunion – a splendid Hog Roast at Janaway's farm

The 2015 Reunion was held on July at **Richard Janaway's** (1965–68) Whitewater Potato farm near Hook, Hampshire. Some 130 Agricola Club members and guests appreciated the family's hospitality, enjoying an excellent hog roast and informative talks by the family about the crisping potato enterprise. Brightly decorated tables had been laid out in a huge storage barn amongst the massive boxes offering a cool location to eat and chat, away from the blazing sunshine. This also facilitated viewing of a large screen that accompanied the presentation on the family enterprise and the technical aspects involved in producing the raw materials for some of the country's leading crisp manufacturers and food retailers.

A full list of attendees can be found on page 18. In addition to repeating our appreciation to the Janaway family for all their help in preparation and giving us the run of their facilities, thanks must also go to Jane Walters, honorary member of the Club who carried most of the responsibility for organizing ticketing and menus and liaising with the family. The Janaway's provided the excellent liquid refreshments.

More can be found on the potato growing enterprise on page 89 where **Prof Geoff Dixon** looks at aspects of disease control, particularly of club root, under such an extensive crop production.

The next Reunion will be held in Wye on September 24 this year. Then there will be another summer event in 2017 on July 1, at Richard and Mo Brown's family farm in Cambridgeshire.







# Hog Roast guests

**NB. The Editor apologises that in some instances it has been necessary to use the word 'Guest' instead of a proper name; one of his lists was mislaid.**

## 1950s

Frank & Heather Tait	1950	1953
Lorna Wendy Eyre (née Bailey)	1957	1960
Anthony Mitchell	1957	1960
Gordon Rae	1957	1960
Ken & Margo Crundwell	1955	1958
John McInerney	1957	1960
Jenny Mallett	1954	1957
Brian & Rosslyn Howard	1956	1962
Stella & David Martin	1958	1961
Elizabeth Walker	1957	1960
David & Enid Hart	1955	1959
John & Judy Vinson	1952	1955
John & Jane Barnes	1956	1959
Martin & Jenny Roberts	1957	1960
Michael & Carolyn Price	1957	1960
Carol Thompson	1957	1960
David & Christine Evans	1957	1960
Ken Drake	1957	1960
Jane Sutton	1954	1957
Michael &		
Rosemary Clark (née Cooper)	1957	1960
Angus Golightly	1957	1960
Mike Pash	1957	1961
Doreen Maitre, David Miller		
Tony Evers	1958	
Colin Ames		
John Bennett	1957	1960
John Parker & Guest	1955	1958

## 1960s

Richard & Sheila Janaway	1965	1968
John & Jane Walters	1964	1970
Lucy & Francis Huntington	1961	1964
John Woolman	1967	1970
Clive Ulridge & Guest	1968	1971
Richard & Judy Longhurst	1966	1969
John Preston	1966	1969
Rex & Nicola Walters	1968	1973
Andrew Blake	1964	1967
Geoff & Kath Dixon	1962	1968
David & Sally Leaver	1964	1967
Andrew Hodge & Guest	1968	1971
Peter & Sue Johnson	1965	1968
Jim Butchart & Guest	1961	1965
Tim Day	1967	1970
Malcolm & Sue Ogilvy	1963	1966
Andy & Wendy Turney	1966	1969
Elizabeth & Robin Hamilton	1965	1968
Joe Youdan & Guest	1967	1970
Charles & Marjorie Adams	1965	1968
Mike Felton & Guest	1967	1970
Malcolm Alexander & Guest	1963	1967

## 1960s continued

Mike & Brenda Walker	1966	1969
John & Carol Hudson	1964	1967
Gill Bond	1964	1967
John Virgin & Guest	1965	1968
Alan & Elizabeth Dear	1965	1968
Seamus Foster & Guest	1969	1972
Richard & Sari Beresford	1965	1967
Nick Rubidge & Guest	1965	1967
Peter Blanchard	1966	1969

## 1970s

John & Nicky Simmonds	1971	1974
Clare Eley & Guest	1972	1975
Sue Miller & Guest	1977	1980
Louise Beaton	1975	1978
Nicky Deakin	1976	1979
J M Bartholomew & Guest	1973	1976
Christopher Dean & Guest	1975	1978
Mark & Sarah Hann (née England)	1977	1980
Richard Cartwright & Guest	1975	1978
Ian Powell	1977	1980
Sam & Bridget Kent	1970	1973

## 1980s

Gail Kennedy (Gibbons)	1982	1985
Robynne Jackson	1982	1985
Yvette Wogan & Guest	1982	1985
James & Nicky Attrill	1984	1987
Mike Feneley	1982	1985
Chris & Jane Hiles	1982	1985
Tony Drake	1983	1986

## 1990s

Wendy & Michael Barnes	1995	1999
John & Jane Usher	1991	1994
Richard Saunders & Guest	1992	1995
Roger Crudge & Family	1992	1995

## 55th anniversary reunion of the 1957–60 cohort

*A report carefully crafted by two stars of that group, **Gordon Rae** and **John McInerney**. One of their group described the visit to the Janaway farm as the 'best farm walk ever' – they were able to do it sitting down!*

Most of that elite student intake in the autumn of 1957 graduated in 1960, and many of us had gathered together at the Royal Agricultural College (now University) in 2010 for our 50th anniversary graduation reunion (see *Agricola Journal* 2010/11 pp26–28). As that was such a success it was suggested then that we should meet again in 2020 for a Diamond celebration event – 'though as we were already all in our 70s some thought this might be pushing our luck a bit. So when it was announced there would be an Agricola Club summer Hog Roast at the Janaway's farm at Hook in July 2015 – a mere 55 years since we had graduated – it seemed an excellent opportunity (excuse) for another gathering of the clan.

At this point, **Gordon Rae's** famed organization, persuasion and management skills clicked smoothly into gear again. With the considerable help of Jane Walters and Vinny McLean, who had access to the Agricola Club members' database,

he was able to contact most of the 1957–60 student group who were members, and also managed to wrinkle out of the woodwork some who were not. As a result of all this, a group of 20 ex-students, some bringing their spouses/partners, agreed to meet up to renew old friendships, relive past glories and recapture old times.

Furthermore, as Hook is only 30 minutes drive from where Gordon lives he sussed out and road-tested a convenient nearby hotel for anyone who fancied a celebratory gathering and overnight stay before the Hog Roast, and suggested we might meet up for a dinner redolent of the old Wye days (i.e. wearing a jacket and tie, for a start). Twelve of the overall group booked into the Basingstoke Country Hotel for drinks and a dinner on the Friday evening, all demonstrating how well they still scrubbed up after a little effort (**McInerney**, ever-mindful of the traditions of the Wye dining hall, even managed to turn up wearing his gown).



The 1957–60 cohort at their exclusive reunion dinner in Basingstoke: *Back row:* John McInerney, Tony Evers, Martin Roberts, Ken Drake, Ted Martin, Colin Ames, Gordon Rae. *Front:* Tessa Evers, Jenny Roberts, Elizabeth Walker, Bridget Walker, Angus Golightly



The gang meet again at the Agricola Hog roast the next day. *Inset:* John Usher & John McInerney. *Back:* Ken Drake, Tony Evers, Martin Roberts, Caroline Thompson, David Evans, Colin Ames, Michael Clark, Anthony Mitchell. *Middle:* Mike Pash, Jenny Roberts, Christine Evans, Elizabeth Walker, Angus Golightly, Michael Price. *Front:* John Bennett, Gordon Rae, Tessa Evers, Rosemary Clark

Unfortunately, **Doreen Maitre** (néé Griffiths) and her partner had to pull out at the last minute because of illness; but on the other hand we were all delighted to meet up again with **Tony Evers** (1957–58) who, though professing to "only having done the Wye short course", immediately fell comfortably back into our midst despite the 57-year absence.

Within minutes of our getting together, some for the first time in 55+ years, it was as if we had never been away as we comfortably slipped into conversations and sharing experiences like days of yore. What was that special Wye magic that gave us such easy, lasting and valuable friendships?

A couple of photo albums appeared which brought back wonderful memories of College places and events, while the centrepiece of the after-dinner conversation was a framed photograph of the staff and students in College in May 1958, brought along by Tony Evers. In a remarkable testament to the way Wye trained our razor sharp brains to remember such things as the Latin names of insects, plants and fungi, the amino acids of Krebs' cycle, the life cycle of the

liver fluke, the profile of podzol soils, the cropping history of Upper South Sidlands and the constituents of Cackle Park mixture, much to our amazement we found also that, between us, we managed to recall the names and faces of some 80–90% of all those in the photograph. After all those years. Amazing!

On Saturday morning we drove to the Hog Roast, some 10 minutes away, to meet up with the rest of our group.

Sadly, **Olly** and **Wendy** (néé **Bailey**) **Eyre** who had planned to join us were unable to do so because of illness.

Everyone left wanting more and at the end it was suggested that, as the 2016 Agricola Club annual event may be held at Wye, (*Editor's note – it WILL be held at Wye*) then it was well worth us trying to make it all together again then and carry on where we left off. There's so much to share when you have a shared history at Wye. Plans to do so are now in hand, and we await Gordon Rae's masterful guiding hand once more.



## News of members

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

#### Deaths

**Lesley John Ackroyd** (1937–40) died on 29th February 2014, aged 95.

**Brian William Adams** (1967–70) died in July 2014. We were informed by his wife.

**George Peter Askew** (Wye staff 1952–62) (1927–2016).

*Provided by Paul Burnham (Wye Staff).*

Peter Askew lectured in Soil Science at Wye College from 1952 until 1962, when he was appointed as a Lecturer at Newcastle University. At Wye, he was based in the Physical Science Department under Professor Wain, succeeding George Worrall, and for a time was an Assistant College Warden. His main research at Wye involved field work in Romney Marsh in collaboration with Roy Green of the Soil Survey of England and Wales. During his last summer at Wye, he spent three months with a Royal Society expedition to North Borneo (now Sabah); and reported his work in an important paper in their *Proceedings* in 1964. Many more recent students will have benefited from the splendid collection of maps and specimens which he left in the Geology Laboratory. Peter finally retired from Newcastle University in 1993, where he continued to specialize in the field study of soils, working especially in north east England and in Brazil.

In retirement, Peter and his wife, Ruth, lived at Stocksfield, near Hexham, Northumberland, and kept in touch with a number of friends from Wye. He died peacefully, surrounded by his family, on 7th April, 2016. His wife, Ruth, died in similar circumstances on 18th April, so that there was a joint service of thanksgiving in their church on 26th April.

\*We have just received a further tribute to Peter from **Frank Thompson** (1954–57). This will be included in the next issue. – Ed.

**Vernon R Brooks** (1957–61) died 17th November 2015. We were informed by his wife, Pam.

**James 'Jim' Leonard Brewster** (1963–66) died November 20th 2015. *See Obituaries.*

**Miss S. Courtney** (1961–1964).

**Dr J.B. Dalrymple** (1955–59). His wife Charlotte wrote "I am sad to say that my husband John died in hospital following a fall down the stairs during the night. He died six days later on October 6th, 2014." He was 83.

**Lorna Eyre** (1957–60). Olly Eyre wrote: "It is with much sadness that I must inform you of the passing of one of your members. Lorna Wendy Eyre (née Bailey) died on 18th December 2015 after a battle with an inoperable cancer".

**George Luckley Maughan** (1937–40) died in 2015 aged 95. We were informed by his daughter, Carol Summers, who also told us about George's memorabilia from his days at college (see page 7).

**Edwin Mundy** (1951–56) died in early January 2016. *See Obituaries.*

**Dr Ian Lean** (staff 1969–2009). *See Obituaries.*

**Hugh Robert Aylmer Nightingale** (1974–77) *See Obituaries.*

**Albertus 'Bert' Olivier** (1966–69) died in his home town of Malmesbury, South Africa, in 2015 after a long battle with cancer. Bert completed a PhD on calcium absorption and metabolism at the Poultry Research department under Dr Alan Sykes. During his time at Wye, he lived with his wife Molly, initially in Sidelands and later, in his final year, shared a rented house with John and Jane Walters in Waltham, near Canterbury. At the time, John was researching a PhD in coccidiosis in poultry. Bert returned to South Africa on completion of his studies and for some years

chaired the South African egg board, held a senior post in the co-operative KWV then moved to a senior role the Wool Board. In addition to Molly, he leaves behind a son, Bertie, and three daughters, Marieke, Jacqualise and Lillibeth.

**Margaret Older**, Honorary Member of the Agricola Club and widow of the late Reg older, ex-governor of Wye College, died at home on February 20th, 2016 at the age of 99.

**John Eric Hugh Orr-Ewing** (Staff 1966–1985) *See Obituaries.*

**Willy W.S. Parsalaw** (1990)

**John Priest** (1967–70) died late last year after a brave fight against cancer.

**Paul Speyer** (1959–61). Basil and Joy Folland wrote "Just a note to say that sadly Paul Speyer passed away at the end of June this year (2015) after a mercifully short illness. I'm sure he is one and the same as the 'Speyer P.J.K.' listed in the missing persons in the 2014–15 Wye Agricola Club Journal, p 146. After Wye he farmed, first near Cardigan, then at his family farm near Ludchurch, Narberth, dairying. He was a contemporary of mine at Wye and a nice chap. When he retired he sold his farm at Ludchurch to the next door neighbour, **Phil Davies\***, who had also been at Wye, though I don't know when.

Paul was at one time High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire.

\***Philip James Davies** was at Wye 1987–90 – *Editor.*

**Frank Taylor** (1951–54) died in April 2016. He had lived in Wye for most of his life. *See Obituaries page 37.*

**R.J.G. Taylor** (1938–1940).

**Cynthia M. Wood** (née **Wright**, 1954–57). **John Wood** (1954–59) wrote from New Zealand: "It is with heavy heart that I have to tell you that my wife Cynthia suffered a large and fatal stroke in August. We had no warning of immediate danger so fortunately there was no long-term suffering for Cynthia. Her funeral was held in the Kirwee Community hall on 1st September 2014 and was

attended by many. I'm now trying to rebuild my life here with the enormous help of the children, family and friends".

**John T. Whellams** (1958–61) died at Victor Harbour, South Australia on 12 October 2015.

**Dick Steer**, **Bill Cale** and **Rob Savory** (all contemporaries) were with him a few days before he died. They report that, although he had advanced Alzheimer's disease, he was still able to talk about "those wonderful times we had at Wye College", some 55 years earlier.

**Thomas 'Tom' W J Wright** (1949–52 and Staff (1978–90), lecturer in horticulture and the brains behind the Masters course in landscape Ecology, Design and Management died on 15th May 2016, aged 88. Full obituary in next year's journal.

#### News

#### 1940s

**Betty Matson** (1940–43) wrote: "Dear Francis. It was a shock to see your note in the new Wye Journal. No. I am not dead...yet...though at 90 plus realise I could be any time now. I am sorry I have not written for so long. I did actually gather some news of my years but left it when the TV programme Antiques Roadshow came on with the carved panels from the ruins of the old 'Bessamer' saloon at Swanley (taken along by Shewell Cooper's daughter). It seemed a pity to leave it until the following year, when people would have forgotten about it. I was disappointed it (*her write up – Ed*) was never used as I had gone to considerable trouble to research it and get a photocopy of one of the panels then held at Hextable Heritage Centre.

I will try hard to send in some news from my year (and earlier) if I am still alive to send it for next year's publication.

I am always pleased to receive the new Journal and look first for the Obituaries, then News of old students; then, if and when I find time, the rest. You and you wife and other **real** old Wye Students are doing stirring work in keeping the name of Wye alive and deserve all our thanks. I hope you and Lucy are doing well.

I am happily settled (since December 2013) in Coachman's Court. My 'top half' is fine but my legs are a bit wonky (arthritis) and I need a 4-wheeled Rollator or electric buggy to move about, slowly".

*Betty, I have certainly missed your contributions to the Journal. No one else covers those early years and I suspect some of our older members feel somewhat left out as a result. I can understand your surprise when you read last year's Journal, although I only wondered where you were; I had not written you off! Incidentally, I never received a piece from you about the carved panels from Swanley. I don't know where you sent it to but it never reached the editorial office. Is there any chance that you have another copy?* John Walters, Editor

## 1950s

**Olive Aburrow** (1950–53) thanks the Editor for the interesting Journal last year, though sadly notes that not many of her contemporaries are mentioned. Olive had a fall last year and fractured her pelvis, which has limited her mobility further. However, things are improving and she commends the NHS. She recalls, "How well I remember Ben Coulter transporting our luggage to and from the railway station; sixpence per case – (not decimal money!). Our cases would be lined up on the platform waiting to be claimed. The railway staff were augmented by one man on student arrival and departure days."

**Penny Roberts** (néé Churchill) (1959–62) writes: Some 55 years ago **Randal Charlton** gave me six wine glasses as a wedding present and as I have still got all six I thought it would be fun to contact him. So I googled him and found he has had the most extraordinary life which would be well worth recording in the Journal. I have failed to make contact and wondered if anyone might have better skills than I – he was last mentioned as working in Detroit. I am happy to write it up from the internet if you wish but it would be so much more fun to do it as an interview.

This trail began nearly 55 years ago with a wedding gift of six wine glasses. Amazingly all

those years later I still have all six and they have been in constant use over those years. The donor was Randal Charlton (Wye 1959 – 62) or, as he was called in those un-PC days, 'Randy'. So I tried to track him down and unearthed the most amazing story.

*Global Detroit* says: 'In his lifetime, Charlton has bought and sold 14 companies, worked as a journalist, tended dairy cows for a Saudi sheik, started a jazz club and consulted for a world bank. For four years, he served as executive director of TechTown, a business incubator aiming to recruit local entrepreneurs to revitalize Detroit's economy. Charlton transformed TechTown from a nearly empty industrial building with few resources into a thriving hub, currently supporting 250 companies. More than 2,200 entrepreneurs have received training at TechTown, which has helped clients raise \$14 million.'

Apparently he went from rock bottom bankruptcy to helping people losing jobs in their sixties, as he did, to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and start again. For this he was awarded a prestigious prize by Civil Ventures of San Francisco – their 2011 Purpose Prize.

It seems he is now CEO on the board of Everist Genomics.

I have failed to make direct contact with my friend of all those years ago and hope that somebody out there can do so – then I can thank him again for those wine glasses – hope I don't break one in the meantime.

## 1960s

**Quentin Farmar-Bowers** (1965–68) "It's such a shame that the college was closed – silly really. I am kind of retired now ...nobody is paying me! But I continue an interest in food; in 2013 we produced a book *Food security in Australia*. It sold well but people are really not interested and local Universities are not interested in any follow up. Yet poor diet is a factor in 56% of all deaths in Australia and I suspects it is in the same ball park in the UK.

## 1970s

**Ian Veale** (1979–82), gave up farm management in 1998 and is now MD of Wydale Plastics, rotational moulders, in Somerset.

## 1980s

**Stuart Worsley** (1983–86) moved to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to take over directorship of Mercy Corps. In a manner to which Wye groomed him, he leads a national initiative to improve livestock enterprise performance in the south and east of the country, working with nomadic pastoralists. In October 2015, Stuart co-authored and published a new book entitled *Navigating Complexity in International Development*. For more information see <http://developmentbookshop.com/navigating-complexity-in-international-development>.

**Michele Chiarini** (1988–91) writes from Florence: "After a few years working as a free-lance consultant in the agri-food sector, in 2011 I had the opportunity to return temporarily to the UK working for GfK Kynetec based near Newbury, one of, if not the leading, market research companies in the agricultural world. Having moved back to Florence in early 2012, I returned to my role of free-lance consultant, with GfK Kynetec becoming my main client. Nothing changed until May 2014 when I was offered the opportunity to become a full-time employee with the benefit of being able to work from home in Florence. I have been following somewhat the Wye 'story', although I have not been back to Wye for many years.

I have established on LinkedIn a Wye Agricola group which constantly grows but I never really had the time to manage. **Peter Doyle** (1971–74) has offered to take charge of it, which I am sure would be beneficial, but if you would like to take control or indicate someone else please let me know".

**Ian Pigott** (1989–92), OBE. In last year's Journal, we carried a feature about the organisation, FACE, which is dedicated to 'spreading the word about agriculture'. Now, in the 2016 Honours list, its Chairman Ian Pigott has been awarded the OBE.



Ian Pigott outside his Farmschool

According to their website, Ian served as a trustee from May 2005, then succeeded John Lee, OBE, as chairman in 2013. He has since made a tremendous contribution to its growth and development.

Ian farms the Thrales End family farm and neighbouring Annabele's Farm near Harpenden. He is dedicated to enhancing the education of children with regards to food and farming and, with his wife Gilly, has established his prestigious Farmschool which welcomes parties of school children throughout the year to experience science, geography, history and sociology-linked activities on the farm as well as opportunities to cook farm produce in the designer kitchen.

Ian was also the originator of Open Farm Sunday, LEAF's highly successful event for the general public. Since it was founded in 2006, more than 1000 farmers have participated in the initiative, which aims to encourage people to find out more about where their food comes from. The 10th Open Farm Sunday in 2015 set a new attendance record, with more than 250,000 people visiting almost 400 farms on Sunday, 7th June.

See page 96 for a follow-on feature about FACE working with schools.

**Robert Bullard** (1985–86) writes that he has been helping businesses since 2003 as a copywriter, copy-editor, proofreader and trainer in writing skills. This has culminated in the

publication of his handbook, *Business Writing Tips: for easy and effective writing*, priced £14.00 (incl. p&p). Those who feel they could benefit from his 170 tips should email [www.perfecttext.org](http://www.perfecttext.org).

## 1990s

Last August, **Jo Brehaut** (1991–94), a York resident originally from Guernsey, achieved her dream of single-handedly rowing home to the island from the UK, to raise money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Channel Islands Air Search.

On Monday 10th August, Jo set off from Dartmouth in Devon at 5.45pm and solo sculled through the night and most of the next day, making it to Beaucette Marina in Guernsey just before 5pm on Tuesday 11th August. This was a distance of approximately 75 miles (65 nautical miles, 120 km), three times further than Dover to Calais. Jo rowed a Janousek coastal sculling boat and remained within a few metres of her guard



*Jo Brehaut celebrates her arrival in Guernsey.*

boat (the ex-RNLI lifeboat Duke of Cornwall) at all times, relying on the guard boat for navigation.

She rowed for more than 20 hours, through darkness, crossing some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, rain and winds up to 20mph resulting in some challenging seas, coped with seasickness and lack of sleep. Unfortunately she

was suspended from rowing for a short time towards the end because a combination of increasing winds and a fierce tide. This slowed progress to an extent that the guard boat could not keep its course, so could not set a clear direction for Jo to follow, so she was forced to accept a lift for the last 14 miles. However she was able to finish the journey by rowing through the rocky entrance into Beaucette Marina in Guernsey, still alert and willing to go on.

Jo's trainer and coach, Mike Gilbert of Langstone Adventure Rowing (LAR) commented: "LAR is proud to have escorted and supported Jo Brehaut in her recent successful Cross Channel Challenge. I think Jo must be the first woman to row that route and to my knowledge the only woman to solo scull the Channel at all! This is an amazing feat, over 60 miles of solo sculling – equal to rowing around the Isle of Wight – not one capsize in the seas and rowing through the shipping lanes alone and in pitch black takes terrific skill, strength and a determined personal character. Well done Jo."

**Catherine Cutler** (né **Elworthy**, 1992–96) wrote: I studied BSc. Horticulture at Wye starting in 1992 and finishing in 1996. At the time I was at Wye I was Catherine Elworthy. However I soon married **Michael Cutler** (also a Horticulture graduate). Michael and I both work at the Eden Project in Cornwall, myself as Mediterranean Biome Supervisor and he as the Horticultural technical officer. We have one son (family picture below) who is not remotely interested in growing!



## Obituaries

### John Eric Hugh Orr-Ewing, MC, OBE (Wye 1966–85)

22nd August 1920 to 23rd August 2015

*A reflection submitted by his daughters Margie Whitehorn and Ali Poole who spoke at John's funeral on 14th September 2015 in Wye Church*

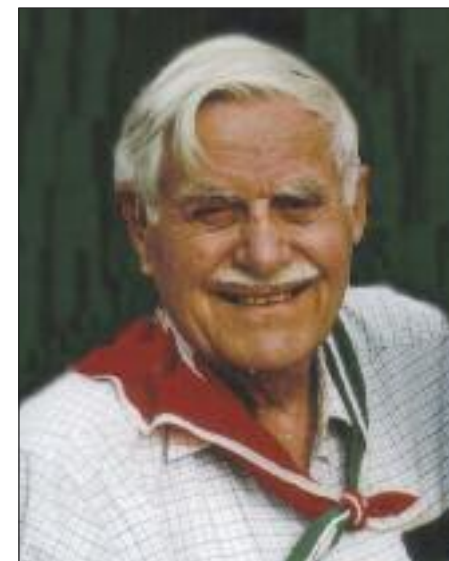
Dad had such a rich, varied and fulfilled life, it is hard to do him justice, but at the same time we do not want to put him on a pedestal: something he would have hated.

None of us know the whole of his life but everyone here will have memories of parts of it. We will be glad if some of this makes you say "Oh yes that is John/Dad/Grandpa" while elsewhere you think, "Oh I wish I'd known that"

Dad had a lively interest in many areas, but particularly in people and their well-being. As we have reflected and also read in many letters we have received, it is very clear that he cared deeply about others and had a special influence in many lives; this was shown in his prayer life and his keeping in contact, over the years, through letters and phone calls with many people of all ages from different parts of the world.

#### Early life in Israel

He was born in 1920, the 2nd child of four, and only son, into a loving, Christian missionary family, who took him to Jerusalem at two or three months old. Molly, his youngest sister, (who we are so pleased is with us today) remembers him as a wonderful elder brother. We certainly heard about family picnics by the Dead Sea and holidays all together in Cornwall. It sounds as if the whole extended family enjoyed perpetual sunshine, playing tennis,



croquet, blackberrying and swimming on what they considered their private beach!

He and his elder sister both came back to England to school in 1928: Dad to prep school here in Kent, where he was evidently very happy and then on to Monkton Combe, in Somerset. He went up to Queens, Cambridge, to read law, but only managed one year before the outbreak of the 2nd world war.

#### SOE experiences in Italy

He joined up with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. For the latter part of the war he served in northern Italy with the SOE, working with the Italian Partisans; this time left a great impression on him. Deep friendships were formed and he always spoke of the Italian men and women with respect and fondness. In 2006, one of his nephews kindly accompanied Dad to visit some of the towns and communities he had known in the war. Unplanned, they arrived in one town during celebrations for Liberation Day, and Dad found himself a public hero ... his comment '*wonderful, but so very embarrassing*'.



The picture on the front of the service sheet was taken on that day. It was an unasked-for affirmation for a modest and humble man who always played down his contribution – often saying how much he admired the other men in his group for their bravery. There is a quote from him about his time with the partisans on a display in the Imperial War Museum.

*'We were not insensitive to our position, but we really didn't appreciate how dangerous our life was – perhaps that's how you are when you are young'*

At the end of the service we will be hearing the song Lily Marlene sung in Italian, a favourite of his, learnt while in Italy.

After the war he returned to Cambridge and read French and Italian, and where he was involved in the Students Christian Union. He much enjoyed the sport at Cambridge, particularly golf, tennis and hockey. He was left handed and wrote with his left hand, but played golf right handed, and could play tennis ambidextrously – and so you could not get him on his back hand! He never lost his love of golf, although he said he lost his swing!

#### Colonial service in Rhodesia

In 1948 Dad sailed for Northern Rhodesia, via Cape Town, where he served with the Colonial Service until 1965. He always said that these had been '*such good years*'. Of course ... it was there that he met and married Mum, Kathleen, who was the Nursing Sister in charge of the local hospital. We are delighted that there are several friends here with us today from those '*good years*'. He was on at least five different stations, each time having to learn a new language. His conversation, right up to the end, was peppered with phrases from some of these languages.

We had a very happy childhood, growing up in Northern Rhodesia/Zambia until we were 9 and 10. Dad always had time for us; we were allowed to make mistakes but he was there when we came to him for advice or help. He also had a quiet, effective way of disciplining us, so that we felt really bad, but **he** never raised his voice! When we were away at boarding school, he and Mum wrote to both of us every week, ensuring that we felt thoroughly involved in their lives. He was such fun: we remember playing hide and seek, party games with elaborate treasure hunts, bike rides, trying to teach him to swim, him learning our homework poems with us, and latterly teaching us to drive and, as soon as we had passed our tests, trusting us with the car keys.

#### The move to Wye

After Independence (1965), Dad and Mum moved to the UK. For two terms he taught at a prep school near Rugby, but in the end took up the post of Registrar of Wye College, University of London, in 1966. He absolutely loved the interaction with the students from the UK and abroad, both as an Administrator and as a spiritual mentor and encourager. Again, we are so pleased to have some of these student friends here ... (not least David, my husband!).

He was a Lay Reader in the Church of England for many years, and involved in different Christian agencies and missions all his life. After retirement Dad continued to be fully involved in the church and village, making new friends right up to the end of his life.

He loved spending time with his four grandchildren. He was very proud of them all, and was delighted when Ruth married last year and Mark joined the family.

Ruth, Lizzie, Esther and Andrew particularly remember that he was a very loving, fun and Godly man, who retained his sense of humour to the very end. He treated them to ice-cream at every possible opportunity, waded out into 6ft waves holding them aloft, and wore his colonial shorts with long socks and demob raincoat and desert boots – he'd probably be arrested nowadays! They always knew Grandpa and Granny prayed daily for each of them and loved hearing what they had been doing. Quote: '*He really was an incredibly special Grandpa.*'

His last seven years were spent in Brambles Care Home, here in Wye. It is lovely to see so many of the staff here – we are so grateful for the all love and care you gave to both Mum and Dad. We hope you survived all the nicknames he gave you!

#### John the man

Summing up, he:

- Was NOT practical – thankfully he acquired two practical sons-in-law ...
- Had a wonderful sense of humour – and importantly, he let others laugh at him ...
- Had a love of poetry and crosswords – conversation was punctuated with lines from poetry (and doggerel) ...
- Had a phenomenal memory for people and names – because he was genuinely interested in others' welfare ... and
- Was deeply caring and generous (with his time, himself and money) ...

Above all, his Christian faith was the foundation of all that he was and all that he did, and as St Paul said, we thank God for every remembrance of him.

Please see page 81 for an account of John Orr-Ewing's war exploits and Colonial Service in Africa.

#### Dr Ian Lean (1969–2009)

*Tribute prepared by Professor David Leaver (1964–67 and Staff), President of the Agricola Club.*



Ian died suddenly at home on Easter Sunday 2016 aged 73 and although he had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for some time, this was quite a shock to everyone who knew him. Unfortunately, this illness had prevented him from getting out and about, and together with Alison's illness had made life difficult for both of them in recent times.

Ian spent 40 years at Wye College. This began in 1969 after completing his BSc in 1966 and PhD degree in 1969 at the University of Wales in Bangor. His PhD study was on the pathogenesis of stomach worm infections in pigs and he continued with his animal science specialism when he began his career at Wye.



### College academic life depended on Ian

It would be easy as a fellow academic to simply discuss Ian's many academic achievements, but his contributions were so much more. He made a massive contribution to both student life in general and to so many student lives individually. He was involved in all aspects of academic management, and soon after I returned to Wye in 1987, I quickly came to the view that Ian was the unofficial manager of the College academic engine room, as so many aspects of the day-to-day academic management of the College appeared to depend and rely on Ian.

These contributions were not only formal through the many committees he sat on and chaired, which are now required to validate degrees, to ensure quality in teaching and research, to deliver top-class facilities, and to organise events such as graduation, but also his many contributions that were informal – Ian had an open door to his office providing advice and support to both students and members of staff.

He continued his research in animal science when he came to Wye and worked for many years with Dr Mike Curran on the large breeding and genetics research projects in both pigs and sheep, and in later years he worked with Dr Lynne Clarke and her nutrition research in pigs. Ian had particular interests in animal behaviour and animal welfare but he was widely read and able to apply his knowledge and understanding to most areas of agricultural science.

As part of his research responsibilities he supervised a large number of masters and doctoral students from many different countries. He had a special talent with words and grammar that he put to great effect in

ensuring that dissertations and theses were well presented, and he was not afraid to make caustic comments on documents with grammatical errors produced by members of staff!

Ian was extremely popular with students and an outstanding lecturer, and as a consequence always carried a high teaching load. Student discipline was never a problem for him; he was firm but fair and always communicated with a twinkle in his eye. He was also a wonderful orator. He organised and fronted the College graduation ceremony in Wye Church for many years where his booming and clear voice could be heard by all.

### Contributions to the wider academic world

His talents led to many invitations to contribute in the field of science outside of College. He gave lectures at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London, and was instrumental in setting up the Wye/RVC intercalated degree system where veterinary students from RVC spent their third year at Wye and, after achieving their BSc degree, returned to RVC to complete their veterinary degrees.

The British Society of Animal Science is the professional body for animal scientists and Ian was Assistant Secretary for the Society for a number of years, which is how I first got to know him in the 1970s. Later he became Scientific Editor for the journal entitled *Animal Science* (now entitled *Animal*) that is the international journal of the Society. He was also a member of the Editorial Board of *The Biologist*, which is the journal of the Royal Society of Biology. Later his interest in animal welfare led to him being appointed Chairman and then Vice President of UFAW, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, and he was also an adviser to the

Humane Slaughter Association for farm animals.

He did not travel abroad very often but I did persuade him to go to Mexico a few times for work on a project I was managing in the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Yucatan in Merida. I remember there he taught me how to prevent the very prevalent stomach infections which we were all prone to when visiting. The preventative measure involved having a large whisky before going to bed each night! It turned out to be a most successful and enjoyable preventative!

Ian left Wye College after academic activities ceased in 2009, and as the last academic to leave he joked about being responsible for putting the lights out, but he did this with a heavy heart, and it is fair to say that during his 40 years at Wye he saw and experienced the many highs and lows in the fortunes of Wye College.

### Lasting impact on College reputation

Nevertheless, his academic contributions helped many students to be launched into successful careers that are still ongoing, and his research generated knowledge that continues to be applied in practice. His impact and the high profile of the College therefore continue to this day and will continue for many years to come despite the demise of the College following merger with Imperial College.

Ian was a highly talented individual who was modest, who could be challenging at times but who always worked hard for others. He was a most valued colleague.

### James 'Jim' Leonard Brewster (Wye 1963-1966).

*Tribute submitted by Mike Jackson (1963-1966).*

Jim Brewster (Jimmy to close family) died on 24th October 2015 following a series of incidents that resulted in him taking his own life after protracted struggles and despite being happily married and enjoying a loving family life.

In 1963, Jim enrolled for a degree in Agriculture at Wye. I have no idea what attracted him to this. There were, of course, no farms in South London where he lived and his experiences on a Yorkshire farm during the then mandatory practical year were less than encouraging. Jim was at his amusing best describing the dreadful conditions he encountered there, his pastiche Yorkshire accent suitably amplifying the cold, the rain, the muck and inhospitality he found in God's own county.

I'm surprised he persisted with agriculture after that but he was always very determined. I had enrolled for the horticulture course and we both had rooms in the Old Fly.

### Academic family background

Jim's family and school background (Dulwich College) was more academic than mine and it was from Jim that I first learned of novelists such as John Steinbeck, Alberto Moravia and



*Jim Brewster at Wye.*

William Faulkner, and to recognise that Sundays meant a day with the serious papers, especially *The Observer*. In return, I tried to interest him in the music of Charlie Parker and Miles Davies, but without much success.

Most first-year students at Wye didn't seem particularly interested in the science. Jim was an exception and determined not let his hard-won A-level knowledge languish. In the second year, he switched his course from agriculture to a newly started, and arguably more demanding, honours degree option in crop science, for which he was better-suited. He took his own intellectual development seriously and this remained the case throughout his life; always wanting to know more and to chase down the main issues. A visit to any museum or gallery was always a study-visit with Jim. In later years, he thought nothing of enrolling at evening classes to learn Italian or signing-up with the Open University for courses in calculus and mathematical modelling.

#### Summer 1964 in the States

Inspired by the likes of **John Roberts**, **Geoff Goodson** and **Peter Youngs** (see the 2014–2015 issue of *Wye*, page 66) who travelled the States in 1963, and using the frame tent they left in the care of a family in Trenton, New Jersey, Jim and I spent the summer of 1964 in America with fellow horticulture student **David Jones** (1963–64). We drove huge distances in a leaky second-hand Ford station wagon and our circumnavigation of the USA included a Jim-inspired detour to Mexico City by train. We worked as labourers in an aluminium smelter in Spokane, Washington State, for six weeks to pay for it all.

After graduation in 1966, Jim's plant science leanings took him to Oxford, registering there for a DPhil in the Department of Agricultural Sciences. He studied mineral uptake by roots

under the brilliant but remote figure of Peter Nye, FRS, and the more approachable Bernard Tinker, OBE. Fortuitously, I arrived in the same department two years later to begin my own DPhil. Although our research areas were different, we made common cause in the Department's cricket team (Jim was its captain) and enjoyed numerous summer evening matches against other university departments.

#### Destined for research

Jim was, of course, destined for a career in research and, in due course, joined the Agricultural Research Council's National Vegetable Research Station (NVRS) at Wellesbourne (now part of Warwick University) and set up home in the village. At NVRS he struck a remarkably rich vein that led to a string of peer-reviewed research papers and several book chapters mostly on environmental effects on onions. These publications were influential and earned Jim a significant international reputation within the Allium research community. Consequently, he was made welcome at numerous meetings around the World, extending well beyond his retirement.

Jim's deep knowledge and long-standing interest in the Allium family, which had started at Oxford, culminated in a beautifully illustrated book *Onions and Other Vegetable Alliums*, the second edition coming out in 2008. Jim's surprisingly early retirement in 1990 was a symptom of the steady run-down of what was then called the Agricultural Research Service. Institute; and research station cutbacks and closures became commonplace after the mid 1980s. By 1993, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (the Agricultural Research Council's successor) still administered or financed over 30 research institutes and research units but only eight now remain under the Council's aegis.

#### Serious and conscientious

Jim was serious minded, hyper-allergic to prejudiced or perfunctory views and perhaps overly conscientious in general. Nevertheless, he could be engagingly humorous. Caricature and a strong sense of the ridiculous being the hallmarks. From time to time, however, Jim was struck with a deep self-critical malaise that went back to his days at Oxford. Although professional medical help saw him through the low points, he turned, in between times, to the techniques and society of the Transcendental Meditation (TM) movement, embracing it with typical thoroughness, even to the extent of standing as a TM parliamentary candidate (for the Natural Law Party) in the 1990s.

#### Married bliss

It was through TM that Jim met Marnie. They were married in Wellesbourne Church in 1997. The warmth and stability of married life coupled with Marnie's welcoming extended family and a shared taste for foreign travel, long walks and weekends in the country (especially Wales) were uplifting and underpinned a deservedly contented domestic life. Gardening, cooking and conversion of their sizeable house near Leamington Spa into a model of energy-efficiency were hallmarks of these last years.

Jim's funeral was held on 20th November 2015 at St Peter's in Wellesbourne, where he and Marnie were married 18 years before. The sizeable medieval church was crowded, reflecting the widespread esteem in which Jim was held by his and Marnie's family, by former colleagues at NVRS, by friends, neighbours and by many from the local TM organisation. Also present from Jim's time at Wye were **Edmund Brown** (1963–66), **Neil Enstock** (1963–66) and **Patrick Haworth** (1963–66) accompanied by their wives. Collectively we mourned Jim's passing while also celebrating the life of our innovative, serious-minded and much-missed good friend.

#### Edwin Mundy (Wye 1951–56)

##### – A life well lived



##### A tribute delivered by his local vicar

Edwin was born into a loving farming family in Anna Valley, Clatford, just outside Andover; a younger brother to William who is here today. Farming was to be his life. After school in Andover (where he was deputy Head Boy and played football and cricket) he won a County Agricultural Scholarship. Farm-based study was followed by time at Wye College in Kent – part of London University – where he studied at both undergraduate and (on a university scholarship) at post-graduate level and met his wife.

He married Margaret (née Pride) in 1956 and they moved to Northern Nigeria at a time when independence was developing. Edwin worked there for a total of five years as part of the Colonial Agricultural Service – as both Grassland Officer and in the setting up of a Research Station at Shika. While in Nigeria, both their children Robert and Rosemary were born.

The family returned to the UK in 1961 and, after a short period working with an agrochemical firm, Edwin moved to the Ministry of Agriculture working

on Experimental Husbandry Farms – firstly in Yorkshire (where Linda was born), followed by Norfolk and then eventually to Bridget's Farm, Martyr Worth, just outside Winchester.

Edwin's work included evaluating the large dairy unit of cows, where he encountered an early incidence of BSE. He was also involved in evaluating the introduction of Charolais and other Continental beef cattle. But much of his work was on the arable side – looking at new varieties of cereals and potatoes, and the testing of oil seed rape as a crop before it was widely used. Alongside the research work Edwin also looked after important guests to the farm which included Prince Charles and various ministers from overseas governments.

Edwin 'retired' following a heart scare in 1991. He devoted his time to a variety of organisations in Winchester including the setting up of both Winchester Churches Night Shelter and Keystone Housing; and being secretary to the local Bible Society group. He had always been involved with his local church – whether in the choir or on the church council or church warden. When Donald Coggan was Archbishop of York he was one of the 'Archbishops Messengers'. Here in Christ Church Edwin sang in the choir and led one of our home groups for ten years.

Three years after Margaret's death, Edwin met Maria through U3A and they soon married. They began a new life together with involvement in the Cathedral Library and Wykeham Probus. Both Edwin's and Maria's families were sources of support as he became less fit. Despite a diagnosis of dementia and Alzheimer's in 2005 he continued to be active in local societies, including those connected with the disease he was now suffering. Edwin's was a life lived to the full, with children and grandchildren. I will finish with some words that he wrote for all the grandchildren:

*Enjoy the love and respect of all those around you; gained by being honest to yourself and to those with whom you have contact.*

## Hugh Nightingale (Wye, 1974–77) The magician's 'wand is now broken'

*Hugh Nightingale died following a freak accident when felling trees in December 2015. Here Sam Kent (1970–73) charts the changes in Hugh's life after Wye.*

After reading Agriculture at Wye from 1974 to 1977, Hugh was Assistant Farm manager on the College farm for two years and then managed a mixed farm 'up the hill' at Waltham for four years. He left there to farm his parents' land on the Kent / East Sussex border and to do what he really enjoyed – working independently, making and repairing anything that needed attention, including motor bikes, and to spend more time acting, singing and helping the local community. He sold logs and fattened Christmas turkeys and was a regular at farm collective sales including Paddock Wood. Hugh taught himself a few magic tricks from a book he had picked up to keep himself awake during lambing watches. His first performance was for his son's third birthday party.

That changed his life completely. The children



and adults loved him and in no time he was booked months in advance to perform not only for children but at different kinds of functions all over the country and in Europe – on *HMS Invincible*, at Brands Hatch, for the Cavalry and Guards Club, The Ritz and for **Rex Walters'** (1968–73) 30th wedding anniversary party! The Kent Magic Guide heard about him and asked him to join, as did the Magic Circle who awarded him their gold star – a very rare honour. He also somehow found time to write books on magic.

Hugh was a very polite, quiet person who enjoyed his own company and nobody at Wye could have imagined that he would not be fazed by huge audiences – but he thrived on it!

He is survived by his first wife Juliet and their three children and by his second wife Chloe and two step children.

His 'wand was broken' at his funeral in Kington Magna Church in Dorset, attended by people from all walks of life proud to have known a gentleman, a farmer, a mechanic, an actor, a magician and an unbelievable talent.

• *A broken wand ceremony is a ritual performed at the funeral of a magician, in which a wand – either the wand which the magician used in performances, or a ceremonial one – is broken, indicating that with the magician's death, the wand has lost its magic.*

## John Anthony Whitehead (1950–1953)

*A brief record of his life by his friend and Wye contemporary Frank Tait.*

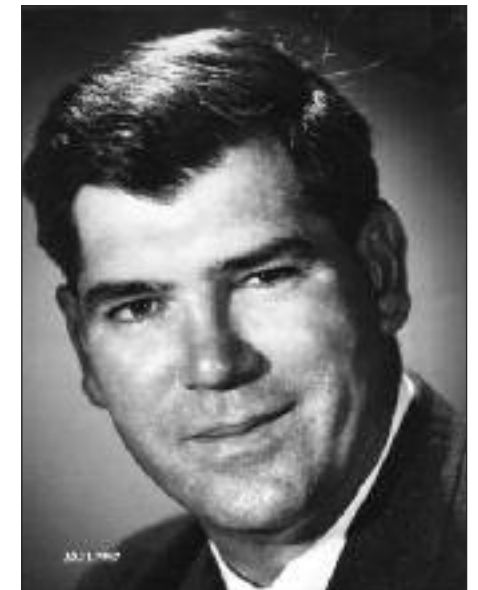
John was born in Egypt on 30th October 1930 where his father worked for Shell. When war came in 1939, the family were evacuated to South Africa and John went to school at Bishop's Diocesan College in Cape Town before returning to England in 1945. Here he went to St. Peters School in York where he continued to

play rugby, which he had started in South Africa, and rowed in the summer term. Having decided he wanted a career in Agriculture he came to Wye in 1950 after working on a hop and apple farm near Cranbrook. This was to fulfil the entry requirements for Wye.

The Principal Dunstan Skilbeck tried to run Wye like an Oxford College at which he was largely successful. The size of Wye at that time made it easier for staff and students to get to know each other which meant there was real affection for many of the staff.

## A varied life at College

John had a first floor room overlooking a quadrangle and adjoining those of **Alan Soffe** and **Jimmy Perez** who remained lifelong friends. At that time, the College had regular dances at Withersdane, which demanded a bar. This was established by these three, plus Frank Tait. The experience bonded us for life! This bond was strengthened when Jimmy Perez suggested a skiing holiday in Austria, which was agreed during a meeting at the George Inn. A party of





12 went to Gaschurn in December 1951 with a range of skiing expertise from nil to near national standard in **Margaret Torrens**.

John played rugby for the College team which, under the guidance of **Prof. Cooper** and led by **Terry Lansbury** (1951–53), was formidable. After Wye he was interviewed at the Colonial Office by the Agricultural Advisor to the Minister who was **Sir Geoffrey Nye**, (Wye 1918–21); this led to his entry to the one-year course at Cambridge and then a year at Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. Here **A.B. Killick** (Wye 1918–22) was Professor of Agriculture. This showed the importance of Wye to Tropical Agriculture at that time. From here, the 30 students who had completed the two-year course were posted to various Colonies with John and **Bill Mitchell** (1951–54) going to Tanganyika in 1955.

#### Life in Tanganyika

In Tanganyika, John worked as an Agricultural Officer, firstly in Mbula where he experienced the loneliness of a single man on a small station. His mother visited to see that all was well and brought curtain materials and other furnishings for his new home. Occasionally, there was an opportunity to play rugby in Moshi and John was capped for Tanganyika at this time.

During his first home leave in 1959 he married Thora whom he had met while in Trinidad. She was studying Veterinary Science at Bristol University. Although John and Thora had survived the lonely three years apart, their desire to marry had also survived.

John's next posting was to Kasula in the western province, a happy station, six married couples and two bachelors. A small deserted house was turned into a bar, which the men kept well supplied. Many happy evenings, and occasional rock and roll sessions, were enjoyed in this 'Laughing Cow' bar, so called because the tribal name for a single person is Muha. There

followed an interim posting to Malaya, Central Province, for six months preceding home leave. By then there were two children and another expected.

John's final posting was to Mtwara, Southern Province, close to the border with Mozambique. There Thora began collecting sea shells which remained a life-long interest.

#### With ICI Plant Protection in Australia

He left Tanganyika in 1964 and returned to England where he began an association with ICI which lasted 19 years. His first work was at Fernhurst and then moved on to Australia. After two years in Western Australia working with wheat, he moved to Cairns in Queensland with responsibilities for tropical crops. The family moved to Brisbane in 1971 before he left ICI in 1983. For the next eight years he worked for a number of companies and as a consultant. He was then employed by the Queensland College as a lecturer and became an advisor on the storage and management of agricultural chemicals.

#### Retirement memoirs of a full life

John retired in 2005 to the house he had established with Thora who, by this time, had become an internationally known expert on sea shells, which she had begun by beach combing with the children in Tanganyika. In his retirement, the internet enabled him to continue his interest in all things political, scientific and humorous. Those of us on his wavelength were regularly to enjoy his sense of the ridiculous. He published the first volume of his memoirs and had started on the second before he died. He was a kind, thoughtful and intelligent man who will be missed by those who knew him. John passed away on 22nd October 2015 in Brisbane surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his wife Thora, and his three children Trish, Kevin and Kim, three grandchildren, Lucas, Kelsey and Lauren, plus his many friends.

#### Dr Herbert Francis (Frank) Taylor (1951–53 and Staff)

*Prepared for the Journal by Janet Astles who worked with Frank in the ARC Unit in the '70s.*

Frank Taylor began his career at Wye as a student in 1951 studying for a BSc in Horticulture, afterwards being appointed to the Agricultural Research Unit of Plant Growth Substances and Systemic Fungicides. This Unit had been established by the Agricultural Research Council at Wye College in 1953 with Professor Louis Wain as its Honorary Director. Frank worked in the Unit for many years, up to the time of its closure, involved in the study of plant growth regulators.

In 1969, the ARC provided funds for a new building on the College site, which was named the 'Russell Laboratories'. The Unit moved into this purpose-built space, (together with the College's Horticulture Department).

I joined the Unit in 1971, employed as a research laboratory technician. During the next five years, I worked for Prof Wain and other staff members of his Unit. During that time, I had the opportunity to work for Frank when the investigations into the newly discovered growth inhibitor 'xanthoxin' were in progress. We were a very happy team – Frank and Dr Sid Burden led the research, Charlie Kemp and myself were the lab. technicians.

The work was interesting and very enjoyable – I remember those few years with much pleasure. Frank was a kindly man for whom Charlie and I had great respect and genuine fondness. However, we knew that the Unit would have to close in 1978 on Prof. Wain's retirement, with the staff dispersed to other ARC centres, retired or made redundant. I was offered a technical post in Prof. Wain's Physical Sciences Department in late 1976,



which I accepted, but with considerable regret at leaving the 'xanthoxin' group.

Frank left the Unit in 1978 on its closure and spent the next eight years at the Weed Research Organisation in Oxford. He returned to Wye in February 1986 and joined the Horticulture Department (still housed in the Russell Laboratory!) as a Senior Research Fellow in the Unit for Advanced Propagation Systems (UAPS). He studied the use of plant growth substances in tissue culture and supervised projects of UAPS research students.

In UAPS, he began his highly regarded work on saving threatened *Auricula* cultivars by developing novel micropropagation techniques. In 1989, he published two papers describing this project. This led to financial support from the Royal Horticultural Society and the Iris Downton Foundation to continue the research. In 1991, the RHS awarded Frank a medal for his display of *Auricula* cultivars at their Spring Show. In 1994, his *Auricula* work formed part of the College display at the Chelsea Flower Show for which a Silver Medal was awarded. In all, Frank saved between 150 and 200 cultivars of *Auricula*.

After a long and distinguished career at Wye College, Frank retired in September 1994.



## From the cutting room floor

The Editor hatched this new category way back when to deal with material that at first looked libellous, boring or downright scandalous

### An individual view of development aid

For years, nothing found its way in there. And then, by chance, I asked a contemporary of mine, **Ian Robinson** (1964–67), to give me his opinion on a book recently co-authored by a fellow alumni.

The reason I asked Ian for comment was because he has some 45 years' experience in this field, has made over 200 trips to countries in Africa and Asia and places in between and beyond and is still actively plying his trade. After Technical Assistance service for ODA, World Bank and NGOs he is was a founder member (1985) and then Director (1993–2005) of the Centre for Arid Zone Studies in Bangor before running his own niche consultancy, AA International Ltd. So I was interested in his professional opinion.

Ian did not purchase the book but just located the main chapter headings on line and based his critique on that. His note, which he wrote for me, not for publication, suggests he was rather dubious, not of the style or the quality of the writing but of the principles put forward.

My first reaction was "we cannot print that; it is too critical and negative". So onto the cutting room floor it went.

But a couple of days later, I had a re-think. What Ian had written was far more than his view on an approach to international development aid. Here I had also struck a rich vein of rhetoric: a broad brush view on the positive and negatives of international aid itself and how, if it is

misplaced, it can lead to the mass migration of refugees that we are currently experiencing. Far too good to leave where it where it was.

So, up off the floor it came and here it is, warts an' all:

*"I have looked at the synopsis, contents page and accolades.*

*Would I buy an e-version for £10? No, I don't think so, as I'm not a student of development theory. The rubric suggests a re-iteration of stuff proselytised by IDS, ODI etc. over the past 20 years seen through the lens of four or five projects run by the authors. As such, it would seem to be part of an academic development continuum....so, good for students studying the subject? Yes probably; good for the authors' careers? Yes undoubtedly. Good for development?...maybe, I'm not so sure... Reality is far removed from development theory and will always be so, as we have found to our cost.*

*Politics of donors dictate the style and type of projects (which change with a frequency that seems to be calculated to prevent significant impact i.e. three years then change the emphasis of the calls for proposals and no extensions! (NB The White Fathers (The Society of the Missionaries of Africa) signed up for 25 years. Were not individual C.O. contracts for seven years?). Then... the Politics of recipient governments dictate the methods of implementation, within a joint-framework agreed by both sets of authorities. Such an arrangement allows*

*participation in design, implementation and review for programmes that fit the grand design – but don't threaten anything, so both parties safeguard their own 'national interests'.*

*For the iconographic key word "sustainability" read – maintain status quo. For "resilience" read – maintain status quo against changing odds; in both cases don't take risks or provide any changes that may challenge the "good" governance that allows the project to run. So "...Teach a man to fish" by all means ...but don't give access to the river or the markets, if they threaten your monopoly.*

*If that's what the book says – well and good.*

*Will this book or any similar book make any difference to the current format of restricted actions, limiting the number of countries receiving development aid in favour of drip-fed humanitarian aid?*

*Will it affect the rise of IS and the flow of migrants from those countries that are being drip-fed where living and working conditions may best be classified as 'pre-reformation' for millions of peasants, who are now the very same people who are attracted towards the genuine promised-lands of Europe, now fully visible on a screen in a village bar near you?*

*The gulf between the haves and have-nots is, however, now-a-days, not only visible but is, presently, breach-able thanks largely due to hosts of latter-day 'Scarlet Pimpernels,' seen by us as evil people smugglers but by the many who want to change their lot as saviours.*

*To change the perspective, both home and abroad, the whole development world needs a bulldozing and re-building.*

Picture this:

*On the one hand, while our development practitioners are making funding decisions on whether the village well management-committees have sufficient gender representation, our western companies continue to strip the teak out of war-torn South Sudan or the mineral resources out of a fragmented Congo in a neo-colonial time-warp.*

*On the other hand, China is leading a charge in Africa with initiatives that might well address, or even reverse, some of the major concerns noted above:*

- i) By completing Rhodes' dream - the Cape Town to Cairo road (which 'we' have forgotten) but must surely become a reality in 20 years or in 30 years time?*
- ii) By building a plethora of port to landlocked-country capital railway lines to be completed in five years or in 10 years?*
- ii) By filling the continent with goods, from digging hoes (no longer made locally) to solar panels to mobile phones, while preparing the way for a mass movement of raw materials that will fill all the trucks and container ships returning to China that are presently empty.*

*The mixture of market produce now available, even in the most remote communities, illustrates as clearly as smart phone emojis the dilemma facing educated youth – either join the daily market queues as a day labourer for hire, earning a dollar a day, cook on a three-stone fire, live in a mud-hut with a thatched roof but watch Top Gear and Manchester United in a local bar; or ... say "bugger this" and join the traditional, unstoppable rural exodus that has now become international and, with the creation of more roads and railway lines, will soon become one hell of a lot easier than it is now.*

## Letters

### In Appreciation.....

Dear John

I have now been through the Journal and I have read many of the articles. You are to be congratulated on the production of an outstanding 2015 Journal; in fact I cannot remember a better year!

It is pitched exactly where it should be on the Agricola Club activities, reminiscences about Wye and subsequent careers of former students. The articles highlight the diversity of careers and interests of Wye students and reinforces the important contribution that the College has made both nationally and internationally over a long period of time.

This year's Journal was very appropriate to my interests. I have known many of the contributors through work, including Derek Cuddeford, David Filmer, Michael Winter and Geoff Dickson, and I remember John Roberts, Bruce Pallet, Ian Baldwin and Malcolm Ogilvy from my time at Wye in the 1960s. It was also good to have the Dorothy Coulter story. So an extremely enjoyable read!

I am sure many others will enjoy the 2015 Journal as much as I have – very well done!

Best wishes

**David Leaver** (1964–67 and Staff), President of the Agricola Club

Dear John,

Just received the 2014–2015 Journal which, as usual, is excellent.

A little bit sad I was not identified in the picture of the 1962 Fencing Club but time does pass! I am the one 'Not sure' on the left front row sitting next to John Curtis who I see every year

in my travels fishing in Scotland. Sadly I can't remember the other 'not sure's' name standing behind me.

Best regards,

**Ian Cox** (1960–63)

Dear John and Jane

You both really deserve more than an email of thanks but here goes. Venue selection excellent, Janaways in good form, lunch terrific, crowd massive, memory tested to extreme; result – Agricola standard even higher. You put a great deal into this as I know do others resident in our beloved Wye but you can be assured it paid off in spades. I hope the coffers got a filling to spend on the legacy.

You both get special praise for generating such a lovely atmosphere, it makes the eyes water; they were special years and thank you for continuing the fun.

**Peter Johnson** (1965–68)

Hello...

I'm **Tracy Fitz**, (né **Rawlinson**) and I'm delighted to say I came to the fantastic Hog Roast earlier this month and had a really wonderful afternoon meeting up with the other graduates of 1985. It was our first get together in the 30 years since we had graduated. Thank you so much for all your hard work that went in to arranging the day for us.

*(Chatty paragraphs removed...)*

Thank you once again and I look forward to hearing from you. We have already begun to spread the word and hope to increase our group of eight who came to the Hog Roast by quite a few.

Best wishes

**Tracy Fitz** (1982–85)

Dear Jane and John

Thanks for organising such a great day at Hook the other week. Good reunion, interesting talk on the potato/chips industry and great food. Well done!

Best regards

**Mike Felton** (1967–70)

Dear John

Thank you for a magnificent Journal – probably the best ever! Your 'team' must be congratulated, especially Gill and yourself. I have no doubt that Jane should be included also.

My very best wishes to you and Jane. All being well, I will see you on 24.09.16.

Sincerely

**Buster Humphrey** (1948–51)

### Disgusted from Tonbridge Wells

Dear Editor

I recently received an unsolicited communication from Imperial College which both annoyed me and left me very dismayed – not because it was asking me for £100 (because I realise universities need to get money from wherever they can) but because of the presumptions it contained about me as a Wye student. OK, it was personalised to the extent that it addressed me by name and title, and referred correctly to the fact that I graduated from Wye in 1960. But beyond that it dealt in complete fiction.

It appealed to me as "an alumnus of Imperial", and spoke of my "excellent life-changing decision to attend Imperial College London". Really? I know I was young and innocent at the time, but I was obviously unaware of what I was doing as well. It speculated on whether I attended Physics lectures from Professor Patrick Blackett or "saw him around campus". No, don't recall that. Did I, perhaps, learn

about antibodies from Professor Rodney Porter? That doesn't ring a bell either. I do remember learning a hell of a lot from Louis Wain, Bill Holmes and Gerry Wibberley – so they must have been Imperial College professors as well, I suppose.

I know Wye came under the thumb of Imperial in 2000, and that in doing so all Wye graduates became technically relisted as Imperial alumni, but that is no justification for rewriting our personal histories. Projecting backwards from recent events to create an alternative reality is merely a crass way of misusing computer information, and liable to cause offence as it did in my case.

Is that all Wye now means to Imperial – a list of names and addresses to be mail-merged in begging letters? If so, do we need any connection with Imperial?

Come back Dunstan, all is forgiven.

Yours sincerely

**John McInerney**, (1957–60)

• *John – I heartily agree with you and indeed became so incensed at the most recent communication from Imperial that I fired off an email to the lady who handles the gift side of things – Ed.*

Dear (name removed)

I think I speak for the majority of the older graduates of Wye College, University of London, who are heartily sick of receiving begging letters from Imperial College with whom we have absolutely no affinity. I cannot speak for those who graduated under the Imperial regime after the merger.

Equally offensive are the comments made by your provost in his recent letter saying things like "As a graduate of Imperial " and " Just as when you studied here in the 1970s..." We are and always will be graduates of London University.

You may well be unaware of the brutish way that Imperial ran down Wye College, after a very positive and optimistic merger, before finally squeezing the life out of it and closing it down. Don't be surprised if you receive a number of letters like mine.

Sincerely

**Dr John Walters** (1964–70), Chairman of Wye College Alumni Association

#### *In reply:*

Dear Dr Walters,

Many thanks for your email. I do completely understand your frustration, and am very sorry to hear it. It was a very difficult decision to close Wye College. It was made because of declining numbers of UK students studying agriculture-related subjects. But many of the programmes were moved to other Imperial campuses, so that we can continue the great work done at Wye College in a way that is more financially sustainable. Imperial College London is honoured to recognise Wye College as an important part of our heritage, and I hope in time you may be proud to consider yourself a valued member of the Imperial community.

In the meantime, I am very grateful for your feedback and can assure you that we will take it on board. I have also removed you from future mailings. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally if your wishes change.

With best wishes,

Regular Giving Assistant, Advancement Division,  
Imperial College 07/13/15 London

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*•My old friend from college days, Bruce Pallett (1964–68) also send his newsletter back to Imperial with a variety of scribbles over the same text implying that he felt the same as the rest of us. His reply, which follows, was similarly cloyingly misinformed – Ed.*

Dear Mr Pallett (sic),

Thank you very much for your note in response to our letter. I am very pleased to hear that you enjoyed your time at Wye College and appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback with us.

The decision to close Wye College was not undertaken lightly. As I am sure you know, the determination was made largely due to declining numbers studying agriculture and agricultural-related courses in the UK. Just two students registered for the Agriculture BSc degree in 2003 and by 2009 the site had unfortunately become dormant. Soon after it became clear that maintaining Wye College was not in our students' or the Wye community's best interests.

The closure of Wye, while difficult, made possible a wide range of opportunities for scholars and students. You'll be pleased to learn that proceeds from the sale support the College's Department of Life Sciences, the Centre for Environmental Policy, the Grantham Institute, the Porter Institute and the Institute of Systems and Synthetic Biology. Work within these areas encompasses new treatments for global diseases, food security solutions and ways to address major ecological challenges.

At the same time we remain an active part of the Wye community, providing security patrols and space for sports and events.

Your strong feelings about Wye College are a testament to the high standard of teaching and research that was carried out there. Imperial College London is honoured to recognise this as an important part of our heritage, and I hope in time you may be proud to consider yourself a valued member of the Imperial community.

In the meantime, I am very grateful for your feedback and can assure you that we will take it on board. I have also removed you from future mailings. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally if your wishes change.

Kind regards,

---

*• What an interesting line being trotted out by individuals who have not the slightest idea what the true situation was or is. What is stated above is simply not true as our publication 'The Record' clearly showed.*

#### **Dropping a brick?**

Dear Sir

Imagine a fine summer evening in 1962, three of us walking down the Olanteigh Road. There are new building works at the college and we go over to inspect. There is a small dumper truck there, and in those days it was not necessary to secure it

Dave Chalmers-Brown starts it up and drives it around for a bit. "What shall we do?" There are some bricks nearby and we load the dumper up and drive it around.

I don't know where the idea of passing the bricks into the college and piling them up outside Jim Bucknell's door came from; but there was a first floor window conveniently open, with Bill Silvey and Richard Rudd passing them up and completing the work.

We expected Jim to bash through the wall. We were amazed when he spent the next day climbing through his window to get into and out of his room. We took our hats off to him. We didn't own up!

That evening we used the dumper to reverse the process, and removed the door and all traces of it.

I don't think anyone saw us at either time.

We were at Wye from 1959 to July 1963. The account in Wye Vol. XVIII No. 5 p.79 has the wrong date. Unless you know better.

**Richard Rudd**

*• Dear Richard, I do know better! The guy who wrote the piece to which you refer did*

*not start at Wye until 1964. He not only witnessed the bricking up for himself; he had it confirmed by the victim. Clearly it was a repeat performance...probably not the first or only example of its kind! – Ed.*

#### **A Farmer's Boy...more than just the College anthem**

**Geoff Dixon** (1962–68) did some ferreting around to reveal that Wye was not the only institution staking a claim on this old classic

Dear Francis & John

You might find this email string interesting and maybe even worthy of note in the Journal. It seems the Devon & Dorsets were also stirred by the Farmer's Boy which has far more depth of meaning than simply a good song! Rupert Best is the current Master of the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers of the City of London and a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Dorset; he is now also a cider apple grower and in earlier life was a nuclear submariner.

**Geoff**

Dear Rupert

Just had an excellent visit to the Dorset's Museum in Dorchester and was fascinated to hear a recording of a military band (pipes & drums) playing A Farmer's Boy. Does this song have any connection/significance with the Dorset Regiment? That melody was/ is the song of the Wye College (University of London) graduates and their Agricola Club (alumni association). As such, every College dinner & function would end with its rendition (sometimes enhanced with considerable alcoholic verve). If there is connection with the Dorsets it would make a wonderful piece for our Club Journal. Any help will be much appreciated

Regards

**Geoff**



Dear Geoff,

Sorry to take so long in replying.

I understand that A Farmer's Boy was the Regimental Quick March of the Devon and Dorsets (amalgamated 1958) but may have originally come from the Devonshire Regiment. I have an interest in both as the Regimental Museum for the Devon & Dorsets is at The Keep in Dorchester; my New Zealand Grandfather served in the Devons in the First World War and fought with them on the Western Front (Hill 60, etc) before being transferred to the newly formed (1915) Machine Gun Corps.

**Rupert**

A 'lost' member has just written in and "wants to re-connect with his contemporaries, having been abroad since 1969". He is **John Brooke** (1956-59) at 4 Vaughan Way, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF2 7NJ, Tel 01924 253580.

*A view of the rear of Withersdane, taken across the lawns where marquees used to be erected for the Commem balls. Now the facility is occupied by staff and patients of a private rehabilitation clinic run by a company called Promis.*



Dear Francis,

Thanks for the Newsletter and all the information about the Agricola Club. I wish I could attend the dinner, but will be back in Australia at that stage having returned from England in early September. I'm going to Oxford next week and will be based at Wolfson College undertaking some joint research, but am leaving again at the end of the first week of September.

My main work is as the CEO of an Australian NGO tackling rural development in eastern Indonesia, but I'm also an academic studying wider aspects of economic and social development.

I think it's great that you're continuing the tradition of the Agricola Club despite all the activities of Imperial College, and its winding down of agriculture at the University of London. All the best in your efforts to keep things alive. One time when I'm at Oxford I mean to pay you a visit, and find out more about what you are doing.

I'm a graduate of Wye in 1954, a long while ago, but even today recognize the wonderful background in agriculture imparted during my three years there.

Every good wish, and many thanks again for your great work.

**Colin Barlow**

## Professor Ian Albert McKenzie Lucas, CBE

On the occasion of the loan of Professor Lucas' portrait from Imperial, we thought it was appropriate to recognise the remarkable man who was principal of Wye College from 1977 to 1987. This tribute takes the form of an Alternative CV that he submitted to Macdonald College of McGill University, NZ, in preparation for them awarding him an Honorary DSc in 1996.



Professor Ian Lucas, CBE, was Principal of Wye College for 10 years from 1977. He is a Fellow of the College and an Honorary Vice-President of the Agricola Club. This portrait, which was the centre-piece of a display in the Heritage Centre earlier in the year, was by the artist Andrew Festing, MBE, PPRP. Andrew has had portrait commissions from a range of individuals as diverse as Bob Marley and members of the Royal family, most notably the Queen whom he has painted on numerous occasions.



## Prof. Lucas' alternative CV

**School:** In wartime. Education somewhat haphazard but exciting. Learned how to be a soldier, wanted to be an airman, but was neither. A probable draft to the coal mines was warded off by a University scholarship.

**1944–46:** B.Sc. in Agriculture (Reading) taken in two years; one wartime, one peace. Threatened rustication (along with friends, now FRS and Order of Australia) for persistent non-attendance of classes in soil chemistry (see below). Played much rugby football.

**1946–47:** Worked on University Farm to get more practical experience as a cowman, shepherd and feed compounder. Landlady 'difficult' so lived in tent. Rugby playing terminated by severe fall when carrying 250lb sack of wheat. Applied for scholarship for PhD on swine at Cambridge: sent by Ministry of Agriculture for MSc in Canada.

**1947–49:** Share room at Macdonald College with Lew Lloyd, later Dean. Skied enthusiastically and incompetently after finding old army skis in basement of post-graduate house. Took wrong turning with no brakes on Mt Tremblant; otherwise shepherded with great skill by Helen Neilson. Cleaned Helen Langerman's rat cages for essential dollars and bonus points. Hitch-hiked to Vancouver Island and back over five weeks. 'Deported' from USA (nothing exciting – no visa, etc.); excellent police transport! Returned to the UK from Halifax on the Aquitania; still fitted out as a troop ship.

**1949–50:** Appointed Totally Dreadful Lecturer in chemistry at an agricultural college (see above). Enthusiastic practical demonstrations synonymous with fires and explosions. Compulsorily played bridge and performed in amateur dramatics due to staff shortages.



Interviewed about skill as a hurdler and offered research job in Aberdeen. Helen Langerman arrived in England. Distance apart too great for bicycle so bought a motor bike.

**1950–61:** Crashed motorbike, admitted to hospital, on way to Aberdeen. Arrived late for new job. Marriage facilitated by sale of motorbike on grounds of safety – plus accumulated bonus points. Built up swine research facilities in expansion programme! Attempted Scottish country dancing, sang music hall songs with co-authors, and took up family camping in the Western (and wet) Highlands. Bought better tent. Awarded one-year Fellowship to New Zealand. Six weeks on



ship then blissful life; no telephone, no committees. Travelled extensively and became skilled at de-carbonising engine of car-with-character. Supported Helen's kitchen-based basket making industry to convert from hell-ship to aeroplane for journey home.

**1961–77:** Unexpectedly appointed Professor of Agriculture at Bangor, North Wales and lived on beautiful College Farm between mountains and sea. Lectured, researched, attended too many committees and did not notice student revolution or the swinging sixties (about which much has been written). Sailed racing dinghy with Helen; exhilarating and wet in tough weather! Started a research project in Saudi Arabia; travelled there frequently and once took Helen and five-year-old daughter for a three-month stay on 'our' oasis.

**1997–88:** Even more unexpectedly, appointed Principal of Wye College in Kent. Administration replaced teaching and research during a period of some turmoil for UK; at least the College survived and indeed, grew. Helen's role was vital; entertaining students, visitors and VIPs. Dinghy



racing ceased but over three years a small sailing cruiser was fitted out and used whenever possible. A local hide-away house provided endless DIY challenges and labouring in Helen's garden (bonus point habits die hard!).

**1988–95:** Asked to write agricultural history from personal experience (was this a hint?). And did. So retired. (*punctuation arguably erroneous – Ed.*). Bliss; again no committees. Travelled more widely; continued examining and consultancy visits overseas. Took up culture – or at least, treasuring for an arts society. Spent more time labouring but squandered bonus points dodging bigger ships in rough seas.

**1996:** Will attend very first individual graduation ceremony. Pinnacle of career. (*This refers to his D.Sc. ceremony at McGill University, NZ.*)

*•In addition to the above, his more traditional CV shows that Ian has published some 70 scientific papers, made contributions to books, reviews and abstracts and that he and Helen had time to produce two daughters and a son. Ed.*

# Wye College Agricola Club AGM Minutes

## of the 63rd AGM held on Friday 16th October 2015 at 7pm

### Latin School, Wye College, Wye

#### Present

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

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Richard Bartley, Charles Course, Geoff Dixon, John Hosking, Anne Marley, Chris Reynolds and David Simmons.

#### 2 To confirm the Minutes of the 62nd AGM published in the Journal

The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record.

#### 3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 4 Chairman's report

The Chairman expressed a growing sense of solidarity which he felt may be as a result of a good Journal and the regular e-newsletter to Members.

#### 5 Secretary's report

The Secretary confirmed the Chairman's comment by explaining that there is an increase in correspondence by email in response to the e-newsletter and also some Facebook activity. There are new articles on the website, in particular Members are accessing the history information.

With the sale of the College, the Secretary announced that all buildings had been completely cleared except the Latin School and

College Chapel. Fourteen wooden benches have been given to Wye Heritage by Imperial College ahead of the sale. The currently proposed distribution around the village is as follows; 4 on The Green to remain in situ, 1 to the Latin School garden, 2 to Lady Joanna Thornhill School, 2 to Wye Village Hall Recreation Ground, 2 to the churchyard and 2 to Church Field Green.

Telereal Trillium have agreed to the continued use of the Latin School in the short term but are not willing at present to discuss a long term lease. Telereal Trillium have contacted the Club and Wye Heritage to say they are 'seeking a connection' with the college and alumni; the dialogue so far has been positive.

#### 6 Treasurer's report and to receive the Club accounts for 2014–2015

The Club's accounts were tabled. Last year's final accounts include the 2014 Annual Dinner in Wye and the 2015 Hog Roast. Taken together the events broke even. Subscription income increased slightly and Journal costs were lower. The Club ended the year with a small deficit. This was after transfer of £8.5k from the Club's funds held within the Memorial Fund.

A motion approving the accounts was proposed by Jane Reynolds and seconded by Lucy Huntington. The motion was carried.

#### 7 Memorial Fund – Trustees' report and accounts 2014–2015

The year ending 31st July showed a small deficit on the income and expenditure account after support to applicants to the fund of £5,065 and transfers to the Club of £8,500.

Portfolio performance during that year was satisfactory at a net dividend yield of around

2.5% and an overall capital growth of around 3.5%.

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

#### 8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2015–2016

The Treasurer, Paul Webster, recommended that Chavereys be appointed to act as Independent Examiners. Proposed by Lucy Huntington and seconded by Jane Reynolds – this was approved by the Membership present.

The President thanked Paul Webster, John Walters and Francis Huntington for all their work on behalf of the Club.

#### 9 Journal Editor's report

The Editor thanked Members for providing articles for the Journal and in particular Gill Bond for putting the material together. The President said that he believed the 2014/15 edition was the best Journal for some years and thanked the Editorial team.

The meeting discussed whether to continue to produce a hard copy Journal or move to an online pdf file; the meeting also discussed whether to continue to post the Journal overseas. The Treasurer stated that at the present time the Club can afford to print the Journal and post copies to overseas members. The committee will continue to review these two points.

#### 10 Elections

Committee – there are six vacancies. Geoff Dixon, Francis Huntington, David Leaver and Jane Reynolds were all prepared to stand again, Philip Blair had been previously co-opted and was prepared to stand; they were nominated on block by Francis Huntington and seconded by Susan Atkinson and were unanimously approved by the members present

The number of Vice Presidents or Honorary Members is not limited. There were no proposals for Vice Presidents or Honorary Members.

#### 11 Future plans for Club events

The Annual Dinner will be held on 24th September 2016 in Wye School and the 2017 Hog Roast summer event is likely to be held in Bedfordshire\*

#### 12 Report on the Wye Heritage Centre

Telereal Trillium completed the purchase of many, but not all, the college buildings on 16th October 2015. Telereal Trillium have verbally agreed to the continued use of the Latin School by Wye Heritage in the short term but nothing is promised in the long term. Wye Heritage continues to work towards achieving a long lease.

#### 13 Update on plans for the Wye Campus

Telereal Trillium will be required to draw up a master plan; they have already indicated that they would wish the Wye Neighbourhood Plan to be more flexible. The sale includes the Kempe Centre; Telereal Trillium have agreed that Wye School can continue to use the Kempe Centre and to build purpose-built classrooms on adjacent land.

The Old Vicarage has been sold to a private family but Imperial College have retained the Old Flying Horse, Sidelands, Coldharbour, Harwood House, the farm land, the dairy and pig unit as well as Withersdane, currently leased to Promis.

#### 14 Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held on 24th September 2016.

*\*Now confirmed as Saturday 1st July in Cambridgeshire at Richard and Mo Brown's farm in Covington.*

# Agricola Club AGM Agenda 2016

**Saturday 24th September, Kempe Centre, Wye College, Wye**

The 64th Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 24 September 2016 in the Kempe Centre, Wye College, starting promptly at 5.30 pm

## Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes – confirm the minutes of the 63rd 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 2015–2016
- 7 Memorial Fund – Trustees Report and Accounts 2015–2016
- 8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2016–2017
- 9 Journal Editor's Report
- 10 Elections:
  - Committee – there are three 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 Telereal Trillium's current plans for the Wye Campus
- 14 Any other business

# Agricola Club Memorial Fund research grants

This report on successful applicants for the SOAS Agricola Club Memorial Fund Small Research Grants 2015 has been prepared by Dr Andrew Newsham, Dissertation Convenor, Centre for Development, Environment and Policy, SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London.

2015 was a very good year for applications, relative to recent years, and we managed to disperse not only the £1750 awarded to us by the Agricola Club Memorial Fund, but also £750 which had been left over from previous years (the budget going into 2015 was at £2500). The total amount of funding disbursed was £2166, with an additional £334 being paid to a candidate who had been awarded a small grant in 2014, but had deferred her dissertation until 2015.

We are very grateful to the Agricola Club Memorial Fund for its continued support of

students embarking upon a dissertation. In response, one of the students, Urs Baumgartner, wrote to me to say "Thank you very much for your support! I very much appreciate that and I'm sure, all of us students do". Another, Janine Taylor, responded, "I am really excited that I have received this funding support and feeling very encouraged right now". Comments like these demonstrate the value for the students of these awards and the role they can play not only in enabling their fieldwork but also in motivating their dissertation studies.

## SOAS Distance Learning Student Projects supported by the Memorial Fund in 2015

Name	Project	Award
Jacqueline Nalubwama	Agricultural technology adoption for small scale farmers in Uganda: a case study of maize production in Goma Division, Mukono Municipal council	£203
Urs Baumgartner	Mangrove or shrimp – what makes the best 'mix' for shrimp-mangrove farming in Ca Mau, Vietnam?	£392.60
Janine Taylor	Escaping poverty through creativity	£392.60
Muireann Sheanlaoich	Regional Development Agencies: What lessons can Georgia learn from its neighbours in Europe?	£392.60
Debora Randall	An assessment of the opportunities and challenges of establishing a commodity exchange in the East African Community	£392.60
Alice Grazio	Farm-gate sale or market sale? An explorative study of the transactions costs affecting household marketing choices for maize sales in Loitokitok District, Kenya	£392.60



## For a change, we give you: *Life before Wye*

**A tale of serendipity by John Barnes (1956–59) that led to the loves of his life – his wife and farming.**

The story begins on 17 December 1943. The 12.05 Birmingham train pulled out of Euston station on time. It was pulled by one of Staniers Coronation Class steam locomotives. The West Coast Main Line shared the route of the Bakerloo underground line as far as Watford Junction. The train gathered speed as it passed through the suburbs and it thundered at a frightening pace, belching steam and smoke through the small Bakerloo line stations.

After it had passed through Hatch End Station, a member of the public alerted the station master that there was a body on the track. This was the body of my father.

### **Life in a one-parent family**

So in this week when we were getting ready for Christmas, my life changed completely. Formerly I had been an only (seven-year-old) child in a moderately prosperous middle class family. We had recently moved to a newish house in Metroland. Now my mother was widowed, became a single parent and found she had a mortgage to pay: she had to find work.

I was sent to The Royal Commercial Traveller's School, an institution founded by Charles Dickens and a few of his buddies in 1845 for 'the orphaned and destitute sons and daughters of commercial travellers' (so a plaque on the gates said).

My mother was now free to find employment, but she had the problem of what to do with a seven year-old boy during the holidays. She sent me to stay with two cousins – brother and sister – who ran a 90 acre farm in Wiltshire.

Mum put me on a train at Paddington on the first day of the holidays and gave the guard half-a-crown to keep his eye on me. I knew I had to get off at Badminton (the third stop on the journey after Reading and Swindon). It had a platform so short the train had to stop twice so if you weren't careful you might jump down onto the track as my 90 year-old grandfather was once seen doing. I was usually met in a pony and trap for the journey to Firs Farm.

Life here could not have been more different from the cruelty and bullying of school. It was my idea of heaven. And from about day one I decided I wanted to be a farmer.

We had only one tap in the house and electricity didn't come to the village for another 10 years. There was an outside toilet at the top of the garden; a two-holer, which we modernised at one stage by converting it to an Elsan. And, boy, didn't the contents of its bucket make the runner beans grow!

### **How I caught the farming bug**

We milked – by hand – about 12 cows, mostly Shorthorn crosses. We grew a field or two of wheat, which was cut with a binder pulled by a Standard Fordson. My job was to ride on the seat on the back of the binder and try to alert Doris (my cousin who was driving) when any faults developed, particularly in the knotting mechanism.

I usually missed haymaking as it had been completed before we broke up for the holidays, which was a shame. It involved a sweep of long

(about 10 ft) pine tines strapped to the front of their ancient Morris 8 pushing the hay to an elevator for loading into a rick.

Eventually, I decided that I would cycle the 100 miles from home to Littleton Drew and back each school holiday. I got to know the towns and villages along the A4 like the back of my hand.

These really were the happiest days of my life. I learnt to plough using the same Fordson and a trailed two-furrow plough in a field that has now been consumed by the M4, but I can see most of the farm from my car window as I flash by.

Back at school farming was still the big part of my life. I was a farming bore. Where other kids bred butterflies or played an odd form of cricket using a dice and sheets of paper, I collected pictures of farm machinery. If masters wanted

to know anything about agriculture they turned to me.

### **And so to Wye**

So, there was no discussion about what career path I might take; careers advice was completely superfluous. And having got into the VIth form (there were four of us when I was in lower sixth and five or six in upper sixth), all assumed I'd do a degree in Agriculture.

Now we come to the big enigma in my life. I am certain that had my father lived the chances of my getting involved with agriculture and the wall-to-wall happiness it has brought me would have been negligible. And, I suppose I ought to mention, meeting my wife **Jane Cooke** (1958–61)!! I cannot escape the idea that whilst my father's demise was a disaster for my mother, it was the best thing to have happened to me. I just hope my father isn't up there listening.



## A colonial upbringing leads via the war to Wye

**Tony Orchard (1947–50) reflects on a colourful pre-Wye life whilst his post-Wye story is the subject of a book.**

I served in the Royal Navy from August 1944 to August 1947, being released about six months ahead of my due date for demob thanks to Dunstan Skilbeck, who applied to my skipper for a Class B release. As soon as I came out I went to work on Reg Older's farm at Brabourne, where there was already a second-year student working whom I am pretty sure was **Ted (for E) McLaughlin**. He was a very genial chap who had served as a gunner in the 8th Army in Egypt for some time, and had collected the occupational hazard of Artillery men, namely a slight deafness in one ear. I had just turned 21 in June 1947 and I would say that he was up to five years older than me. Since I am now 89 he would be about 93 to 94, preparing to push up the daisies or having done so. I think that I have the right man since I have a good memory.

I have always kept pretty quiet about my career except with those few Wye bods that I was in contact with, since there was a strong school of thought in the 1950s that if one strayed from the true path it was more or less a mortal sin in the eyes of the perfectionists.

### Colonial upbringing

I had a very varied colonial upbringing due to the fact that my father worked for Shell in India and Kenya, where I was born, including schooling in both India and Natal, South Africa, in the 1940s. In that latter country I spent my holidays on a 5000-acre wattle farm where the owner was a true land conservationist, a notion that interested me considerably. That was after the time of the dust bowl period in the USA vividly written up by Jacks and White, called *The Rape*

*of the Earth*, I seem to recall. So I decided to study Agriculture, not having anyone else to influence me since I did not see my father from 1941 to 1946. However, if you want to read what I did next, after a couple of years with R. Silcock and Sons in Liverpool (which city and I were thick oil and water, not just oil and water), Google a book *Here's To Our Far-flung Empire* written by myself for about £10 and you can read all about it. Being the senior cousin of our families, I decided to get it out of my system, and set the rest of them to purge themselves of any unhappy thoughts.

### Emigration to Canada

Having emigrated to Canada in 1952 with a severe case of itchy feet, I flew back to England in 1954 briefly to bury my father. On visiting Wye on Commem. Day, I foolishly revealed to the then professor of Horticulture that I was with the Quaker Oats Co. of Canada in a sales position, to be greeted with the reply "Oh, I suppose somebody has to do that sort of thing!". Since then I have kept schtum, but being possessed of a photographic memory, I think I have given a reasonable account of how the British in the Empire brought up their children, with in my case some really interesting and caring (to use the modern buzz word) folk who made it all memorable for me. See what you think. Tommy Trinder (before your time?) was the inspiration for the title.

The name of the horticultural professor was Miles, I think. I even had an ex-Wye bursar who retired to farm in Cornwall, (the county of my paternal family) in my second year and I went

down to help him with his harvest in the summer of 1949. Unfortunately his wife could not stand the loneliness or whatever and she took her life at Christmas. I then went down the next Easter vac to manage his mixed dairy and pig farm while he took a holiday. Despite that, the next time he saw me after joining Silcocks at a Wye function he greeted me with "Hullo

Orchard, I hear you've sold your soul to big business" and he meant it! A strange lot they were or maybe I am thin skinned!

Somewhere along the line I acquired a Danish wife, with whom I recently set off for some warm sea swimming and their food and wine in Croatia.



*This village hostelry, with its chequered past, the King's Head is now a very successful pub/restaurant. Earlier this year the management was awarded the accolade of Restaurant of the Year in the annual Shepherd Neame Pub awards.*



## Wyegone days

Reprinted from an article 'Student farmers at Wye: London University's country college', published in the *Times Educational Supplement* Friday 4 July 1958, supplied by John Barnes (1956–59).

When Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Wye College, between Canterbury and Ashford, on Tuesday, it may have been news to some people that the college, which is part of the University of London, was being honoured by an official visit from its Chancellor.

In 1893 the old grammar school buildings next to Wye church were transferred to Kent and Surrey County councils to house the new South-Eastern Agricultural College. In 1900 this was

admitted as a School of the University of London, and two years later the B.Sc. Degree in Agriculture was instituted, to be followed in 1916 by the B.Sc. Degree in Horticulture. During the last war the buildings were requisitioned and the college closed until 1945, but soon afterwards it amalgamated with Swanley College (for women students in horticulture) and took the old name of Wye College again. In 1948 it was granted a Royal Charter of



*Hops in the '50s with Colin Ewing, Soneke Pull and John Barnes.*



*In the strawberry fields: Dr Wilkinson on the right with Margaret Edwards and Pam Johnson (rest unknown). A third of the students are women.*

Incorporation; it continued as the University of London's School of Agriculture and Horticulture, and professorships have been instituted in Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agricultural Chemistry.

The connection with London is a close one, symbolized by the presence at Wye of the University Ploughing Club. One of the two fully residential colleges in the University, it differs from other university Faculties of Agriculture and Horticulture in being isolated in this way from other faculties and in having its concentrated being, with student halls, libraries, and laboratories, in the heart of its own farm estate. With lecture rooms only a few steps from the fields, theory and practice are easily correlated.

### Three degrees

Wye prepares men and women undergraduates for three Internal Degrees of the University of

London – the B.Sc. (Agriculture) with Honours, the general B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree, and the general B.Sc. (Horticulture) degree. There are twice as many men as women students, and, with an eye to the future and the job market, the college encourages women to read Horticulture. Students – who come mainly from the Home Counties, only rarely from farming or rural homes – must have had at least one year's practical experience in an approved farm or garden before starting their courses, and they must do approved practical work during the long vacations. A full syllabus leaves no time for such things in term-time. The highly mechanized farm and the gardens are worked by their own paid staff.

As well as undergraduates, Wye usually has a dozen or so students studying for post-graduate degrees. A post-graduate course in horticulture has recently been discontinued, but the poultry industry's need for specially trained graduates





*Sheep husbandry with Phil Keen, Colin Ewing, John Barnes, John Grey, Martin Hutchinson and Dicky Dight.*

for research and advisory work has led the college to develop a new two-year course in poultry science, leading to a M.Sc. degree. The course started this year, and is open to graduates in agriculture, veterinary science, zoology and allied sciences.

### Working life

What becomes of graduates from Wye? Some 40 percent, it is estimated, go into farm management or farming on their own account, about 20 percent into overseas plantation industries and Commonwealth service. Many become university lecturers and demonstrators, lecturers at agricultural colleges, farm institutes and training colleges, and teachers of rural science and gardening in schools and with education authorities. There are administrative and advisory jobs in the National Agricultural Advisory Service, in the Oversea Civil Service (formerly the Colonial Agricultural Service), and with education authorities. Big agricultural and horticultural concerns often employ specialist

graduates on seed production, agricultural machinery, pest control, artificial fertilizers, proprietary feeding-studies and such subjects.

The college farm now occupies 650 acres, and is managed by a graduate of the college as a profitable concern and partner in teaching and research programmes. There is wide research in crop and grassland management, the relation of grazing animals to pasture production, nutrition of sheep, pigs, poultry and dairy cows.

Some 70 acres are used for fruit, vegetable, and flower cultivation, and there are fine decorative gardens around Withersdane Hall and the main college buildings. Fifty acres of orchards are planted with apples, pears, plums, and cherries; about an acre under glass is used for commercial market gardening. Dutch light houses allow protected cultivation without heat, and a clever idea is a moveable glasshouse to cover four or five successive crops. Vegetable and flower seed is produced for commercial contracts, and there

is important research in developing improved strains.

The interesting Department of Agricultural Economics is busy with research as well as teaching its own subjects and farm management. It is the centre of the Provincial Agricultural Economics Service for the region and collaborates with the Regional National Agricultural Advisory Service.

### For better beer

Wye has the only Department of Hop Research in England, with some 15 acres of hop gardens, and the Hops Marketing Board and the Institute of Brewing have generously helped this work. East Malling Research Station also co-operates in research on the production and farm processing of hops. The Milk Marketing Board Artificial Insemination Service has a sub-centre there, and the College houses laboratories to the veterinary Investigation Service. The Agricultural Research Council grant-aids the pig husbandry and poultry sections and the National Institute of Agricultural Botany co-operates in crop variety trials.

What does it all add up to? In teaching, research and practical farming Wye is certainly in front of the field. What of its unusual position as a residential college of London University isolated in a largish village some 70 miles from the other colleges, lacking easy contact with students from other faculties, with few non-scientists about the place? Are Wye graduates – as might well be expected – highly qualified but narrow-minded specialists?

The Principal, Mr Dunstan Skilbeck, has some good answers to this question. The College is, he agrees, aware of the danger, and a wide variety of clubs and societies offer outside interests to students. Visiting musicians and chosen speakers find large audiences at Wye, and the college has beaten other colleges of the university in political debate. Another interesting point he makes is that many Wye graduates will find jobs in rural, often lonely, places, and it will have helped them to rely on their own resources. The students themselves seem willing to accept his answer.



*Inspecting the cattle: Phil Keene, Colin Ewing and John Barnes. (fourth is unknown).*

## A colonial cadet at Wye

**Liam Murray (1955–56) spent his Colonial Service 'prep' year at Wye where he began to understand the essence of 'Englishness'.**

After graduating from Glasgow University with a BSc in Agriculture, I joined the Colonial Service and was sent on a two-year Diploma in Tropical Agriculture course to train to be an Agricultural Officer. Usually, the first year of the course was spent at Cambridge, the second at the Imperial College of Agriculture in Trinidad. But in 1955, more graduates were recruited than ever before; because of this there were not enough places at Cambridge and so a number of us were sent either to Wye College or to Reading University. I was one of those who went to Wye, where we spent an enjoyable year, having many privileges as Post Graduates, but being able to join in with

undergraduate activities. I believe we had a happier and freer time at Wye than did our fellow cadets at Cambridge - being a big fish in a small pond against being a small fish in a big pond has a lot to be said for it.

At Wye, there was myself from Glasgow, Benny Warren from Southampton, George Moffat from Edinburgh, Nick Le Poidevin from Guernsey, Peter Weare from Liverpool, Peter Moberley from South Africa and two Malaysian students

### A cottage and a car

Lodgings had been arranged for us, but shortly after we had settled in, Benny and Peter learnt

that Stokes Cottage, close to the nearby village of Hastingleigh, was for rent and thought that rather than staying in digs in the village it would be better to have the freedom of living in their own accommodation. They could not, however, afford the rent on their own and so they asked George Moffat, Nick Le Poidevin and myself to join them. The problem of having to trek up and down from the cottage was solved when a local farmer sold us an old 1931 Morris 10 for £20; to our surprise, when he brought out and fitted a battery, it started first time. It was an interesting car in that it had been built before the standardisation of foot controls and instead of having clutch, brake and accelerator pedals in that order, as it is now, it had brake, clutch, accelerator which, perhaps surprisingly, we managed to cope with.

### Work and rugby

I am not sure the College administration were all that clear what they should do with us, but in the end we spent some time in the lectures with the Final Year students, learnt how to lay out trials so that results would be statistically correct and did research for the preparation and presentation of a paper on each of our chosen subjects. In the event, we all passed and at the end of the year were presented with a certificate.

The whole year was a new experience for me. Born and brought up in Glasgow, going to Glasgow University and living at home meant that, when I went to Wye, I found myself, for the first time in my life, in surroundings where I knew nobody and nobody knew me. However, at the reception on our first evening there, I did overhear someone say that I had been a Glasgow University Blue and had played scrum half for Scottish Universities. This became something of an embarrassment, since the Captain of the College team at the time was also their scrum half. In the first match, I started off as wing forward but at half time changed

places with the Captain and thereafter, he and I combined well to open up the defences of opposing teams. Later on I played in the college Seven-a-side team that won the London University Sevens Cup

### The English experience

A. G. McDonnell, wrote a novel called *England – Their England* in which he wrote about a Scotsman who came to live in England and learnt about the English way of life. I came to empathise with what he wrote when I became friendly with a girl at the college and took her on the pillion of a friend's motor bike – there is something magical about having a girl on the pillion clutching you as you swing around corners and speed along straights – and visited Kentish villages where we would have drinks whilst sitting outside a typical English village pub. The whole English experience became even more emotive when I started to play for the Wye staff Cricket Team, performing on village greens whilst the locals watched as they drank their beers outside the local pub – so, so English.

### Hot and cold

In Kent, the summers were very warm, thunderous at times, but I had never



*The Rugby team in 1956; I'm 3rd from left in second row from back. Ed: Can anyone ID any of the stalwarts?*



*Aboard the green Beast: Liam, Bennie, George, Nick and Peter.*

experienced winter weather as bad as that which we had when we were living in Stokes Cottage. Snow storms swept down from the Baltic bringing bitter storms to East Kent and at one stage we were blocked in unable to get out through the drifts.

We called our car 'The Green Beastie'. Once after George had written some derogatory remarks about some of the girls on the notice board, they retaliated by painting *Gorgeous George* all over the car. In support of George, but not in approval for what he had done, we drove around for several weeks with the paint still there.

After some time the big ends gave up, and we suggested to the authorities that it would help us in our careers in Africa if we had some experience of dealing with car repairs. They agreed and so we took the car to the college farm garage where the mechanics helped us strip and repair the engine, which in those days of cylinders, crank shafts, carburetor and magneto, was fairly straightforward; nowadays you need a computer to fix a car engine. Whilst the car was in the workshop we decided to repaint it and for the rest of our time at Wye we had a very smart car which we sold at the end of the year at the local Auction Market for £17.

### Dancing with a beauty queen

Our time at Wye ended with the Commem. Ball and, because there were fewer girls at Wye than men, girls from the Teacher's Training College at Maidstone were invited to the dance. On the Sunday before the dance, I accompanied a couple of colleagues, one of whom knew some of the girls, to the college for afternoon tea. Between mouthfuls, I asked one of them to come to the dance with me. She agreed and on the evening of the dance I hired a car and went to collect her and two others.

The dance was a great success. I discovered that I had in fact invited a girl who, a couple of years

earlier, had been crowned Miss Blackpool, and who came in a very beautiful pink flouncy dress. I found it fascinating how, after I had a couple of dances, my contemporaries were queuing up to dance with her. Obviously, she was a very beautiful girl but she was also very easy to get on with and I remember her with great fondness. Where are all these people of our days gone by now?

### Tropical agriculture and marriage

This virtually ended our year and after two or three weeks at home, I went on to Trinidad for the second year of the Diploma in Tropical Agriculture, during which I did some studying, played rugby, hockey and cricket. I also enjoyed the vibrant Caribbean life, particularly during the spectacular days of Carnival when the college was closed and we were free to spend our time 'Jumping Up' in Port of Spain with any and every band that was passing.

Whilst in Trinidad, I met Heather McDonald, an Air Hostess with British West Indian Airways, whom I courted and married in June 1957 at the end of our course. I subsequently went to what was then Tanganyika (now Tanzania) as Agricultural Officer in the Moshi District then latterly as Regional Agricultural Officer of the West Lake Region on Lake Victoria. I retired from the Colonial Service in 1965, returned to Scotland and became Scottish Marketing Manager for ICI Plant Protection Division, before taking early retirement. I now live with Heather in Dumfries, do various voluntary jobs, play golf, travel around the country, visit family and am researching and writing a family history.

*Note from Production Editor: Gill Bond (1964–67):* I worked with Peter Moberley at the South African Sugarcane Experiment Association, also worked at ICI Plant Protection (some years after Liam!), and visited Harry Franks (1963–66) and his wife Philippa when he was working at Mwanza on Lake Victoria – it's a small world when you've been to Wye!

## Life at Wye and thence to the Colonies

**When he fell ill last year, the late Edwin Mundy (1951–56), one-time director of Bridgets Experimental Hubandry Farm, picked up his lap top and started to draft his memories for his grandchildren. These are his recollections of life at Wye and his acceptance into the Colonial service, kindly supplied by his daughter Rosie Hart. They have been slightly edited just to help readability. His obituary is on page 33.**

In 1950, I managed to achieve a good Higher School Certificate, with 'Very good' grades in pure maths and applied maths and 'Good' grades in chemistry and physics. In addition, I had taken English Literature at Intermediate Higher School Level and passed as this well. This was a good selection of core subjects for going on to University to take a science degree and accordingly, I was awarded a County Major Scholarship worth £240 per year. This sum was enough to cover the cost of full University accommodation, provided that a simple life was adhered to.

I was accepted at both Reading University and Wye College, London University, the latter being at Wye, Kent, where a farm of some size was attached (I cannot recall actual size but it was near some 750 acres). The Wye offer arrived first and I accepted this before the Reading University offer arrived. I had heard a little about Wye College from **John Dancer**, a school friend who had gone to Wye the year before to do a B.Sc. (Horticulture) degree.

### Off to Wye on the steam train

So it was that on a day early in October 1951, I found myself taking the steam train via London and Ashford, Kent, and on to Wye, a delightful village between Ashford and Canterbury. Up until then my experience of travelling by rail had been limited to the journey between Andover and Romsey so this was a big adventure. I boarded at Andover Junction onto the London bound 'express', calling at Basingstoke and Woking and

Waterloo station in London. The train was drawn by a large steam engine complete with driver and a fireman to throw coal from the tender on to the boiler furnace. Off we went 'clickety clack' on the rails as each length of rail was joined to its neighbour by sturdy bolts, a small space existing between each section to allow for expansion according to weather conditions.

### Help with luggage

In those days, station porters were on duty and for a shilling or so were happy to convey the luggage on a 'sack' trolley to the taxi or in my case across Waterloo Station to that part serving Ashford, Folkestone and Dover. Today (2013) rail lines are less subject to expansion and are continuous and the 'clickety, clack' so characteristic of the mid 20th Century is no more.

But I digress from my tale, so now to return to Wye Station where Ben Coulter, or his daughter, would be waiting with horse and wagon to receive trunks and cases from we student 'gentry' to take them on to the college, about a mile up the road. We would cross the River Wye (sic) which ran by the side of the railway line at this point, and walk up the rising road to the College. The College was founded by Cardinal Kemp as a Latin school in the middle ages and had developed into three quads with a main gate and porters lodge where students were required to check in. Around each quad there were individual students' rooms, each having a bed, desk, simple lounge chair and a cupboard for coats and a small dresser of drawers.



### College buildings and meal times

The design of the college was much as the old colleges in Oxford are seen today and the whole gave a feeling of a place of learning. Between the quads (grass quadrangles) there was a library and dining hall where students assembled for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hall was laid out with a raised top table where the Principal and staff would sit, and each evening was a semi-formal occasion when all students wore their undergraduate gowns and staff their graduate or professorial gowns. A Latin grace, 'Benedictus Benedicat', was said by the head of the top table before we could sit down for our dinner; unlike lunch we were waited on at table but at both, there was only 'dish of the day' followed by a sweet of some kind. Breakfast was different; sleepy students could drift in for a cooked breakfast if they so wished served at the hatch from 7.30 or 8.00 am. At this meal there were our individual squares of butter and a marmalade pot for the toast or rolls plus the option of egg and bacon or a kipper. Although rationing was still in force, food had become easier and we fed well.

### Student behavior and sanctions

At the start of each term, the student body would assemble in the main tiered lecture hall to receive a pep talk from the Principal and any notification of changes of note. These assemblies could suddenly be called during the term time, particularly if students were responsible for "noise and student activity" (or adolescent behavior) in the village and we would be reminded of the sins of adolescent hooliganism.

Looking back on those years, I believe we were more restrained and disciplined than students today. The college gates were closed at 10.00 pm and entry was only by porter's permission; we were required to sign in and be prepared to explain ourselves to the Principal on the Tuesday



evening when he was available to students for discipline talks and advice re studies or career placement. On such occasions, miscreants and others would line up outside his study wearing undergraduate gowns, etc.

### Study and exams

Each student was allocated to a 'director of studies' for essay work and monitoring of progress of studies. The director of studies we would see individually each week or every two weeks. At the close of each term we reported to the archaic Latin school to be praised or castigated by the Principal, or vice Principal, and dismissed with a hand shake and a desire on his part that "we should keep up the good work and improve on weaknesses". My own director of studies would sit alongside the principal to give his report on me.

College exams were at the close of the Easter and Summer semesters with the intermediate degree at the end of the first year and the final degree at the end of the third year, which was followed the delightful Cricket Week meaning relaxation and games.

### Clubs and activities

An important part of College life was participation in the various student clubs and activities. It was quite possible to get so engrossed in these that studies suffered and a few people fell into this trap. For my part, I made a point of keeping a regular team activity going, playing football twice a week during winter months and cricket during the summer. In the case of the latter, I was only on the fringes of the cricket team so it never took over my life and I made good by playing more tennis and squash where I could choose my own time and play with a friend or two.

I participated in clubs but never took on responsibilities. My main interests were the archaeology group, singing as tenor with the choir and the Student Christian Movement. On the occasional afternoon, I would play chess but as there was no chess club this was only as I wished. On arriving for the first time at Wye I did participate in cross country runs but decided that this was for the dedicated as I thought that six miles was a bit too far and too competitive. This was a relatively small group and I had no wish to get into competitive intercollegiate competition.

This is a full discourse of my relaxation but I was there to get a degree so applied myself to studies. Compared to today we had more spoon-feeding at lectures but reading around subjects gave a greater depth of knowledge so a few of us would be found in the library till 10.30 pm at night. All in all, it must have paid off because at the close of the second year I won the Paton Figgis prize for the top agriculture student. This was a grant of £50 which increased my student income by a fifth as well as getting me recognised as having potential to go onto a MSc or PhD post graduate degree if I so wished.

### The working day

The pattern of lectures and laboratory work was four morning lectures of about 45 minutes each for five days a week and three evening lectures of 30 minutes each evening except Wednesday. In place of some of the morning lectures, there would be practical laboratory work particularly relating to chemistry, botany, zoology and geology. In my second year, these moved to biochemistry, agricultural botany, zoology, pedology, agriculture economics and veterinary studies and often a farm walk. Occasionally there was a pedology excursion to examine soils and landscapes.

Having obtained a good higher School Certificate, which included chemistry and physics, I could be excused from taking exams in chemistry as well as geology since physics was accepted in place of geology for the Intermediate BSc Agriculture examination. Failure in either botany or zoology, both of which were new to me, could have been the end of my academic career. So I opted out of chemistry and geology exams but ensured a full attendance at lectures to refresh my chemistry and take on board geology. This decision made for some relaxation at exam times and enabled me to give more attention to botany and zoology. Having been at school during war years these options at Andover Grammar School had closed.

### Holiday jobs

College terms were of 10 weeks each and we enjoyed an extended summer period to enable us to take on work of one form or another. This fitted well with busy periods on the farm and an extended summer when I could enjoy working on neighbouring farms. One year this was Norman Court Farm, Clatford, a dairy/arable farm, adjoining my parents' Roman Cottage Farm; another year it was New Barn Farm, some 1,000 acres devoted to beef and arable, which abutted

Berehill Farm, which my Uncle used to own. It extended from the top of Winton Road to the Micheldever Road on the way out of Andover and was the farm that awakened my desire for agriculture.

Second and third year studies involved agriculture economics, statistics, crop husbandry, animal husbandry, biochemistry and pedology (soil and rock studies) to which I have made reference earlier.

### Future plans

At the end of my third year, I was delighted to see my name listed among those who had gained the degree of BSc (Agriculture). This was a general Pass degree since it predated classification. Having previously considered the matter and discussed with Professor 'Mac' Cooper, my agricultural professor, I had decided to go on to a postgraduate degree and possibly enter the Colonial Agriculture Service or go onto a university agriculture research career. The particular study I pursued was already underway and I took on the furtherance of an investigation of the effects sheep urine on pasture. This involved botanical work on clover pasture at different levels of fertilizer and analysis of the botanical composition and soil nutrient status. It eventually led to publication of a scientific paper in *The Journal of the Grassland Society*.

Undertaking a Masters Degree of this nature meant that Easter and summer vacations became something of the past as my work necessitated being at college for field work and study. However, during my first summer of studies I was able to undertake a part-time post as assistant scientific officer with NAAS (National Agriculture Advisory Service). This entailed helping on trial work on Romney Marsh. This experimental work was on grassland and soil science trials and a little on pathology. I

found this interesting work and it must have coloured my subsequent career selection.

### Route into Colonial service

In the summer of 1956, I completed my studies and was duly awarded the degree of M.Sc. (Agriculture). Earlier in the year I had applied to the Colonial Office for a post in agriculture overseas. Wye students had a good track record as Agriculture Officers in the colonies and I was successful in my application to become a Grassland Agricultural Officer. The normal route for Agriculture Officers when appointed was to spend a year at Cambridge or Reading Universities to be followed by a year in Trinidad studying tropical crops for a diploma. In my case, as I had done a M.Sc. degree and was to specialise in tropical experimentation on grass, I was directed to spend six weeks at the National Grassland Research establishment at Hurley, near Maidenhead.

I had nominated the Confederation of Rhodesia, Kenya and Uganda, or Nigeria, as my area of work and in the event I was offered a post in Northern Nigeria where independence had been given in 1955 to be followed by Regional independence in 1959/60. The Colonial Agriculture Service was being maintained during this period but secondment to the National Service under Colonial terms could be expected to follow.

I recall attending for interview at the Colonial Office in London, Whitehall Place, I believe, and the set up had all the trappings of the history of the Colonies, the interview and medical being conducted by staff of the Secretary for the Colonies and serving or recently retired Agriculture officers. At the time it gave the feeling to me of the stuffy tradition of service overseas still characterised by a 1930's outlook.

## Introducing farmer co-operation to volatile parts of the FSU

**John Hambly (1969–1972) explains how his time at Wye prepared him for a career in the Former Soviet Union, and recalls some of the pleasurable and hair-raising experiences.**

At school I studied Art, Geography and Biology, so in deciding future career paths it was a toss-up between Agriculture and Architecture. It was parental influence that persuaded me towards the former – “you will always have a job as we all need food” they said. My first choice was Wye because of its international connection and reputation. I was a farmer's son with a brother and sister, so going back to the family dairy farm in Devon of just 200 acres was not on the agenda as my parents needed a retirement pile.

Of course, I can't compare Wye with any other agricultural college because I haven't been to any others, but Wye did give a sufficient grounding in the discipline. For me – above all – it had a good mix of international students, which broadened my somewhat parochial horizons. Coming out with a Degree in Agriculture does not give you any particular tools or expertise so I had to find out for myself what exactly I wanted in life, which took me several years.

### From sugarcane to milk processing

I progressed from a bit of sugar cane research in St Kitts (through **John Yearwood** a fellow student who came from the island), fertilizer sales at a London chemical importing company, and teaching technical English at a French University to setting up a milk processing company in Wales. I was a shareholder in Ceredigion Dairies for 12 years and although

none of us made much money out of selling it, at least I had accumulated a couple of properties on the way.

### Political upheaval in Eastern Europe

At this time there were great political upheavals in Eastern Europe as the Berlin Wall came down and the World was suddenly a different place. The EU Commission as well as other International Aid and Technical Assistance Donors stepped in with huge sums of money to try and stabilize the situation to avoid what could have become chaos. I had a lot of knowledge of the dairy sector at this stage, so in 1992 I joined one of the first fact-finding EU projects to enter Russia and was lucky enough to be based near St Petersburg.

Here I was part of a team of European nationals, all of whom had food production credentials in areas such as beef, crops, etc. but I was the dairy specialist! I was in my element at last and, although Russian conditions were tough, this was probably the best time of my professional life. Apart from the project something else was to change my life. I was dazzled by the beauty of Russian women and it did not take long before I married one in St Petersburg.

This dairy assignment, which lasted four years, was quickly followed by others in Latvia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan and Siberia. The main emphasis in all these projects was one of coping with privatization, taking the old Soviet

structures to leaner, co-operate ones. It was a very difficult transition for the older generations but big opportunities appeared for young entrepreneurs, many of whom became very rich and unscrupulous.

I do admit I found these projects daunting because nobody had encountered this before and we were ill-equipped to deal with many of the situations. It was often futile to attempt to transfer technical knowledge because local technicians were well educated under the Soviet system and produced an enormous variety of their own very good dairy products, especially fermented ones. We could help with marketing, some funding of machinery and by bringing key personnel to Europe to see how things were done in a market economy. Soviet governments could not support their own agriculture, food standards were not enforced and western

products flooded the markets, which compounded the problems for the newly privatized farms. Joint ventures with Western organizations proved the best way forward for many Russian processing companies.

#### **From one project to another**

The EU continued to fund projects all over the former Soviet Union for many years, so Lena and I passed from one project to another until we finally decided in 2008 that our son needed a stable education in England to get through his GCSEs and A levels. Most of our time in the FSU was spent in Central Asia and for a number of years I was EU Coordinator based in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Coordination of a wide range of EU aid projects with those of other donors was vital to prevent duplication. Having diplomatic status, a driver and translator at hand was a great pleasure and sufficient reward for all

the risks that one takes when working in a politically volatile environment. Flying around Central Asia in very antiquated Russian-made small aircraft to attend project meetings from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan and onto Uzbekistan on a regular basis took its toll.

#### **Farmer-to-farmer co-operation**

As an interlude to all this project work in the FSU I became interested in the theme of farmer to farmer co-operation; as very little was known about how this occurred I managed to get the University of Exeter interested and together we secured funding from the EU to undertake a small project in Cornwall. The concept is an important one for farmers in unsupported situations in developing countries, but in England, where farmers are featherbedded with support, the concept rarely works. Despite the fact that few Cornish farmers were interested we did find a number of joint venturing models. My position as a Research Fellow ended and I was longing to return to the rural development scene in Eastern Europe.

Being interested in farmer co-operation, but this time back in the FSU, I led a large project for the Swedish Government (SIDA) based in Georgia in the Caucasus, SE Europe. This is a very special country that was torn apart by geo-politics and local politicians who did not seem to know where their best interests lay.

#### **The perils of working in South Ossetia**

As much of the project was based in South Ossetia, the essence of the project was to unite different ethnic groups through economic co-operation. The two ethnic groups of Georgians and South Ossetians lived at very close proximities in their own villages in South Ossetia, which lies virtually in the middle of Georgia and close to the capital of Tblisi. Because many livelihoods were based on subsistence milk production, the primary function of the project was to establish milk collection centres in order to make it worthwhile for dairy processing companies to trade. The collection centres were owned by the farmer suppliers. The project was very successful until intimidation by the Georgians reached such a pitch that the Russians invaded. Again the stress of working amongst Kalashnikovs combined with the fact that my wife was Russian put a premature end to the project for us, and we left Georgia for good.

Back in England I took a part-time job working in farm assurance up until my son finished school. My heart, though, remained with rural development despite all of its challenges so I have no regrets that I chose agriculture over architecture. Mind you, I encouraged my son to study architecture rather than follow in my footsteps, and he is at the Architectural Association in London!



*John Hambly with his son Daniel in Georgia*



## After years of advising on it, I'm finally doing it!

**Tony Moody (1966–67) looks back on a life of agricultural extension in East Africa and Australia before establishing an award-winning vineyard and winery in Australia.**

I was at Wye for a year in 1966–7, doing an MA course under Eric Clayton, on the application of agricultural economics research in peasant agriculture. But, while at Wye I enjoyed the company of other students engaged in folk music, acting and larking around in general. I took part in a musical written and directed by **John Meadley** (1965–68), *Don't Blame Father*, and got to know **Chris Warn** (1963–66), **Rosie Graham** (1964–67) and others.

### Off to Tanzania

After Wye I went to Tanzania to research the adoption of cash crops by peasant farmers – cotton, tea, coffee and tobacco – for the Ministry of Agriculture. While in Bukoba, I shared nights at the Lake Hotel with Chris Warn and **Ted Schofield** (1964–67). After that I was recruited by Nordic Aid to research agriculture in the Mbeya region with a Danish/Norwegian team, and to advise on appropriate courses for an agricultural college they were building.

Then Danida (Danish International Development Agency) came out to Tanzania, looking for an agricultural economist to join their team in Copenhagen who were advising where Denmark could best direct its aid in rural East Africa. So, while living there for five years, I joined teams for lengthy stays in E Africa – studying Ujamaa villages in Tanzania and rural unemployment in Nyanza Province of Kenya.

Then, back to England, where I joined the Commonwealth Secretariat, and worked as an

agricultural technology adviser, investigating machinery developed in Southern Africa and the Pacific and Caribbean. After that, the ODI (Overseas Development Institute) asked me to manage a programme of projects in semi-arid north-east Kenya – forestry, soil conservation, goat breeding and water conservation.

### Agricultural marketing advice in Australia

By then I was married to an Australian, with two young lads, so we decided to move to Australia, where I have been a citizen for well on 30 years, and have worked all the time in the NSW Department of Agriculture.

I have watched over the demise of various grain and tobacco marketing boards, and helped groups of citrus and wine-grape growers set up and run marketing committees to co-



Tony (left) with Chris Warn and the 2013 grape harvest



Tony with John Meadley at Moody's Wines

operatively deal with government regulation, the market, promotion and disease control. I also worked for a while in the central fruit and vegetable market of Sydney, running a reporting service on daily prices for growers. To improve that, I made a study tour of the South African, French and English central markets in 1988.

In 1998 I was posted up to the head office in rural NSW in Orange, my work returning to research and policy advice in agriculture in general in NSW, over which I have now travelled widely, and, although originally a Pom, I know more about each corner of the state and its products than most of my younger colleagues. In 2007–9 I also managed the team of drought support workers, which tried to help farmers

suffering from the drought with counselling and community meetings.

### Moody's Wines win awards

Since arriving in Orange (a city in New Wales West of Sydney) I have also established a small vineyard, and after years of advising on agriculture, I am finally DOING it! Now 15 years old, Moody's Wines has won trophies and medals for its Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc. One year, Chris Warn came to help with the harvest and I returned to visit his macadamia nut farm in northern NSW. I have also just had a visit from John Meadley and Fiona, who I drove back to Orange from Brisbane (1,000km) to show them the Darling Downs and cotton and sorghum being planted, followed by wheat being harvested in north-western NSW. We played a tape of *Don't Blame Father* on the way!

# From agricultural economics to helping land mine victims

**Michael A B Boddington (staff 1967–72)**

*Introduction by Andrew Bolton (1968–71). "I was a hortic at Wye and heard the name of Mike but I did not encounter him in person. However, I was impressed by Professor Wibberley as a human being when I was at Wye and he was a mentor of Mike. Then, this January, my son Matthew happened to be staying in Mike's guest house in Laos and sent the photo of the Agricola Journal and so a connection was begun with Mike. Matthew researched clearing landmines for his PhD at the London School of Economics. Mike Boddington has spent years in Cambodia and Laos helping victims of land mines.*

*Mike's story is worth sharing. I find it quite inspiring and he received an OBE for it. So I pressed him to put pen to paper. Here it is."*

## In the beginning

I studied at Newcastle University, getting a general degree in agriculture in 1966 and then an honours degree in agricultural economics the following year. My professor was John Ashton, who came to Newcastle from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), where he had been the head of the Economics Division.

I went to see him one day, about half-way through my final year, to discuss what I would do next. I was thinking of doing a Masters' degree in agricultural marketing at Nottingham, under Dennis Britton and had applied for a grant from the Milk Marketing Board for that purpose: the course was highly quantitative and that was what I was seeking since, at that time, it seemed that if you could not put it in figures, you could not put it. Ashton told me that there was a job

going for a mature student/graduate under Professor Gerald Wibberley at Wye College (I was 24 at the time!). The name of Wibberley was just so powerful in those days: a great guru, a magnificent speaker, a man of humour and honour. I was in awe. Ashton picked up the phone and instructed his secretary to call Wibberley for him. I was flabbergasted. The cost of a trunk call to Wye would have knocked a serious hole in my budget in those days, but here was Ashton making such a call so casually, as though it was the sort of thing one does every day (which it probably was).

Wibberley expressed an interest in meeting me. It transpired that Ashton had organized a visit by all of the honours-year students to the MAFF Economics Division in London. Wibberley was passing through London *en route* to some engagement on the same day as our visit and it was agreed that we should meet. The venue was the Euston Station café, where we passed an hour together. That was my first interview, and I apparently passed muster.

Later, I was called to Wye for the 'full monty'. I was interviewed in the Prin's Parlour by Ian Reid, Donald Sykes and Wibberley. At one stage, Dunstan Skilbeck popped in for a few minutes and joined the panel. "What side are you most interested in, micro or macro?" he asked me. I shall now admit that I did not have a clue what he was talking about! Despite the fact that one of my courses at Newcastle was micro-economics, I did not make the connection. Fortunately, Wibberley sprang immediately to

my assistance: "we have covered that, Principal," he said "Boddington is more interested in the micro side." Apparently, this was what the Prin wanted to hear: it transpired that there were various contracts in the offing for MAFF investigative work and someone with an interest in the drudgery of farm survey work would be far more welcome than a person whose main interest was in high-flown agricultural employment policy.

I have often said that, had I been on that interview panel, I should not have given me the job. But *they* did.

## Wye was the springboard

I guess that it was an act of faith. Wibberley turned out to be my patron and the relationship would continue strongly for the next quarter century, until he died. And Wye was the springboard from which I went forth into the world – the foundation upon which I built the rest of my working life. It was a warm, friendly place, with a galaxy of stars all of whom were unbelievably kind and friendly to this newcomer. Nix, Best, Clayton, Sykes, Reid: the list goes on. And I worked alongside Ian Carruthers, George Gwyer, Graham Donaldson and Angela Edwards. All names in the galaxy either then or now. I revelled in it and I flourished.

Within a month of starting at Wye, with the help of George Gwyer, I had established a Masters' course in quantitative methods. When I look back on it, I cannot imagine how that happened or how it was allowed to happen, but it was the single most popular course unit in the Masters' programme: everyone took it.

I worked at Wye for five years, from September 1st 1967 to August 31st 1972, and I treasure that time enormously. It was the making of me. I left because it was time for me to move on. My

personal life had fallen in shreds around me – the product of my obsession with the College and doing everything that I possibly could. I was doing a shedload of consultancy work, outside College (in which I was encouraged by the College!) – and I had reached the stage when I simply went to my filing cabinet two minutes before a lecture and pulled out last year's notes and they were really the year before's notes which were really.... It was not fair on my students.

I left in 1972 to set up Rural Planning Services, which has gone on to be RPS Group plc, and thence a whole galaxy of other organisations, some of which are still visible in the heavens but many of which died the death or never really got off the ground. But, hey, that is what life is about for some people. Not all the seeds we sow will germinate, take root, grow, flower, fruit and lead to bounty. Isn't that what we learned in agriculture? Or is it from the Buddha?

## The penultimate chapter

My love affair with South East Asia began in 1971, when Gerald Wibberley asked me if I would like to go to Bangkok in his lieu. I grabbed at it. It was a short-term consultancy with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE – now UNESCAP). My first trip outside Europe and it was love at first sight. My mind was blown. The richness of the experience was indescribable. Strangely, one of the most enduring memories that I took away from that time was the fruit. What fantastic diversity of exotic species: I just loved them – and I still do.

I was determined to return, but my next opportunity was in 1978 and then it was Hong Kong where some colleagues and I established a landscape planning practice – Urbis – which is still thriving to this day, though without me for

many years. It was a long time before I got back to SE Asia. Twenty years after that first experience, in fact.

In 1991, I was asked by the Cambodia Trust to help find ways to prevent Pol Pot from returning, by trying to fast-track income growth for poor people: Yes, if only!

At that time, there was only one international flight per day into Phnom Penh (unless you were able to hitch a lift with the Red Cross) and that was from Bangkok, leaving at 05.00 daily. Even with a reserved ticket, there was no guarantee that you would be able to fly, unless you were at the airport at 03.00: it felt quite like pioneering.

That led to meeting the British Ambassador, David Burns (the first British Ambassador for 15 years) and his wife Inge, who were hugely helpful and supportive.

### Rehabilitating landmine victims in Cambodia

As this work was progressing, Hun Sen asked the Chair of the Trust if some assistance could be given to rehabilitating landmine amputees, who were estimated to number around 85,000 at that time – a figure that would later be reduced to 35,000, still a terrible statistic. In those days, I had never met the word 'prosthetic' before, let alone 'orthotic' and looked them up in the dictionary. The first, I discovered, was sandwiched between 'prostate' and 'prostitute', and the second was just not recognised by the scholars at Oxford!

And that became my introduction to working with landmine accident survivors, and with people with disabilities more broadly. In November/December 2011, the 11th Meeting of the States Parties to the Landmine Ban Convention (The Ottawa Treaty) was held in Phnom Penh: it was just down the road so I decided to go and meet up with old friends. The

event marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which was born in Cambodia; a double anniversary that we shared.

Through the late 1990s, I continued to work with the Trust as we set up three rehabilitation centres and the Cambodia School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO).

In 1993, with Stan Windass, my colleague from the Cambodia Trust, we began to explore the need for such services elsewhere and discovered the worldwide scourge of landmines and the terrible tragedy of their victims. The Cambodia Trust seemed too closely associated with an individual country (though it has now extended into other countries) and unsuited, through its name, to carriage elsewhere; so, early in 1994, the first steps were taken to establish Power International.

We consulted International Committee of the Red Cross who enthusiastically supported the idea and suggested that we should focus on Laos (where ICRC had never been able to work) and Mozambique (where they now needed to hand over their programme).

### Getting into Laos

Thus it was, in August 1994, in company with Terry Nother, Chief Prosthetist from the Cambodia Trust, and Frank Cook MP (now deceased) with his Lao ladyfriend, Somsangouane Baldinger, who was with us to open doors at the very top of government, we set off from Phnom Penh for Vientiane to see what needed doing. We carried with us the best wishes and words of warning of UK Ambassador Paul Reddicliffe, who had replaced David Burns: he had once served in Laos and retained warm memories of his time but was also aware of the difficulties that we might face in this country

that had been shuttered for most of the past 20 years.

Getting into the Lao People's Democratic Republic at that time was difficult. Visas must be obtained in advance, and they were only available from Lao embassies overseas, which then numbered 14: the nearest to UK was Paris. Needless to say, tourism was almost non-existent. The first edition of the Lonely Planet Guide to Laos, just published, warned that visas would take two months to arrange from anywhere except Thailand. Perhaps because of our distinguished company, or the intervention of Paul Reddicliffe, we were able to secure ours in two days.

We flew into Vientiane on one of the old Chinese copies of a Russian twin-engine plane that accommodated about 50 people in cramped circumstances: there was a Boeing 737-200 on this route, leased from Iceland, but that day it was not operational because the pilot had been knocked off his motorcycle in Vientiane and killed. Nothing changes.

We were met at the airport by the vehicle of the Vansana Hotel – the single Lao Vansana hotel in those days, at Phonthan. This was to become my base every time I visited Laos and the place where I stayed for 21 months when I moved to the country: my home-from-home, and Sengkhom Phinith, the owner and man of very many accomplishments, remains one of my dearest Lao friends.

We determined that there was a need for a prosthetic and orthotic project in Laos, and that led me to quarterly, week-long visits over the next seven years.

### Working to set up COPE in Laos

In October 1995, I arrived in-country with our start-up team, working out of the National

Rehabilitation Centre, now the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) in Khou Vieng. I became frustrated at the time that it was taking to get a Memorandum of Understanding signed: today, others might wonder at the remarkable speed – five weeks for an MoU that was to stretch a full ten years to the end of November 2005!

It was my ambition to create a partnership operation with all of the organisations working in rehabilitation, and that took until November 1997, when COPE (Co-operative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise) was formed with the Ministry of Health, Power, CSPO and World Vision as the founding partners. Later, the Japanese Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) came in and was responsible for the wheelchair workshop, and the UK Leprosy Mission International (TLMi) became a vital partner through difficult times.



*At the COPE Visitor Centre, with the bombie display as background*



The UK Department for International Development (DfID) was a significant donor in the early years, as we established a programme that developed five rehabilitation centres to cover the country, and started to train Lao nationals in rehabilitation skills at the CSPO. Once the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (DPWMF) started operating overseas, it too became an important contributor.

In 2000, we started looking for a local disabled people's organisation (DPO) to join the board of COPE. There was no such thing, although a vestigial Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA) existed. So we decided to try and increase its capacity and build it as a truly nationwide DPO able to look after the needs of all people with disabilities.

That was one of the most challenging things that I have ever done in my life and much of it went according to plan, entirely funded by DPWMF and DfID. Despite reversals since that time, the fundamental structure that was put in place then is still there: it has proved robust.

#### First efforts at retirement

I retired as CEO of Power in July 2001, and started to look around for somewhere warmer to live out my days. My initial forays were not successful, but a request from Power to come out to Laos in a stop-gap capacity at the beginning of 2002 opened my eyes to the prospect of this wonderful country as the paradise-on-earth I was seeking: I never left.

In those early Lao days, I was the Power representative in Lao PDR, the CEO of COPE, the Advisor to LDPA and the country representative for British Executive Services Overseas (BESO), which seemed like a reasonable quota for a retirement package! At the same time, I built my house in Ban Xokkham and then I married Dr

Xoukiet Panyanouvong (UNDPs anti-human trafficking tsarina). That was a truly important step and it brought with it the Panyanouvong family, who have been such an incredible support to me through thick and thin.

Bit-by-bit, I stepped down and away from my jobs, seeking to be replaced by local people trained up to the job, and to finally retire. Then, bit-by-bit I got sucked back in again, first as the Executive Consultant to the Lao CEO of COPE, and then as the Technical Advisor on Victim Assistance to the National Regulatory Authority for the Lao UXO Sector (NRA).

One of the problems for COPE was finding a way to build a more sustainable future, independent of international donors (who rarely like to fund any project for more than three years). In 2007, the International Finance Corporation was promoting tourism programmes aimed at getting people to 'stay another day': the focus was to get them involved in local good works and I was approached and asked if COPE would be prepared to co-operate.

It led to groups of tourist walking through the rehabilitation centre in Vientiane, gawping at our clients, and this was obviously not a good situation. The idea grew to develop a Visitor Centre and that went ahead, with a lot of help from Jo Pereira and friends. It opened in 2008, much as it is today, though there have been some changes.

#### Donation from UK

An early visitor was Andrew Mitchell (then on the UK parliamentary opposition benches) with Lord Ashcroft and shepherded by the UK ambassador from Bangkok, Quinton Quayle. Michael Ashcroft made a donation to COPE based, much to his amusement, on the

difference in age between Xoukiet and me – \$2 per day, and it came to \$22,000!

The Visitor Centre has become a huge asset to COPE, bringing in up to 20% of the total operating costs every year.

My work with COPE came to an end in December 2009 and that with the NRA in July 2010. I feel pleased that the NRA was left with a tremendous body of information about UXO casualties, survivors and the services available or needed to serve them and other people with disabilities, as well as a system to track casualties through their rehabilitation experience.

At last, I was genuinely facing a splendid retirement – until I was asked to become the Specialist on Disability and Rehabilitation to the National Science Council in the Prime Minister's

Office. Then in mid-2011, Power invited me to become its chairman, which also put me back on the Board of COPE. As they say, swings and roundabouts!

That Power role turned into a full-time job with regular journeys back to UK and responsibility for projects in Laos, Mozambique and Zambia, which required visiting on my old quarterly routine!

#### Any regrets?

Not speaking Lao, because I have been continually too busy to learn and those around me almost universally speak English.

Being 6,000 miles from my four children and four grandchildren has been a sadness, though I have been blessed with many visits from them. One of the great benefits that has emerged over the years, as Laos' reputation as a tourist



*Receiving the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Quinton Quayle, British Ambassador to Thailand and Laos.*

destination has grown, has been the number of friends who set off to SE Asia and spend three days, a week, ten days, a fortnight with us – truly quality time. So great has become the trail of visitors that we have constructed a guest house in the garden to accommodate the flow!

It has to be said that working in Laos has been a hard row to hoe; things happen very slowly – step-by-step as they are fond of saying here – and officialdom harbours great suspicion of foreigners and their motives. Well, Laos has not been treated especially well by foreign nations, so one cannot say one blames them. I just wish they could trust their own people rather more!

But as the years of my fifth decade (to be pronounced deck-aid and not decayed, please) of love for Southeast Asia pass increasingly into history, the passion grows only stronger. This is home. Thank you Laos.

#### What I have learnt

I have worked in low-income countries since 1971 and spent time studying them for some years before that. In my early days, I thought that I was there to develop such countries. I knew what was needed – mainly from textbooks. Initially, in the early seventies, I was retained on private sector agricultural development projects – Iran, Peru, Ecuador, Chile,... In the late-seventies and early-eighties I worked on IBRD-funded projects in Nigeria, working with Wye alumnus **Dick Grimshaw** (1957–61) at the Bank. These works with official international development agencies – IBRD, FAO, IFAD, EU – and governments, Nigeria, Mexico, Tanzania, Kenya, Hong Kong, Malaysia, continued through the eighties and a part of the nineties. I lived in UK and zapped around the world on my mission of relief and development. I came to greatly admire **John Meadley** (1965–

68), my fellow Newcastle alumnus and PhD from Wye, who made a personal voyage of exploration around the world to try and pin down what we were supposed to be doing and why. He developed Rural Investment Overseas (RIO) to put his findings into operation. His enlightenment came so much earlier than mine.

The 1990s saw the development of my work in NGOs – since my departure from Wye, I had always been involved in the charitable sector alongside my commercial consultancy work, but the consultancy work always dominated. Now, I moved rapidly into the NGO sector, working on issues of disability and rehabilitation, initially providing limbs for victims of landmines, and then broadening outwards to encompass all disabled and all types of support.

Slowly, slowly I have come to a deeper understanding of our role, as western development specialists working in low-income countries, and these are my learnings, set forth as a very simple listing – many of them things that have been said more times before and by more others than is worth saying, but I had to learn them for myself:

- All development is self-development.
- The basis of improved welfare is choice.
- Choice comes through education.
- The only things worth doing in low-income countries are the things that local communities have devised.
- Without ownership of the development process, by those who are experiencing the development, there is no sustainability.

I wish that I could live the last 40 years over again with these learnings firmly in place from the beginning.

## From ABM\* at Wye to wine soils around Wagga Wagga

**Dr Jonathon 'Jack' Holland (1996–98) reflects on the past 15 years which were mostly spent in Australia. Recently he moved back to the UK and is a research agronomist at The James Hutton Institute, Dundee.**

\* Agricultural Business Management degree.

#### What next after Wye?

When I left Wye in 1998, I do not think I really knew what I wanted to do. I had enjoyed studying and living at Wye so much that I had not thought too much about the future. So with no clear or strong ideas regarding the future I decided to go travelling. I started out with doing harvest work in the Columbia Basin of Washington state, USA. This was following in the footsteps of **Henry Murch** (1995–98) who had worked there the previous summer. When harvest finished, I travelled onwards through the US, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and onto Australia. There were various job opportunities in Australia, but I still had itchy feet and so on I went to Africa.

Africa was amazing in many ways, but I was not there at the best time. Cracks were beginning to show in Zimbabwe and some forward-looking commercial farmers were already beginning to leave. At that time (i.e. early 1999) Zimbabwe seemed to be fine. It looked so good that I applied for a 'serious' job as a trainee manager of a coffee estate near Chipinge. I was interviewed and was duly offered the job! Great, what next, when can I start? Well, there was a requirement for me to obtain a visa. Fast forward...nearly a year later there was still no sign of a visa and so I gave up on waiting. Looking back it was probably a very fortunate thing that my Zim visa never came through!

#### Opportunity knocks

So in early 2000 I was back in Australia and this time I was more serious about finding a job. At the time there was a great sense of excitement

with the lead up to the Sydney Olympics. I had previously heard that there were good jobs working in cotton and before I knew it I was heading to the Top End of Down Under to work as a cotton agronomist. This job was based in Katherine, Northern Territory and involved exploring the potential to grow cotton in a new region at a different time (i.e. in the 'winter' season) and was a great opportunity for me to learn about how cotton grows. Living in the NT opened my eyes to outback life and great wide open spaces. From the NT I went to St George, south-western Queensland. This was well-established and serious cotton country and I had a great time working with and alongside cotton farmers and playing rugby for the St George Frillies! Sometimes we had to drive five hours or more to play matches so Saturdays could be very long days. The people in St George were tremendous and I have many fond memories from there.

#### Research and more at Melbourne Uni

Since being at Wye I had often thought about doing further studies, but I had never narrowed down what area to specialise on. My work in cotton agronomy had led to an interest in soils. So when an opportunity arose, next thing I found myself off to the University of Melbourne to commence a PhD in soil science. My principal supervisor was Prof. Robert E. White and he was excellent at guiding and encouraging me. Now heading off to Melbourne was quite a culture shock, as St George only had a population of 2,500 while Melbourne had 3 or 4 million. I



*Measuring the unsaturated hydraulic conductivity of the soil of a vineyard near Dareton, NSW, Australia. (NB. This was part of study to develop a pedotransfer function to predict the mobile water content of vineyard soils in NSW. For those interested in more details please see the paper published in 2015 in the journal Agricultural Water Management 148, pages 34–42).*

remember being almost too scared to drive e.g. when faced with one of Melbourne's notorious roundabouts that has six exits and two trams going through the middle of it!

The overall research question of my thesis was whether there were significant soil physical differences under raised bed cropping in comparison to 'flat' cropped soil. My focus area was the basaltic soils of Victoria's Western District. My research work involved three years of field experiments, which was very satisfying, although at times it was quite challenging. The problems that I faced were the typical ones such as the weather (from freezing sleet to heatwave conditions), 'rock-hard' soils, instrument failures and running out of daylight! I received good support from local farmers, advisors/researchers from the Victorian government and members of the local branch of the soil science society. Many good friendships were developed along the way and during this time I met Catherine Stevens at church. Catherine was a music teacher and so provided a good diversion from my fascination with soils. Thus, on 29 March 2008 we were married in Trinity College chapel at the University

of Melbourne. **Matthew Watts** (1996–1999) was the Best Man and he did a fantastic job of supporting and keeping the groom in order for this special occasion.

#### **Wine soils at Wagga Wagga and beyond!**

With no job opportunities in Melbourne I took up a post-doc on vineyard soils in Wagga Wagga, NSW. In the right company, talking about soils and their relationship with wines can spark a discussion that can go on for hours. Most of my interest was on the soil water characteristics and it is quite amazing the diversity of soils which are used to grow grapes. My research took me around most of the vineyard regions of NSW and it is interesting that often vineyards are situated in picturesque parts of the country. When the funding on vineyard soils dried up I was able to move across to arable cropping soils. During this time in Wagga (locals only say Wagga once) Catherine and I were blessed with three daughters: Hannah (2010), Rachel (2012) and Sarah (2014). Our time in Wagga finished at the end of 2015 after accepting a post at The James Hutton Institute in Dundee that commenced in January 2016.

## John Orr-Ewing – a decorated soldier and a friend to all he met

**Professor Ian Lucas**, former Principal of Wye College, 1977–1988, remembers the late John Orr-Ewing, Registrar of Wye College 1966–85, whose obituary is on page 27. Here he colours in some more detail of John's army life and his time spent in the Colonial Service in Africa before he settled in as Registrar of the College

Medium height, sturdy appearance, shortish 'back and sides', small neat moustache, strong but friendly face and positive voice, the instant impression was of a former military man, possibly having worked overseas; an impression of the Registrar of Wye College that was totally correct.

Aged eight, John Orr-Ewing travelled from Palestine to a prep school in Kent and at the age of 13, in 1934, continued as a boarder at Monkton Combe School in Bath.

#### **A natural leader**

This he thoroughly enjoyed and evolved as a leader, becoming head of his house and an under-officer in the cadet corps (OTC) which all boys were expected to join. In 1938, he went to Queens College, Cambridge, and studied Law. When WW2 broke out a year later he joined the Cheshire Regiment and trained as an officer specialising in machine guns. Commissioned, he transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and became an expert infantryman and a very reluctant motorcyclist. Then, in 1941 he went, possibly by mistake, to join the Black Watch in Gibraltar, only to return to St Andrews in 1942 where he played a great deal of golf in between continuing with his infantry training. However, a turning point came quickly when he was posted to a battle school in Caithness and soon appointed as an instructor. These schools were for elite troops and, in effect, Commando centres. There he shot and was shot at and ran everywhere, becoming extremely fit and extremely well fed!

It is not surprising that in such an organisation an advertisement appeared asking for volunteers to train for parachuting behind enemy lines. John and a few fellow officers applied and were interviewed at Bletchley Park. He was accepted into the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and in September 1943 sailed to Egypt and there studied explosives, covert operations, intelligence work and parachuting. Also, the swimming was apparently particularly enjoyable!

#### **Exploits in Italy earn the MC**

SOE officers were sent from Egypt to various destinations; John was at first destined for Greece, then Albania, but the tides of war were swinging towards France and Italy. Thus it was that on 31st August 1944, then a First Lieutenant, he was parachuted with five others to join a British team in the mountains east of Lake Garda; an area with many German garrisons, but also with two partisan units, which had suffered badly and consequently had low morale. John landed in a tree but was unhurt and was able to join up with the team – which later he was to lead – for the last eight months of the war, during which he was promoted to Captain. His role is best described in the citation for his subsequent Military Cross on page 84.

#### **Day-to-day life behind the lines**

For many years, John did not speak much of his exploits in Italy, but clearly he made many friends among those he met and he greatly admired both the partisans and other civilian Italians, many of whom risked their lives by assisting him. He was forever moving from district to district although, as





Capt. John Orr-Ewing (right) pictured with a partisan leader who helped with interpretation and fellow SOE officer, the late Capt. Christopher Woods, CMG, MC. When their mission leader was killed in a Fascist ambush, the two took over its running. Their main challenge was keeping the hothead partisans in check. After the war they remained life-long friends. Picture courtesy of Christopher Woods' daughter

far as possible, keeping to the mountains and away from the plains, which were particularly dangerous. A major hazard was the German tactic of quickly surrounding an area and searching it thoroughly for their enemies. John often slept in caves or in holes dug beneath barn floors or with the cattle themselves, to keep warm, as also did some farmers. Whenever possible, simple food was provided by the women, but he was hungry more often than not.

He merged himself with the local populations; indeed he even went to a local film show with German soldiers around him. The partisans, under his guidance, tried to act away from villages which otherwise would be subjected to harsh reprisals. Reprisals of course distressed him as did the loss of SOE agents who were captured or killed. Stress had

to be controlled *"we were not insensitive to our position, but we really did not appreciate how dangerous our life was – perhaps that's how you are when you are young"*.

Then, with victory, came enthusiastic and long celebrations in the towns and villages and it was demanded that John should make speeches; a hazard probably not forecast in his SOE training! A very welcome consolation, however, was to be billeted in a grand house with not only a bed but even a whole room of his own! Many years later, on a visit to his area, he was greeted with great enthusiasm by the many who remembered him and his exploits.

#### Colonial service beckons

After his demobilisation, John returned to Queens



College and completed his degree, reading French and Italian and continuing to enjoy sports. At that time, the Colonial Office was renewing and expanding its administrative role, providing jobs for many ex-officers, including John Orr-Ewing, who had savoured life overseas. A 1-year course in administration was followed by the offer to John, accepted with enthusiasm, of a posting to Northern Rhodesia, to commence in 1948.

Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, is over three times the size of Great Britain and had only a small European population, many being involved with mining copper and other metals. It was peopled by several different African tribes, speaking different languages and with different traditions. Administratively, it was divided into eight (sometimes ten) provinces, each sub-divided into districts. The colonial administration was largely decentralised, with Provincial Commissioners and

District Commissioners responsible for law and justice and indeed everything else within their areas. They were charged to work in conjunction with local tribal chiefs and councils, where these existed.

Following two years' experience in post, John was sent, in 1950, to be the District Officer in Balovale, a small township in the North West on the banks of the Zambezi. There he met and married Kathleen, the nursing sister in charge of the local hospital. As John became more senior, they were moved every two or three years to a different region, criss-crossing the country at distances of 300 miles or so and having to learn new languages at their destinations.

#### Life as a District Officer in Northern Rhodesia

In due time they had two children, both girls, who grew up in Zambia to the ages of 9 and 10. It was a very close-knit family with Kathleen as schoolteacher at first and John devising games and excursions. On one or two occasions they accompanied him when he went on tours of his district; travelling for many miles through the typically dry land with scrub and trees (including Baobabs) and seeing the diversity of the wildlife of Africa. Cultivated land was mostly in areas of small subsistence holdings. At home, the lives of the Europeans were frequently centred around entertaining in their gardens or relaxing in clubs which often catered for sports as well. John is reported as having made several tennis courts, but no actual golf courses!

From 1958 to 1961, John then being a District Commissioner, the family was once again in Balovale, which was the happiest posting of all. The girls were old enough to be taken in a dugout canoe to a sandbank in the Zambezi for picnics and swimming (keeping well clear of hippos) and at home they could help entertain visitors from the humblest to the very important.

### Citation for Military Cross

*“Captain Orr-Ewing carried out his task of visiting all formations, improving their efficiency both by instruction and personal example, arranging reception of supplies and working with tact and perseverance to unite the formations for coordinated effort.*

*Most of the work was done by him in civilian clothes since it was impossible to move about in uniform in this area and he was in constant danger of betrayal or ambush. Throughout the winter of 1944/45 when movement was difficult and cover from enemy observation lacking, he pursued his liaison activities unremittingly. For most of the time he operated as an independent mission, which was on several occasions subjected to enemy drive, and was forced to change location every few days. On one occasion he was obliged to set up his headquarters less than 200 yards from the headquarters of Kesselring and to remain there for three days working his wireless transmission schedules to Base and carrying on the ordinary work of the mission. In this way he not only assisted to maintain the partisan forces in being, but also improved their organisation and built up an effective command for co-operation with the Allied Armies in the Spring Offensive. Under his guidance the partisans carried out continuous sabotage actions on enemy lines of communication, in many of which he personally took part.*

*In February 1945, his mission leader, the senior British Liaison Officer in the area, was killed in an ambush. Captain Orr-Ewing immediately assumed command and continued to discharge his added responsibilities with distinction until he had the satisfaction of seeing the area liberated by his partisans and allied troops working in conjunction. A measure of the success which crowned his efforts is the fact that in these final operations the partisans of the two divisions which were his responsibility inflicted some 20,000 to 30,000 casualties on the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners.*

*For a period of over 8 months captain Orr-Ewing, living in holes in the ground, worked tirelessly and cheerfully and with a complete disregard for his own personal safety in a most difficult and dangerous area where he was in daily peril of his life and where his capture in civilian clothes would have meant torture and execution. Captain Orr-Ewing throughout displayed the highest qualities of courage, leadership and devotion to duty and was a magnificent example to all.”*

### History in the making

Finally, they moved to Lusaka, the capital. There were new challenges and a brief history must be recorded in explanation.

In 1953 (after John had been in post for five years) the British Government created the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland as a self-governing colony with its Capital in Southern Rhodesia. But Northern Rhodesia was unhappy because it saw itself as being increasingly controlled from the south, despite

having its own legislative council. Also, that council had only two ethnic African members. In 1958, Kenneth Kaunda founded the Zambian African National Congress party to press for more power and there was a campaign of civil disobedience, but fortunately no bloodshed. There was a London conference to discuss these matters and the Federation was dissolved in 1963. In October 1964, Zambia gained independence; elections were held and Kenneth Kaunda became President.

### An MBE for work during Zambian independence

All of these events inevitably affected the work of the colonial commissioners, who were drawn into the planning processes. To recognise his role, John Orr-Ewing was awarded an MBE which he received from the Governor General at a lavish investiture ceremony in Lusaka. After independence, John remained in Lusaka serving on the President's staff to plan the new national administration. It must be assumed that this reflected a high regard and trust for him in those he had dealt with over the years. In October 1965, John and Kathleen returned to England, leaving behind a period of their lives which they always looked back on with great happiness.

### A key figure at Wye College

Back in Britain, John taught for two terms in a prep school in the Midlands before starting a new and very different career as the Registrar at Wye College. He and his small team would be responsible for a raft of student affairs: administering undergraduate and postgraduate admissions, timetables, examinations, accommodation and records. He would also be the Secretary of the Academic Board. All of these might have appeared dull and un-interesting compared with Italy and Zambia

Fundamentally, though, he enjoyed people and especially young people. He was interested in them; he could interact and help them solve their problems. This had been evident in the past, so what better environment could there be than in a University – furthermore heading a department devoted to their needs. He was a great success, especially with students from overseas, who particularly needed his advice and encouragement. He also had a phenomenal memory of individuals; of their names and backgrounds and, as time went by, of their parents and other relatives when they had been students. In recognition of his popularity, he was given the rare honorary award of Life Membership of the Wye College Union Society.

### Helping the community and post-colonial Africa

Within the wider community, John was a Lay Reader for the Church of England. His father had been a missionary and he himself a committed Christian since his teens. He had been an active member of the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union and a staunch supporter of the missions in Zambia. Now, he was closely involved with the Christian Union at Wye College and the church in Wye.

Another very different aspect was his membership of a team sent by the Government to Southern Rhodesia in 1980 to monitor the fairness of elections held after independence. He was delighted to visit Africa again and it is said that he was first on the plane and first off on to Rhodesian soil!

John retired as Registrar in September 1985,, remaining in Wye among his many friends and continuing to correspond with others around the world and hosting in his house whenever they visited Britain. Some years later, Kathleen became ill and although not then ill himself, they decided to move to Brambles Residential Home together, where he lived for the last seven years of his life – always making new friends and retaining his old sparkle.

In addition to information provided by John's daughters and some of his friends, preparation of this tribute to John was greatly aided by a series of recorded interviews with him that are available to download from the Imperial war Museum web site. Further, I was commended to a book *Mission Accomplished: SOE and Italy 1943–45* by David Stafford (see page 83), which contains numerous references to John's exploits during the war. *Ed – John Walters; I did some of the research, Ian Lucas put this article together.*

## Number crunching isn't straightforward

**John Roberts (1961–64)** lectured at what was the Essex Institute of Agriculture, then Writtle Agricultural College and now just Writtle College. Over the years, starting as an assistant lecturer in 1965 and then becoming Head of the Management Department, he became involved with the evolution of word processing and the introduction of calculators. It didn't always add up!

I was a Wye agricultural student between 1961 and 1964. Whilst at Wye, my father asked me what I wanted for a 21st birthday present. He was astounded when I replied "a typewriter" as I was getting tired of hand writing reports! A few weeks later I was given a portable Olivetti and started to become 'keyboard literate' with two fingers!

### Students and their typed work 1980–2004

I got a job as lecturer in Farm Business Management at Writtle College and I always encouraged students to learn typing and formatting skills. During the 1970s and 80s, HND students were required to write and submit two copies of a 5,000 word thesis. In the days before word processors and personal computers, they had to find and pay a typist to type and collate their work. It was always interesting to read the thesis submitted by a poor student who had been fortunate to find a very capable typist. The good typist had altered the text to make it readable, corrected the spelling, and knew how to format an academic report. The reverse also occurred, when a competent student had used the services of a 'copy typist', with the result that the submitted work was little different to the basic draft he had given her to type!

In 1980, Writtle College purchased Commodore computers and I encouraged students to type their reports, especially those associated with banker's exercises and overseas visits sponsored by the British Council. The normal response was "I cannot type", "I don't want to type it", "It will take too long", "Typing is for girls!"



During the late 1980s, 'Communications' (which included computing and word processing in the first term) was introduced into the curriculum, and students were taught how to produce well-written, professionally formatted reports.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, the syllabus still contained lectures on word processing and formatting written work, but the majority of new students had used computers at school, probably owned their own computer, and had submitted written work at school that had been accepted as satisfactory! So, the majority of students believed they were keyboard literate, competent at word processing and regarded the lectures as unnecessary and a waste of time!

### Word processing vs typing

How wrong they were! In practice, the majority of students knew little if anything about spacing, tabs, justification, columns, tables, page numbering, headers/footers, etc, and so when they submitted work it was unacceptable. When the report was returned to students, the normal response would be:

*Student:* "Why was I marked down for that?"

*Staff:* "Because you did not use and apply what you were taught in lectures".

*Student:* "I did not go to the lectures - they were a waste of time as I know how to type!"

*Staff:* "The lectures were not about typing, they were about word processing! If you had attended, you would have learnt about formatting the written work to be submitted later in the course!"

At the end of my career as a lecturer, I encouraged students to hand-write their first business report as you really have to be competent to produce a report on a computer without writing it in draft and altering it several times.

### The evolution of the calculator at Writtle College

Maybe those of us brought up with £ s d became competent with figures because one penny was 1/240th of a £, a shilling was 1/20th of a £ and a half-crown was 1/8th of a £, and so there was a greater need to be familiar with 'times tables' than with metric maths!

Back in 1972, I was fairly competent with figures but with over 40 students in many classes and administrators wanting to know average marks for each exam question as well as for the overall paper, there were a large number of figures to manipulate and my brain soon got addled!

One October day in 1970, I was walking through Chelmsford and saw a large display offering 33% off the £48 price of a hand-held calculator

(meaning it was just £32!). Much to the dismay of my father, who was a numerate accountant, I bought the device that had an eight-figure display and was powered by four AA batteries.

I went home, opened the box, fitted the batteries and started to play with my new toy! This first-generation calculator had the four basic functions, plus square root and percentage, but no memory! The display was small and green, but it made routine calculations very easy and was very good at providing exam averages! I showed the calculator to members of the Management team and explained its merits, and immediately the decision was made to buy six similar machines, fit them with rechargeable batteries and make them available to staff and students. A special rack was constructed for storage and re-charging and the system worked well with 'bright' students keen to use the new technology, 'slow' students speeding up, and 'lazy' students letting the machine do the work for them!

### Each brand was different

A few weeks later, I bought a desk calculator for £140. That is where the problems began! The hand held models operated on 'schoolboy logic' ( $2+2=4$ ) whereas the desk model worked using 'commercial logic' ( $2+2+ \text{equals } 4$ )! Over the next few years, students started to buy their own calculators and although they were all a similar size, each manufacturer seemed to use a different location for the function keys and different logic



Small Casio – For carrying around

Large Casio – For desk use

Scientific Casio – Too, too complicated for managers!



for constant and memory calculations, making it impossible to teach students how to use calculators properly!

To overcome the problem, the College bought a stock of good basic Casio calculators and sold them to all first-year students. Staff could then require students to bring their calculator to lectures and give instructions on its correct use. This proved satisfactory for two to three years until students started to arrive at College with calculators they had used at school. Naturally, they did not want to pay for a second 'basic' machine!

### Business vs scientific calculators

Business management students need to be able to use a four-function calculator, with constant, percentage and memory keys, in order to speed up cash book, VAT, budgeting and accounts exercises. During the 1980s and 90s, students started to arrive at Writtle with scientific calculators, which they needed at school. Although such machines are capable of designing a 'Concorde wing', the majority of students could not use them to work out VAT at 17½% on £2,400 of fertiliser, or add three totals together using the memory! It would have been sensible for some students to have two calculators, one for science and one for management, but few were willing to spend £10 on a 'basic' machine when they already had a sophisticated one (even though they could not use it).

The problems got worse when manufacturers produced calculators in different shapes and sizes, some with metric and Euro options. Then came the credit card sized calculator and the calculator option within a mobile phone! Ownership of the latest technology became paramount and although totally impractical for speeding-up routine business calculations, students would insist on using a midget machine, their mobile phone or something with a complicated menu or colour screen!

The role of the lecturer became impossible! Calculators are like computers. We are all familiar with numbers and assume we can use a calculator, just as we all know the letters on a keyboard and think we can use a word processor. Few people have read the instructions on how to use their calculator and so we all have a machine on the desk, in our wallet or handbag, but very few people use it properly or efficiently.

### A fun exercise

Casio calculators have 'flags' on the display to help the user know what is being used.

On the display below, M shows the memory is in use, K shows the constant multiplier is in use and X shows multiply.

M	12	x
K		

To practice your calculator skills, how many key presses are necessary for the following calculations using a Casio calculator?

$$4 \times 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$4 \times 8 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$4 \times 12 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Answer: 11 key presses to reach the total of 92  
4, x, x (the 2nd x activates the constant)  
3, M+, 8, M+, 12, M+, MR

$$200 \times 20\% = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$800 \times 20\% = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$1,000 \times 20\% = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Answer: 18 key presses to reach the total of 400  
.2 (represents 20%), x, x (the 2nd x activates the multiplier)  
200, M+, 800, M+, 1,000, M+, MR

## Potatoes a' plenty

**Prof Geoff Dixon (1962–68) sent this article as a big thank you to Richard and Sheila Janaway and their family for their superb hospitality hosting the Gourmet Hog Roast at Lodge Farm, Hook, Hampshire in early July 2015 and to Gavin Janaway who found time in a very busy schedule for a discussion. Thanks also go to Jane Walters for her work in organising a great event, much enjoyed by all**

Times are tough for the European potato industry. Consumption is falling as people want healthy diets containing rice and pasta. Consequently, this crop is a classic example of the success of agricultural science with growers producing excellent clean crops with good yields while facing declining markets with over-production and manipulation by external forces.

### Falling acreages

The Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB) – Potatoes surveys show falling acreages, standing now at about 120,000 ha, but national yield is still increasing. Great Britain consumes about 5 million tonnes of potatoes per annum with yields of around 45 tonnes per ha. From which it is obvious that contraction in

the industry has some way to run. Potato growing costs around £140/tonne, while returns are currently about £150/t, but in 2011 this dipped below £90/t. The industry has two market segments: growers sell either into processing or the fresh market, which essentially means the supermarkets. Growing for the latter is specialised and delivers products ranging from large baking tubers to minute salad types with each buyer having their own specifications.

Whitewater Potatoes, owned by the Janaway Family, who hosted the 2015 Agricola Club Summer Event, sells into processing. Although this market's requirements can vary from year to year, there is some assurance of contract prices provided quality is maintained.



Healthy potato crop cv Lady Rosetta, an early crisp (photo: Geoff Dixon).



Gavin Janaway (photo: Geoff Dixon).

### 24/7 job for Gavin Janaway

That is a 24/7 job for Gavin Janaway who manages the potato enterprise. Crops are grown across Hampshire and parts of Berkshire using both family-owned and rented land. Planting starts in February on coastal fields where frosts are minimal and continues progressively northwards. Early crops are harvested from mid-July onwards, going straight into the processing factories until September, at which time the tubers are stored until required.

### Blight can be catastrophic

Crop health is of paramount importance. Late blight (right) caused by *Phytophthora infestans* remains the most serious disease problem in the field. Foliage, stems and tubers are infected where, as Gavin Janaway says, "it can be catastrophic". Tuber infection found during processing causes major problems in the factory and can result in lost future contracts. Control requires a very rigorous blight spray programme

using several chemicals with differing modes of action; this reduces the speed with which fungicide-tolerant races evolve.

Blight forecasting uses data from met. stations on the farms and is aligned with national monitoring programmes and synoptic weather predictions. This ensures that sprays are used only in periods of high risk. That could be every three days or lengthens in hot weather to 10–15 days.

### Storage diseases

Storage diseases are another hazard for this enterprise and, again, control starts in the field. Tubers must be dry, clean and damage-free when lifted. Potato harvesters are a big investment costing over £250,000 each and three to four are needed. Diseases causing major problems include black leg (*Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora*) and bacterial soft rots (*Pectobacterium* spp.) (see next page). Skin curing starts in the field from September onwards; the need is to get the "skins set and the moisture out of the crop" says Gavin. Crops are desiccated with Round-up and left to set skins in the field for two weeks before lifting and storing. By mid-October lifting is completed.



Potato blight (photo: Uwe Merz).



Bacterial soft rot (photo: Graeme Stroud).

Storability depends on field quality "What comes out of the store for the factories is only as good as what goes in". Once inside the store the air flow is key to removing moisture, and requires movements of 8,000 cfm. Mobile fans supplement the main fans if water appears on the floor under the stillages. Air flow is reduced as moisture is eliminated, saving up to 60% of energy costs. Crops grown in the coastal sites use solar power generated electricity for drying tubers. This helps comply with the crispers' push for 'sustainable farming'.

### Largest growers in southern England

Whitewater supplies most of the large crispers and processors and are the biggest growers in Southern England. The stores are monitored daily, checking temperatures and humidity. Simply walking through the stores is vital. Frying tests are made on batches of 500 to 2000 tonnes of tubers every 7 to 10 days, measuring glucose and sucrose levels. Once these have stabilised with the values required by the factories then the crop can be despatched. The sugar values are controlled information and vary with different chippers and friers, and varies with the cultivar grown.

Choice of cultivar is a major element in potato growing, with a range of early, mid season and late types being used. The Janaway family have farms in the Forfar area north of Dundee producing their own seed, and they collaborate with the breeders at the James Hutton Institute, Dundee, in producing suitable new genotypes. Developing improved disease resistance is a prime aim for the Janaways.

Elsewhere breeding programmes are reducing the levels of acrylamides in new cultivars of cooking potatoes. Acrylamides result from high temperature induced breakdown of asparagines and are a current cause for concern (by the Food Standards Authority) although levels in potatoes are less than those formed by cereals.

### Monitoring disease risk

Science is continually improving potato husbandry. Currently, Rothamsted Research is developing automated and robotic disease monitoring techniques whereby fungal spores can be captured and their DNA identified in the field by a 'lab in the box'. The results can be transmitted by text as disease risk assessments to growers' smart phones on the basis of which 'spray or no spray' decisions are made. Some growers are monitoring crops remotely using drones. In this way science is making crop production quicker, more reliable and cheaper.

The potato is a world crop that in Asia is becoming preferred to rice, the reverse of European trends. Acreages are increasing in India and China. But climate change is reducing their areas suited for potato production and is favouring diseases such as late blight. That means Northern Europe is still an attractive place for potato production.



# The impact of Ebola on small farmers in Liberia

**Macon Tubman (1991–92) reviews the devastating Ebola outbreak in Liberia and explains the affect it has had on the small farmers.**

The Ebola virus disease outbreak was one the deadliest infectious diseases that ravaged thousands of lives in West Africa between December 2013 and December 2015 – with 10,675 registered cases and 4,809 registered deaths in Liberia (WHO Ebola Situation Report , 6 January 2016). Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone were the three most affected countries. The outbreak is believed to have originated in Guinea when a one-year-old boy named Emile Ouamouno died in the village of Meliandou in the district of Gueckedou in December 2013. Unaware of Ebola, the parents carried out their normal burial rituals (including bathing and dressing the body). Later, the immediate family members came down with similar symptoms and died. The outbreak then spread across Guinea and later across West Africa – killing innocent citizens and health workers.

## The Liberia situation

The first recorded incidence of Ebola in Liberia in late March 2014, was brought into the country by a lady from Lofa County who probably attended an Ebola victim funeral in Guinea. Coming down with (unrecognized) symptoms, she interacted



*Ebola Treatment Unit. Ebola affected health workers (ELWA)*

with caring family members and other local health practitioners whose treatment was ineffective. Seeking better medical treatment, she travelled to Monrovia in an over-loaded bus and infected other passengers on her way. The first two cases of Ebola were officially confirmed on 30th March 2014.

The disease spread like wildfire because of ignorance and denial. Many Liberians believed that the Ebola pronouncement by the Liberian Government was another attempt to allow huge budgetary allotments that some government elites could scramble away. As a result, the majority of the people didn't believe in, or practice, the measures instituted by the Government. This exacerbated the situation and before people could realize the truth, Ebola had reached its destructive climax. Several healthcare workers, including doctors and other health support staff (janitors, drivers, etc.) lost their lives because of lack of protective equipment (PPEs) and limited experience about the virus

## Impact of the virus on medical personal

The Liberian health system was already constrained by shortage of health personal and medical facilities. There were only 50 trained physicians serving the needs of the whole population. Ebola exacerbated the situation and created a serious gap in the healthcare delivery system. On 17th June 2014, the first deaths occurred in Monrovia, including a nurse who was treated at the Redemption Hospital. Later, her entire household was wiped out. On 2nd July 2014, the head surgeon of the Redemption Hospital died of the disease and the hospital was



*The author with a two-year-old survivor who is cared for by another survivor*

shut down. Patients were transferred to other facilities. By 21st July, four nurses at Phebe hospital in Bong County died. By 27th July, one of Liberia's most experienced doctors, Dr. Samuel Brisbane, became infected and died – as did a doctor from Uganda.

Two US health care workers who became infected were taken to America where they were treated and recovered. On 28th July, all border crossing points were closed; and citizens moving from one county to another had to pass through medical checkpoints, wash their hands with chlorine treated water and have their temperature taken before being allowed to move on.

A total of 192 health workers including doctors, nurses, physicians and lab technicians died during the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. Other health support staff including janitors, driver registrars also died but this was recorded only in the general death toll.

## Impact of Ebola on small farmers

Agriculture is the primary livelihood for 80% of the country's population. It is the foundation of Liberia's economy and the key to food security and poverty reduction mainly at smallholder and

subsistence level, as well as a cash crop provider at plantation level (rubber, palm oil, cocoa, coffee and sugarcane).

I was engaged to visit markets in Montserrado, Bong, Bassa, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties to assess how small farmers, who supply Liberia's main markets with food, were being affected by the spread of Ebola and to assess prices of local food commodities.

I found that food crop farmers were seriously affected by the government's measures. These included quarantined Ebola hotspots, compulsory leave for non-essential staff of Government Ministries, closure of educational facilities, and a reduction in numbers travelling on public transport and attending public gatherings. Movements in these areas were restricted to authorized government health personnel, health and relief humanitarian NGOs and UN Agencies. As a result, farmers' perishable food products were destroyed because buyers could not access farmers. Farmers already afraid of the virus were reluctant to visit their farms or villages.

Local farmers have a tradition of working in groupings (a co-op) – gathering in a group of



about 20 people to clear a farm for a member of that group before repeating it for all members during the farm-brushing season. The restriction prevented them from doing this throughout the country in order to avoid people touching each other. There was a slogan called “no touching, no eating” broadcast on radio and TV, but people did not understand that to get infected they had to touch a person who is infected.

Many farmers died in Bomi, Bong and parts of Grand Cape Mount Counties ;with in some communities more than 25 people dying because they practised their tradition of bathing and dressing the body. Some lost their rice farms to birds and rodents. Others could not plant as there were no seeds or planting material. Stored seed rice was used for food. Prices of local food increased, causing widespread hunger.

In many villages in Grand Bassa County, farmers grew only cassava on their farms because they could access cuttings from past years. Many ate fufu or dumboy (made from cassava) two to three times a day because only cassava was available. What was **not** readily available were the other

ingredients required to prepare fufu or dumboy – leading many people to eat bush meat, against government advice because bush meat was suspected as the principal carrier of Ebola.

### New hospitals overrun

In Monrovia in Montserrado County, many people died as most of the affected patients came to Monrovia to their relatives to seek treatment. By 20 September, the government opened a 150-bed treatment unit and provided six ambulances to transport suspected Ebola patients. But many patients could not be accommodated whilst others made their way to the clinics on foot with the help of relatives. Two days later, an additional 112 beds were filled with 46 patients testing positive for the virus whilst the rest were admitted for observation. But the capacity of the unit was overrun within 24 hours due to a gross shortage of staff and logistics. Some nurses left their duty because there was no protective clothing. By 23rd September 2014, 1,830 people had died. By this time three Ebola treatment clinics had been set up in Monrovia, but despite this many patients died waiting to be treated.



Local food sale at Kakata central Market- Margibi County during the Ebola outbreak



Local food market in the red light district of Monrovia during the Ebola outbreak

In Monrovia, I visited seven major local food markets, where prices were comparatively high. Despite this, most people could afford at least one meal a day – which is the normal practice for 90 percent of Monrovia’s inhabitants.

There was no major incident in the Southeastern counties of Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Sinoe, Maryland and Grand Kru. The main crossing point is a bridge, which was blocked by the Security Authority and no one was allowed to enter the Southeast. Ivory Coast closed its border once the virus was announced to be in Liberia – but later opened a humanitarian corridor. Many people went hungry, especially children’ which brought about the intervention of Save the Children and UN agencies to supply emergency food.

Farmers in the most affected counties now need help – improved seed rice and cassava cuttings, tools, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. – to restart farming activities. They also need trained technicians to guide them through new methods of farming. The government is trying to introduce commercial rice, cassava, vegetable and other

farming systems in the country and is seeking foreign investors.

### Needs of Ebola survivors and orphans

Liberia has now been declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) but the virus has taken a lasting toll. More than 4,000 boys and girls have become orphans and need support with education, housing, clothing, food, healthcare and trauma counselling.

There were more than 1,534 registered survivors from 10,675 registered cases in Liberia. I observed that some survivors leaving the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) later developed blindness, probably because of the chlorine sprayed on them. Some seem to behave irrationally in the street. It appears that many different drugs (perhaps trial drugs) were used on them whilst they were in the ETUs. It is my prayer and hope that someone could study the cause of this problem and find some sort of solutions to help survivors.

Ebola survivors will have many ongoing needs as people are still afraid of them and efforts are needed at community level to help incorporate the survivors back into society.

We were informed by **John Meadley**, a friend and colleague, that Macon was in urgent need of financial assistance for an eye operation. Accordingly, a grant was made from the Memorial Fund to cover the necessary expenses.

## Applied science in a Countryside Classroom lunchbox

In the second of her contributions concerning FACE, Moya Myerscough (néé Feehally, 1974–77) takes us into schools with some 'Lunchbox science'



In last year's Agricola Club Journal, I wrote about the work that I have been involved in with FACE – Farming and Countryside Education – aiming to provide children and young people with an opportunity to learn about food and farming in a sustainable countryside. FACE (which developed from the education teams at the RASE and the NFU some 15 years ago) works with partner and member organisations across the agricultural and agri-food sectors, farmers, teachers and outdoor educators to promote, support, encourage and develop awareness and understanding of how our food is produced.

### Reasons for lack of knowledge about farming and food

In spite of all that has been done, we are aware that there is still, for many youngsters, a gap in their knowledge and little opportunity to learn about farming and food production. Perhaps this is in part the result of a lack of knowledge on the part of parents and teachers. The growth in supermarkets and urban-based communities, the changes in farming practices and traditional rural communities, the massive changes in diet and expectations about food availability, post-WW2 government policies and the EU – all reflect and are, probably in some way, a cause of the continuing disconnect between the general public and food production. However, in the 21st century the challenge of the obesity epidemic in the UK and even the 'scares' about what is going into the food chain and concerns about livestock health and hygiene have put food and how it is produced back into prominence and back, by government requirement, into schools' areas of concern.

### Launch of the Countryside Classroom

The list of organisations and charities working to support schools as they seek ways to meet the challenges is quite long, and FACE's informal research has shown that teachers often find this confusing and don't know where to begin looking for the resources they need. So, with FACE as the lead partner, a group of organisations have come together to provide a hub website for teachers. The aim of the Countryside Classroom website is to provide teachers with a straightforward link to the wide range of resources, to people who can offer help and to farms that accept visits from groups. Searches can be made by region, county and topic to quickly link with the support that is available or farms that welcome school groups for day visits.

Launched in September 2015, the Countryside Classroom is already well used but will only be as helpful as the number of people that contribute and sign up to it. If for example, you welcome schools to your farm, or visit schools to talk about farming or the countryside, if you represent an agricultural show society or work with farm machinery, engineering, scientific research or different growing methods. please look at the Countryside Classroom website and consider signing up to share your knowledge and insights with teachers and children.



### Learning within the curriculum

One of the ways that FACE seeks to support teachers is by encouraging them to use food and farming topics within curriculum learning in the classroom – for example, doing more with a farm visit than just writing about it, but using the information gathered for maths or science, history or art. After all, farmers have to be competent mathematicians, experts in applied science, especially biology and engineering, as well as business people, geographers and sometimes politicians. So the FACE Regional Educational Coordinators may find themselves speaking to a group of teachers not just about the basics of farming and the food produced on UK farms but also encouraging them to see that everything about how crops grow and livestock are farmed is applied science and involves maths.

Until I retired at the end of 2015, I worked for FACE as the Regional Education Coordinator for the East of England. In Norfolk where I live, we are privileged to host the Norwich Research Park – home to the John Innes Centre as well as the Institute of Food Research, and other food and agriculture research organisations. Based within the John Innes Centre is the SAW Trust (SAW stands for Science Art and Writing, [www.sawtrust.org](http://www.sawtrust.org)). The Trust arranges for working research Scientists to spend a day in a class (any age group) to help the children do some 'real' science based on their own research topic. They work as a team with a professional Artist and Writer who on the same day develops and embeds the learning through writing poetry and doing art/craft based on the scientific images the youngsters have been looking at.

### Looking at the school lunchbox

During 2015, FACE and the SAW Trust developed a series of SAW days in Primary Schools, 7–11 age group, which we called Lunchbox Science. For the pilot scheme, we brought together the SAW Trust approach with the FACE work to encourage children to think in greater depth about farming



and food. We based the programme of eight SAW days on the contents of a typical child's lunchbox. The notional lunchbox contained a cheese and lettuce sandwich, a yogurt, a chocolate bar, a bag of potato crisps and a bottle of water. This gave us eight science topics: wheat, yeast, lettuce, cheese, yogurt, chocolate and sugar, potatoes and water. Each was delivered in a different Key Stage 2 age group class by a scientist from the Research Park or University of East Anglia. There they encouraged the children to do experiments linked to their own area of research using some stunning images (many of these can be seen on the Norwich Research Park online Image Library).

### Classroom activities that are relevant

The activities included dissecting wheat plants with an introduction to the role of DNA in plant breeding, filling balloons with CO<sub>2</sub> produced by feeding yeast, making mozzarella cheese, watching bio-controls at work as ladybirds predated aphids on lettuce plants, preparing series dilutions from a bottle of Actimel to count the number of bacteria in one bottle of the yogurt drink, the impact of sugar on taste of raw cocoa and making sugar crystals, observing the impact of pathogens on potato plants and the use of



## Wye College in the Great War 1914–18

Taken from a series of posters created by Lucy and Francis Huntingdon (1961–64) for display at the Heritage Centre in 2015 in the exhibition 'Wye in the Great War'.

### The College before 4th August 1914

The South Eastern Agricultural College (later to become Wye College) had opened in 1894 with just 13 students but numbers rapidly increased and by 1898 there were 50 students rising to 70 students in 1904. An ambitious building project was started which was still to be completed in 1914. Only men were admitted as students and they were able to study for a certificate (two years), a Diploma (three years) or from 1902 a degree (four years) in agriculture.



*The new front of the college completed in early 1915.*



*A group of Students before 1914.*

At the beginning of 1914 students numbers had reached 150 with some 252 past students and staff being part of the Agricola Club. The journal of 1914 records past students writing in from Manila, South Africa, Egypt, British Columbia, Canada, America and Argentina, where they were all working in agriculture. In the same journal current college students successes were recorded in cricket, tennis, athletics, and steeple chasing (horses not athletics) as well as in academic prizes and awards!

*Continued from page 97.*

resistance genes, how water is filtered and our water usage and water footprints.

At the time of writing we are in the process of turning these days into lesson plans that we hope will be made available on the Countryside Classroom website in due course. During 2016 we hope that another group of eight schools will have Lunchbox Science days – and there is the possibility that the idea will be introduced in the

Xuhui district of China through the Norfolk County Council International Schools Partnership and a link the SAW Trust has developed.

For more information visit:

[www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

[www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk](http://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk)

[www.sawtrust.org](http://www.sawtrust.org)

<http://images.norwichresearchpark.ac.uk>

### Outbreak of War

War was declared on August 4th 1914 and immediately 82 students and 15 members of staff enlisted with the result that only 79 students arrived for the autumn term of which 48 were considered 'regulars' and 31 'specials' who were on a new one-year course. At the time a member of staff wrote "all the second year students, save one or two, have gone and the new students have no one to show them the ropes or teach them traditions"

52 of the students and staff enlisted in their own company of the 5th Buffs. A journalist wrote "Wye men ought to be very useful recruits, since almost without exception they ride and shoot and are accustomed to manly open-air pastimes".

Of the 252 members of the Agricola Club, 129 also enlisted, with at least 10 in the 5th Buffs.

The first recorded death of an ex-student was that of Reginald Worthington on 16th September 1914.



*Five members of the 5th Buffs photographed in the College.*



*Women students working in the laboratories at the College.*

### Students during War

The number of students who enlisted reached 450 by the end of the war, many in the 5th Buffs. This regiment had first been sent on garrison duty to India and during 1915 to active service in Mesopotamia where three Wye men, faithful to their training, formed the Agricultural Department of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force to grow and supply green vegetables to the Army to combat scurvy.

Back in Wye, the number of students, which had dropped to 69 with the onset of war, continued to decline with 58 in 1915–16 and only 42 in 1916–17, which included five disabled students. Numbers picked up in 1917–18 with 36 disabled soldiers and 16 women on scholarships given by the Board of Agriculture to train for positions of responsibility on a farm. Another 15 women were being trained in vegetable drying so that they could oversee work in the new drying centres being set up in the country. Ladies had been allowed into the College for short courses in the vacations in 1916 but the new group were full-time students and were housed in the College buildings.





*Ambulance of the Voluntary Aid Department, Army Service Corps c. 1916.*

### The Royal Army Medical Corps

With most of the college being under-utilised, new tenants were sought and in June 1915 the Royal Army Medical Corps arrived to use the College museum as a hospital for the TA. The Hospital Supply Depot organised by Mrs Barnard also used College buildings throughout the war.

### King's Own Hussars

Before the war many of the families in Wye had derived a substantial part of their income from housing the College students and with the start



*Trooper of the King's Own Hussars under 'Fighting Orders'.*

of the war they were left without an income. The College Principle, Mr. Dunstan, realising this, approached the War Office asking to have troops, on their way to the front, billeted in Wye. The first to come were men of the King's Own Hussars who also required stabling for their horses. During the course of the war over 400 military personnel were billeted in Wye and added both to the economy, and the social life, of the village.

### The Agricola Club Journal

Throughout the war the Agricola Club Journals contained much information about those serving abroad and inevitably many obituaries recording the deaths of past student and staff. The following accounts have been gleaned from the Journals and other sources.

### Harold Keable 'Keabbie'

Harold was born on 11th January 1889 and entered Wye College in 1909, graduating with the College Diploma in Agriculture in 1911. In the two years before the outbreak of war he went to Egypt and worked on an ambitious project for the



*2nd Lieutenant Harold Keable in uniform, taken from a regimental photograph.*

reclamation and irrigation of some 30,000 acres of low lying land, near Alexandria. It seems likely that after war broke out he returned from Egypt and enlisted in the Queen's Regiment and was commissioned on 12th January 1915.

He was gazetted Second Lieutenant on 6th February 1915 and posted to the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. After a period of training at Sandhill Camp on Salisbury Plain, the Battalion left for France at the beginning of August 1915. Second Lieutenant Keable went into action on the first day of the Battle of Loos on the 25th September 1915 and was killed during the assault, his body later being found in the Third Line of German trenches. He is buried near the Hulluch Road.

### Historical Note

25th September 1915 was the first occasion on which the British and French forces used Chlorine gas. It seems likely that Lieutenant Keable not only had to contend with German fire across open ground but also gas drifting back onto the advancing British line.

### Tim Fitzroy – Viscount Ipswich

Tim entered Wye College in 1904 obtaining the College Diploma in July 1907. He played cricket for the College from 1904–1907 and again as a member of staff 1913–1914. In June 1905, he sustained a serious accident, falling off his bicycle and being severely crushed by the wheels of a heavily laden wagon drawn by a steam tractor; fortunately he made such an excellent recovery that in 1906 he won the College Steeplechase.

On leaving College he took up an appointment with the Egyptian Estates Company. He remained there for five years, returning to the College in 1913 to take up the post of Assistant Instructor



*Viscount Ipswich in his Lieutenant's uniform.*

in Surveying. Also in 1913 he married Auriol, daughter of Major Brougham, and lived for some time at The Firs, 114 Lower Bridge Street where, in his student days he had lodged.

On the outbreak of war he acted for some time as the assistant remount officer, then enlisted with 70 College students in the Fifth Buffs, going through training with them as a private. He took a commission in the Coldstream Guards and saw considerable service in France being invalided home twice with shell shock. He was then considered unfit for General Service and in 1918 started training as a pilot with No. 17 Training Squadron of the RAF at the RFC airfield at Yatesbury near Calne. During training he met his death in a flying accident on April 23rd 1918. He left three children, a son born in 1914, a daughter in 1916 and another daughter born posthumously in 1918.

# Rustics' Cricket Tour 2015

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), **Tom Atkinson** (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*: Chris Neild, Lara Neild, Jack Upton, Ryan Waldock

## Kilminster – 5th July 2015

It was a perfect West Country afternoon as a small party of senior citizens strolled through the picturesque lanes of Kilminster and stumbled across a sign welcoming them to an 'Exhibition of Rustic Furniture'. Delighting in their unexpected good fortune, they followed the sign to the cricket club pavilion where they were greeted by a smiling, ginger-haired guide who directed them down the corridor to the exhibition room (the



*Sign on the Kilminster CC Entrance*



*Squire admires his reflection*

away team changing room). When they re-emerged, their disappointment was evident. All they had seen were a couple of battered tall boys, with unstable legs and ill-fitting drawers, alongside a collection of well-worn pouffes.

Had they stayed to watch the opening exchanges of the cricket match, the pensioners would have been much more impressed by the vintage display of Rustic batsmanship from the polished willow of antique craftsmen such as Richardson, Dinnis, Craze (snr) and Holborn. Each made useful contributions as the Rustics chiselled out a solid score of 95 for 3 after the first 20 overs. The antique Holborn had even managed to carve a delivery clean out of the ground and onto the tin roof of a neighbouring garden shed.

The smiling ginger-haired guide (aka Richard Pool) then entered the arena and showed no benevolence to the veteran Kilminster spinner,

smashing his second delivery for 6 and rapidly plundering the top score of 39 before kindly missing a straight one. Charlie Squire was still smarting from the pub landlord's rebuff for inappropriate lunchtime language towards the barmaid (the landlord's daughter). He took out his wrath on the Kilminster bowlers by closing the innings with a series of savage boundaries as Rustics reached 231 – 7 declared.

It only took 4 balls of the Kilminster reply for Jack Upton to send the stumps cart-wheeling, and 8 deliveries for a sudden rainstorm to send the players scurrying back to the pavilion. When the captains strolled out to the pitch some 20 minutes later, Squire was admiring his reflection in the puddles when his opposite number confirmed the match was abandoned. The Rustics were left with five hours to kill in the Old Inn during which Hole seemed unperturbed by the phone call advising that his cattle were wandering the lanes of East Sussex.

## Devon Dumplings – 6th July 2015



The County Cricket ground at Exeter may have been lacking a pavilion (due to the redevelopment of the University end) but it was privileged to have a display of soldiers from the Rustic Terracotta Army. When the inflexible figures emerged from their



*The clay figure of Peter Holborn*

steel shipping container (the make-shift changing room), the majority were able to relax as Rustics had won the toss and elected to bat. At 68 for 4, the relaxation was over and the middle order were donning their protective pads and helmets and nervously awaiting their call to battle. But Craze junior was holding the fort and, in partnership with his father, the Rustics score marched past 100 enabling lunch to be digested in relative comfort.

Both Crazes were shot out after the interval as the score slumped to 148 for 8 and there were fears of another early finish. Squire chose to come out fighting, smashing the ball over the hoardings into the building site and farming the strike from the tailender Turners. He was almost entirely responsible for the last two wickets, amassing a further 51 runs to leave the Dumplings requiring exactly 200 runs to win the match.

The start of the Dumplings reply was dramatic. The skipper's son (Pyle Snr) had arrived late but was still allowed to open the batting. He bravely charged the opening deliveries of Upton, smashing three boundaries to cow corner, before snicking an attempted hook into the safe gloves of wicket-keeper Craze. Or were our ears deceiving us? The captain's son did not walk, and the umpire decided to rest his index finger. What followed was the most intensive session of Rustic cricket that any could recall. Upton's prolonged grunting in his delivery stride was now drowning out the pneumatic socket guns of the building site and, in his next over, the off stump of Pyle junior was pinned back at a most satisfying angle. In his third over, an edge carried to Richie Turner at first slip who juggled the catch but held on with the soft hands of a man used to clutching ailing robins. Turner himself was getting his off spinners to fizz on the hard,





*Richie Turner fizzing an off-break*

dry surface and hit the stumps twice in his first 7 overs, leaving the Dumplings in a stew at 64 for 4.

When Upton and Turner were rested, the intensity was lost and Pyle senior calmly milked the support bowling, taking his side within clear sight of victory at 148 for 5. Skipper Craze Jnr then conjured up two masterstrokes. Firstly, he brought back Turner at the Building Site End and the spinner responded instantaneously with two wickets with his first two deliveries. But Pyle remained entrenched and was now protecting the lower order as Dumplings eked another 31 runs for the 8th wicket to bring his side within 20 of victory. Then came Craze's second piece of sorcery. He reintroduced Upton for a fiery 4th spell and posted all fielders on the off side of the wicket. Pyle could not resist the invitation to swing across the line towards the unprotected leg side. He missed and the ball crashed

unerringly into his stumps. The Craze trap had been sprung and the Rustic Army triumphed in this fiercely fought contest.

Turner Jnr finished with 6 for 51 and Jack Upton 4 for 65. Their fizzy and fiery partnership was only matched by the strength of the celebratory curries in the Monsoon Indian Restaurant, Seaton (not to mention the after-effects that reverberated throughout the night).

### **Beaminster – 7th July 2015**

From the moment the tourists arrived at the Beaminster Recreation Ground, the signs were ominous. With last night's curry still churning in their colons, the Rustics discovered that the new pavilion, with its plush toilet facilities, was closed for the reconstruction of the leaking roof. To compound matters, none of the town pubs were open during the day, and to cap it off, the opposing skipper proudly announced that lunch was to be served at ... the Bombay Spice Restaurant.

Pinney opened the batting for Rustics and nearly bagged his second duck of the tour when he was dropped without scoring, but made amends by regularly depositing the new ball into the gardens over square leg. His partner, Micro Craze,



*Waldock in full hoick*

adopted the more classical route to the boundary, caressing the ball effortlessly through the covers at turf level. Their opening stand of 67 paved the way for veteran Tom Atkinson to roll back the years with his own brand of elegant front foot drives to the third man boundary. By contrast rookie Ryan Waldock showed the effectiveness of the leg side hoick, grabbing his maiden Rustic 50 with all the grace of a startled warthog on ice.

Atko's departure paved the way for a slice of tour history as Lara Neild became first female Rustic to stride to the wicket. She managed to ignore Waldock's reprehensible display of ball tampering and secured her first Rustic run before succumbing to the pressure of Hole and Snape brawling on the boundary over the right to bat at No. 6. Hole won that battle and just beat Waldock in a closely contested slog-fest that produced 85 in just 8 overs. When Snape finally got to the wicket, skipper Chris Neild declared on 264 for 7.



*Hole and Snape after their boundary brawl*



*Lara Neild in full swing*

Lara opened the bowling with Upton and looked the more penetrative as her out-swing induced edges that were cruelly dropped by her teammates. Runs were drying up for Beaminster and the introduction of Turner Jnr to the attack established drought conditions as his first 8 overs included 5 maidens and 2 wickets. Recognising the game required opening out, captain Neild served up some tasty buffet pies, which the batsmen devoured hungrily as they raced half way to their target. When he could take no more, his daughter returned and snaffled a brace of wickets which reduced the home side to 149 for 6.

As the town pubs were finally opening their doors, the Rustics could taste the first pint, but the Beaminster lower order had more sobering plans. The next two partnerships amassed over 100 runs and, with the Rustics looking jaded, the home side were within two hits of an unlikely victory. It took a dramatic third catch of the innings by Atkinson, and more last gasp heroics by the Upton/Turner bowling partnership, for the Rustics to scrape home by a mere 8 runs in the most thrilling of finales.

The fighting spirit of the Wye Rustics ensured their undefeated record will be carried into a 4th year as the tour continues to thrive.



## More help for people in need

**Jane Reynolds (1973–76) is a Trustee of a fledgling charity called The Chaffinch Trust set up by her cousin, Ben Goss ([www.chaffinchtrust.com](http://www.chaffinchtrust.com)) which has a worldwide focus. Here she describes a fact-finding tour to parts of Africa in which she participated.**

The raison d'être of Chaffinch is that of collaboration. It brings together those who are in need of help with other charities or individuals who can give them practical help, financial help, and/or provide expertise in many disciplines. We are drawing together a huge list of influential and knowledgeable people to achieve this aim.

So if you know of an individual or a community needing help, please contact us and we will do all we can to assist

### The Chaffinch trip to Africa January 2015

Ben Goss led a fact-finding trip to various parts of Africa in the company of Brian Kelly (from Canada), Andrew Cowderoy (UK), Suzi Belcher (from Kenya) and **Jane Reynolds** (UK).

The team flew into Accra, Ghana, and were met by Neil Kerfoot who runs a charity called *Village by Village* (VbyV). Neil took us up to a village two hours north of Accra where his charity is based and for the next three days showed us the work he and Brendan have been doing. This is focused on digging wells to provide fresh water, building latrines to help stop the spread of disease and building schools to educate the local children. Neil and Brendan lead on the projects but aim to involve and enthuse the local people to work with them. They also encourage British school leavers to come out to help and Chaffinch was pleased that following our trip, Brian's son Patrick and a friend went out to help VbyV. The work of VbyV is outstanding and has benefited several villages in the area.

Next stop for the team was St. Nicholas Preparatory school in Tema, on the coast in Ghana. This was started by another inspirational person, Deborah Eleazar, many years ago. The school is beautifully kept and the children were immaculately turned out in spotless white uniforms. Yet these children all live in the huge slum that surrounds St. Nicholas. To see the white painted walls of the school and its stunning Greek Orthodox church rise before us out of the squalor of the slum, was truly amazing. The children were a delight and had been well groomed to sing, dance and march for us to the sound of African drums. Chaffinch is hoping to be able to help the school by creating a football pitch by the sea and further building works.

### Malawi hospital linked with Telemedicine

Then on to Malawi, where the team stayed in the guesthouse adjoining the Mission Hospital in Nkhomo. Dr Andrew Morton from the US is in charge here and people come in from the surrounding villages for treatment. Chaffinch is pleased that Nkhomo Mission Hospital now has a link with Telemedicine ([www.swinfencharitabletrust.org](http://www.swinfencharitabletrust.org)) following our visit.

Whilst there, we met Winnex, the Headmaster of Molozi school, and other village elders. It had taken them four hours in cars to cover the 35km to the hospital, such is the state of the roads in rural Malawi in the rainy season.

We learnt much about conditions in the area from the young doctors of many nationalities who also



stayed in the guesthouse. In Malawi, as in much of Africa, it is the women who bring up the children and grow the crops. The men, with some exceptions, are generally lazy, spending most of their time drinking and fathering numerous children by different mothers. It is difficult to know how to break this cycle of apathy.

On entering Nkhomo, we had noticed signs saying PB and Jesus! It transpired that this referred to a small 'factory' making an enriched Peanut Butter which was sent to hospitals all over Malawi, specifically to be given to infants on the point of starvation. It's miraculous life-saving powers were locally attributed to Jesus – hence PB & Jesus!

### Recycling waste plastics in South Africa

Our final destination was South Africa, where we were taken under the wing of Iqbal Hirji, a former pupil of Gordonstoun and local businessman/entrepreneur. Iqbal is pioneering the recycling of waste plastic in SA and turning it into building planks to make low cost houses. He not only employs people from the slums around Jo'burg to collect the plastic (they are known as 'wastepreneurs') but he plans to build enough recycled houses to re-home the people of the slums in decent dwellings with running water and

electricity. We visited Kyasands, where many of Iqbal's wastepreneurs lived – very primitive, corrugated iron shacks with no ground between them to speak of and one communal water pump at the end of the 'street'. Many of them at least did have Elsan toilets.

### Growing tree seedlings for wildlife

We then travelled over the foothills of the Drakensburg mountains to just north of Durban where we met Dr Andrew Ventnor of the Wildlands Conservation Trust. Amongst other things they are encouraging the women of the slums in that area to forage for tree seeds and grow them on into saplings (these women are known as 'treepreneurs'). They then sell or barter the young saplings back to the Wildlands Trust which is then planting up large areas of the country with trees to restore the natural 'bush' habitat of South Africa. This in turn will attract wildlife back and consequently encourage tourism, to bring income to the country.

We have since discovered that there are several UK firms that are also making use of recycled plastics to produce decking and garden furniture. We hope to roll out Iqbal's idea of low cost housing (approx. £350/house in SA) in other parts of the world.

So, in 12 days we saw great extremes of wealth and much need in Africa. Since our visit, we have put Telemedicine in touch with a child at St Nicholas School, who is now being treated and also twins in Nepal have had successful surgery for cleft palates, following our intervention.

*Please do contact Jane ([info@janegardensdesign.com](mailto:info@janegardensdesign.com)) if you can assist with projects in any way or know of individuals/communities we might be able to help.*

## Snapshots from the top of the world

**Tom Cusack (1966–69) and the team describe the 1969 Wye College Nepal Project that took them to the remote Gatlang District of Nepal. From July to September it threw up some problems and not a few delights.**

On 3rd July 1969, a merry and highly-motivated team of seven students from the Exploration Society set out for the Himalayas on a wonderful and unforgettable expedition to conduct an agricultural survey in the Gatlang District of Nepal, at the request of the Nepalese Government and the UNFAO Trisuli Watershed Development Project. Each team member undertook a specific field of study: **Margaret Crosse** ('69) – Animal Husbandry; **Tom Cusack** ('69) – Economics; **John Littleford** ('70) – Pedology; **Andrew Richards** ('70) – Grassland; **Jenny Street** ('70) – Animal Health; **Rik Sturdy** ('69) – Entomology; and **Allan Willens** ('70) – Crop Husbandry. The survey provided observations and data for a UNFAO baseline study that assisted in planning for more effective use of local water and other resources, in the light of the high rates of deforestation, population growth and increased erosion in the Trisuli Watershed.

### The expedition

The team flew to Bombay (Mumbai) in India, then took the train to Patna on the Ganges, from where they flew to Kathmandu. After a one-day briefing, the team spent four days travelling to Gatlang, North-West of Kathmandu, near the Tibetan border: the first day by Landrover on a mostly mud road to Trisuli Bazaar, and the next three days walking on mountain paths accompanied by a team of porters carrying our personal effects, food and equipment.

We set up a base in an old house already occupied by a German volunteer, Lothar Westermann, on the lower slopes of the survey area near the village of Gatlang, at about 2,500 meters. The survey area



*Narrow bridge walking up to Gatlang*

included the Gatlang and Langtang valleys, extending from 1,700 to 5,000 meters in altitude, with vegetation/land use varying from narrow cultivated terraces at low altitudes giving way to rhododendron scrub and mixed hardwoods, and finally to alpine grazing at the highest elevations.

The seven weeks of field work consisted of recorded interviews with farmers and other residents, technical measurements and personal observations. We then returned to Kathmandu where we spent a week analyzing the data, followed by retracing our steps to Bombay, and

arriving back in the UK on 12 September, for a week resident at Wye to write the first draft of our report. The final document was completed and distributed by February, 1970, and was reportedly found to be most useful for planning the further development of the Trisuli Watershed.

### The reunion

Most of us had not seen each other since 1969, but all seven of us regained contact in 2012, and the five of us who are still based in the UK enjoyed a fun reunion at Rik Sturdy's farm in Dorset in July, 2013. The remaining team members who resided abroad, Meg Shams (néé Crosse) in Italy and Jenny Te Whata (néé Street) in New Zealand, joined us via Skype. Hilary Richards, **Annie Willens** ('69), Gil Cusack, and **Kate O'Dell** ('69) joined us at the reunion. **Andy Turney** ('69) and Wendy Turney, who live nearby, also joined us for dinner one evening. We shared personal Nepal recollections, some souvenirs and photographs, and our experiences after leaving Wye. The idea of writing this article emerged at that time. This article is based on the personal notes of Meg

Shams, Jenny Te Whata, John Littleford, and Tom Cusack, following the recollections of everyone at the reunion.

### Preparations

**JOHN** writes: *Following experience with the Buxton Outdoor Pursuits Centre and the New Mills Mountain Rescue Team, as well as with pigs, beef and cereals on my practical year farm, I was primed for the Exploration Society. I eagerly participated in preparing for the 1969 expedition, especially by extracting medical supplies and money from medical companies and charities such as the Wellcome Trust. We received more supplies than needed, so one night in the Wye surgery with Dr Flood, we made a list of what we would require and prepared a medical chest about the size of a small suitcase; Dr. Flood gave us what we had not received from the medical companies and we gave him what we did not need on our trip, a fair exchange! We joined the Britain Nepal Society where we met Edmund Hilary, Lord Hunt and other leading figures in the mountaineering community as well as leaders with interests in Nepal-Britain*



*Walking at Rik's farm, Nepal reunion, July 2013. (from right to left) Rik Sturdy, John Littleford, Alan Willens, Anne Willens, Gil Cusack, Andrew Richards, Kate O'Dell, and Hilary Richards*

*co-operation, gaining much useful information and introductions.*

TOM writes: *Like a bolt of good fortune out of the blue, I was asked to join the Nepal Project team only a few months before departure, as the designated marketing economist/team leader was suddenly unable to travel. I swiftly accepted, as I had spent the previous summer working as a scientific editor at Makerere University, Uganda, arranged by Graham Milbourn, and was enthused to pursue further adventures in developing countries.*

### **The intrigues of middle east air travel**

Arriving at Heathrow for our United Arab Airlines flight to Cairo (excitingly the first flight ever for some of us), we were way overweight so we placed all the luggage on one scale for weighing and placed the toe tips of our boots underneath the scale platform when we approached our weight limit so as to avoid excess baggage. Upon disembarking from the Boeing 707 in Cairo, a shifty-looking man in local dress and keffiyeh (headscarf) came up to us and from out of the folds of his dishdash (all-in-one Arab robe) he produced some papers and spoke quietly out of the corner of his mouth, saying "something for pleasure on your journey?". Immediately we had images of dirty postcards and said no! When we got to the terminal we found out that there was a pilot strike and the man had been giving out vouchers for food while we waited for the strike to end! So back we troop onto the tarmac and ask for "something for pleasure on our journey"!

En route to Bombay, the Comet 4c aircraft landed for refuelling in Kuwait where it was so hot we thought the engines were still on! The airport was still shared with the RAF at the time and the terminal was an old metal hangar style building with a tin roof so it was even hotter inside. Here, when a whisky and soda was ordered, you received a tray with cup and saucer, teapot with Lipton's tea bag label hanging out and a milk jug

and sugar bowl! Open the teapot and there is no tea bag on the end of the label string but there is whisky in the teapot and soda in the milk jug. A great way to avoid offending local residents and their culture.

We had a very rough landing in Bombay, with a Red Cross van escort, due to landing gear problems coupled with monsoon downpours. Taxiing to our hostel that night, we still remember that first tropical feel of the lashing monsoon rains coupled with the aroma of spices in the air, the sounds and noises, the traffic and the hustle and bustle of the people. And what a clash of opposites, from extreme poverty with beggars sleeping on the streets in the rain to opulent wealth.

### **Adventures on the train**

Next day, one of the three taximen who took us from the hostel (still remember the crunching of cockroaches under our feet as we jumped out of bed in the morning) to the railway station snatched and ran away with all the taximen's fares; we offered no more funds and brazened out the ensuing mini-riot. Tom was expelled from the Calcutta Express at a random rural platform about 30 minutes out of Bombay for travelling in First Class with a Third Class ticket, and was subsequently arrested for the same offence by the station-master. He was quickly reinstated (to Third Class) after what seemed like the entire population of the train had rioted on the basis that the Calcutta Express never stops at a village station.

There was no catering on the train but a man would get on at one station take your order and get off at the next station and then telegraph your order up the line to the next station where you would get your order, and this went on for each of your courses. We changed trains in the middle of the night at Allahabad Junction, where the only lights outside the station were the twinkling of

tiny candles on the quiet street stalls and the masses of magical fireflies. We remember crossing over a bridge between platforms toiling up a waterfall of insects attracted to the lights over the steps.

On arrival at our platform, it was so filled with slumberers that there was hardly a place to stand – until someone woke up and saw our semi-military kit, and jumped up to salutive attention, followed by everyone else who had been sleeping. We remember staring helplessly at this saluting wall of humanity which thankfully slowly subsided to its original position. We were all soon on our Patna-bound train but only some of us actually arrived at Patna on the same train, as the carriage containing the rest who were travelling in a

different class had been shunted off onto another train during the night.

### **Trekking from Katmandu to our village**

Flying The Fokker F27 flight from Patna to Katmandu was memorable for our first Himalayan panorama of tall snow-covered peaks appearing to touch the top of the sky itself. After two days of briefings and trekking preparations in Katmandu, staying with our mainly UNDP and British Embassy host families, we travelled by Landover up to Trisuli Bazaar and early next day began a three-day trek along mountain paths to Gatlang, with David Field (the ex-Wye UNDP expert who had been most instrumental and supportive in bringing us to Nepal) and the Tibetan refugee Dorje in charge, accompanied by many Tamang

### **Tom Cusak recounts how his trip to Nepal was just the start of a career in international development**

Our trip to 1969 Nepal was a unique and supremely valuable experience which has greatly assisted me in facing post-Wye challenges. I particularly appreciated all the wonderful people we met on the trains, at work in the fields, and the work of so many others – especially fellow team members – at Wye, in Nepal and elsewhere, without whom this experience would not have been possible.

The most valuable aspect of the Nepal experience for me was that, unlike in Uganda, I had to adapt to living and working in very close proximity to six other students - and others - for more than two months under challenging conditions, which was excellent preparation for my subsequent career in international development work in Africa and Asia.

Following Wye, I completed a Masters in Guelph, Canada, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Adult Education in Wolverhampton, and a Doctorate in

Agricultural Economics at Oregon State University, before living and working in Dublin, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Oregon, Malawi, Senegal, Jordan, Guinea Conakry and Ghana, with work-only assignments in many other countries.

I am married to Gil, a Korean nutritionist, who also worked in development as we moved around. We enjoyed and appreciated the development life, as we felt that we were having a direct impact in improving people's lives. We have four children (mostly raised in Africa) and seven grandchildren who we continue to enjoy between erratic bouts of staying in the UK, trying to farm in the West of Ireland, and Irish and Scottish dancing, hiking, keeping weeds out of our daughter's veggie plot in Kent, and travelling to family and friends in Korea, the USA and elsewhere.

Recently, we returned to our previous long-term work sites in Malawi (after 21 years) and Sri Lanka (after 31 years), and were greatly impressed by their progress, which we hope we made a small contribution to, with the help of the Nepal experience!



porters, and passing monster Rhododendrons 200ft high.

JENNY reports: we initially walked alongside the Trisuli River then started a long steady ascent. The hot sunshine was beating down on us but the expected afternoon monsoon clouds never arrived and I ran out of drinking water. We had become strung out and Dorje raced between the leaders and tail-enders, making sure we were OK. The track was often quite narrow with a steep cliff above and below. Once I had to jump over a small snake which was asleep on the path. Sometimes we seemed to be getting nowhere as the path followed the contour of the hillside into tributaries and then back out again to find oneself only a hundred metres further ahead as the crow flies. Sometimes the porters pointed out tracks where black bears regularly crossed the paths. It was quite easy to get onto the wrong pathway and we all had the experience of going the wrong way and being sent back by gesticulating locals pointing out the correct path, or the ever vigilant Dorje chasing us up. I reached our destination village around 5pm, exhausted; then the rain started – the porters had been left well behind and never arrived, so we had no tents or sleeping bags or food. Dorje organised hot cups of tea – the best I have ever had in my life – and potatoes for dinner. We spent the night huddled on the mud veranda of a house.



A village girl with large earrings.

MEG reports: *The most uncomfortable night of my life happened the day we began hiking up to Gatlang because when night fell our porters had not caught up with us so we were without food, bedding or a tent. A kind man let us sleep on his earthen-floored verandah so we were protected from rain and he gave us half a small saucepan of tiny cooked potatoes which the seven of us shared for our dinner. We had to sleep in what we were wearing and poor John Littleford was only in shorts and a T-shirt. You know how piglets sleep in a line and close together for warmth, well that was how we slept, on our sides as close together as possible. Fortunately, I was no.2 and not on the end, the coldest position. However, being the only woman in my row I had the widest hips so discomfort woke me sooner than the others, I would slot myself out, call out, "Turn over!", there was a collective groan as all the others turned over then I slotted back in again.*

#### Leeches and rope bridges

That first days' trek was our first exposure to rampant leeches which looped towards us at every opportunity throughout our stay in the Himalayas, whenever we were between 3,000 and 7,000 ft altitude. If one got attached to you, you did not feel it as it anaesthetized the skin before starting its gourmet lunch of your blood. You did not pull them off as it left body parts in you and the anti-coagulant means that the wound bleeds for a long time and you can get an infection or even become anaemic. We found that only a match or salt could remove them effectively, although Lifebuoy toilet soap smeared on our socks would deter them.

We remember trying to negotiate the first of many flimsy-looking stick-and-rope bridges across the numerous deep ravines we needed to cross in the three-day hike to Gatlang. We literally crawled across it, which was in great contrast to our return journey after two months of this, when we skipped and jumped over it!



Part of Rik's butterfly collection

JENNY reports: Next day we walked down about 2000 feet to the Trisuli River. Reassuringly Dorje passed me, so I knew I was headed the right way but this was the first encounter with the precarious bridges across the raging monsoon torrent of the river. As I stepped onto the bridge, the wind caught my umbrella and I was nearly blown off – rather to the amusement of those on the other side. The wooden bridges are designed so that they will not be totally destroyed in a flood. There are fixed piles on each bank which lean out over the river, and a central section which is just balanced on top, so that it will float away in a flood without damaging the piles. The problem was that some of them had moved in a recent flood but had not washed away, so were now perched precariously, often on an angle and see-sawing as one walked across.

The trail up to the village of Haku was incredibly steep. I followed the porters and marvelled at their ability to carry the heavy loads in baskets supported only by headbands. I passed water buffaloes and goats and saw some impressive waterfalls. We spent the night in tents at Haku and next day left early, skirting around the hillside, and then again ascending to the village of Nesim. Another bridged river crossing, then the path ascended through steep forest with monkeys playing in the trees, which were festooned with creepers and ferns. Then climbing up to a small temple, I could see the village of Gatlang perched on the hillside below. It

was a large village compared with the others we had passed through.

The hillside was full of blue and red butterflies, fluttering along the path. My first impression was that the village is very dirty; however the houses were picturesque, with beautifully carved windows and woodwork. The people lived upstairs and had sturdy wooden ladders up from the yard below where the animals lived. I was directed up the hill and walked past stupas and rock cairns, covered in prayer flags, writing and pictures. Then I saw our house; the walls were covered with white mud and there was a big notice announcing 'Risuli Watershed Development Project'. Meg and I had a small room next to the kitchen where the food and other supplies were stored. The men had a large room next to ours with a huge fireplace. A long veranda ran along the front; one end was enclosed on three sides to form our dining room. At the other end was a small room which we used as a laboratory. The house was still under construction and the local builders worked happily around our comings and goings over the next few weeks.

#### Snapshots of life in Gatlang

After a few days of preparation, we each set about our field work with Nepalese counterparts as translators. For example, JENNY reports: *With my counterpart Hada, we sought out livestock to examine for condition and general health and take samples. Many animals lived under the houses and*



Lothar entertains the village ladies with the mirror

were taken out to graze each day. As it was summertime, almost all the sheep and goats were away, grazing the higher alpine pastures, so it was mostly cattle left in the village. The condition of the animals varied – some were fat and healthy and others very poor indeed. Sick and injured animals were often left to die as the Tamang people are Buddhists and don't kill. I remember heading up to the alpine pastures for a few days with Hada and a couple of local porters to visit the sheep and goat herds, which lived a nomadic life up there in the summer. The shepherds carry their roofing with them in the form of matting, which they set up on permanent stone walls to make a temporary house. The animals live in one half at night, else they would be taken by bears and leopards. Huge mastiffs guard the camps and were often frighteningly aggressive (but luckily chained) when we approached some of the huts but could be pacified with a handful of biscuit. Inside, a fence separated the livestock from the cooking/ sleeping area. I

remember cooking spaghetti, which they had never seen before and were intrigued. We passed close to areas where tigers are known to live. Also on this trek, I remember having to long-jump a 2 metre gap on top of a ridge with thousands of feet drop on each side. Way out of my comfort zone. I also remember watching helplessly from Gatlang as a bear crossed the face of the very steep grazing pastures opposite, approaching the goat herd. The man in charge couldn't see the bear yet and we and villagers were all gesticulating wildly to let him know something was up.

We entertained villagers outside the house regularly as they were always curious of such complete foreigners, and one of the main attractions was our mirror, which was the source of endless wonder and entertainment to the local ladies who had never seen themselves quite so clearly before!



The trek to Langtang



Visitors to our Gatlang house, with Jenny and Rik looking on

Low clouds persisted on most days, but when it was clear the view from the veranda to the snow-capped mountain Langtang Lirung was simply breath-taking, taking in altitudes from 4,000 to 23,000 ft. The food in our room attracted rats – they were very noisy at night and we had to take evasive action like putting the sleeping bag hood on and tying it as tight as possible to try to ignore them. Sometimes they ran over us. Fleas were everywhere and we had to powder the bedding regularly.

#### Requests for medical help

We were constantly asked for medical help by the villagers. Jenny was in the house one day on her own when a small child came with a huge gash on his leg which he had done himself with an axe while his parents were not watching. It was a few days old and very swollen. We often saw horrific bear wounds that people endured and just carried on working. All we could do was to dress such wounds with fucidin tulle and hope our prayers would be answered for the unfortunate patient. Most often they were as we saw later when they re-visited us to thank us. We gave vitamin tablets to people whose disease we could not diagnose

and they often returned days later, apparently cured and thanking us and showing how – by keeping the powerful medicine in their small woollen purses in their belts – they were now protected! We also tried brewing local beer and Raksi, the local spirit, but we found that the villagers made a much superior product! Goitre was endemic amongst the villagers, and we encouraged purchase of iodine-supplemented salt rather than their usual supplies.

Then there was the amazing week-long trek to Langtang Valley, to the Swiss Aid cheese factory at 12,500 feet, which processed Yak milk to make a cheese very similar to Emmental, and then shipped it to Katmandu before the winter set in via a small local airstrip or by the long walk method. En route we saw many large and small landslips (one every 12 minutes, on average), and marvelled at seeing terraces only two feet wide with 20 foot drops down but in full production. We then walked further up the Langtang valley, beyond the tree line on to the glacier and camping at heights in excess of 20,000 feet. Being kept awake all night by the groaning of the glacier, avalanches, altitude sickness and feeling just



### Jenny te Whata reflects on her return to Nepal and describes her life in New Zealand

The following year after graduating from Wye I returned to Nepal on my way to New Zealand and spent some weeks in Kathmandu with the McLeavey family who were wonderful hosts. Jane McLeavey and I spent a lot of time exploring Kathmandu. We also flew to Pokhara where we trekked up to Lumle and stayed on a farm set up to rehabilitate Gurkha soldiers. There they learned improved techniques of terrace farming. I was also lucky enough to fly back up to the Gatlang area on a supply flight, to have a brief visit with Lother who had set up a medical clinic in the valley, near the airstrip. We only had about 20 minutes catch-up, given the narrow window of time during the day for landing and take-off.

Reflecting back on our trip, Nepal had been closed to foreigners for some time prior to 1950 and although Kathmandu was on the hippie trail by 1969, not many Europeans had visited the remote Gatlang area. We think Meg and I were the first European women the villagers had ever met. The way of life probably hadn't changed very much for hundreds of years. Now there are roads along most of the tracks we followed, hotels in every village and package tours to Gatlang. No doubt the development has brought much needed improvements to the standard of

living, but I feel immensely fortunate and privileged to have seen it as it was. Personally for me, it was a huge eye-opener, having never been out of the UK before. The world never looked quite the same after that trip. Thanks Wye College, for the opportunity.

I was supposed to stay in New Zealand for 18 months but am still here 45 years later. I came to study sheep breeding and became intrigued with wool. I ended up taking a wool classing course, then ventured out with shearing gangs and ended up in Central Otago classing wool, including some of the super fine. I spent 12 years there. This is a starkly beautiful area, not unlike Nepal in many ways.

I met my husband who was a shearer and in 1986 we moved back to his home district in the Far North where we still live on a farm. Taukiri is now a horsemanship trainer and travels regularly around NZ giving clinics. We have two daughters, who are both still based at home at present. Kate is studying nursing. Nancy has just graduated in Applied Management and is now taking a Graduate Diploma in Accounting before joining the workforce. We have our first grandchild, Keira, who is a year old and I am lucky to get to do plenty of babysitting while Kate is studying. We regularly have visits from Wye friends being close to some great tourist spots.

generally – was it worth it? What was the answer? A couple of hands of bridge and perhaps we could claim a Guinness Book World Record? We never chased that one up.

JENNY reports on this trek: *Tibetan tea made in a churn with salt and butter – incredibly refreshing after the climb. As always, I was too slow for the other team members, and too fast for the porters so often found myself walking alone. Heading to Langtang Village, this meant passing through jungle known to be frequented by leopards – singing and*

*banging my umbrella on the pathway so that I sounded like a crowd and hopefully less likely to be attacked. Seeing yaks and one of the lamas from the Langtang Monastery riding a white pony. Lying down in a pasture of alpine flowers at 12,000ft, gazing at the surrounding snow-clad peaks and thinking it would be nice just to stay there forever!*

We participated at local dances in the space in front of the school, which were very enjoyable. One evening, the school master kept pointing to the moon which looked large and impressive, and

it was only later that we realised he was trying to tell us about the first moon landing! However, John was found to be tucked away in the house looking at the moon through binoculars and listening to Deutsche Welle World Service on a small shortwave radio powered by a small generator as the Americans landed on the moon, and even managed to take a passable photograph through his binoculars.

At a celebratory final dance, the night before we departed, we were given extra-strong rice wine, and in response to the villagers asking us to show them one of our dances, Tom was pushed out to try an Irish Jig. Tom jigged faster and faster, knocking torch-bearers aside in the process, until he was dragged away from the floor and was later found sitting in the nearby stream to cool down, starting the long walk back to Kathmandu the next day with a bit of a head.

What an awe-inspiring stay near the top of the world! We particularly appreciated the great support, openness, honesty and trustworthiness of all the villagers that we met and of our Nepalese counterparts who went everywhere with us and did a lot of the hard work such as digging soil pits. We were always amazed at our porters who moved all our gear, firewood, and food without any complaints, carrying up to 20 kg or even more in baskets with straps around the basket and onto their foreheads. We tried it and after two minutes our necks were killing us!

### Eventful journey back to Wye

JOHN reports: *Leaving Gatlang, five of us (the passenger capacity of the aircraft) boarded a Swiss Aid Pilatus Porter STOL aircraft at the local landing strip, without luggage as weight restrictions limited the load at high altitude. But before we boarded the plane it had to land. The airstrip slopes down the valley and falls about 100 feet. The plane can land in 427 feet (130 metres) and take off in 640 feet (195 metres). In the early morning the wind blows*

*down the mountain and valleys so a plane will land into the wind and up the valley. After about 09.00hrs the wind changes due to the heat of the day and blows up the mountains and valleys, so the plane can take off down the valley into the wind. But first of all the plane has to land, so it circled the valley to alert the local school teacher to clear the grass runway of any animals, and then the plane landed. It turned around, we got on board, and as soon as we could see the wind was now blowing up the valley we commenced our take off. The plane's stall speed is about 60mph so its landing and take-off speeds are quite low. So down the runway we went and lifted off. Now in front of us was a right angle bend as the side valley joined the main Trisuli valley and we could see mountains going up to and beyond 11,000 feet. We turned the corner into the main valley and promptly ran into a large cloud, so we flew in tight circles at zero visibility for what seemed like an eternity until eventually at about 11,500 feet we came out of the cloud and then carried on unharmed but considerably adrenalin-enhanced to Kathmandu.*

Alan and Tom in the meantime took three days to walk from Gatlang to a Katmandu access road in the mountains via a wonderfully scenic pass.

TOM reports: *I awoke in our tent on our last morning to find a huge orange leech sticking directly out of Alan's forehead, – what a wonderful image to close out the expedition! We decided to preserve this specimen as a treasured souvenir but can't remember what happened to it. Upon approaching Kathmandu, I suddenly began to notice wheels, and realised that we had just spent almost two months without any kind of wheel! Also, I will always remember my first night back in Kathmandu, which now looked like New York, having looked like a poor village on my initial visit. Anyway, having a real bed with someone providing a real breakfast on a tray when I woke up was the ultimate in luxury and can never be bettered.*



### Shipping samples home

We stayed with our host families in Katmandu for the best part of a week, generally recovering from over-exposure, preparing for the return journey through India, air-shipping of samples back to the UK (many of which never arrived or were delayed for months), sight-seeing with our gracious hosts, and attending an Embassy film of the Americans landing on the moon. The older Nepalese agreed that the Americans had landed on the moon but not the one they could see as that was a God, it must be another that we cannot see!

The return train trip through India was just as eventful as our outward trip. We were caught in extra strong monsoon rains, and could see the water pouring over the tree tops of the jungle near the track; eventually we stalled on a long bridge with swirling water only a few feet below the wheels of the train. We backtracked and had to reach Bombay by a roundabout route which incurred further passenger riots and an extra day's journey, so we arrived in Bombay only hours before our plane was due to take off. We did not have enough funds to buy food for the extra day on the train, so we bought 36 bananas and two packets of local biscuits, and shared them out between us for each meal. Upon arrival in Bombay, we changed some cash and had a monstrous meal at the central Kamling Chinese Restaurant, before rushing to the airport.

#### John Littleford recalls a career in agricultural development, with special memories of Zambia

My love of travel had been kindled by my visit to Nepal and would grow as time went by. From 1970 to 2005 I worked in Agricultural Development in the developing world, initially

JENNY recalls: *The manager of the Chinese restaurant in Bombay came out after we 'cleaned up' and shook our hands saying that they had been taking bets in the kitchen that we couldn't possibly eat all the food we had ordered – but we did.*

All of us were immeasurably changed by our Nepal experience, which has led most of us to continue working in development. We were and are so appreciative of all the assistance and guidance we received along the way from people and organisations on all sides.

### Epilogue

Sadly, as most readers will be aware, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Nepal on 25th April, 2015. This, and a subsequent series of smaller earthquakes, has killed more than 8,000 people and inflicted heavy damage on infrastructure. The Gatlang and Langtang areas were amongst the worst affected, with devastating loss of life and the flattening of almost all the urban centres in the region. At least 90% of houses in Gatlang itself appear to have been flattened or placed beyond repair, while surrounding villages that were more precariously placed have simply disappeared. Langtang village itself was wiped out, and is now under more than 600m of rock, with the Langtang valley being sealed off entirely given the continuing threat of further landslides. This sudden and shocking devastation of an area and people that we grew so fond of, and which appeared to be progressing despite recent national political and security problems, has tempered our pleasure in reviewing Nepal as we knew it.

in Zambia followed by a year in Abu Dhabi working on an afforestation project in Al Ain. I then increasingly concentrated on technical and Company Secretarial work, with a special emphasis on accounting and legal aspects, and the introduction of computers. However, I had short-term visits, up to three months, to Nigeria,

Uganda, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, and transit visits to many more so that I can now count visits to more than 75% of Africa's countries. I have been fortunate enough to work and associate with fellow Wye graduates around the world between 1972 and 2005. Since 2005, I have worked as a business analyst.

In 1970, following graduation, I had arranged to return to Nepal to undertake an external PhD with London University, through a Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) placement, but this became so delayed due to a Government reorganisation in Nepal, that I opted instead to take up a VSO post in Zambia teaching agriculture at a state school and managing the school farm. The smells of Zambia reminded me of India and Nepal but with subtle differences. Less of the aromatic spicy nose and more of the earthy undertones associated with ground crops such as cassava, sweet potato, yams and even groundnuts. On later trips to Africa I have noted the same aroma as you left the Sahara behind whilst still in the aircraft. Both aromas hold their attractions and bring back nostalgic memories: I met my wife, Pamela, a contract nurse working in Kasama Hospital, who was originally from Newport, Gwent. This is the most important and strongest memory of my career both before and after Nepal.

#### Some vignettes of Zambia from 1971–72

- I had two weeks grace to learn the Zambian National Anthem in both English and Chi Bemba, the local lingua franca, before the boys at the school would test me at the morning assembly; I managed it, and still remember the words and tune in both languages and can sing them when required!
- Seeing my Zambian headmaster and explaining that I cannot sell all our school

farm eggs to ex-pats and wealthy Zambians so 600 school boys will need to have an egg for breakfast. The background to this is that there was no cash vote for feed for animals, seeds or fertilisers so we 'cross subsidised' from the boys food vote. I sold eggs, meat and anything else we had at a premium to wealthy Zambians or ex-pats at twice the local prices but the school bought food, especially meat, at a 50% subsidy from the Zambian Cold Storage Board. So if we killed a bullock we could sell it for twice the market rate and return the funds to the coffers of the boy's food school fund. The school then bought at a 50% subsidy so, effectively for every bullock or pig we killed, the school could get four!!

- Organising a maize planting day at the school, 40 hectares planted and fertilised by hand by 600 boys, followed in time by hand harvesting.
- Going home via Victoria Falls, Bulawayo, Botswana, and Cape Town (by steam engine), and transferring to Union Castle (Edinburgh Castle) Line and arriving at Southampton having run out of beer two days before!

#### All settled near Reading

We have four children, two boys and two girls – all married with children – and currently have seven grandchildren. They all live locally near Pangbourne, Reading, except for our youngest, Claire, who is married to Mark, a New Zealand sheep and beef farmer, and lives in NZ South Island on their farm with daughter Charlotte and son Owen. She is our only offspring who showed an interest in both travel and agriculture! But I can tell you that place is God's Own Country; it is almost impossible to exaggerate its virtues and jewels.

## Book Reviews

### **Dilemmas in Development: Journeys of an Agricultural Economist**

By **George Gwyer** (1959–62)

A review by **Christopher Gibbs** (1963–66).

George Gwyer, Class of '62, educated by Jesuits at Wimbledon College and in possession of four A-levels, does not disclose why at the tender age of 17 he chose to leave his suburban Surrey home, go to work for a year on a modest 60-acre mixed farm on the Welsh border and then attend Wye College. But I can't help feeling that I'm very glad he did.

After Wye, counselled by Gerald Wibberley, Gwyer went on to a diploma in agricultural economics at Oxford and a PhD under Professor George Tolley at North Carolina State University. At Wye and Oxford, Gwyer overlapped with Ian Carruthers, who would later become a colleague. At NC State, it was Tolley who introduced him to econometrics and the work of the Chicago School in Economics. By 1967 Gwyer was about as far as an agriculturalist could get from his special study on the beta-degradation of fatty acids and their role in ketosis in cattle.

While his biochemistry may have impressed Louis Wain, it was Wibberley in 1967 who again took an influential hand in bringing Gwyer back to Wye for a home-based lectureship in a new MSc degree in agrarian development overseas, directed by Eric Clayton. This arrangement gave Gwyer the opportunity to teach and work overseas, thereby learning for the first time just how far the theory he had dutifully absorbed in the classroom played out in practice.

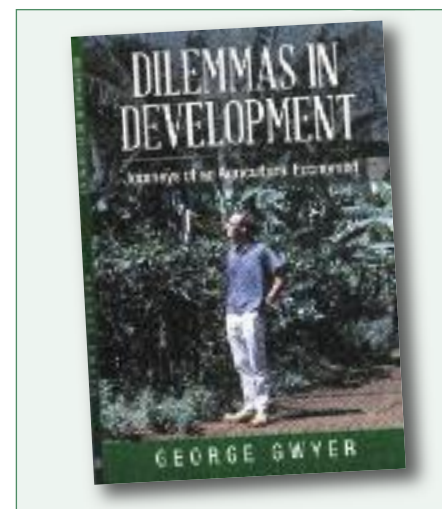
Thus began a career that took the author and his family to Tanzania, Kenya, the Philippines, the Sudan, Papua New Guinea, (PNG) the Solomon Islands and Barbados; to short-term travel

in many more countries; and, to employment after Wye with ODA (DfID's forerunner) and

finally, the European Commission. It is also a journey that took Gwyer from a strong interest in quantitative methods applied to estate crops to the generalist role of managing development programmes through political dialogue – although never leaving sound quantitative analysis completely behind.

This book has taken several years to write and in truth it is more about the "journeys of an agricultural economist" than "dilemmas in development." Nevertheless, it's a fascinating journey to follow, all the more so for me since in many ways it mirrors my own life, although Gwyer's has evidence of much more of a deliberate pattern of progress than mine. The good news is that he continued to advance from a technical agricultural economist to become head of an EC delegation without ever reaching his Peter Principle – determined level of incompetence. Gwyer's capacity to adapt and become productive quickly in new and strange environments is also evident as is his love of journeys; along the way he faithfully records the identity of at least 14 different types of aircraft on which he has flown!

Gwyer's "dilemmas of development" form the lesser part of this book; only on page 207 does he begin to address formally the subject of the book's main title. In one short chapter he covers plantations vs smallholders, growth vs equity, programmes vs projects, forms of aid such as food aid vs cash, and more. Introducing these topics as if they might be mutually exclusive alternatives does justice to neither the issues nor the authors'



obvious competence in political dialogue, the search for complementarity and the art of compromise.

While I would not agree with all of George Gwyer's conclusions, the only topic that I would take issue with concerns the statement that the World Bank has "moved closer to the agenda of the IMF." (Full disclosure: I am a former staff member of the World Bank where I once worked briefly alongside Julius, one of George Gwyer's four sons.) I don't think this interpretation fits either the history or the current situation where the two institutions are co-operating closely in an unstable economic world concerned with slow growth and rising debt. Clearly, the World Bank and IMF must work together but where the IMF concerns itself with a country's most fundamental macroeconomic financial issues, the World Bank's policy-based lending concerns the structural adjustments needed to create the conditions that make sector- and project-based lending work more effectively.

The book also prompts a number of non-academic questions and thoughts. What do bright young teenagers in the UK do today when they

consider their options for further education and training? Is it a gap year in Australia and a course in media studies? Or a year of manual labour on a Shropshire farm and a degree in agriculture? Both choices have their place but the former will likely be preferred to the latter; time has marched on, as it does. And, if the young graduate does choose to embark on a career in development, will he cope any better with the stresses and insecurity of short-term contracts in remote places and the challenge of family life in an age of two-career families? Are those of us who did choose to work in the post-colonial world of Africa and Asia to be lost in the time warp of recent history that seems as alien to our children and grandchildren today as the reign of George V seemed to us in the 1960s?

Reading George Gwyer's autobiography brought back many good memories. I have been told by Graham Donaldson, Gwyer's contemporary at Wye in the 1960s, that I followed in Gwyer's footsteps by living in exactly the same house, the former Glenthorne on Upper Bridge Street. Gerald Wibberley also counselled me (but to less good effect!) when, after two years in Northern Nigeria, I left for my PhD at Oregon State University in 1968; "Enjoy the first six months in the US" he said. "People will be fascinated at first by your English accent. After that you won't be special at all!"

In the Philippines in 1979–81, in the Marcos era, one of the lessons I learned as a Ford Foundation Programme Officer (like George Gwyer before me, concerned with poverty in the degraded uplands) was that if you wanted to get a job done in that country you must give it to a woman or a Jesuit. Clearly, the Jesuits of Wimbledon College in the 1970s did a good job forming the boy they were given into the man who is George Gwyer

Published by Authorhouse, Bloomington, Indiana. 2016. [www.authorhouse.co.uk](http://www.authorhouse.co.uk) £12.97

## Wye Church – A Window on the Church of England

By **C. Paul Burnham** (Staff 1969–97)

*Reviewed by Francis Huntington (1961–64)*  
– *Wye Church Warden 2002–2008*

Many will remember Paul Burnham as Senior Lecturer in Geology and Soil Science at Wye College, 1969–1997. In addition some of you will be aware of the contribution that he has made to a number of significant publications produced by the Wye Historical Society over the last 20 years.

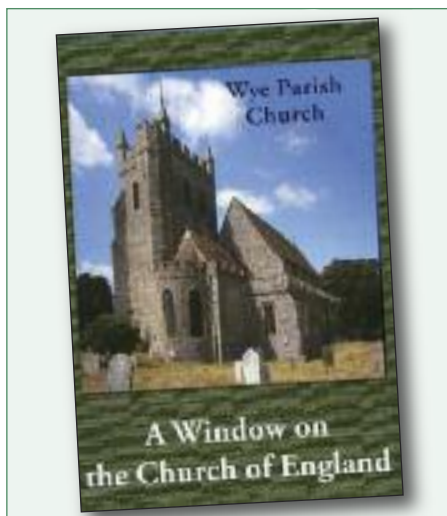
His latest contribution is an expanded history of Wye Parish Church published this year. Paul embarked upon researching and writing about Wye Church in 2004 coinciding with the 1400 years of Christian worship in Wye.

Paul's account is both ambitious and scholarly. He has skilfully woven the history of Wye Church into the wider canvas of the development of Christianity in England, starting with the death of Augustine of Canterbury on 26th May 604. Readers will be able to trace the history of the Church and the College through the centuries via this highly readable book.

There are some delightful asides where Paul lines up a number of historical facts, events and people which may well have impacted upon the life of Wye Church. I was particularly fascinated by the events around the Reformation when the antagonisms between the adherents to Rome or Henry VIII and his successors were played out in and around Wye.

Needless to say the role of Archbishop Cardinal Kempe features as the founder of the College with its statutes dated 1447, and also the instigator of major alterations to the Church.

Paul also asks us to re-appraise the contribution made by the Revd Dr Thomas Brett who was Perpetual Curate 1707–1710 during the



important re-building of the church following the catastrophic collapse of the tower in 1686 when half of the church was destroyed. Paul postulates a fascinating theory as to why the church records during his incumbency have mysteriously disappeared. You will have to buy a copy of the book to follow his reasoning.

I can highly recommend this book which can be purchased direct from the author C.P. Burnham, 24 Chequers Park, Wye, Kent, TN25 5BB for £8 which includes inland postage and packing.

*Wye Church* by Paul Burnham.

Published by Wye Historical Society 2016.

## Rebel with a Cause

By **Ray Avery** (1964–67) (with Paul Little)

*Reviewed by Paul Webster (1964 and Staff)*

Readers of the 2011 issue of the Journal may recall a note reprinted from The New Zealand Herald to the effect that Ray Avery had been named 'New Zealander of the Year' together with a brief outline of his career. This book is his

account of his life, which moves from a very troubled family background in Canterbury in Kent through a three year stint as a lab technician at Wye to a career culminating in a New Zealand knighthood. It is a testament to his resilience as a youth, to his insatiable curiosity about the application of science to practical problems, and to his commercial eye on the costs and the benefits of his work.

For Journal readers, the particular interest will be the account of his three-year period as a lab technician at Wye as a teenager in the first half of the 1960s. As he develops the story of his career, he regularly looks back at what he learned at Wye. The academics were a foreign species to him, but they took him on board, gave him training and showed him a wider world.

## A tough childhood

The first few chapters deal with his early life. He was born into a dysfunctional family in Canterbury in 1947 and was taken into care after a severe beating from his mother. He was shuttled around foster parents and care homes for years. Abuse and bullying were common. But he enjoyed school work – that is when he wasn't absent. He even describes living rough in London for a period of eight months under a bridge near Finsbury Park Station, spending his time reading in libraries and museums, attempting to satisfy his curiosity concerning the world about him. He began to realize that "if you know enough stuff you can make the connections between things that people find difficult". Of necessity, he took on various jobs and money-making schemes and scavenged to survive.

## Wye and the high life

Schooling at the Frank Hooker School in Canterbury was intermittent, but one of the teachers persuaded him to do a course in 'rural horticulture'. This caught his imagination and at the end of it, the teacher persuaded someone at Wye to take him on as a lab technician. "At Wye



I learned how to be a good person", he says. One of the chapters describes his time at Wye and he clearly learned a good deal more about life than how to be a good technician. The book includes a couple of photographs of Professor Wain's department and readers may recognise some of the personalities shown.

After three years at Wye and with various jobs on the side, he moved first to a commercial analytical laboratory in Canterbury and then to the Shell Research labs at Sittingbourne. At this stage he reckoned that as a result of what he had learned about analytical work, "there was nothing on this planet whose contents I couldn't work out". By the early seventies he had made enough money to buy a flat and more photographs show him having acquired the 'classic crumpet-catching chariot' of the 1960s, an MGA, together with crumpet sitting on the bonnet! But after a spell in hospital following a car accident, he became disillusioned with life in the UK and felt that he needed wider horizons.

## To New Zealand and pharmaceuticals

So he took the hippy trail to Kathmandu and then on to New Zealand where he landed a job at



Auckland University Medical School setting up analytical labs from scratch for new departments there. He clearly felt very much at home in the Kiwi can-do, give-it-a-go approach to life. He was head hunted by a pharmaceutical retailer wishing to get into the manufacturing of generic drugs and needing someone to design and organise the building of the manufacturing facilities. Following that job, he set up his own business doing the same thing but for other companies and governments across East Asia. It was clearly a profitable venture.

Then a chance meeting with an Australian ophthalmologist and philanthropist, Fred Hollows, who was looking for help with the construction of facilities for manufacturing intraocular lenses in Eritrea. Hollows said to him "Do something f\*\*\*ing useful with your life. Don't make money out of sick people, you bastard". Duly persuaded, Avery got together his team and went off to Eritrea. He describes the difficulties in the immediate aftermath of war. Problems with the original lens manufacturing process led him to develop a new process producing quality lenses that could sell around the world. He then repeated the process with another factory in Nepal. These facilities apparently now produce around 10% of the world market for such lenses, having reduced the price tenfold. One of the constant themes in the book is his determination always to use the best quality technology, so that the product is "as appropriate for someone in New York as it is for Nepal". He takes the view that the product has always had to be of better quality; otherwise the competition will find ways close him down.

#### Formation of Medecine Mondiale

The concluding chapters describe the formation in 2003 of a 'virtual organisation' named Medicine Mondiale to develop healthcare products for use in primarily low-income countries but also in the developed world. The products so far include a device designed to



*Pictured with staff in 1964, Ray is in the back row, 2nd from left.*

control the flow of drugs through an intravenous drip, an infant incubator designed for ease of use and simple maintenance in challenging conditions, and a range of nutritional products for the treatment of dehydration and protein-energy malnutrition in children. Avery is critical, as are others, of some of the interventions of the large-scale aid organisations who have to demonstrate action in order to maintain the flow of donations. His forte is applying science or as he says "rearranging fundamental bits of information" and using his self-confessed charm (and clearly his track record) to persuade people to work on his projects for nothing.

#### One of New Zealand's National Treasures

Of particular interest is his description throughout the book of his personal and emotional development. The trauma of his early years took its toll and greatly affected his ability to make and sustain personal relationships. But the kindness of particular individuals at key points, and his own determination and strength of character have enabled him emerge as an outstanding human being. Judging by the list of his prizes and awards, he has deservedly become one of New Zealand's national treasures. The book is an excellent read.

*Rebel with a cause* by Ray Avery.

Published by Random House, New Zealand, 2010. 268 pp.

## Wye racecourse recalled

A brief gallop down memory lane provided by Andrew Blake (1964–67).

Yogi Bear – Ron Atkins\* – Albert Neaves. I wonder if those names jog any memories? They're all firmly lodged in my mind, linked to the long defunct National Hunt racecourse\*\* at Wye.

The course closed over 40 years ago, but I still recall spending many happy, albeit mostly unprofitable, afternoons there watching Ron and fellow jockeys, such as David Mould and Terry Biddlecombe, compete in hurdle and steeplechase races.

Occasionally too, fellow student Bob Davies, would ride there – then still only as an amateur. Shortly after graduating he turned professional, eventually becoming Champion Jockey and winning the Grand National.

Yogi Bear, a lean-looking chestnut horse, was a frequent runner, once winning at 20-1, but more often than not finishing unplaced. I can't recall whether it was ridden by Ron or trained by Albert Neaves, but many of their horses sported yellow colours with a blue diamond, Ron's helmet bearing his R.A. initials.

Apparently few jockeys enjoyed riding at the Wye

circuit, the tightest of the country's NH courses. A three-mile chase meant going round three times, giving spectators what someone has described as a sense of déjà vue.

The back straight ran alongside the Ashford to Canterbury railway over which some of the UK's last mainline steam trains ran during my time at Wye.

The entrance to the course from the Ashford Road was always frequented by tipsters offering the names of the winners in brown envelopes in return for a few shillings. On the only time I was tempted to pay for such advice, I foolishly ignored it because all the tips were, in my opinion, too short-priced. Naturally they nearly all won.



\* <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/racing/article-435631/Whatever-happened--Ron-Atkins.html>

\*\* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wye\\_Racecourse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wye_Racecourse)

Other memories of the course can be viewed here:

<http://www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=10600.0>

and here: <http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=1411.0>

and here: <http://www.greyhoundderby.com/Wye%20Racecourse.html>

## A proper education

**Murray Mylechreest (1955–58)** connects some historical strands, having learnt to partake of gin and tonic.

I was reminded of life as a student during the '50s by one incident recently when my wife, Denise, and I, during a short stay in Bosham, visited the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester to see the exhibition of the work of the artist Evelyn Dunbar\*. I knew nothing about this artist and so was surprised to see a portrait of a World War II RAF officer whose name was Roger Folley. The catalogue revealed he was the husband of Evelyn Dunbar and after the war became involved in education as a horticultural economist and later they lived in Kent at Hastingleigh. This could only

be the 'Mr Folley' at Wye College. Allan Jackson was my Director of Studies and he arranged for me to have tutorials for one term with 'Mr Folley'. A long-lasting memory is the day I arrived for my tutorial and he said "put your books down Murray and meet me in the car park". He took me off to Marden Fruit Show where we visited the growers. On one stand we went behind the scenes and I supposed it was to see how business was transacted. But it was where I learnt to drink gin and tonic!! Thank you to Roger Folley and the tutorial system of Wye College in the 1950s.



*\*Evelyn Dunbar was appointed the sole official woman war artist soon after the outbreak of WWII. A number of her paintings can be seen at the Imperial War Museum. One of her earlier paintings – An English Calendar (seen here) – was acquired by Dunstan Skilbeck for the College. It was normally on display at Withersdane. A stained glass floral memorial to Evelyn Dunbar, by John Ward, CBE, RP, can be found in the Oriel Window in the Old Hall (the other side of the quad from the dining room) – Editor*

## From Tiddlywinks to Rugby - Wye Stalwarts of the 60s



*One of the leading sports teams of the late 1960s – The unbeaten (and mostly unchallenged apart from by Nonnington ladies college) Tiddlywinks Team. Sent in by Mike Jackson.*

**Back Row:** Charles Adams, Mike Jackson, David Young, Lem Simm, Dave Verdegaal (deceased), John Whitechurch, Roger Packham, Peter Lutman, Jim Brewster (deceased), Keith Prenton.

**Front Row:** Colin Lacey, Malcolm Butcher, Norman (now known as Christopher) Carter, Roger Vallance.

**Sitting:** Martin Cobdon



**Back Row:** Ian MacCall, DK, Richard Cumming, Pete Riches, Jonny Cooke-Hurle, John Woolman, Clive Uridge, DK, Mike Gowie(?)  
**Seated:** Mike Felton, Frank Thompson, Des Lambert, Andy Patterson, John Priest, DK, Paul Benham  
 Where DK = Don't Know

# Agricola Club

## Accountants' report for the year ended 31st July 2015

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 31st July 2015 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: 1st September 2015

## 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 31st July 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Sale of ties, prints etc.	169	33
Subscriptions	1,772	1,594
National Savings interest	–	99
Annual dinner	7,073	–
Donations	126	–
Hog roast	2,660	–
Memorial Fund journal contribution	8,500	–
	<b>20,299</b>	<b>1,726</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Opening stock	630	762
Purchase of ties, prints etc.	–	–
Closing stock	(505)	(630)
	<b>125</b>	<b>132</b>
Annual dinner	6,233	(5,149)
Hog roast	3,240	–
Wye Journal	8,595	10,076
Website expenses	206	122
Meetings, expenses and secretarial	1,316	790
Insurance	321	321
Donations	600	250
Accountancy	300	300
	<b>20,812</b>	<b>6,711</b>
	<b>20,937</b>	<b>6,843</b>
<b>Net deficit)</b>	<b>(638)</b>	<b>(5,116)</b>



## Balance sheet as at 31 July 2016

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Lloyds TSB	12,614	15,516
Stocks	505	630
	<u>13,119</u>	<u>16,146</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors	(274)	–
Accruals	(300)	(300)
Deferred income Dinner	–	(2,663)
	<u>(574)</u>	<u>(2,963)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>12,545</u>	<u>13,183</u>
<b>Accumulated funds</b>		
Opening reserves	13,183	18,299
Deficit for the year	(638)	(5,116)
<b>Accumulated reserves</b>	<u>12,545</u>	<u>13,183</u>

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 disclosing a net deficit of £638 and we confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved on 1st September 2015

**Prof J P G Webster**

**Treasurer**

(for and on behalf of the committee)

## Agricola Club Memorial Fund

### Accountants' report for the year ended 31st July 2015

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 2015 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: 1st September 2015

### Notes to the accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

The charity elects to prepare accounts on an accruals basis.

Investment assets are revalued to market value at the year end. Net gains and losses are recognised as movements on the retained surplus.

#### 2 Student / member awards

The trustees actively seek suitable candidates with a view to satisfying the objects of the charity.

# Agricola Club Memorial Fund

## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st July 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
<b>Income</b>			
Dividends received		15,081	13,457
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Student / member awards	2	5,065	3,750
Support of Wye College Agricola Club		8,500	–
Governance expenses		3,710	3,517
		<u>(17,275)</u>	<u>(7,267)</u>
<b>Net deficit surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>(2,195)</b>	<b>6,190</b>
<b>Retained surplus brought forward</b>		<b>445,810</b>	<b>420,437</b>
		<b>443,616</b>	<b>426,628</b>
 Increase in value of investments		 6,378	 19,183
<b>Retained surplus carried forward</b>		<b>449,994</b>	<b>445,810</b>
<b>All receipts are unrestricted funds</b>			

## Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st July 2015

	2014 £	2013 £
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Current account	748	2,551
Cash held by broker - Portfolio 1	1,118	852
Cash held by broker - Portfolio 2	1,494	7,898
<b>Investment assets</b>		
4,104.00 Charifund Income Units	60,839	60,399
<b>Portfolio 1</b>		
846.42 Rathbone Income Units	7,397	6,936
37,500.00 M & G High income	42,795	42,116
4,497.70 Artemis Income Fund Dist.Units	9,541	9,179
7,000.00 Invesco Perpetual monthly inc plus fund	7,847	7,904
2,650.00 Investec Capital Accumulator Class A	5,688	5,227
4,592.11 IFSL Brooks Defensive Capital Class B Acc	8,100	7,756
88.00 Veritas Global Equity Income GBP Class A	13,329	14,758
44.15 SSGA GBP Liquidity Fund INST Stable NAV	44	109
10,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond clas1	4,354	4,463
	<u>99,096</u>	<u>98,450</u>
<b>Portfolio 2</b>		
15,000.00 Alpha Prop Inv Freehold Income Trust	26,134	26,814
60,000.00 Kames High Yield Bond Class A (Inc)	32,244	33,474
1,980.00 Fidelity South East Asia	16,068	15,284
8,000.00 First State Asia Pacific Leaders Class A	39,127	35,658
27,500.00 Henderson UK Proprety	28,595	26,411
20,000.00 Invesco Perpetual Monthly Income Plus Fund	22,420	22,584
40,000.00 M & G High Income InvT ZDP	45,648	44,924
55,000.00 M & G European High Yield Bond X Class	20,438	23,634
19,000.00 Newton Global Higher Income	28,468	26,938
90.75 SSGA GBP Liquidity Fund INST Stable NAV	91	356
45,000.00 Threadneedle High Yield Bond Class	19,593	20,084
7,400.00 Threadneedle UK Property Trust	6,374	–
	<u>287,199</u>	<u>276,160</u>
<b>Less accruals</b>		
Accountancy	(500)	(500)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>449,994</b>	<b>445,810</b>

We approve the accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 disclosing a net deficit of £2195 and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their purpose.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 1st September 2015

Prof JPG Webster  
Trustee

Mrs J D Reynolds  
Trustee

Wye College Agricola Club  
**Annual Reunion and Dinner**

**Saturday 24th September 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Years of attendance at Wye College \_\_\_\_\_

Please see page 3 for Menu

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at £35 (inc. VAT) per person

Please list full names for the seating plan \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anyone else your party wishes to be seated near? \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu options:** Please indicate numbers:

**Sweet or cheese**

**Starter:** Parma Ham ☐ Baba Ganoush ☐ Tropical Fruit Bombe ☐

**Main:** Beef ☐ Heritage Tomatoes ☐ Stilton and Biscuits ☐

**AGM** Please indicate numbers attending the AGM of the  
Agricola Club on Saturday 24th September at 5.30pm

**Please return this form** and your cheque payable to the 'Wye College Agricola Club'  
by **September 12th** to

Mrs Jane Reynolds, The Pent, Postling, Hythe, Kent CT21 4EY.

Any queries to [info@janesgardendesign.com](mailto:info@janesgardendesign.com) or 01303 862436.

You will be acknowledged by email (please write it clearly!) otherwise send an SAE.



## Wye College Agricola Club

# News Please

Marriages, births, deaths, changes in career, or anything else of interest. Photos are welcome; please send via email or supply copy prints, since we cannot promise to return them.

**Copy deadline 15 January.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Wye \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 2015-2016

Elected	Retire	Position	Name and Address	Tel no
2012	2015	President	Prof David Leaver Sole Street Farm, Crundale, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7ET <a href="mailto:jdleaver@gmail.com">jdleaver@gmail.com</a>	01227 700978
2013	2016	Chairman & Journal Editor	Dr John Walters Akermans, 38 High Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5AL <a href="mailto:akermans38@yahoo.co.uk">akermans38@yahoo.co.uk</a>	01233 812823 07969 739974
2011	2017	ACMF Trustee	Mr Charles Course Heathpatch Ltd, Dairy Farm, Semer, Ipswich, IP7 6RA <a href="mailto:charles@dairyfarmoffice.co.uk">charles@dairyfarmoffice.co.uk</a>	01449 744685 07889 218590
2012	2015	Secretary	Mr Francis Huntington Cumberland Court, Church Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BJ <a href="mailto:contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk">contact@wyeagricolaclub.org.uk</a>	01233 813884 07860 390087
2011	2017	Treasurer ACMF Trustee	Prof Paul Webster 25 Chequers Park, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BB <a href="mailto:jpgwebster@gmail.com">jpgwebster@gmail.com</a>	01233 812786
2012	2018	ACMF Trustee	Mrs Jane Reynolds Pent Farm, Postling, Hythe, Kent CT21 4EY <a href="mailto:info@janesgardendesign.com">info@janesgardendesign.com</a>	01303 862436
2011	2017		Prof Berkeley Hill 1 Brockhill Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 4AB <a href="mailto:b.hill@imperial.ac.uk">b.hill@imperial.ac.uk</a>	01303 265312
2012	2017		Prof Geoff Dixon Hill Rising, Horncastles Lane, Sherbourne, Dorset, DT9 6BH <a href="mailto:geoffrdixon@btinternet.com">geoffrdixon@btinternet.com</a>	01935 387470 07774 628641
2011	2017		Dr Susan Atkinson 52 Maxton Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9JL <a href="mailto:susan.atkinson@talk21.com">susan.atkinson@talk21.com</a>	01304 211977 07808 435968
2011	2017		Mr Henry Holdstock The Old Buttery, Homestall Lane, Homestall, Faversham Kent ME13 8UT <a href="mailto:henry@georgewebbfinn.com">henry@georgewebbfinn.com</a>	07831 320500 01795 428020
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