



Harper Adams
University



Harper Life 2019

News from
your now
Top 20
university



Inside this edition:

Your updates ■ Harper & Keele Veterinary School ■ A year of successes ■ HA Club news
Kiwi Connections ■ Ferdinand the Bull remembered ■ "Borrowed" items returned
Reunion photographs ■ Pictures from the Past ■ Giving back ■ In Memoriam

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

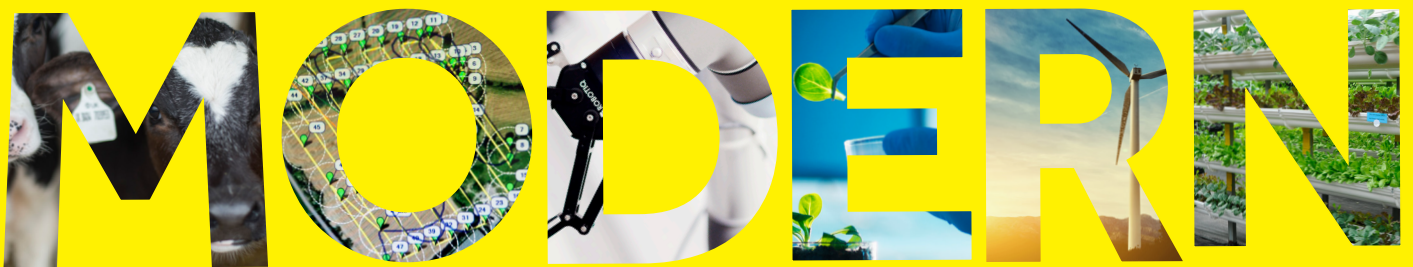
**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2020**

**MODERN
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2020**

**UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
RUNNER-UP**



University of the Year

A degree
that
matters



**Harper Adams
University**

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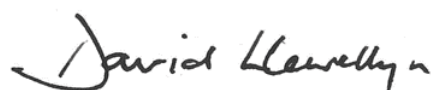
Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Harper Life. Within these pages you will find news about the University and its recent activities, together with information about former students from as far back as the early 1950s. One of the strengths of this great institution is the connection it has, over many decades, with those who have studied and worked here, and we are delighted to see, in this publication, stories of your achievements from across the UK and as far afield as New Zealand.

At the same time, this is an institution that is looking to the future and the many changes that lie ahead. Our work on agricultural technologies and the new Harper and Keele Veterinary School are just two examples of innovations that will, over time, support rural businesses and provide the education and skills to underpin the UK's economic success.

It is always a pleasure to welcome former students back to Harper Adams. This year, our guests included some of those who began their studies in 1994 and 1969, but other reunions have taken place elsewhere, and I am sure that they have been equally enjoyed by those taking part. If you continue to meet in this way then please let us know – it would be good to hear what you have been doing and we would be happy to mention your events in later editions of Harper Life.

This edition, however, starts with a round-up of our year, which includes a number of notable successes for the University. We are delighted to have achieved so much over the last 12 months, though we recognise that it is based on the foundation left by previous generations, on which we are continuing to build. I hope you enjoy catching up with this news, and that you will keep in touch with developments at Harper Adams in the years ahead.



**Dr David Llewellyn,
Vice-Chancellor**

Alumni relations sit within the Marketing and Communications team at Harper Adams University.

Your contact within the team is Gemma Payne, who is happy to receive news updates, contact information updates and enquiries for the wider university. Call Gemma on 01952 815297 or email alumni@harper-adams.ac.uk

2019: A year of success

MARCH 2019:

CARAS AWARDS TO ALUMNI AND V-C

The Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies (CARAS) presented awards to former Principal Lecturer, Charles Cowap, alumna, livestock sustainability consultant and 2018 Farmers Guardian 'Farming Hero' award winner, Dr Jude Capper and alumnus and Chief Executive of Fram Farmers, Richard Anscombe. New fellows included Honorary Degree holder and former AHDB Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Crute and the University's Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Llewellyn. The Awards embrace not only practical farming and the development of new husbandry practices, but also research, technology, economics, education, farming care, communication and administration. A Fellowship (FRAgS) or Associateship (ARAgS) is recognition of an outstanding contribution by an individual to the understanding, efficiency and well-being of agriculture. To date, over 1,200 individuals have been recognised and there are currently over 800 Fellows and over 350 Associates.



MARCH 2019:

WORLD-LEADING REPUTATION

The 2019 QS World University Subject Rankings, published recently, listed institutions across four key indicators of performance. The Agriculture and Forestry table demonstrated that Harper Adams University continues to excel in the area of employer reputation. In two of the indicators, based on research citations, the University made significant gains in performance. For an institution focussed on applied research this is a positive

step and one on which the University will continue to build. In the measure of employer reputation, however, the University was, for the second time in two years, placed first in the UK and second in the world. The employer reputation indicator, based on survey responses from employers around the globe, clearly demonstrates the way in which the University works with industry to positive effect – from joint research projects to student industry placements and from knowledge exchange activities such as industry short courses to the scholarship support for our students generously provided by a large number of companies.

APRIL 2019:

TOP FOR JOB PROSPECTS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Harper Adams University continued its dominance in the Job Prospects and Student Support categories at the Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs) which were held in London last night (25 April). The awards are voted for by students; creating the only awards scheme based entirely on the opinions of those attending higher education institutions across the UK. Harper Adams has now taken the Student Support title five years running; making it the only university to have won the award since it was launched. It was also the fourth consecutive year that the University has been rated top for job prospects; highlighting the strong links it has cultivated between academia and industry.

MAY 2019:

HIGHEST CLIMBER IN COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2020

Harper Adams University was revealed as one of the highest climbers in the Complete University Guide national league table – jumping from 48th to 27th place. The university had already made significant strides in recent years, advancing from 84th to 60th to 48th in the league table of 131 higher education institutions. The 2020 position also makes Harper Adams the third highest ranked university in the West Midlands, with Birmingham and Warwick in first and second respectively.

**JUNE 2019:
ENGINEERING RISING IN GUARDIAN
UNIVERSITY GUIDE**

Harper Adams University has risen 21 places up to 8th in the country for Mechanical Engineering in the Guardian University Guide 2020.

Parmjit Chima, Head of the Engineering Department said: "The engineering department, and indeed the university, are delighted with our performance in The Guardian University ranking for 2020. To have climbed 21 places to 8th in the UK is a reward for all the hard work, commitment and dedication of staff to teaching excellence in engineering.

"The department ethos is to work closely with employers and students' to ensure they are equipped with the right academic rigour, technical knowledge and communications skills to make them industry-ready from the start of their career."

The University has made significant strides in recent years and is currently ranked 6th in the Guardian University guide for Agriculture, Forestry & Food, climbing from 11th in 2018.

**JULY 2019:
JOINT FIRST IN ENGLAND FOR
STUDENT SATISFACTION**

Harper Adams University was revealed as joint first university in England and joint third university in the UK for student satisfaction.

The opinions of students graduating this year form the basis of the National Student Survey outcomes published this morning. Harper Adams' overall satisfaction rate of just over 90 per cent means it is the highest rated university in the West Midlands. Harper Adams also scored top overall, among the UK's universities, in the academic student support section of the survey. Further areas of note include outstanding levels of satisfaction with the Agricultural Engineering, Animal Health and Welfare, Animal Science,

**SEPTEMBER 2019:
MODERN UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
AND BREAKTHROUGH INTO TOP 20**

Harper Adams University has "rewrote the record books" by climbing into the top 20 of the Times universities league table, securing the title of Modern University of the Year for a second time

and finishing as runner-up overall UK University of the Year. "No modern university has ever finished in the top 30 of our rankings, but Harper Adams has rewritten the record books this year by elbowing its way into our elite top 20," said Alastair McCall, editor of The Sunday Times Good University Guide, published on Sunday, September 22. Harper Adams has rocketed up the Times university league table, advancing from 33rd last year to 17th overall in the new guide, setting a new record high for a post-1992 institution.



**SEPTEMBER 2019:
SHORTLISTED FOR THREE NATIONAL
AWARDS**

Harper Adams University has been shortlisted for three national higher education awards – including the coveted University of the Year title.

Times Higher Education has amalgamated its two former awards schemes (formerly the THE Awards and THE Leadership and Management Awards) to create a single annual national awards programme recognising excellent performance and practice by universities and HE colleges. The 2019 awards focus on activities and outcomes in the 2017-18 academic year.

Harper Adams is in the final six for the Outstanding Estates Strategy, Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year, and University of the Year awards, with the winners set to be announced on November 28.



From *nursery* to PhD: A Shropshire education

Dr Bill Watts, from Ludlow, is believed to be the first person to have completed every stage of education, from nursery to PhD level, within the boundaries of Shropshire.

The recent PhD graduate's journey started back in the early 1990s at the Temperance Nursery Group, Craven Arms. He then moved to Stokesay County Primary School, Craven Arms, before moving onto Church Stretton Secondary School in 2001.

Following school, he went to Ludlow College and then to Harper Adams University, Newport, in 2008 where he studied and researched in agricultural topic areas for ten years, achieving a BSc, MSc, and earlier this year, his PhD.

Illiterate

Bill said: "As a dyslexic person, I have had my fair share of challenges with writing and reading over the years. I was statemented with special needs at age six and was borderline illiterate for much of my early education.

"By age 18, I had an A grade A-level in English and by 28 years old a doctoral degree. It's all about



perseverance, positivity and support at school and at home.

"I'm proud to be a product of the Shropshire education system and I hope my story shines a little light on the provision of education that is available in Shropshire. But mostly, I hope my story might give confidence to the parents of dyslexic children, and to those children themselves, that dyslexia can be worked around, and that it is not a synonym for stupid.

"I set myself the personal goal to achieve the highest academic standard, and I'm pleased to have finally achieved it."

Bill's PhD was entitled: Factors affecting biofumigation success against potato cyst nematodes.

His work focussed on improving the biofumigation method of managing potato cyst nematodes (PCN), which are soilborne pests of the potato crop, responsible for £25 million in losses to the UK economy each year.

The biofumigation technique involves growing brassica crops, rich

in natural pesticidal chemistry, to be chopped and incorporated into PCN infested soil.

After graduating, Bill started a job at the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) as the Knowledge Exchange Manager for Potatoes in the West Midlands, South West and Wales.



RWAS/Harper Cymru Award 2019

The winner of this year's Harper Cymru/Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Student Award is Ifan Huws from Welshpool. Ifan received the award at the 100th annual Royal Welsh Show (RWS) and has close family ties with the show.

Ifan, who graduated this summer after studying BSc (Hons) Agriculture with Farm Business Management, said: "My great-uncle was the Chairman of the Royal Welsh Show for some time, so we have always been involved with the show and attend every year. My family are very proud of my achievement."

Having been active with the Harper Cymru Student Club, from socials and the winter fair to industry leading conferences, Ifan was selected to win the award. Alongside this, he is also part of the Harper Adams football team.

On receiving the award, Ifan said: "It's a great honour and a fantastic achievement and an amazing way to end my time at Harper. My four years at the University have been very enjoyable and the Harper Cymru Society has been a big part of my life here. During my studies, I've gained invaluable experiences and gathered industry contacts that will be with me



forever, which I would like to thank Harper for."

He also spends his free time with the Watson-Jones family at Howle Manor Farm in Newport.

Ifan continued: "I've been assisting on the poultry unit growing 300,000 broilers to supply all major supermarkets. I've learnt so much here about farm management and business strategy; it has been very influential in my career choice.

"Due to my desire to explore new industries and also the realisation that the sheep and beef sectors are facing challenging times, I decided to complete my placement year with Moy Park, under a British Poultry Council scholarship.

"Experiencing how a global food company works has been a fantastic experience, being involved in the supply chain from farm to fork."

The future is bright for Ifan, who has accepted a regional manager role for Noble Foods, covering Wales and South West England.

Alumni running first strategic dairy farm in Wales



A dairy farm in Flintshire has been named as the first AHDB strategic dairy farm in Wales.

Run by John and Anna Booth as part of a shared farming partnership, Rhual Dairy is an all-year-round-calving herd with 336 Holstein Friesian cows.

By becoming a strategic dairy farm, Rhual Dairy will host on-farm events, sharing best practice as well as technical and financial performance against AHDB's key performance indicators.

John Booth said he was "really pleased" to be asked to be the first strategic dairy farm for Wales.

"We are hoping that by becoming a strategic farm, it will enable us to pay more attention to key performance indicators and help us achieve our business goals through listening to other farmers and other industry professionals," he explained.

John and Anna Booth both graduated from Harper Adams in 1997 where they studied Agriculture with Animal Science.

John became an assistant farm manager on an estate and Anna became a dairy specialist for an independent dairy company.

What makes an Entrepreneur?

What makes students become entrepreneurs?

This is a key question for a university with strong professional links, and one that provides a particular focus for Patricia Parrott, Principal Lecturer in Agri-food Marketing and Placement Coordinator.

Tric and colleagues used surveys of Harper placement students over two years to explore what influenced entrepreneurial perspectives.

Placement seemed to have a greater impact on female entrepreneurial attitudes, but the effect varied from subject to subject. Those studying agriculture tended to have been influenced most by their year in industry, Tric found.

"We've now got three years' quantitative data which is showing us that females are having a bigger shift towards entrepreneurial attitude on their placement year. The next priority is to analyse the qualitative data looking at student attitudes, to see what's driving people's views," she said.

Collaborative

"Broadly, what's pushing students away from the idea of running their own business includes seeing how difficult running a business has been for parents and not wanting the same, or just wanting to go and work for a big company - not negative to entrepreneurialism at all."

Publication of the research has resulted in a new collaborative project in conjunction with researchers in Canada, Australia and New Zealand: qualitative research with entrepreneur alumni, five years from graduation.

The work will use techniques Tric has been developing as part of her Professional Doctorate in Education, which sees survey participants create 'rich pictures' alongside in-depth interviews. The pictures can provide a richer narrative of motivations, with colours, fonts and position of picture elements on the page providing clues through a discipline known as 'social semiotics'.

"The results so far have been presented internationally, raising the profile of our entrepreneurial work and the multi-modal method. Some of the findings might influence things we do

at Harper Adams to support students, such as by setting up entrepreneurial clubs or sessions."

A link-up with the Chartered Institute of Marketing's (CIM) Food, Drink and Agriculture group is proving to be very useful, with students able to become CIM accredited while on placement. There are further opportunities for students to join meetings in London, enjoy networking opportunities, and the CIM is supporting a prize for student dissertations.

Tric, who has worked at Harper Adams since 1994, as well as running an arable farm locally, is particularly enthused about the potential of placements as a means of getting more students into the pig and poultry sectors.

"We've previously seen that students have been reluctant to go to into these sectors. Competing companies set up a scholarship through the British Poultry Council, offering positions to get students through the door. We also have placement scholarships in the pig sector. We're seeing students go on placements who has previously never thought of careers in these areas, but are now staying there, are absolutely committed and see them as great opportunities for them", Tric was pleased to report!



Could you or your company offer support or advice to budding entrepreneurs?

Are you interested in how placement-linked scholarships could boost the talent pool in your sector?

Please get in touch via alumni@harper-adams.ac.uk and we'll make sure your enquiry reaches the right contacts at Harper Adams.

Please sir, may I return your bowl?



A bowl from the 1960's Harper Adams University dining hall has been returned by a former student who took it as a memento of his university days.

Gordon Hughes, who studied the National Diploma in Agriculture from 1965 to 1967, recently returned the bowl to Harper following a visit with a sheep specialist group alongside lecturer Kate Phillips who teaches Ruminant Production and Nutrition.

Gordon remembers fondly: "Every student had a memento whether it was a road sign or police hat – that's why I had the bowl."

"When I came to the University for the Golden Anniversary Reunion, which was my first time back, I thought I should return it. It would have been something funny to talk about."

"Every student had a memento whether it was a road sign or police hat – that's why I had the bowl"

After the passing of his father Gordon, aged 16 at the time, took control of a team of six people after his uncle passed him the reins due to his knowledge of the farm.

The farm helped support the local village where Gordon took control of management along with specialising in sheep farming – also producing dairy and beef to create a profitable income through food production.

Pranks

Two years later Gordon made the move to Harper Adams, getting onto the course a year earlier than planned due to places coming

available thank to people dropping out.

On Harper Gordon said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Harper Adams, especially being away from home. I had a fantastic time and there was a lot of student pranks back then."

Thanks to his 6'6 frame, Gordon enjoyed time playing rugby and hockey, along with cross-country running.

Gordon speaks particularly fondly of livestock lecturer John 'Chappie' Luscombe who he says had the 'gift of the gab' with the industry and was very good at holding the attention of a class. Gordon was always eager to make sure he was sat in the middle for Chappie's lectures.

Gordon remembers: "He would ask questions immediately after talking on a topic, then repeat the same question every fifteen minutes, even to the same person to try and catch them out if they weren't paying attention and would change their mind on the answer."

Career

Gordon went on to work for NAAS (now ADAS) following a year studying Business for a year after finishing at Harper Adams before refocusing his career to become a financial advisor in his 40s. He sold his business QED Financial prior to the economic collapse in 2008.

He now works as an 'introducer' and has vast experience in public speaking – taking on a course in the area to tackle a speech impediment which worked wonders for him.

On public speaking Gordon notes: "Tell them what you're going to tell them, tell them, then tell them what you told them."



Kiwi connections

Notes from South Island*

Gordon Platfoot



Late winter's day looking across client's farm.

Having completed my sandwich year in New Zealand in 1984/85, the final year at Harper Adams was rewarding gaining my BSc Ag Tech degree!

I was first employed by ADAS MAFF, starting as a trainee advisor in Totnes, Devon, in 1986. This was the best training a young person could imagine and having gained experience in all aspects of agriculture I was given East Devon as my consultancy area with dairy farmers.

At some point in this time ADAS moved to charging for its time, which was difficult for those who had given many years of free advice. As a tight team, we as young and not so young consultants were bold and successful, even if management were concerned as to our militant attitude...

A weekend barn dance in Oxford found me keen on a kiwi girl, Viv McClintock, working in London. In 1990 we were married in Cheviot, NZ, and returned to Devon to set up home in Chudleigh.

Hurdles

In 1993, while visiting Viv's relatives, I was offered a job in South Island as a dairy consultant for MAF. We moved there in 1994. It was traumatic and, with a crash in UK house prices, far from ideal. But when you are young and ambitious there are no hurdles too big! I faced *deja vu* as the NZ MAF decided to sell its advisory arm to commercial interests. The opportunity to be successful was good, but it was a fight to maintain independence from our parent company wanting us to fly their flag.

Dairy farming was expanding rapidly, with sheep farms being converted for dairy cows. This changed the social dynamics of communities but was, in a sense, a financial bonanza for a province trapped in a conservative sheep

and beef farming culture. Land prices exploded and a new wealth was being generated with immigrants into the province, myself included. I call myself a foreign investment.

After eight years in a corporate company, the option to take redundancy with no restrictive trade limitations was welcomed and I started up my own business, Platfoot Consultancy. It now embraces different income streams including consultancy, heifer grazing and short term holiday accommodation.

I have also gained a Diploma in Dispute Resolution, an area of work that offers so much opportunity. The dynamics of human behaviour make this incredibly satisfying work to be involved in.

Viv and I have raised two great kids, Ben and Ellen, who are travelling and working overseas now.

I am still resident in NZ and, whilst an Englishman at heart, the sport rivalry with England means I often have a split loyalty.

After 25 years it is perhaps remarkable that regulations around environmental impacts have suddenly hit and the impacts are, to say the least, a huge negative in what has been such a positive story. Change is opportunity so being resilient is essential!



Our records include more than 60 former students now living or working in New Zealand.

Cameron Bennison, who completed the REALM degree in 2017, reports that he is one of at least six graduates, from different courses and different years, living in the same town - Fairlie. One of them is Nicola Blowey (see below!)

Cameron is currently dairy assistant on a 850 cow farm in South Canterbury



Nicola Blowey - New Zealand dairy trainee of the Year 2019

Harper Adams graduate Nicola Blowey has been awarded Dairy Trainee of the Year 2019, a national award in New Zealand, following her success at the regional finals in March.

At the regionals, as well as Trainee of the Year, Nicola also won three of five other awards presented separately.

The national final judging involves a number of stages including a practical section and an interview with the national judges on the day prior to the National Awards Dinner which

was held on Saturday 11th May.

Nicola, originally from Devon, is Assistant Herd Manager on a 600 cow farm in Fairlie after moving to New Zealand three years ago. At the time of graduation in 2016, Nicola decided she wanted to learn more about grass and low-cost dairy systems which made her consider New Zealand.

Nicola hopes to have her own herd in the future and she wants to create progression opportunities for young people in the dairy industry.



Andrew Bridge's Fisher German journey

Since graduating from Harper Adams in 1995 having studied Real Estate and Land Management, Andrew Bridge has worked his way up to being a Managing Partner at Fisher German.

Having enjoyed a successful career to date, Andrew looks back on his time at Harper Adams fondly.

He said: "It was a great experience. An eye-opener at the start but the people and the rugby were great. I enjoyed the social aspect of the University and met a lot of characters, a few who I still know through work."

Andrew has had the fortune of working within the same company since his first graduate role and qualifying as a professional in 1997 when the company was under the name John German – working in estate management and general rural practice. The company became as it is known today as Fisher German in 2000 following



a merge with Fisher Hoggarth, the same year Andrew moved to the utilities and infrastructure side of the business. This involved working on large contracts for government and non-government projects. He then became the

Head of the National Utility and Infrastructure sector. He went on to work in the management team for the LLP before becoming Chief Operating Officer in 2015. He secured his current role as Managing Partner in April this year.

Romy becomes NFU advisor

Harper Adams University graduate Romy Jackson has recently started a new role with the National Farmers Union as a County Adviser for Sussex & Surrey.

The former Rural Enterprise and Land Management BSc (Hons) student will work with NFU members to address issues in the area, by engaging with stakeholders lobbying MP's and other opinion formers, and working with the police and other rural services to represent the interests of farming members.



Romy also works with the local NFU offices to attract new members and showcase the value of the organisation to current members.

She starts her new role after time spent with Savills as a Chartered Surveyor in Essex, before making a move within the company to Perth, Scotland – specialising in rural estate management and renewable energy.

Romy also spent time with Frank Marshall (now operating under the name Wright Marshall) at Chelford Market as an Auctioneers' Assistant and Clerk.

Speaking about her time at Harper Adams University, Romy said: "I didn't grow up on a farm, although I had a rural background so Harper gave me the chance to interact with the industry

"I met a lot of people who I still often see now through work – the world of agriculture is quite small!
"The degree is well respected and it was well recognised when it came to starting my career."

Romy also sat on the Harper Adams Student Union in a Clubs & Societies role – meeting a lot of people that she doesn't believe she'd have had the chance to mix with otherwise.

"I got to meet some cool DJ's we booked for events. Some of my best friends to this day are also people I met through my time at Harper Adams and on the Student Union."

Alumni giving back through business scholarships

Mike talks satsumas for BBC food show



Freddie Hammond

One of the biggest challenges that agriculture faces today is attracting new blood and new ideas into the sector.

Freddie Hammond, Harper Adams University alumnus and the Students' Union President 2016/17, addressed this issue head-on by launching his new business, the Brewers' Goose, with a Harper Adams Development Trust scholarship of £1000, to help encourage new young entrepreneurs in agriculture and food industries.

"Young people's access into the agri-food industry is still a huge issue which the industry needs to overcome," said the 23-year-old. "I decided that even from small beginnings, my Brewers' Goose venture can play its part in encouraging more young people into the sector."

The Brewers' Goose Scholarship awarded £10 from every sale in its first year to a deserving Harper Adams graduate, who wanted take a similar path and start their very own business in the agri-food sector. Brewers' Goose is a producer of free range geese, reared in the rural heartland of Leicestershire. Throughout the summer months, Freddie's geese are freely grazed upon a grassy hillside before being supplemented with fresh brewers' grains in the late-summer and autumn months.

The first Brewers' Goose scholar was Georgina Gater-Moore (pictured above with Fred), who graduated in 2019. She said: "Receiving this scholarship will allow me to invest in my fledgling business via funding the process of having my sheep fleeces spun into wool. Profits from wool sales will then be further invested in the purchase of more ewes."

Mike in his student days

Mike Rudge, who studied BSc (Hons) Food and Consumer Studies at Harper Adams University, featured on the BBC's Supermarket Secrets aired on 24th April. Mark now works for IPL International Procurement and Logistics as a technologist after graduating in 2015 and joining a graduate scheme with the same company.

Mike is responsible for all technical elements of ASDA's supply chain for whole head top fruit and citrus. He gave an insight into his day-to-day role as a technologist, starting with the moment fruit arrives in the packing facility and the processes it goes through. This time it was satsumas that had just arrived from South Africa, transported for 30 days by sea freight in chilled containers.

Adam victorious in stockperson awards

Adams Jones, from Llandysul, Ceredigion was named 2018 NFU Cymru / NFU Mutual Welsh Dairy Stockperson of the Year in October 2018. Adam studied Agriculture at Harper Adams, graduating in 2000. Adam was presented with the top prize of £500 and a Welsh slate engraved cheese board by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths.

Grad named Young Surveyor of the year

REALM graduate Rachel Kirk, Senior Associate at Fisher German LLP in Chester won the Land (Rural & Urban) category at the RICS Matrics Young Surveyor of the Year Awards (YSOYA) 2018.



Jack Stillwell

In his final year at university, Jack launched a crowdfunding bid in the hope that he would raise enough money to purchase cattle and rent some land. Ambitious for a then 23-year-old who was new to farming.

The initial attempt didn't bring the cash rolling in but it did push Jack into the media spotlight – which in turn attracted investors to give a leg-up to what is now Green Lanes Farming, a progressive beef company rearing around 5,000 calves every year.

In 2018, Jack decided to use his success to give back to a Harper Adams student by offering a scholarship and placement.

"Having been a scholar myself, I understand the advantages and benefits for both parties involved," Jack adds. "Whilst wanting to give something back to the industry and help people reach their full potential, I am also looking to bring the best young brains into our organisation to grow and develop with us.

"Mind-set and attitude are key. A willingness to work hard, constantly learn and embrace new thinking is a core principal of what we are about!"

Vet school set to open in 2020

In September 2020, the Harper & Keele Veterinary School will welcome its first cohort of veterinary medicine undergraduate students.

The new veterinary school, developed as a partnership between Harper Adams and Keele Universities, will provide a five-year programme leading to a degree in veterinary medicine and surgery, with training to be delivered on both university campuses in partnership with local clinical providers and industry partners.

Professor Mills said: "Our vision is to build on the strengths of the two universities. Harper has considerable experience as a provider of veterinary nursing and physiotherapy and extensive animal facilities, whilst Keele has a leading medical school - these are very strong synergies.

"The school will work in partnership with a large number of practices, and we've been absolutely delighted with the response we've had from the veterinary profession wanting to work with our vet school, and with the appointment of our new Head of School Dr Matthew Jones.

"The first beneficiaries of the vet school will be the students, giving them another choice in the UK, which will offer them something slightly different, including engagement with agri-tech, agriculture engineering and business studies. The local economy in the West Midlands will also benefit significantly from the school with an influx of 500 students and a substantial number of staff."



Veterinary education centre construction under way

Building is well under way at the site of the new veterinary education centre at Harper Adams University.

Telford based building and civil engineering contractors, McPhillips (Wellington) Limited, have been erecting the steel frame for the new building, which will serve students of the new Harper & Keele Veterinary School as well as those on Veterinary Nursing, Veterinary Physiotherapy and wider animal sciences courses at Harper Adams.

The 2,200sqm building - equivalent to half a hockey pitch or four netball courts - will include a range of facilities across two floors. It will have two new lecture theatres, a large number of IT rich teaching and learning spaces, and will provide the full range of necessary clinical skills environments as well as first class general teaching rooms.

The £7.3 million centre is part of a wider investment at Harper Adams of £10.2 million over the next year. Work on the build started towards the end of July 2019 and will be complete for the beginning of the 2020/2021 academic year.

A number of generous pledges to support the centre have been received to date. The University's Development Trust is continuing to actively seek support for this exciting project, including capital funding and/or sponsorship/donations of equipment. Any alumni who feel they can assist in any way are invited to contact Doris Taylor on 01952 815095

£1M from John Oldacre Foundation to fund PhDs

Harper Adams University is delighted to have been awarded £1million by the John Oldacre Foundation to provide a fund from which support can be drawn to support a PhD scholarship, together with taught postgraduate and undergraduate awards starting from academic year 2019/2020.

The awards will be co-funded by other charities or industry partners as well as the Harper Adams Club, which has agreed to draw on its annual funds donated by alumni to help support the new scholarship scheme. Dr David Llewellyn,

Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams University said: "The University has been supported in its applied research work by the John Oldacre Foundation for many years. We are delighted that the Trustees have decided to make a major donation to the University so that it can continue work to support PhD students, and to extend that opportunity to undergraduate and postgraduate students on their taught programmes."

Mr Henry Shouler, Trustee of the John Oldacre Foundation said: "The Trust has been very pleased with its long standing

links with Harper Adams and that we have now entered into a partnership with the University that ensures that the John Oldacre legacy will be maintained in perpetuity, through the research and experience of the future John Oldacre Scholars chosen by the University." The John Oldacre Foundation was formed in 1981 and has provided financial support for the advancement or promotion, for the public benefit, of research and education in agricultural sciences and the publication of the useful results of such research since that date.

If you have any ideas to support to the university or to find out more about opportunities to donate, please contact Doris Taylor, Head of Development, Development Trust. Tel: 01952 815095.



Anthony, left, and Chris back at Harper Adams on November 1, 2019

Marking 60 years since the Ferdinand the bull escapade

Anthony Warner and Chris Milne-Day returned to Harper to mark 60 years since they and fellow students kidnapped a bull that had been destined for slaughter and held him to ransom in a bid to raise funds for a national cancer charity supported by the RAG society.

On learning of Ferdinand the bull's sorry fate, a result of him not meeting breed standards, the Daily Mirror stepped in to save him. But the Harper Adams students saw an opportunity to increase Ferdy's fame and raise funds for the British Empire Cancer Campaign. After conducting a recce the farm in Reading where the bull was being held, a team of students, including Chris and Anthony, went down with a Landover and trailer, collected him and brought him to Harper Adams, later moving him to a farm at Buildwas, near Ironbridge.

Their ransom bid of November 1959 – seeking 100 Guineas – failed and was condemned by the charity. Ferdy was recovered by the police and returned to his original home farm. But former students and others did claim to have made direct donations as a result of the publicity. And the consequences were not too dire for the students involved. "We knew what we were doing," said Anthony, "Chris and I were poultry students, but we had agrics with us. Ferdinand was well looked after."



at

Down memory lane - thanks to Jane James

1961  1962

HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



(Wall Street Photo Service, Shrewsbury)

Top Row: Dan, M. W. ... **Second Row:** ... **Third Row:** ... **Fourth Row:** ... **Fifth Row:** ... **Sixth Row:** ... **Seventh Row:** ... **Eighth Row:** ... **Ninth Row:** ... **Tenth Row:** ...

1956  1957

HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



(Wall Street Photo Service, Shrewsbury)

Top Row: ... **Second Row:** ... **Third Row:** ... **Fourth Row:** ... **Fifth Row:** ... **Sixth Row:** ... **Seventh Row:** ... **Eighth Row:** ... **Ninth Row:** ... **Tenth Row:** ...

1959  1960

HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



(Wall Street Photo Service, Shrewsbury)

Top Row: ... **Second Row:** ... **Third Row:** ... **Fourth Row:** ... **Fifth Row:** ... **Sixth Row:** ... **Seventh Row:** ... **Eighth Row:** ... **Ninth Row:** ... **Tenth Row:** ...

The university is delighted to have received a selection of incredible photos from former student Jane James, daughter of former livestock lecturer John Luscombe (aka Chappie). The images date back to between 1955 and 1961. Jane, who still occasionally visits Harper working as an associate lecturer, studied Agricultural



HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Top Row: ... Middle Row: ... Bottom Row: ...



HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Top Row: Collins, F. M., Tingle, C. M. F., Purvis, R. G., Dent, J. W. M., Tomkins, M. G., Willis, I. E., Walker, D. A., Keeble, M. L., Edlinson, H. P., Pratt, J. M., Smeade, G., Stokes, R. A., Siga, M. F., Spence, J., Woodliff, P. W., Reardon, M. A., Soley, M. W., O'Keefe, M. G., Twigg, J. A., Broom, R. J., Roberts, M. G., Sanderson, W. L., Todd, B. M., Lorne, M. E., Day, P. J., Topping, C. G., Fowler, N. H., Gains, ...



HARPER ADAMS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Top Row: ... Middle Row: ... Bottom Row: ...

Management and Business Administration, graduating in 1979. Spending her free time at the student bar and swimming pool, she carries fond memories of the nice atmosphere and sense of community at Harper Adams – something which is ever present in the modern day more than half a century down the line.



Zoe Harrison and the Butterbelle team

Butterbelle founder and former student returns as Entrepreneur in Residence

Butterbelle founder and former Harper Adams student Zoe Harrison has returned to the University as an Entrepreneur in Residence. Staff are excited to use Zoe and the Butterbelle business as a case study to inspire and educate.

Having studied Food, Nutrition and Well-Being, Zoe will assist in teaching a range of entrepreneurship and business modules across Food Technology and Business to hand down her wealth of industry knowledge and experience to current Harper Adams students. Butterbelle has recently taken the top spot at the Rural Business Awards in the Best Rural Food and Drink Business category and has just been voted runner up in the Observer Food Monthly Awards' Ethical Food category.

On returning to Harper Adams as the Entrepreneur in Residence Zoe said: "I'm really excited to start, it feels like I'm coming back home and I've always felt drawn back to the University. I'm looking for a new challenge as well. Sometimes you can get stuck in the day to day when you're running a business and this is getting back out there to see what's happening."

Zoe began making products at home for her friends, experimenting with carefully chosen natural ingredients to produce foods with health giving properties. After perfecting the recipes using

carefully sourced ingredients Zoe began supplying local shops and by the time her final year arrived she was working around the clock crushing nuts and travelling the country with the butters. The Butterbelle founder lives with her two daughters and it was once they became old enough that she was able to pursue her life-long ambition of working in the food industry and start her degree at Harper Adams. After completing her placement year working for the university's Catering Department.

Full circle

To make sure she could juggle the rest of her degree with the fledgling business, Zoe returned to Harper Adams and made Butterbelle the basis of her final year project.

Zoe's return to the University represents teaching coming full circle at Harper Adams in a variety of ways. Belle Parrish will begin her studies at Harper Adams this September but is already working for Butterbelle after meeting Zoe at the recent Harper Adams Field to Fork community farming event.

Always on the lookout for new talent, Zoe is looking to Harper Adams students with future placements in mind saying: "I'd love another placement student, it's a great way to build their experience and bring new talent into your own business."



Club catch up **News from the Harper Adams Club**

Alumni association

Harper Adams Club – consultation

A brief overview of the results of the Consultation conducted in Spring 2019. A fuller analysis and recommendations will be circulated early 2020 to members.

Overall the response to the consultation far exceeded expectation and clearly displayed the high level of loyalty alumni have to Harper Adams.

Responses were received from a representative group of Club members, from age (ranging from 20 – 90) and courses studied, as well as University staff.

Harper Adams Alumni have a sense of belonging to Harper Adams and wish to remain a part of it. Supporting the development of the University as well as supporting current students are key objectives for the Harper Adams Club as it strives to provide a unique identity for graduates.

Alumni want to be able to make contact with lost friends, whilst sharing ideas and innovations with others.

The Club would like to see an increase in regional / local events and is looking for volunteers to co-ordinate these events – administrative help would be available, so if you feel you are able to assist with this, please get in touch with the committee via email theharperadamsclub@gmail.com

Farewell Julie
Julie Brook, after 27 years, has left Harper Adams, and Alumni matters are being overseen by the Marketing Department. We wish Julie all best wishes in her retirement.

Next year will be the centenary of the Harper Adams Club and we are planning a celebration dinner. The inaugural AGM was held on 30th November 1920. Please watch out for further information in the next newsletter.



**Harper Adams
University**

Have you considered further study?

Explore our range of

Postgraduate degrees harper.ac.uk/postgrad

Short courses harper.ac.uk/cpd





The Harper Adams Club Scholarships

The Club now awards four scholarships each year, from funds generously raised by alumni. We received over 50 applicants in 2018, reflecting high demand for all scholarships and winners are judged on passion for their chosen subject, contribution to Harper life, academic achievement at Harper and ambassadorial potential. Meet the 2018 winners below and catch up with previous recipients, right, to find out what the scholarships meant to them and how their careers have progressed since.



L-R, Lorna, Jay, Ashleigh, Simon Jones (HA Club), Ros Barsley (HA Club) Jonathan, Annabell and Amy

Harper Adams Club Scholarship Awards 2018-19

Final Year Scholarship - Ashleigh Burkitt,
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing and Practice Management.

EFD Scholarship - Amy Carter,
BSc/BSc Hons Veterinary Nursing.

Postgrad Scholarship - Jonathan Glen,
MEng Agricultural Engineering.

Postgrad Award - Lorna Johnson,
MSc Conservation and Forest Protection.

Postgrad Award - Jay Williams,
MSc Forestry Management.

President's Award - Annabell Oakes,
BSc/BSc Hons Food and Consumer Studies



Scholars: where are they now?

Victoria Stead, 2010 -2017
2011 HAC EFD Scholarship;
2014 HAC President's Scholarship;
2016 HAC Award for Post Graduate Studies.

When I started at Harper Adams little did I know just how much my life would change whilst I was there. I enrolled onto the Extended Foundation Degree in 2010, hoping that I would be able to continue onto the Countryside Management Foundation Degree course. I found that I really enjoyed being a student at Harper and at the end of that year my grades enabled me to enrol onto the Countryside and Environmental Management BSc (Hons) course.

During my time at Harper Adams I applied for Harper Adams Club Scholarships. I can't tell you how nervous I was during my first scholarship interview, I wondered why I was being interviewed alongside younger students who had experience and -I thought- would be better recipients for the scholarship. When I heard that I was successful I couldn't believe it! It was such a boost knowing that someone could see something in me that I couldn't see myself. I finished my degree in 2015 with a 2:1 and I was helped in no small way by the Harper Adams Club. I would urge everyone who is eligible to apply for a Harper Adams Club scholarship – the financial reward is great and certainly took away some of the financial worries that you have as a student but the personal rewards are even greater and shouldn't be underestimated.

I went on to study for my MSc in Integrated Pest Management at Harper Adams graduating in 2017.

I then undertook teacher training and I am now a geography



teacher teaching in a secondary school in urban Wallsall. My job is very different to what I thought I wanted to do when I enrolled at Harper Adams and I doubt that I would have been so successful without the help and support of the Harper Adams Club and my fellow students – many of whom I am still in contact with and meet regularly. I take every opportunity to tell my students of what they can gain from attending university and I hope to see some of my students attending Harper in the future!

In true Harper Spirit since graduating from my BSc I have joined the committee of the Harper Adams Club where I hope that I can give back a little of all that was given to me by being lucky enough to study at such a great university and by receiving scholarships from the Harper Adams Club.

Sarah Haire (nee Long),
1999-2004.
HA Club Scholar 2003

What significance did winning the scholarship have for you?

At the time I did not realise the value of the scholarship if I am being honest. It was a great financial boost to keep studying especially after a four year degree, funds were limited! However the opportunity to do my MSc at Harper, facilitated by the scholarship set me in good stead or my career path. Competing in a male dominated world, I felt I needed to give myself an edge over fellow grads and I firmly believe the MSc did this.

How has your career progressed since then?

I initially gained employment with a company called ABM, who wrote and managed the standards for beef and lamb farm assurance. After five years as Development Manager, I joined Hilton Food Group as Agriculture Manager, looking after all agri related matters, as well as some technical auditing. I then joined Dawn Meats in 2010 as Agriculture Manager for the UK and Irish business

and since the joint venture with Dunbia in the UK in 2017. I am currently the Group Agriculture Strategy Manager and alongside this chair the European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability. I have also completed a Nuffield Scholarship, looking at beef marketing around the world whilst I have met and married my husband, have a three year old daughter and have recently purchased 30 acres where we farm a few Hereford cattle, Wiltshire Horn sheep and three Berkshire pigs!

Do you come across alumni contacts in your work?

It's slightly scary how many alumni are in all sectors of the meat industry and Harper is an immediate conversation starter.

How do you think Harper graduates are perceived in the industry?

They are well respected throughout and the placement period is something that gives graduates the edge in the employment stakes in my opinion and makes them sought after.

What is your fondest memory or best story of your time at Harper?

Now you're testing my memory! I'm



not sure I can pick one – I am just glad we didn't have Facebook around when I was there, especially for the student union initiation antics! The best story is still being written – the friends I still have today and keep in touch with, both through personal and work life that go back to Harper days – they're memories that are still being made.

Open day and reunion June 2019

It was the university's pleasure to welcome 70+ alumni back to the university in June 2019 for the alumni open day and reunion lunch. The day also included the Harper Adams Club AGM. The majority of lunch guests were former students marking 25 years or 50 years since they started at Harper Adams (1994 and 1969). The event also provided an opportunity for guests to bid a fond farewell to former alumni officer Mrs Julie Brook and to meet some of the current students and scholarship recipients.



L-R, 1969 group Peter Phillips, Ivor Thomas, James Walters, Bill Cornick, Charlie Worrall and Sir David Ralli



Celebrating 50 years since they started at Harper. L-R, Nigel Chadwick, Bill Cornick, Nick Locke and Ivor Ferguson



Peter Ward and Keith Stevens



Brian High, James Crickmore, Charles Cade and HAU scholar Sarah-Jane Barton



Harper Adams Club committee table: L-R, Ben Palmer, Alex Law, Simon Jones, Julie Brook, Sarah Collier, Richard Barsley, Victoria Stead, Ros Barsley, Steven Mansbridge, Richard Hambleton.



Former alumni officer Julie Brook received farewell gifts.



On table 5, the 1994 group of Marianne Bennett (Agriculture with Animal Science), Nicci Tucker (Agri-food Marketing with Business), Simon Bennett (Ag Eng with Marketing & Management) and Sue Hutchinson (Agriculture with Animal Science) joined AM Tabassum (ND Poultry 1959) and his son, Gerard Poulter (NDA, 1954), John Poulter (Diploma, 1945), Keith Stevens (NDA, 1954), Newell Bingham (ND Poultry, 1951).



Roger Barrett (1957) Paul Hanlon (1957). Sean Gamble (1992)



Alex Law welcomes guests on behalf of the Harper Adams Club



Joanna Gamble (1994), left



On table 2, marking their 25-year reunion, were Clare Baker, Genna Timmons, Neil Timmons, Philip Hatcher, Sarah Hatcher, Amy Stark, Helen Pugh, Rob Pugh, Michael White and Rachel White



Martin Green, Martin Jones, Nick Jones and Richard Baskerville (1969 group)



Mixing the generations, 1994-starters Joanna Gamble and Karen Nelson brought their families along and were joined for lunch by Roger Barrett and Paul Hanlon, both 1957 starters.



Doris Taylor, Head of the university's Development Trust (right) joined the 1969 table of Chris Kirkwood, Chris Nye, Nigel Chadwick, Ivor Ferguson, Nick Locke and guests



Students Harry Storey and Emily Jones (left) joined the 1994 group of, L-R, Deborah O'Kane, Rebecca Washington, Lucy Voss, Jon Payne, Nick Bextor and Gordon Rea.



L-R, Sir David Ralli, Ivor Thomas, James Walters, Charlie Worrall, Peter Phillips, Bill Cornick, Lawrence and Lynn Fowler and Peter Ward

Reunions



L to R: Dave Mence, Chris Morris, Richard Barsley, Dave Walker, Sylvia Bailey, Anne Hilderley (nee Clarke), Richard Saltmarsh, Roger Mercer, Clarke Willis MBE

HND 1971 -74 Reunion

Some of the 1971 – 74 HND met up at Roger Mercer's family farm business at Blakenhall Park, near Burton on Trent and had an introduction to the Mercer Farming Enterprises from Roger followed by a farm walk and a lovely lunch provided by Roger and his wife, Kathy. The group then made an afternoon trip to the National Memorial Arboretum before meeting up in the evening at the Riverside Hotel at Branston, near Burton on Trent where an enjoyable evening spent reminiscing about Harper 45 years ago.

Glee Club (HND 1970 – 73) 46th Annual Reunion

The Glee Club was formed in July 1973 at the end of finals, for the second intake of HND, and has met every year since on the second weekend in May at various locations around UK. However in 2017 the Glee Club met up in Bavaria in

Southern Germany and enjoyed German hospitality provided by Jon Bell and his wife Petra.

It is hoped that there will be a visit back to Harper next year to commemorate our first meeting in September 1970 and 50 years of friendship – true Harper Spirit.



L to R Jon Bell, Brian Reynolds, Andy Vooght, Gary Savage, Dixie Davies, Jeff Barlow, Paul Heydon, Todd Bulmer, Richard Simkin, Ros Barsley

In memoriam

Martin Riddle

Martin Riddle was not from a farming family but had a love for the countryside. After attending Harper Adams, 1956-58, Martin married Shirley in 1960, the year that they bought the first farm, costing the large sum of £80 an acre! At such a young age, the neighbours were very doubtful of any success.

But in 1962, the farm registered a barley crop of 3 tons/acre, a true success in those days. As the family grew, three sons, so did the farming enterprise and more farms were bought.

Martin said continually of land, "they aren't making any more!" Farms were run to develop the countryside but also to support Martin's passion: shooting! For decades every detail was recorded to ensure better sport the following year.

Martin, 84, died 21st June, of a heart attack while working spraying on the farm. A packed church and colleagues from the 1956-58 Harper cohort showed the huge respect for Martin who left a wife and three sons and grandchildren.

DCF

Michael Hicks

Michael Hicks was 72 when he died unexpectedly on 16th March. Michael was an NDA student in the 1960s. He achieved his goal of a career in farm management, and was still involved in the industry part-time, as a pesticides assessor, up to the time of his death. He often talked about his days at Harper, which were very happy ones, and we both enjoyed attending the 50-year event at Harper Adams not long ago.

Mrs Gill Hicks

John Kennedy

John died on 15 January 2019, aged 84. He chose agriculture as a career as he wanted to farm, however health problems meant he changed direction to teaching agriculture. Following completion of the NDA course he then undertook the twelve month teacher training course at Worcester Teacher Training College. On qualifying he obtained the post as a lecturer and warden at Bishop Burton Farm Institute. It was here that he met his future wife Jennifer.

After six years at Bishop Burton he was appointed Vice Principal at Kingston Maurward Farm Institute, Dorchester in December 1962. This was at the time when the Principal, Reg Kenney, was appointed Principal at Harper Adams and the existing Vice Principal at Kingston Maurward, Freddy Fieldsend was promoted to Principal. John thus became the youngest vice principal of a farm institute at a time when there were more than sixty farm institutes in the UK. John took a particular interest in sheep, specifically Dorset Horns and became a judge at shows including the Royal Agricultural Show. He also had a great interest in grassland management and was very involved with the Dorset Grassland Society. The Dorset environment together with the quality of education for their children encouraged John and Jennifer to remain in the county. Their two sons are engineers and their daughter is employed by The National Trust. His recreational interests were golf, walking the family dogs and postcard collecting. He also served as a councillor on West Dorset District Council for a number of years after retiring in 1990.

Peter Chance

Reg Anslow (1931-2019)

Former students from the late 1970's to the early 1990's may remember classes with Reg Anslow, who died earlier this month at the age of 88.

Following his bachelor's degree in Agriculture at King's College, Durham (now Newcastle University), Reg studied for his MSc at Reading University. He then worked for 15 years in research at the Grassland Research Institute at Hurley in Berkshire, with a short interlude working in Mauritius.

Whilst at Hurley, Reg conducted research into grassland production, the results of which were included in several grassland textbooks. Over 50 years later, his research is still being referred to in some of the latest grassland research papers from around the world. Reg's 1965 paper on seasonal growth pattern of different species and varieties has been cited in four papers so far this year.

The next 10 years involved a change from research to teaching for Reg when he was appointed as a lecturer at Brooksby College of Agriculture in Leicestershire, before his final career move to Harper. Reg worked at Harper for 13 years, from 1978 until his retirement in 1991, as Head of Crop Production Department.

In retirement he was very involved in a range of voluntary activities in his local community of Marchamley and Hodnet, notably the Hodnet Garden Club.

Peter Kettlewell

(Lecturer from 1980 and now Professor of Crop Physiology at Harper Adams)

David E Butler

Former Aviagen Technical Director David E Butler sadly passed away on 7 June. For 50 years David was instrumental in promoting the growth and success of the Ross brand in the global poultry industry, and was admired and respected by colleagues and customers far and wide.

Joe 'Youssif' Shemtob (1927-2017)

Joe came to the NPI in 1952 as a mature student having spent his youth in Iraq. He loved the country life here and rather surprisingly worked on a Cornish poultry farm to gain practical experience for acceptance at Harper.

The 1950s were the halcyon days of the NPI under Dr Harold Temperton and Joe completed his two years there with Honors NDP. His affable nature made him a very popular figure on the campus, with staff and fellow students alike, and this extended to many leading personalities of the country's industry, for

Joe was our chains mate chairman of the NPI students club and he charmed many prominent men to make long journeys to Shropshire to talk to us. Joe joined the NPI staff for a number of years, a very popular appointment, and then moved to the NAAS organisations in the midlands where he remained until retirement. He married Julie, the daughter of senior lecturer Frank Dudley and they had two sons where only Peter survives them all, living in the Cambridge area today where the Shemtobs settled in retirement.

He designed and had built a home for the family there, particularly enjoying his garden and the U3A activities in Cambridge. A triple bi-pass operation didn't slow him down and his light touch, joking and kind manner was uppermost to the end of his 90 years.

Bill (William) McKinney, ND Poultry (1952-54).

Your updates -

Thank you for the overwhelming response to our call for updates. We've included as many as possible here and turned some of them into stories elsewhere in the magazine!

Roger Pearson

1952-1954

I am long retired and live in Vancouver, British Columbia. I visit England as often as I can and always stay for several days with fellow Harper colleague, Cedric Hill.

John Purchase

1952-1954

Spent two very enjoyable years at Harper. My late wife Shirley, nee Hooper, who was at Sealy Hayne at the same time - so it's a wonder that we ever met! 56 very happy years together and now 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren

Don Findlay.

Student NDA/ CDA 1956-58

Farm Staff 1958-59

Academic staff 1979-99.

I have completed all my yachting duties and thoroughly retired, sadly my wife, Joan, 54 wonderful years recently died after an acute stroke. Still trying to get the 1956-58 cohort together for lunch but sadly diminishing in numbers as it is 61 years since we left Harper.

Alastair Warrington

1960-1962

Have been farming in Worcestershire since 1965, but now live near Wentnor, Shropshire. We sold our farm house 5 years ago and moved up here to a 15 acre smallholding. Kept 200 acres in Worcestershire which is contract farmed by a neighbour. Must come over to Harper soon to one of the open days. Recently watched

the very good video.

Met Chris Goodley in Devon last year. Had not seen him for 52 years !

Carol Clare (nee England)

1961-1963

Can't believe how much Harper has changed over the years - can it be 56 years since we left! Worked up to retirement age, and now very involved in village life, community shop, singing, keep fit, all of which is a help during the last 14 years as a widow. Got a wonderful PAT dog who works in care home for dementia residents and assists with reading in local primary school. Dressage horse now retired and is happy to be an OAP's hack so we get out most days. Had lunch with Rosie Price (nee Barton) in the summer and in contact with Ursula Gilmore (Barth) and Wendy Nichols (Evans). We Harper ladies do keep in touch.

John Parsons

1962-1964

After 25 years as a Poultry Adviser/Consultant with ADAS, followed by 6 years as National Poultrymeat Specialist with the NFU, I retired and undertook two 4 year terms as Secretary of the UK Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association. Now finally completely and happily retired in Suffolk with an ever-expanding band of grandchildren.

Barry Holme

1965-1967

Retired in 2015, now have no time for anything!!!! Currently renovating family home in Cornwall and have Cambridgeshire home up for sale. Also looking to renovate one of my barns in Guilden Morden, into a 2 bedroom bungalow. Still involved with

powerboating and safety work. Next weekend operating as a safety boat for the Great River Race on the River Thames - 300 plus rowing boats and over 30 safety boats.

Chairman of Guilden Morden Parish Council for the last 10 years or so.

Active supporter of Cambridge RUFC - played until I was 50. (40 years as tight headprop) but body then told me that was enough!

Peter Cliff

1976-1979

Left family farm 1995, became self employed working for contractors. 1998 concentrated on agricultural repairs and in 2015 set up Peter cliff and sons Ltd which repairs all types of agricultural machinery from lawn mowers to combines and plant. In 2014 we added hydraulic repairs and so we now manufacture and repair hydraulic rams and pumps. We now have 4 employees and my son Jim (Ag engineering 2008) is also involved in the business and his experience has allowed us to add some CNC machines.

Adrian Vass

1977-1980

Retired from Natural England North East in 2018 after completing 3 years secondment to the UK Squirrel Accord - a four nations project. I am now in my third year training to be a counsellor / psychotherapist working in a GP Surgery in Berwick Upon Tweed.

Howard Evans

1986-1989

I worked for Wyevalde Garden Centres for two years before undertaking teacher training. I am about to complete my



Donna Tavernor , BSc Hons Countryside Environment Management 2000-2004 and MSc REALM 2006-2009, married Timothy Simmons at Gnosall Church on 30th August 2019, followed by a reception at the Upper House, Barlaston. Our daughter Pippa was one of our bridesmaids. On 2nd September we went to celebrate our wedding with Donna's Grandad, who is 102, in Herefordshire. We were joined by many family and friends. Donna is the daughter of Peter Tavernor Agriculture HND 1972-1975.



Wedding of Pete Hatley 1999 – 2003 Agric , September 2019. Majority of those pictured were students in 1999 to 2003. L-R Joanna Hosdell,, Hannah Moule/Collins, Realm, Lucinda Bartlett/Eames, REALM, Andrew Holt, Agric Oliver Whittal, Agric, Billy Hosdell, Peter Hatley, Agric, Bill Sparey, Cheryl Warren, Liz Press, Agric with Animal Science, Louise Wilkinson, Robert Wilkinson (Rodney), Rachael Heath/Walker, REALM, George Mount, AGRIC.

26th year teaching and I am the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Staff Development at Penyrheol Comprehensive School, Gorseinon, Swansea. I am also co owner of a holiday let property, own 4.5 acres of woodland that I manage for conservation purposes, still play hockey (Swansea) having been Men's Hockey Captain when at Harper Adams and help out at a local farm where I keep 4 cattle. I stood for Parliament for the Liberal Democrats on Gower in the General Elections of 1997 and 2017 and in the first election to the Welsh Assembly in 1999; was Clerk to Reynoldston Community Council for 21 years, a Councillor there for 4 years and then on Mawr CC for 4 years; was Chairman of Mawr Development Trust (now defunct) and a School Governor for 17 years or so.

Rupert Caplat

1990-1994
Currently Engineering Manager of Linde Hydraulics Ltd in Abingdon since 2004. Also Chairman of the Western Branch of the Institute of Agricultural Engineers since 2014. Got married for the second time

in 2017 to Alison and we are both encouraging my younger stepson to study at Harper! I keep in regular contact with my fellow student on B.Eng 1990-1994.

Caroline Masson (Whiteman)

1993-1996
Still living the dream in beautiful South Shropshire. Married Mark in October 2017, and we have just waved our little girl Olivia off for her first day at School. I am Company Secretary for the local Machinery Ring (SASTAK Ltd) and also love helping out on the family farm - beef, sheep and holiday barn. Regularly see many Shropshire HA alumni out and about.

Neville Woods

1995-1998
Married with three children aged 10, 8 and 5. Working with DAERA

Jennifer Baur (Wüstefeld)

1996-2000
A year ago I packed in my office job off-farm and have started fulltime at home, mainly managing our dairy herd, the conversion to robotic milking and keeping busy with kids and household.

Have just successfully passed my experienced tractor driving certificate with Fendt Vario and am ever so thrilled!

Kate Ody

1996-2000
Having moved to New Zealand in 2010 to work in the agricultural environmental space, I'm finally taking a career break to look after my baby girl Emily who was born in July. My partner, Andrew Metherell, is from a farming family and is currently involved in the family dairy farm in South Otago, so there are a few trips south from our home in Christchurch.

Hannah and Andrew Mahon (Middleton)

Hannah – 1999-2003
Andrew – 1994-1998
Andrew and Hannah have set up a business called Oz Overboots (www.ozoverboots.co.uk). The business predominantly sells a variety of sox savers that keep muck out of your boots when wearing shorts, but also sells a selection of workwear. Andrew is still also Farm Manager at The Bromborough Estate Company in Bedfordshire, while Hannah gave up working in property management to

focus on the business and being a mum to their three boys.

Alex Law

1999-2003
BSc (Hons) Agric. My wife Eleanor gave birth to our first child Henry Law on the 20th September 2019 weighing 9 lb 6 oz. We are delighted with him and are all settling into life at Castle Farm.

Rachel Sandells

2000-2004
Just started my graduate diploma in law, decided to have a career change post children from accountant management in the chilled food sector to practicing law!

Jason Cantrill & Fiona (nee Sands)

2002-2006,
Jason and Fiona welcomed Phillipa and William into the world on 27th December 2018.

Laura Marlow,

2007-2011
Currently working as a head surgical veterinary nurse in the beautiful Cayman Islands where it's sunny all day every day and I get to scuba dive in my spare time... Life is good!

Tim Bowie*2009-2012*

After studying as a mature student (REALM) between 2009 and 2012 I left estate management in 2018 to establish the rural practice of The Orcid Partnership a leading senior search firm. I specialise in identifying and securing exceptional talent to lead landed estates and diversified rural enterprises as well as related not for profit organisations. It's a hugely rewarding and challenging role but allows me to combine unique deep sector knowledge with a wide network of professionals to deliver great results for clients and candidates alike. I am always happy to chat with anyone wanting a bit of guidance.

Kirtikumar Kondhare*2009-2013*

After completing my PhD at Harper in 2012, I worked as a post-doc at IISER Pune (India) for 6 years understanding the molecular mechanism of tuber development pathway in potato and we have identified few genes, which could be explored further for increased tuber yield in potato. Recently, I have been selected as an independent faculty fellow (DST- INSPIRE), Govt. Of India and I am working in CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory Pune, biochemical sciences Division; where I am exploring the ways to improve storage root yields in commercially important root crops, especially sweet potato and cassava. I was fortunate to have the best research guides and mentors during my PhD studies at Harper. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in the UK. I am thankful to all the people, who directly or indirectly helped me during my PhD research work. I am also thankful to the catering department (especially David, Preeti, Chris, Sandra) for your support and all the fun we had during our working



Lizzie Macfarlane/Spray, 2010. Tom Macfarlane and I married on 13th July 2019 at our home in South Lincolnshire. We were both Harper Adams students. Our wedding was full of Harper Alumni! We met at Harper in 2010, Tom started in 2009. We both also now work for our scholarship companies where we were on placement whilst at Harper. Tom is a farm manager for Velcourt and I am a Junior breeding trials specialist for Syngenta.

times. I will cherish all those happy moments throughout my life. Thanks for the good memories.

Rosie Bloor*2010-2014*

In 2017 I married James Bloor, also a Harper alumni. We now live in Somerset, I work at Langford Vets (Bristol Vet School's teaching practice) in the farm practice as the practice manager. James and I also now own my family farm where we run a small organic suckler herd and flock on around 100 acres.

James Metcalfe,*2011-2014*

Assistant farm manager on a 410,000 bird broiler farm. Got married in 2017

Martina Merelli*2011-2015*

Currently finishing my Master's in Management at Regent's University London and soon I'll be off to Alberta, Canada working in the hospitality industry and fine art sector.

Chloe Skillen,*2013-2017*

Since I left Harper, I have returned home to Northern Ireland and now work for Dale Farm Ltd as Technical

Manager working with some of our 1300 farms on feed efficiency and environmental sustainability. Really enjoying my new role, next week marks a year of being in the role.

Joe Cluley*2014-2018*

Now training to be an independent agronomist after starting as a Foundation Ag student and topping up to a BSc Agriculture with Crop Protection. Had bad A-levels and Harper allowed me to get to where i wanted to be, And now I'm doing it and loving it. Would not have been possible otherwise.

Emma Hartley*2014-2017*

Started my own mobile dog grooming business.

Thomas Chambers*2014-2018*

After leaving Harper I went back to my placement at P.D.Hook (Turkeys) Ltd, that sponsored me with a British Poultry Council scholarship, where I have moved around the company learning the departments, managed in the companies hatchery and now managing one of their breeder rearing farms, rearing breeding stock.

Sarah Dean*2014-2018*

Now Agriculture Projects Assistant for McCain Foods

Callum Norman*2014-2018*

I am now a Technical advisor working for Origin Fertilisers, advising farmers and merchants on soil and crop nutrition in the East Anglian region.

Deborah Wright*2015-2017*

Just started a new job at Rothamsted as a Field Experiment Technician.

Ruth Carter*2015-2017*

After leaving Harper Adams University, having achieved my lifetime goal of getting an MSc in Entomology. I worked as a Research Scientist at the Pirbright Institute for 2 half years. In October i will start a PhD (Envision DPT) on "Fall armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) control in Africa" at Lancaster University and Rothamsted Research Centre.

Khaldoun Ali*2015-2017*

I am currently a third-year full-time PhD student at the University of Saskatchewan,

SK, Canada. My research endeavor is mainly focused on chemical and behavioral ecologies of predatory carabid species in agro-ecosystems. I am among the few people involved in elucidating the mechanisms that underlie prey recognition and selective foraging of carabid predators. So far, my research projects yielded very interesting data, and I was awarded multiple scholarships, fellowships and honors based on that and on my academic competence. In the meantime, I working on publishing my findings, and will head into Post-Doctoral research studies after I defend my thesis. Harper Adams was one of the main reasons I could reach all these heights. My Entomology Master's at Harper Adams opened up new career horizons, and made my scientific and academic ambitions possible. It was a life-changing experience to say the least!

Dr Usama Tayyab

2015-2018

After finishing up my PhD at HAU, I joined the feed

industry in Vancouver, Canada and currently working as Feed Nutritionist at Otter Coop, Aldergrove, BC, Canada.

Pieter Ammerlaan

2016-2018

Working as Junior Sales Manager at Havecon Horticultural Projects, a Dutch Greenhouse Builder.

Nicolas Buck

2016-2018

From Spring - Autumn 2018 I assisted the Agriculture department at the University of Reading with pollination fieldwork in apple orchards in Kent, working as a Pollinator Projects Technician. After which, in October 2018 I began my full-time, fully funded four-year PhD at the same department studying the impacts of novel control methods for Spotted Wing Drosophila on ecosystem services and crop production in raspberries, working closely with NIAB EMR and Berryworld.

Nick Jones

1969-1972

Married in 1972, 4 children

and 5 grandchildren. Started farming on our own in 1976 on 56 acre county council farm moving onto 270 acre mixed farm in 1984. For the last 14 years I have been production director in our family shoe factory responsible for a workforce of more than 300 as well as running the farm. Just giving up the tenancy on the farm and aiming to reduce hours having reached 68!

Jezz Hookham

1960-1962

Now fully retired from the poultry industry after 59 years! Now busy with the local Men's Shed, which is linked to the UK Men's Shed association, and is gathering pace as a recreational sanctuary essentially for retired men but events for partners & wife's to attend also take place. It attracts a diverse membership from all walks of life which makes for a fascinating collage of interests. Still have some occasional contacts with fellow 1960-62 Harper poultry colleagues, notably Basil Bayne and John Pearson.

Adam Sendall

1986

One wife and three sons. Based in Bakewell. Carrying out international agribusiness consultancies.

Nelson Opoku

2009

Currently a senior lecturer at University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana. Has been appointed as the head of Biotechnology Department, Faculty of Agriculture, University for Development Studies, Tamale Ghana. A Member, Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) - Roster 2017-2021. A Member, National CODEX Sub-Committee on Food Additives, Contaminants and Mycotoxins (Ghana)

Charlie Hollies-Everett and Emma (nee Bedford)

2009- 2013.

(left)

Charlie and Emma were married on Saturday 29th June 2019 in Ely Cathedral followed by a reception at Emma's family farm. Both were at Harper from 2009 to 2013; Emma studied BSc Business Management with Marketing and Charlie studied BSc Agriculture.

Dave Sutherland

1965-1967

It's been a long time since I left for Canada. Still working in agriculture - at 73 this year! We are developing new technology to scrub CO2 from air using agricultural crops, worldwide! It's working well with major crops including corn, cereals, canola, soybeans etc. We are growing bigger yields with all the free CO2 we can get! Plus free sunlight, free water and free nitrogen. Lignition Corp treats 300,000-400,000 acres per year across Canada and the USA. Greetings to all!

Joshua Heath

2014

I started working for ADM on November 2018, as an Account Manager for the bakery side selling bakery fats (pastry margarine, cake margarine and shortening) to industrials and craft bakeries. Helping to source new customer base as well as manage existing customers. Also working closely with NPD to react to the customer request, when looking at new bespoke bakery trends affecting the edible oil market. Offer advice to customers for the best period to place down cover as bakery fats are influenced by the commodity markets (e.g. palm oil and rapeseed). Keep customers informed by writing up to date market reports within the edible oil market sector as well as dealing with any commercial requests.



Charlie Hollies-Everett and Emma (nee Bedford)

Iain Skinner

1990
Following a career as a Chartered Surveyor in the private and public sector, I set up Skinner Holden Property Advisors to provide planning, valuation and strategic estate management advice to charities, companies, public sector organisations and families, across Sothern England.

FREDERICK KWAN WING CHAN

1970 (1971)
I am a retired Chief Executive Officer of a property company in Hong Kong.

Ed Dorey

1996
I have been working in Dairy, Beef, Arable and Conservation all my career since leaving Harper. Time for a change - I recently teamed up the a Training Provider, based in Dorset, delivering rural training with Lantra, City & Guilds and NPORS. I am also an Instructor in

Pesticides. I have a wife and two boys aged 9 and 7. My wife is a Teacher and House Parent at Clayesmore School, Blandford, Dorset where we live.

Cheryl Warren

1999-2003
BSc Agri-food
I have been working in private jets and private yachts for the last 10yrs so not really agriculture, but lots of fun. On the personal front after not seeing Bill Sparey (Agric 99-03) for 15yrs we have got together, I have moved to Herefordshire and we are expecting a baby in January. Oli Whittal was our matchmaker.

Steve Belcher

1987 – 1990 HND
Engineering
I attended Harper between. On graduating I joined the recently built Honda engine plant in Swindon. My role there was in building the manufacturing processes, particularly in engine and

gearbox manufacture. I worked extensively with CNC machining and casting.

Since leaving Honda in 1994, my career has been diverse and included 16 years in Mechanical Design, particularly using 3D CAD and CAD. I ran my own engineering business in Ireland between 2009 and 2017 that offered design services, design for manufacture consultancy and specialist services relating to moulded composite components.

Between 2004 and the present day, most of my career has revolved around lightweight materials and particularly the design and manufacturing challenges associated with them. I also held the position of Technical Director in a manufacturing business in Ireland between 2005 and 2009.

In 2017 I was approached to join a team from McLaren Automotive to develop a new

process for the manufacture of carbon moulded chassis for their range of road cars. This work has now been completed, a new factory has been constructed in Sheffield and mass production starts in Jan 2020.

I hold the position of principal engineer in the new factory with primary responsibility for "pre-forming" carbon fabric as an initial stage in the manufacture of complex carbon parts at higher output rates. McLaren as business are active in encouraging young people into Engineering with STEM ambassadors already in existence throughout the business.

The nature of my role means that there are IP sensitivities around the technologies I work with, but there is still a huge amount of "public domain" material that may particularly interest students in automotive or related subject areas.

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