

November 2023

HARPER LIFE



The Harper Adams Club
Harper Adams Alumni Association
Established November 1920



Introduction from Club Presidents Simon Jones & Ros Barsley



After many years of service to the Harper Adams Club as Committee members and Presidents, Ros Barsley and Simon Jones are stepping down, handing over the management of the Club to Vice President Victoria Stead and Vice President elect Dale Allen. The last few years have been eventful and at times challenging but with some great successes along the way - namely the re-launch of Harper Life and the re-introduction of the Harper Adams Club (Alumni) lunch.

Ros joined the Club Committee in 1975 and has seen many changes at Harper over the last 53 years and has known 4 Principals and 2 Vice Chancellors. Ros was one of the inaugural Trustees on the Development Trust, on which she served 10 years. Simon joined the Club Committee in 2000, between them they have knocked up over 70 years of service to the Harper Adams Club.

To recognise this unparalleled service, Ros was made Honorary Life President in 2015. Simon joins her this year, taking on the honorary title for his dedication and commitment in leading and guiding the Harper Adams Club. Even better than that, through the Club, Ros and Simon have become the best of friends.

Vice President - Victoria Stead

I first became aware of the Harper Adams Club when I saw a scholarship being advertised for students taking the extended foundation degree. I didn't think that scholarships were awarded to students like me - in my thirties and with 4 children and no formal qualifications above than a handful of poor GCSEs. But after some strong encouragement from one of my tutors, Nicky Hunter, I applied and miraculously to me, I was awarded my first ever scholarship. I also met Ros and Simon who from that day forward have extended the hand of friendship and support to me and many other scholars.

I would like to thank Ros and Simon for all the time and expertise they

have given to the club over the years and although they are a very tough act to follow I hope that I can continue to serve the club in the same manner during my time as Club President and beyond. The Club continues to support students through the scholarship program. You can read about these and what else has been going on at Harper further on in this edition of Harper Life.

Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of Harper Life, like our time at Harper it is the people and their stories that make it special and a truly unique place. Please keep your stories coming, it is great to hear what everyone has been up to. If you have any news you would like to include in the next Harper Life please send it to: theharperadamsclub@gmail.com.

The Harper Adams Club Committee 2023 – 2024

President – Victoria Stead – BSc Countryside and Environmental Management 2010–2015 / MSc Integrated Pest Management 2017

Vice President – Dale Allen – BSc Countryside and Environmental Management 2011-2015

Committee Members –
Ed Cooper – BSc Agriculture 1992 - 1996
Sarah Furness – BSc Agriculture with Land and Farm Management 1998 - 2002
Pam Jones – BSc Agriculture Food Marketing & Business 1999-2001
Alex Law – BSc Agriculture with

Land and Farm Management 1999 – 2003 / MSc REALM 2007
Charlotte Playfair-Hannay – BSc Rural Enterprise and Land Management 2004 – 2008
Sam Roskell - BEng Mechanical Engineering 2018-2022
Alice Whitehead – BSc Agriculture 2009 – 2013
Charlie Wright - BSc Agriculture 1992-1996

Ex Officio –
Honorary President Ros Barsley – HND Agriculture 1970 - 1973
Honorary President Simon Jones – BSc Rural Environmental Protection 1996 - 2000



This year four esteemed Harper Adams Alumni retired as Trustees from the Harper Adams University Development Trust. Clarke Willis, Simon Jones and Joe Lawson had all served eight years on the Trust, while Clive Gurney had served ten, the last five guiding the Trust as Chairman.

Clarke Willis MBE, Simon Jones, Joe Lawson, Clive Gurney.

Harper Adams Club (Alumni) Annual Lunch – Saturday 15th July 2023

The Club's Annual Lunch was held at Harper Adams on Saturday the 15th July 2023. Although the weather on the day was quite temperamental, the atmosphere around QMH was fabulous, so much so, some people were reluctant to leave at the end of the day.

With attendance approaching 180, it was the largest annual gathering for some years. Around 40 alumni stayed overnight in halls, spending the Saturday evening reminiscing in the Welly Inn.

Numbers were boosted by a fantastic flock of Poulters from 1963, a herd of HND Agrics from 1973 and a further group of ex-students from 1983.

A superb lunch was provided by the Harper Adams University Catering Department and thanks were made to the University Staff who provided talks and tours around campus. Joint Club President, Simon Jones, welcomed all alumni to the event while the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Lee, gave an informative update on developments at the University. Many thanks to Catherine Baxter, Doris Taylor and the student ambassadors for their guided Campus tours.

Here are a few pictures from the Club Lunch in July:



Some of the Committee L to R Dale Allen, Pam Jones, Charlie Wright, Alice Whitehead, Victoria Stead, Ros Barsley, Liz Tree (Scholar) and Simon Jones.



1961-1963 Group



1980 Group



L to R John Poulter, Gerard Poulter, Peter Ward, Keith Stevens



Next year's Club lunch will be on Saturday 6th July 2024, giving all Harper Adams alumni a chance to meet up on campus.

An update from Vice Chancellor, Professor Ken Sloan

It is fast approaching two years since I took on the role of Vice-Chancellor at Harper Adams University. I know they say time goes more quickly when you get older but this is going fast!

Much has happened over the past year in terms of what we have done and what we are planning to do. Hopefully this short piece will bring you up to speed.



Firstly, we were awarded World Leading Specialist Teaching Status by the Office for Students. This is important because it not only affects our funding but it also stays with us for the next five years. Secondly, we were recently awarded Gold overall in the Teaching Excellence Framework. That makes three golds in a row so I think we can call that sustained performance. We performed very well in the STEM cluster for the government's Knowledge Exchange Framework which looks at our relationships with business and also the impact we have in our region and on our local economy. We were named Inaugural Specialist University of the Year 2024 by the Times/Sunday Times and we were the highest ranked modern university in a new league table produced by the Daily Mail.

What does all that mean? In reality, it reflects a lot of hard work, outstanding achievements and also the power of the relationships that have been built. Whether it is my academic, professional services or technical colleagues, our fantastic students, our committed governors, our talented and supportive alumni, our generous donors, or our impressive and varied industry partners, everyone has contributed to these moments of recognition and I am truly grateful. Every university hopes that the perceived value of the degrees they award increases in value over time. I hope that you can be proud of some of these achievements, as well as taking some credit for what you have done to support us in doing so.

The last few months have also been a time for celebration. We welcomed back 176 alumni and supporters to the campus for the Harper Adams Club Annual Lunch. I am sorry I could not be there this year due to a long pre-arranged wedding for a close friend. I will certainly be with you in 2024. I hope that it was enjoyable and rewarding to come back to your institution. My colleagues certainly enjoyed you being back. In September I was delighted to confer my first Honorary Doctorate as Vice-Chancellor on Dr Margaret Boanas. The conferral took

place as part of our new Harper Together Conference where colleagues from across the University engaged in sessions which covered the Punjab via Wolverhampton, our partner university in Ukraine, sessions covering everything from exploring our values to chilli making, a pop-up choir to jewellery making, exploring Harper's hidden treasures to understanding the brand. Plenty for everyone. The day ended with our inaugural Make the Difference Awards for colleagues. All awards were popular but there was a particularly loud shout-out for Mark Hall and the Grounds Team. Margaret Boanas and her husband were delighted to be part of the entire day.

Our students continue to impress and inspire us. There are too many awards and prizes won to list them here. Take it from me, they have continued the Harper tradition of taking on every university in every type of accolade and award and in most cases came out on top. I have enjoyed my many student interactions over the years, including fulfilling my role as President of Harper Ireland. I am Irish and British dual national after all. Our students have continued to raise funds for many different charities across the UK and the wider world. This year, perhaps the most poignant was the support they have given to the Eadon Family who brought Len's Light to campus in memory of their son. Their actions have reminded us how many people from our communities are lost to suicide and also that we should encourage people never to go silent, and to reach out when times are at their darkest and loneliest.

In July 2023, the Board of Governors approved the University's new Strategic Plan *Together We Will Make The Difference*. This sets out our ambitions going out to 2030. It confirms that our core purpose is excellent education and research with enterprise and impact. This is important because it continues Harper's tradition of being naturally collaborative and focused on delivering real impact and change. The Plan also has five goals which are: Inclusive, Globally Connected, Influence,

Community, and Sustainability. These are hopefully self-explanatory if you want to see how they come together, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoLiJ2inQ7Q>

In September 2023 we said goodbye to our University Secretary, Dr Catherine Baxter. Catherine has worked hard to champion our alumni in the University and to stay connected to many. She also served as Secretary to the Development Trust. I am delighted to confirm that Kate Baker has taken over as University Secretary and Doris Taylor is now the University's Director of Development and Alumni Relations (including serving as Secretary to the Development Trust). We thank Catherine for her service and wish Kate and Doris well in their respective roles. Reach out to Doris if you want more information.

Looking forward, there is a lot going on. We have announced the building of a new Institute of Animal Diagnostics and Health which we will locate on the Ni:Park just outside Newport. We are also developing a digital and data education hub as part of the new Station Quarter development which is being built next to the railway station in central Telford. We hope that by investing in our local area it will demonstrate the importance of our local community but also better connect them to the vital agendas we research and teach.

On the campus we are working through a new Master Plan to guide our development of the campus and the Future Farm in the years ahead. Whether we are installing new state of the art equipment, building new halls of residence, enhancing the lived and working experience that our community has, or working to achieve circularity in how we use the resources from the farm to heat the campus, we want to make sure that we are delivering a positive and engaging experience for everyone who lives, works and visits here.

We live in an age of contention. This relates to many things, not least to the choices we make as we work out how best to feed a burgeoning human population whilst enabling the planet and its inhabitants to thrive. The University has a major role to play in this. Firstly, to explore and innovate. That means extending the impact of what we already do and know, but ploughing into new areas. Some of which are likely to be contentious. The second is to cling to the evidence. We need to avoid spurious unfounded claims and what is good for us and what is not. We need to develop evidence and share it widely. That is what we have always done and we will continue to do so in the future.

I am pleased to confirm that work is almost complete on the new Peace Garden which has been built near to the Main Building. We hope that it provides a place for everyone to reflect on and remember those students and colleagues we have lost over the years, as well as providing a space for quiet time. It is available now but will be opened formally in the Spring Term.

I will end with a reference I shared at Graduation this year. I really do love graduations! I shared that we rediscovered in a wonderful scrapbook compiled by the College's first Principal HF Foulkes, a Harper College Song was written in 1902 with music composed by the Principal's wife, and lyrics by R.E.C. Burder, a staff member at the time. It was wonderful to hear our musicians playing the song in the 2023 ceremonies. Let me share the final parts of the song which, I hope, remind us 121 years later, what we still have in common. Before I do that let me thank Ros Barsley and Simon Jones for their dedication and commitment as part of the Harper Adams Club Committee as they stand down from their positions. They have certainly represented you well.

Utile Dulce (1902)

*So, as we work and play together,
May we always hold in view,
The motto Utile Dulce
And the colours gold and blue*

*Then as the days roll onwards,
And that which was new grows old,
Those colours shall bind us together,
Those colours of blue and gold.
And with that gold untarnished,
And that blue without a stain,
Floreat Harper Adams,
And win for yourself a name.*

I wish you happiness and success at what for many is a challenging time. We are here for you and if you have ideas or wish to support us in the development of the University, please reach out to me.

For now. Thank you for everything you do to support Harper Adams.

Professor Ken Sloan, Vice-Chancellor

Harper Adams Club Scholars 2023

Stuart Rowlands - Final Year Scholarship

Firstly, I would like to thank you and the Harper Adams Club members for their sponsorship during my final year. The confidence I gained from being selected and the financial assistance was a huge boost in finishing my Undergraduate degree in Rural Property Management.

I mention confidence as when I was applying to study at Harper Adams, I was not very confident that I would be successful with my application. I was looking to find a new career path after serving 10 years as a Royal Marines Commando, applying to university was a leap of faith. In fact, I applied for deferred entry, waiting to be accepted before putting in my notice. However, I was successful and my time as an undergraduate finished in an incredibly confident boosting manner having received a scholarship from the Harper Adams Club, gaining a First-Class Honors degree, placing top of my year and receiving an award from Tilhill Forestry. These achievements were far beyond what I had hoped to accomplish, making it clear that I made the right choice in my change of career path and in choosing Harper Adams University.

The financial assistance from the scholarship allowed me to focus on finishing the year strongly as it meant that I could spend more time on studying and exam preparation rather than spending time generating income. At home I have a supportive wife and two young children so you can imagine the financial pressures that brings and the complex balancing act my family life demands. The financial assistance made a huge difference to me.

Combined, the confidence I have gained, and the financial assistance from this scholarship helped me achieve my potential at university. This has also afforded me the opportunity of securing a PhD studentship here at Harper Adams University. I recently commenced a research degree studying 'The relationship between biodiversity and the transition to carbon net zero farming' with Morrisons as the industry partner.

The rural landscape is going through seismic changes in what and how it is expected to deliver. I hope that my research will help move the sector forward by showing how quality, highly nutritious food can be produced whilst benefiting the environment and biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture is and will continue to be a key focus area in the years to come. Harper Adams has a pedigree of contributing towards this and

I am excited to be part of it. If any Harper Adams Club members are engaged in this area of work, please feel free to reach out to me on LinkedIn and connect, I would be interested to hear other people's views and experiences.

Thank you once again for the scholarship, receiving it set off a chain of events that has genuinely impacted my career and life path. I hope the scholarship continues to benefit other students in the years to come.

Liz Tree - Post Grad Scholarship

In April 2023, an unexpected email landed in my inbox from The Royal Countryside Fund (RCF), formerly known as The Prince's Countryside Fund. After checking and double checking the provenance and reliability of this email, and pinching myself to know I wasn't dreaming, I was absolutely delighted to accept their invitation to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

My involvement with the RCF began after taking part in a roundtable discussion in collaboration with Aldi focusing on the barriers young people face when entering the agricultural sector. This topic holds a special place in my heart, having grown up in Croydon, South London, with absolutely no family or friend links to agriculture and starting my farming journey from the bottom up. Since then, I have spoken on their behalf at Groundswell Agricultural Conference and participated in their "Opening the Gate" webinar series, aiming to encourage school and college leavers to consider a career in agriculture.

The day started early with a 5.30am breakfast meeting at the charity's office in Cavendish Square, London, and with many roads closed for the celebrations, there was an eerie feeling of quiet before the storm. By 8.30am we were seated in the Queen Victoria Memorial Grandstand directly opposite Buckingham Palace, with front-row seats for the action. Despite the persistent rain and cold, the atmosphere in the crowd was palpable, with people chatting, passing food around and encouraging cheery sing-alongs of Sweet Caroline and Beatles hits while we waited for the action to start. At around 10.30am the King and Queen came past for the first time on their way to Westminster Abbey, and then again on their way back having been crowned – we were astonishingly close to their gold carriage, and it felt as though they were looking directly at me. Another

highlight was seeing William, Kate and the children waving as they made their way past. My day ended with a live appearance on BBC News with Christian Fraser and Katty Kay, discussing my involvement with the RCF and my research with Farms for City Children (FFCC), sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Butchers, evaluating the impact FFCC has on the young people who visit their farms. This was my first time on TV, and although extremely nerve wracking to have my face broadcast live all over the world, it was a thrilling experience which will absolutely stick with me forever. We discussed the coronation, the £4 festival poncho I'd invested in for the day which did a brilliant job of keeping me dry, and the impressive horsemanship of one of the riders with a runaway horse in the procession.

This experience would not have happened without Harper Adams - it was originally Harper who put me in touch with the RCF and began the chain of events. As I heard in a speech recently at my master's graduation ceremony, Harper Adams University is like the Hotel California – you can check out, but you can never leave.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the **Harper Adams Club** whose generous support in awarding me

the Postgraduate Scholarship has provided me with invaluable support when completing my studies.



Rachel Hallam - Final Year Scholarship

When researching University options, I came across Harper Adams and the phrase 'a degree that matters'. Coming from a university town myself, I saw immediately how Harper operates on a different level; fore fronting industry level work in areas that keep the country going. Since commencing my Veterinary Nursing degree in 2019 I have come to understand these values better and know that I will carry them forward.

It is truly amazing to receive the Harper Adams Club animal and veterinary sciences scholarship. I started university with very little confidence in my ability, however am leaving with professional skills, friends for life and realised ambition. I will always be able to trace this back to Harper Adams and will go forward to recommend it to anybody keen to gain industry level skills while working hard at professions worth doing. The Harper Adams Club scholarship for me, not only signifies the hard work that I have put in over the last four years, but also the faith that the university has had in me since the beginning, facilitating both academic and personal growth.

This scholarship will make a real difference to my life, as it will be the catalyst for me to undertake a post

graduate qualification. I believe lifelong learning is hugely important and am excited for what lies ahead. Doubtless there are challenges facing everybody who works within the animal and countryside sectors. I am not from an agricultural background myself, and coming to a University that is also a working farm has been quite the education. Between my course content and discussions with peers regarding the health of their animals, I found myself drawn to the subject of parasitology, epidemiology, and public health. I saw that this topic runs between farmers, veterinary professionals and the public, and how it is essential that these domains work harmoniously to educate the public and protect human and animal health. I keenly anticipate furthering my knowledge in this sector, and once again believe that this scholarship will be invaluable to my continued education in this and other areas of my profession.

Since leaving university this year, I have begun work as a registered Veterinary Nurse in the animal hospital where I completed my industrial placement. Working days, weekends and through the night can be challenging, however I know that I can help make a true difference to the lives of animals and their owners. I now work alongside several Harper Adams graduates and would once again like to thank the Harper Adams club for the scholarship opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed the interview process and learning more about the history and future of the Harper Adams Club. Like everyone at Harper, I know that I will never forget my time here and I endeavour to take the lessons and skills with me throughout my life and career as a veterinary nurse.

News of old students—



Emma Bailey-Beech (nee Beech) 1998

I recently took my elderly mother to visit her friend from university - their alumni news helped jog their memories of times long forgotten. Most of her friends, who are all into their 90's weren't able to submit anything - a mixture of ability and the bewildering technology, so it sadly just indicated if they were still alive or not. This got me thinking about marking 25 years since I left Harper with a brief update from me!

After 11 years working at Defra in London, I moved to Wales (Montgomery). I secured home working posts at AHDB and then NSF, and after being made redundant, found myself back at Defra in 2019. I'm currently on an outward secondment to Red Tractor, which I am completely loving - I had no idea how much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure British produce is safe, traceable and farmed with care... whilst remaining achievable to the majority of producers instead of being a very niche scheme (no matter how much farmers complain!). RT also sponsors a Harper Student, which keeps the network fresh.

My girls (12 and 9) have two ex-Harpers as their godparents - Jenny Bibb for the older one, and Andrew Leese for the smaller one. Both girls are thriving and show a keen interest in animals and outdoors stuff, and love visiting Harper open days. They're particularly mesmerised by the rotary parlour and more recently, the 'robotic' dairy herd.

Facebook has made staying connected much easier, and it's wonderful to see so many of my Harper friends at Agriculture shows and seminars. My work has involved the occasional visit to Harper, which is terrific - even if I still don't wear the 'uniform' (which oddly hasn't changed at all!).

My Harper piggy lecturer is on one of my working groups looking at Outcome Measures. I can't think of anywhere else where those links and ties are still so strong even after 25 years!

Here's to the next 25 years post Harper!



'Harry' Harrington Harper-Adams 1973-1977 and again 2002-2005

Those from my era will either have reached the end of their tenure or shortly be doing so.

I've had almost 50 years in agriculture and whilst I view this time with considerable pride and satisfaction I am rather concerned that the current farming generation has not learnt from our mistakes and consequently appear to be heading for similar outcomes. Two examples in the arable sector spring to mind:

- 1: The repeated use of pesticides with similar modes of action have and continue to show that 'resistance' or at least 'tolerance' is almost inevitable. Eg: Triazole fungicides, pyrethroid insecticides.
- 2: The adoption of 'blends' of cereal varieties which was shown to be an unsuccessful practice in many trials in the 1980's and early 1990's and yet is again finding favour with some farmers.

If we do not learn from our mistakes we are doomed to repeat them!

I wish the current and future farming generations every success but urge them to learn from our mistakes.

Harry Harrington,
Pen-y-lan, Tregoyd,
Brecon, Powys
LD3 OSS

Charlie Wright BSc Agriculture 1992-1996

Adding to the recent trend of Harper grads holding birthday bash's for their 50th's, Charlie Wright held a gathering for old HAAC mates, his local farming fraternity, school mates and locals - it all went swimmingly...

Live music provided by Sneaky Feelin', a rock and indie covers



Representatives from HAAC

L-R Back Row: Ed Roach, Simon Jones, Kate Aspey, Ed Cooper (Cooperman) Keith (Keithy Keithy) Younger, Beccy Rees Williams, Rachel Lea (Dizzy) and her husband Ian Lea. Front row: Charlie Wright (Rockstar), Tim Whitworth (DJ Tim).

band, the hog roast provided by Allen Farms Ltd (next door neighbours) and held at The Lord Nelson in Winthorpe, near Newark. As per tradition several buckets of Snakey B started in the evening, and some of us drank past sunrise until 4.15am after we were thrown out of the pub.

Until the next time folks!



Anne Emerson, Don Walls, Maggie Powell (NDP 1954/56)

Left to right Anne Emerson (Stubbs), Don Walls, Maggie Powell (Teague) Anne was staying with Maggie and we met at the Swan Inn Aston Munslow. We were students in 1954/56 taking the NDP.

The 1958-1960 intake

I thought you might be interested to learn that of 10 friends from the above intake 6 of us are still alive and kicking! Of the four who have sadly passed away, three: Mike HoodCree from Kent, Chris Sardeson from Lincoln, and Hayden Lloyd from Hereford all died earlier this year. The six of us left are:- myself (Geoff Payne), Michael Oliver, Robert Hewitt, Neville Beeston, Brian Chorlton and David Wain.

Until Covid and the lockdown hit

us we had been meeting up on a regular basis since 1961. I might add that we all look upon our time at Harper with a fondness together with many memories of the fun and comradeship that we experienced in our two years,

Should anyone from the same intake wish for more info. of the friends mentioned I would be only too pleased to oblige: payne420@btinternet.com or write to: **Geoff Payne,** Cranebrook Farm, Hilton, Lichfield, WS14 0EY or phone **01543 480744.**

Iain Skinner BSc(Hons) FRICS FALA MAPM (REALM 1993)

I was one of the first cohort of students to graduate from the BSc(Hons) REALM course in 1993 (30 years ago... where did that time go!

Having had a career as a Chartered Surveyor, working in private practice and for the Ministry of Defence, Forestry England, Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency, I took the opportunity to set up Skinner Holden Property Advisors in 2016.

Based near Midhurst in the South Downs National Park; we provide planning, valuation and strategic real estate advice to Charities, trustees, executors, companies, governmental organisations and families across the south east of England.

I became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 2021 and a Fellow of the Agricultural Law Association in 2022.

In 2022 I also took on a directorship of the South Downs Commercial Organisation, currently focusing on turning around the Seven Sisters Country Park near Eastbourne.

The new website www.skinnerholden.co.uk will launch this week.

It does provide potential customers with information about the services we offer.

However, in addition it regularly provides articles and information useful to all those studying in the rural land sector.

John M. McBride, NIPH and HAAC 1959-1961

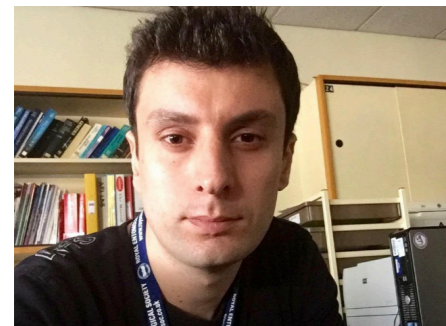
At a recent New Zealand Poultry Industry conference, held under the auspices of the NZ Branch of the WPSA, I was honoured to receive the New Zealand Poultry Award for 2022, acknowledging my contribution to the industry since I and my family arrived here from Northern Ireland in 1973.

This coincided with a paper I presented outlining the history of the New Zealand poultry meat industry from the first introduction of chickens to the country by the explorer James Cook in 1773! Quite a challenge!

In my reception speech for the Award I was able to confirm that my attendance at Harper Adams and the National Poultry Institute really

fired my enthusiasm for poultry production, and prepared me thoroughly with the ability to both adapt and still contribute to the fast changing nature of the industry.

At the age of eight-seven I have now 'officially' retired, but the memories of my days at Harper are as fresh as ever, and remind me of how valuable they really were.



Khaldoun Ali, Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Entomology at Harper Adams in 2016

I completed a Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Entomology at Harper Adams in 2016 and graduated with Distinction and with the Royal Society of Entomology Award for Excellence in Entomology. I then

moved to Canada to pursue a PhD program in Plant-insect Ecology at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

My doctoral journey was also rewarding, as I received ten awards from numerous Canadian institutions throughout. I graduated from USask with high honours in 2022, and based on my academic merits, I was offered a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Department of Plant Sciences (USask) right after graduation.

As a postdoc, I carried out more research studies in the field of Plant-Insect Ecology in addition to mentoring and supervising both undergraduate and graduate students. I was soon promoted to a Research Assistant and Lecturer position based on my competence as a postdoc.

I am currently conducting more Plant-Insect ecological studies, supervising more undergraduate and graduate students, and teaching Entomology and Plant Protection courses in the Plant Sciences Department. I am also aspiring to hold a professorship in Plant-Insect Ecology once I gain enough research and teaching experience.



David Pearce NDP 1958 - 60

Is there anyone from the NIPH NDP course in 1958 to 1960 still around? Would love to hear from them.

Ian Michell - SU Bar Manager 1992/3

While talking with Harper friends at my 50th, it has been 30 years since some of us started at Harper and now I have just completed 27 years with Flamingo Group as the Group Technical and ESG Director.

We talked about what we have done in our careers, we got on supporting and developing others in the world.

Luckily at Flamingo our motto is making a difference in Horticulture every day and doing the right thing has been in our DNA from the beginning.

We are looking for new Technical and ESG people in our Global business supporting 25,000 people and feeding/educating over 6000 children per day. If you are a current or past student looking for an exciting career in Horticulture, Flowers, Plants and Produce please get in touch: www.Flamingo.net

Chris Morris HND 1971-74

I retired from Genus breeding early in 2020 and have developed several other interests – a regular walking group and Ashbourne Probud Club, a group for retired and semi-retired businessmen from all walks of life – this has 'widened my world' and I became President and am now currently Membership Secretary. Also volunteering for two farming charities within Derbyshire.

Sincerely hoping that 1971-1974 HND will have a reunion over the Alumni weekend, 6th July 2024. If you have been 'off the radar' and would like to reconnect, please email me cgmorris2011@gmail.com.

Eileen Clark 1963-1965

I have lived in Cumbria for the past 40 years arriving here to work in ADAS (Poultry Husbandry) in Carlisle and then retiring to remain in the County. Our 60th anniversary celebration took place at Harper this year which I missed owing to house moving. I have downsized to an apartment still in the same Village.

I was deeply sorry to learn Barbara Tapper (nee Hunt) attended the celebration but died a few days after returning home. I convey my thoughts and good wishes to colleague/students of those days,

Eileen Clark

Pictures from 1962 – 64 – Who do you recognise?



Cath Smith BSc. Ag An Science 93-97

A meet up in Wales for the weekend of 16th September 2023, 30 years since starting at Harper Adams. Fantastic weekend catching up with good friends, plenty of laughs and stories shared.



L-R: Sarah Pennington (nee Wadman) BSc Agri-Food 93-97, Geoff Langrell BSc. Ag 93-97, Caroline Goodchild (nee Royle) BSc REP 93-97, Maria Carter (nee Ball) HND Ag Eng 93-96, Cath Smith BSc. Ag An Sci 93-97, John Booth BSc Ag An Sci 93-97, Anna Booth (nee Goringe) BSc Ag An Sci 93-97, Hadleigh Kirby HND Ag 93-96, Linda Kirby (nee Ashdown) BSc Ag An Sci 93-97

John Hazell 1963-65

Having served 5 years in the RAF working on aircraft, I went to Kesteven Farm Institute to do my NCA. Agriculture had been part of my life having grown up on a small family farm. After a short time as assistant farm manager near Taplow, I joined Unilever's Research in the cattle nutrition unit at Colworth House in Bedfordshire.

This was more like a university without students. Wanting to teach agriculture I needed more qualifications to do my teaching certificate at Wolverhampton, so went to Harper to do my NDA.

While there I became Chairman of the Agriculture Club and UKASA rep. for Harper. This national agricultural student association covered all the UK except Scotland. I was elected President of this organisation in the year that it

was host to the International Association, so organised this committee and the summer tour consisting of members of the 14 countries that took part in that group. One of our stops was of course Harper. At Wolverhampton I did my teaching practice at Askham Bryan, where I was later to lecture.

Having realised that I was more interested in the Science of Agriculture, I did the first year BSc Agricultural Science at Leeds. With no expected grant I left after a lovely 1st year of Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, and so became Experimental Officer at the Mechanised Unit of the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield.

As I had thought I would like to teach science to agricultural students It was not a big step to

move into prep school science, which was just becoming an important subject for prep schools. I should have been able to teach biology in secondary schools as some of the Cert Ed students did, but for some reason they said I had to do another 3 years training! As the Science 'Expert' in the school I certainly learned a lot of Science.

My next post was Deputy Head of a larger school, head of Science as well as computers, which I loved, when they came along.

I have followed the progress of Harper over the years plus a 2015 visit. I still read New Scientist, but have to pay for it myself! At 86, I still keep a watch on the changing fortunes of agriculture, as well as keeping up with the advances of the broad spectrum of all the sciences.

AMBA 1982 Reunion after 40 years

Dave Allsop, Anne Glassford, Ken Greetham, Mark Lee, Sue Menhenwick, Martin Peace, Ann Rees, Ticky Fletcher, Tim Scott, Mark Stephens, Helen Strainge, Gwen Woodfield.



The Black Tie Breakfast Club

The black tie breakfast club. Formed by HND Agric students in 1984 had their annual breakfast meeting at the Bath Arms in Somerset on Oct 7th, this was our 39th breakfast meeting.

Last year's meeting was in Provence, France. The club was formed in 1983 by the self appointed chairman for life Mr Jim Bryant 82-85.

Other members are: Ian Griffiths; Richard Peck; Simon Milledge; Jon Midwood; Rod Ward; Mark Adorian; Keith Thompson; Andrew Farr.

It was formed primarily as an excuse to keep connected when we left Harper. It's certainly achieved that. 40 years on.

What does the meeting involve? Laughs, fines, numerous

complicated rules, plus much much more. Perhaps we will have our 40th meeting back where it started at Harper.

Andrew Farr, 0417 940346 Afarr@cgf.com



Nick Green Agri Food Marketing & Business Studies 1995 - 99

During my first year as Head of Commercial at LettUs Grow, an aeroponic technology company based in Bristol, we've participated in many events as far afield as Dubai and Las Vegas, as well as some closer to home too. However a recent event we were invited to present at in Bordeaux came with a twist, Their Royal Majesties King Charles and Queen Camila were in attendance!

We were informed that the Department for Business and Trade had highlighted our company as a shining example of exporting Agri-Tech from the UK to France and the EU more widely. Having checked the calendar to make sure it wasn't an April fools, we promptly agreed to join the state visit.

Aeroponics has the ability to address water scarcity problems, which are a current concern for the French Government, and so our presence seemed like a good fit for the event.

Then came the tricky part! We had no more than three weeks to plan, could tell no-one what the event was, and yet somehow had to get ourselves and our equipment to the Place de la Bourse in the centre

of Bordeaux. Set up was another fraught few hours which involved what3words, secret pass-phrases, and attempting to evaluate whether our basil was fit for a King (it is). But by the time the gates were open, everything was running smoothly.

We landed a lucky spot, sandwiched between free samples of Pernod-Ricard and Tyrrells Crisps! The event itself was

very well attended by politicians, business leaders and, of course, Their Majesties. It was brilliant to be able to talk through our technology, the issues surrounding agriculture in the region, and the potential impact aeroponics could have.

It was an honour to be involved with such a prestigious event, even if His Majesty is Chancellor of "The Other Place" - as to whether Highgrove



Angela Lerwill (1977 to 1980 AMBA)

Angela Lerwill published her first book in June 2023, Tales of a Sussex Family Farm. It details her parents' unending battle to keep their heads above water, on a small mixed farm between 1949 and 1997 in West Sussex.

Quitting was never an option, they just soldiered on regardless.

Graham Harvey, the former Agricultural Story Editor of the Archers describes it as '...funny, sad and inspirational.'

Available on Amazon <https://amzn.to/3M7Krn6>

YOUR HARPER LIFE -

Reminiscences of student experiences over the years – if you would like to submit something or know of someone who we should include in the next edition of Harper Life, please send it to: **theharperadamsclub@gmail.com**



How Harper changed my life and created Warner's Distillery - the world's leading Farm Born distillery!

My first Harper experience was the 1995 summer ball, I was 17 and the event blew my mind. I knew Harper Adams was the place for me and I started in 1997 for an HND in Agri Food Business which I somehow managed to pass and then top up to degree. You get out of Harper what you put into it, and I loved my time there. The experiences, friendships, comradery and revelry with a group of like-minded people from around the British isles and beyond.

I was lucky enough to have a placement year in Tanzania and Kenya buying coffee which became my summer job also in the subsequent years. A visceral experience that I will hold dearly in my heart for the rest of my life.

I served on the SU several times and ended up as SU president, in a poacher turned gamekeeper role for me, taking off the clown shoes and having to lead a student population.

It was an amazing year that really set me up for work due to the wide variety of situations and tasks required from the role, from event management, academia and student welfare, no day was the same.

I also met my wife Tina who is also now my business partner like many agricultural couples. Tina comes from a potato farm in Ireland and forged a career in finance before deciding to come and help me at the distillery.

We launched Warner's Distillery in 2012 as a farm diversification project, with a mission to save the world from mediocre gin. We are now the world's leading Farm Born distillery, exporting to over 30 countries and growing as much of our ingredients on the farm as possible, with a focus on increasing biodiversity. What we do is not rocket science; we use the best ingredients, the best equipment, and the best process to make epic drinks in harmony with nature.

We created the flavoured gin explosion in the UK with our seasonal natural gins, most famously the first Rhubarb gin in the

world, often copied but never beaten! We go toe to toe with the global giants like Diageo and who specialise in value engineered, mass produced products with huge marketing budgets, so the deck is not stocked in our favour but I am a firm believer in authenticity, quality and doing business right which hopefully resonates with consumers.

We recently acquired our BCorp status putting us in a handful of businesses globally with that accreditation, which holds us to the highest standards of corporate, social and environmental practices.

Hopefully you have found this interesting, and if you would like to know more about the business please take a look at the website www.warnersdistillery.com we've just launched an epic rum spiced with dandelion root that we grow on the farm – the spice of the British countryside.

Also Christmas is coming so make sure you support farmers, independents and local producers!

Cheers!
Tom



Marriages—



Ian and Mary McKenzie

Mary and Ian McKenzie got married on the 24th June, at Treworgans Farm, Laddock, Cornwall, Mary's family farm. I studied REALM and graduated in 2013, Mary unfortunately went to the RAU!



Kim & Johnathan Kinston (nee Hodgson)

Myself and Johnathan Kinston got married this June. We met at Harper in 2017, we studied the same agric course and lived on the same floor in Harris. Must have been made to be.

We are both very grateful for all the friend's and connections we made at Harper. And so glad so many of them could join us on our special day!!

Harper Adams Club Annual Lunch 2024 Save the Date

The Harper Adams Club Lunch will take place at Harper Adams on Saturday 6th July 2024.

The Club looks forward to welcoming as many alumni as possible and as usual extends a particular welcome to any groups who would like to celebrate a special anniversary in 2024 such as

Diamond 60 years (1964) Golden 50 years (1974) Ruby 40 years (1984) and Silver 25 years (1999).

Further details on how to book will follow in due course. If you have any immediate queries please contact: **theharperadamsclub@gmail.com**.

SAVE THE DATE



Harper Adams Club (Alumni) Lunch
Saturday 6th July



Chris Wilton to Clare Buckland

I'm pleased to announce the wedding of Chris Wilton to Clare Buckland at Rame Church, Rame peninsula, Cawsand, Cornwall on the 8th of September 2023.

Chris was a BSc Agric starting in 1992, but after 1 year moved closer to home and finished his course at Seale Hayne. Chris is still an arable farmer on the home farm with the ambitions of expansion.

Clare is a graduate of Plymouth Uni and worked for the Marine Biology Association in Plymouth after graduating. They have 2 children, William (10) and Amy (5).

In typical farming tradition, the wedding reception was held in a marquee in his grain store, with hog roast for the evening reception.

Charlie Wright (Rockstar) served as best man and in time honoured tradition Harper drinking and dancing antics were experienced by all.

We all hope that they have a long and happy marriage in a beautiful part of the world. There will be no more kids; The best man provided a matched pair of bricks and included instructions so that Clare doesn't trap her thumbs!



Samantha Davies (2008-2012 REALM) Matthew Leake (2009-2012 Agriculture)

My husband, both Harper alumni, married on 29th October 2022.

We were married at Claverley Church in Shropshire and held our wedding reception at Davenport House with a number of Harper Adams alumni present.

Obituaries—

Christopher Scurfield- Harper Ireland Chair 2019/20



Chris Scurfield, from Kilmore, Crossgar, a BSc(Hons) Agriculture student who graduated in September 2022, was tragically killed in a road traffic accident in South Island, New Zealand near Lake Coleridge, Canterbury shortly before 10.30pm on 9 December 2022. By a twist of fate, the name of the road on which the accident happened is called Harper Road.

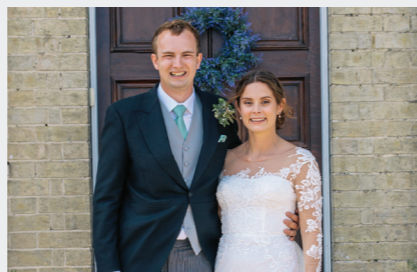
Chris was a recent past Chair of Harper Ireland (the Club run by the Students' Union for current students from the island of Ireland). The funeral service for Chris held at Kilmore Church of Ireland Church was attended by many friends from Harper Ireland as well as by Basil Bayne representing alumni members of Harper Adams in Ireland.

Basil writes: I recognised students who had travelled from West Tyrone, from far Fermanagh, from the North Coast and from the South – I estimate some 600 mourners attended. The key involvement of Harper alumni, which brought a lump to the throat, was when the hearse, bearing the coffin, paused at the church gate and 14 students and former students, each wearing a Harper rugby tie, slipped silently into line at the Church door to symbolically await, the imminent arrival of their fifteenth member. I was told later that each player had flown in from GB to pay their personal tribute to Chris in this manner. After a few minutes they were joined by further Harper students, to form two silent lines, with heads bowed, between which the coffin passed for a few yards on its way into the church. Harper Adams can be justly proud of the manner in which it said a final farewell to one of its sons.



Howard & Rachel Gilder

Howard and I (Rachel Gilder, Agri Food Marketing with Business Studies. 2009-2013) married on September 16th 2023 at my family home in Worcestershire.



Charlotte & Fergus Harvey-Kelly

Charlotte Harvey-Kelly (new Lawson) and I (Fergus Harvey-Kelly) got married on 15th July, We met in 2014 whilst studying Realm, whilst I left to pursue a career in manufacturing agricultural equipment in 2016, Charlotte graduated in the class of 2018.

We got married at our home in beautiful Suffolk, and it was amazing to be able to share our day with so much special friends from Harper.

Births—

Thomas Read

Samuel Read and Leila Read (formerly Thomas) from the class of 2013 welcomed Thomas Read into the world on the 1st of September.



Tributes have been paid to a Harper Adams University alumnus who was killed while on holiday in Uganda.

David Barlow (Agri Food Marketing & Business Studies 1994 - 98) and his wife Celia died in an attack on their vehicle while on honeymoon in the country's Queen Elizabeth National Park.

As the news broke, Minister of State (Development and Africa) the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, said he was 'shocked and saddened by the horrific attack' and added: "My thoughts are with the victims and their families." A keen sportsman, David played both cricket and rugby at Harper Adams and was involved with the coaching of the harper ladies Rugby team during his time at the University.

Senior Lecturer in Farm Business Management Alastair Johnston, who was at University with David, paid tribute to his friend.

He said: "He had a real interest in developing and running businesses - he was very determined, resilient, and a real zest for life, managing to treat each challenge as an opportunity.

"Dave was an extremely loyal and caring person who will be missed by all those who know him."

Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan expressed his sorrow at the news.

He said: "In recent weeks we have witnessed the destructive effect that terrorism has on innocent populations when it strikes.

"The tragic deaths of David and Celia have brought this home directly to their families and those members of the Harper Adams community who studied with, supported, and taught David.

"They were at the beginning of the next phase of their lives together, making it all the more tragic for them to die in these circumstances. My thoughts are with the families and friends of David and Celia at this time, and with all people whose lives are ended or affected by terrorism."

Peter Chance (HAAC 1953-56)

Peter died peacefully on 24th August, after a short illness.

Peter attained both the N.D.A. and the N.D.Ag.E. and enjoyed a successful career in NAAS and ADAS.

In the autumn term of 1958 he joined the soil science department of NAAS in Cardiff, participating in crop variety trials. This continued until July 1960 when he moved to Oxford as a trainee advisory officer. Fully qualified as such he moved to south Cheshire in 1963, based in Crewe, staying there until autumn 1972 when he was seconded as Agricultural Adviser to the States of Guernsey. Six years later he moved back to the mainland, joining the Dorchester office of ADAS where he stayed until retirement in October 1995. It was a partial retirement because he ran a private practice in Dorset for several years afterwards.

To Peter's wife, Susan, and their sons, Stuart and Philip, sincere condolences on the loss of a dear husband and father. May I add a personal thanks to Peter for a close friendship of almost 69 years lasting through student days and throughout adult life.

from Geoff Warren
(HAAC 1953-56)



Fred Harper

Former Harper Adams Vice-Principal, 1983-1988, passed away on January 28th 2023 after a long illness.

Fred moved from Harper Adams in 1988 to become College Principal at Seale Hayne and oversaw the challenging process of the merger of Seale-Hayne with Plymouth Polytechnic which subsequently became Plymouth University.

Fred was the first Dean of the Seale-Hayne Faculty of the new University.

Dick Shaw Studied at Harper 1964-65

Please can you report my best friend at Harper Adams, Dick Shaw passed away last weekend (7th October 2023) surrounded by his family. We were at Harper Adams in 1964 and 1965. Close friends I have no contacts for were the President Keith Henton (Dick was Secretary).

George Dean, Clive Bott, John Tellam, and myself had a 50 year reunion with Dick at his home some years ago now. Great if you could contact me.

Many thanks
Nick Towers (Australia)



Claire Mewburn Mercer (nee Morris-Eyton) 23/12/1967 to 09/11/2022

Claire was born on 23rd December 1967, the fourth child of John Reginald Morris-Eyton (Calvington, Newport) and Jane Elizabeth Morris-Eyton. She died on the 9th November 2022, aged 54 years, after an 18 year fight with ovarian cancer.

Claire grew up on a large dairy and sheep farm close to Broughton In Furness, Cumbria. Initially educated locally in Cumbria, her sixth form took her to Quebec, Canada, followed by a HND AMBA at Harper Adams, and laterly a Masters of Business Administration in Switzerland. Something she did between and during her various chemotherapy cycles, making best use of her precious time.

After graduating from Harper Adams, Claire spent 3 years working

with Minnaar Ltd, of Earith, a fresh produce trader to the supermarkets. She then moved onto a similar role, completing 5 years with a European fresh produce & logistics company, Giachetti SAS of Torino, and then helped establish a family farm equipment, hire & repair business which she championed until shortly before her death.

Claire met her husband, Colin Mewburn Mercer, whilst at Harper Adams where he was studying for a HND Ag Eng, graduating in 1991. They were married on 16th October 1993, having formed the foundations of a lifelong partnership over several years of courtship around Harper, and beyond. 16th October '22 was their 29th wedding anniversary, they would have been happy to have many more.

Married life took Claire abroad to Europe, 15 years between France, Italy and Switzerland, before returning in 2013. During those 15 years abroad, Claire gave birth to their son Connor in France, supported his infant and junior years in Italy, and senior years in Switzerland. This was alongside her ongoing commercial responsibilities. Her overwhelming target after diagnosis, was to be at her son's 21st birthday celebration. She achieved that goal in May 2022. Connor starts his final year at HAU studying for his B.Eng in Agricultural Engineering in October '23.

Upon Claire's return to the UK, she chose to take on a small farm, at Northop on the Welsh borders. Her dietary needs had cultivated

a lasting interest in ancient grain / cereal production, something that is already well established in Europe. It is at Northop that she set about growing selected crops and fruit that she had learned about abroad. Whilst it has taken time to establish, and work is still very much in progress, the activity has developed a constant focus for the family unit and helped to balance and weather the difficulties with Clare's health.

Being outside in the fresh air was Claire's tonic, a sun drenched beach or a wet and windy shoot day, she loved simply being in the great outdoors. She had a keen eye for the subtle details of nature, working with animals, tending to her bees, studying the progress of her cereals, or garden herbs or simply pruning the roses.

Claire died whilst in the USA, pursuing further treatment possibilities. Her fight, like her broader approach to life, did not recognise boundaries, she didn't accept 'defeat' or a 'no' easily. She succumbed to her illness reluctantly, defiant in the face of extreme adversity, but like all things she did, she did so with great tenderness, great love, great dignity in the face of tremendously difficult choices.

Our world is definitely the poorer for her passing. Her humour, her knowledge, her smile and cheerfulness, for all the rich ingredients of her character which she so generously dispensed to each of us. Her legacy continues through Colin & Connor who are determined to carry forward what she started.

From Ursula Gilmore (Barth)

Some readers of the Harper Life Magazine may not be aware of the deaths of four alumni from the 1961-1963 courses. They are:

Richard May (NDA) died in November 2020

His wife Mary May (Turner) (NDP)) died in March 2023

Janet Bradshaw (Bird) (NDP) died in December 2020

Wendy Nicholls (Evans) (NDP) died in January 2023

They were good friends of mine and it is with great sadness that I am passing on this information.

University News

Harper Adams secures third consecutive Gold status for Teaching Excellence.

Harper Adams University has been revealed as having secured Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) for the third time. The University also secured Gold status in both 2017 and 2018. This rating was awarded in 2023, for four years.

The Gold rating is a significant vote of confidence in the University's

teaching and learning, and the positive outcomes its students achieve from their studies. It draws upon metrics including Harper Adams University's National Student Survey data, its Graduate Outcomes data, and more – as well as other evidence submitted by the institution.

The announcement follows a series of other accolades for Harper Adams, with the University being named the Specialist University of the Year 2024

by the Times and Sunday Times, as well as being the top-rated Modern University in the UK in the Daily Mail University Guide and taking home an award for Career Prospects at the WhatUni Student Choice awards for the seventh time in a row.

Harper Adams was also rated a world-leading specialist English university by the Office for Students in December 2022- the only one in its specialism granted this status, and one of just 16 institutions overall.



Alumnae raise more than £4000 for Farming Community Network charity

Two Harper Adams alumna have completed the 102-mile-long Cotswold Way to raise money for the Farming Community Network.

BSc (Hons) Rural Enterprise and Land Management graduates Olivia Meredith and Caryss Pickavance, who now both work for Carter Jonas LLP, decided to take on the challenge to raise awareness of mental health in the agricultural sector.

“Olivia Meredith and I walked 123 miles over five days all in aid of The Farming Community Network. When we set off, we were expecting to do 102 miles. However, we managed to find another 21, just in case the 102 wasn't enough!

This wasn't due to poor map reading - the Cotswold Way has some routes where there are options to take a longer or shorter path, in which we always chose the longer one - as well as navigating back to our accommodation for the night.

The aim of the walk was to raise awareness of mental health within the rural community.

Olivia has set up a page on Instagram Let's Get Talking @letsgettalking2022 to direct people to the mental health support available, as well as brightening up people's days with some positivity!

The walk was therefore called “Let's Get Talking and Walking” to encourage others to get outside for a walk with a friend and start talking about their mental health.

The amount of support we have received has been overwhelming from everyone. There really are so many kind people out there in this world and completing this walk has really highlighted that to us!

We have currently raised £4,100 for such a worthwhile charity, which helps so many in the rural community and we couldn't have done it without all this support!

Let's keep trying to raise awareness! - “Let's Get Talking”

Harper graduate wins Farmers Weekly Agricultural Student of the Year 2023

Harper Adams University student Harry Davies has been named as this year's Farmers Weekly Agricultural Student of the Year.

Originally from Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire, fourth-year BSc (Hons) Agriculture student Harry secured the prize at the annual Farmers Weekly Awards ceremony in London last night. On winning the award Harry said: “I was over the moon to be a finalist, let alone win Ag Student of the Year. Yeah it's a fantastic way to end four great years at Harper.”

Having been hugely committed to his family farm, Hopes Ash Farm in Herefordshire, his hard work ethic didn't go unnoticed by the judges, nor the skills he developed during his time at Harper Adams.

In the article by Farmers Weekly announcing his award, he said that without the skills learned at University, such as building design, partial budgeting, project organisation and people management, the projects he has been involved, including the installation of a slurry-only anaerobic digestion plant, would have been significantly more challenging. As well as the academic learnings at university, he says exposure to different people and systems has also broadened his awareness and led him to re-evaluate everything on the home farm.

Fellow Harper Adams student Isla Soutter, a BSc (Hons) Agriculture with Animal Science student was also shortlisted – once again seeing two of the final three taken by Harper Adams students.



Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers, **Margaret Boanas**, receives her Honorary Doctorate from **Professor Ken Sloan**, Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams University

Honorary Doctorate bestowed upon Worshipful Company of Butchers Past Master Margaret Boanas

Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers, Margaret Boanas has received an Honorary Doctorate from Harper Adams University.

The award was made at the inaugural Harper Together staff conference at the University, with Margaret as a Guest of Honour throughout the day before receiving her award at a ceremony in the afternoon.

Margaret is Chairman of the International Meat Association, a former Vice President of the European Meat trade Association with responsibility for International Trade, and a member of the new Government Food and Drink Export Council, which was set up earlier this year by the Department of International Trade (DIT) and DEFRA.

Margaret became a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Butchers in 1997, and in 2021 was the third woman to become Master – with Harper Adams University Chancellor, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, and Patricia Dart preceding her.

Professor Capper said “I should note that the support offered by Margaret and the Worshipful Company to Harper Adams has been invaluable, with five Masters of Research posts currently funded at the University through initiatives which began while Margaret was Master, including one relating to her nominated charity, Farms For City Children.

“As a fellow Liveryman of the Worshipful Company I can vouch for her excellence, but it's not simply my opinion - another liveryman recently commented that Margaret was a truly great Master, not least because of her humanity and commitment to the industry.”

Presenting Margaret Boanas to Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan for her admission to the Degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, Professor Capper said: “Margaret will say that she is only here because of the immense support and mentoring she's had from people in the industry – I would argue that she has paid this forward a hundred times over. She is a brilliant example to women of all skillsets and ages - throughout her career she has mentored and actively encouraged countless other women to achieve and fulfil their potential.”



Harper Adams University Chancellor, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has met a group of scholars who will use their studies at the University to benefit communities in Africa and India.

Scholars from African nations and India meet University Chancellor, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

Her Royal Highness met the 2023 Marshal Papworth Scholars during her visit to the University, during which she heard about some of the Integrated Pest Management research being carried out by the Entomology group, and received a briefing from University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan about the University's Together, We Will Make the Difference 2030 strategy.

In the Entomology laboratories on the Harper Adams Future Farm, The Chancellor heard about researchers' work examining the impact of the vine weevil.

Reader in Entomology Dr Tom Pope said: "Vine weevil remains an economically important pest of a wide range of crops, including fruit crops such as strawberry and blueberry, as well as ornamental crops.

"A key reason for the continued importance of this pest is the difficulty that growers have in detecting the presence of vine weevil adults within crops before losses occur.

"To address this problem, we are working to develop a lure to attract vine weevils into a monitoring tool and to combine this with a 'smart' camera system that automatically detects the presence of this species and then alerts the grower. This project brings together agronomists at Zest ICM, crop protection company Sentomol, and academic collaborators at the Natural Resources Institute at University of Greenwich.

"It was a pleasure to show Her Royal Highness this work."

Following this, the Chancellor proceeded to meet guests at a seminar on Sustainable Agriculture, including this year's Marshal Papworth Scholars, representatives of the charitable organisations they are working with and diplomatic representatives from the students' home countries.



The Scholars started their 10-week short course at Harper Adams in May.

Among the nations represented in this year's cohort are Ghana, India, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia. Each Scholar was selected to take part in the course by the charity partners of the Marshal Papworth Fund, including Ripple Effect, Leprosy Mission, ADRA Ghana, Hands Around The World, Tree Aid and Teyapi4Peace.

Speaking to assembled guests at the event, Marshal Papworth Fund Chairman Tom Arthey explained how its eponymous founder had been deeply affected by the plight of communities he had visited in Africa and Asia – and how, after his untimely death, his legacy has lived on through the Fund.

Mr Arthey said: "Marshal's vision – helping students develop skills they can take back to their homelands and use for the benefit of their own communities – stands as true today as it did while he was alive, and through our work, continues to enrich the lives of people from developing countries around the world.

"Marshal hoped that his legacy would allow just one, or maybe two at best, students to come over to the UK and study agricultural and horticultural practices.



Farming Life Agricultural Student of the year Stephen Evans pictured with Basil Bayne, Harper Adams in Ireland, Ruth Rodgers, Editor of Farming Life and Joanne Knox, Deputy Editor

Harper graduate named Farming Life Agricultural Student of the Year 2023

Harper Adams alumnus Stephen Evans has been named the Farming Life Agricultural Student of the Year 2023.

BSc (Hons) Agriculture graduate Stephen, from Fintona, Co. Tyrone, was named the winner of the prize at the Farming Life awards ceremony in Belfast's Crowne Plaza hotel on Wednesday night. Despite not hailing from an agricultural background, Stephen was chosen by the judges as the prize winner – mere weeks after celebrating his graduation.

Talking about the awards, Farming Life editor Ruth Rodgers said: "This year, as always, entries across all categories exceeded our expectations in both numbers and the calibre of those involved. It has made judging an incredibly difficult task, but one that was very enjoyable as we read about the history of businesses and their developments and about people and their successes and achievements and indeed challenges.

"As we celebrate our industry here tonight, it must be remembered that we are facing a time of uncertainty and difficulty in the months ahead.

"We are fortunate that we have an industry which has resilience and a 'can do' attitude at its core. And I have no doubt that our farmers will adapt

and evolve to meet the challenges head on."

Stephen – who works at ForFarmers as their UK Young Animal Feeds Specialist – is also shortlisted for a separate Agricultural Student of the Year prize at the British Farming Awards, set to be announced in Birmingham.

He was also named as the winner of the Victor Truesdale Prize 2023 at the annual Harper Ireland club dinner.

Speaking when shortlisted for the Farming Life award, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunities which his studies at Harper Adams had afforded him, adding: "From a young age, my passion for this industry has been my driving force.

"Coming from a non-farming background, I saw it as a challenge to overcome, and I did just that.

"My dedication lies in making the industry a more sustainable and attractive place for people of similar ages and backgrounds to me."

Stephen's latest win was hailed by Dr Russell Readman, Course Manager for Agriculture at Harper Adams, who said: "It is excellent to see Stephen take the award of Farming Life Agriculture Student of the Year.

"Stephen does not come from a home farm and has worked hard to gain practical experience to underpin his degree studies and to gain a foothold in the industry.

"A well-deserved winner and an example of the can-do attitude of

Harper Adams students and the type of individual our industry needs to address the challenges going forward."



BASIS Chief Executive Stephen Jacob presents Hollie with the shield.

Agronomist alumna Hollie wins BASIS excellence award

An agronomist and Harper Adams alumna has been named this year's winner of the Barrie Orme Shield.

Suffolk born Hollie Hunter, a full-time agronomist at Agrovista, secured the prize for achieving excellence in the 2022 BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection and being judged the top scholar among more than 250 people who pursued the award. She first joined Agrovista in September 2021 as a trainee agronomist after achieving a first-class honours in BSc (Hons) Agriculture with Crop Management in 2021 from Harper Adams University. Growing up on a family farm meant Hollie had a natural interest in crop management and she feels this led her to her choice of university degree and a career in agronomy.

Since her role involves supporting farmers with important decisions around crop protection, she decided to focus the research aspect of the qualification on selective chemical control of Italian ryegrass in UK winter wheat.

She said: "Because resistance issues are becoming a widespread problem it was a really useful opportunity to investigate new chemistry and its effectiveness."

Got some news you want to share with ex-Harper students?

Brilliant! Let us know and the Harper Adams Club will gladly share the news.
Email us at: theharperadamsclub@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/harperadamsalumni

 [@HAClub](https://twitter.com/HAClub)

Save the date - Harper Adams Club Annual Lunch 2024

The Harper Adams Club Lunch will take place at Harper Adams on Saturday 6 July 2024.
Further details on how to book will follow in due course. If you have any immediate queries
please contact theharperadamsclub@gmail.com.

The Club looks forward to welcoming as many alumni as possible and as usual extends a particular
welcome to any groups who would like to celebrate a special anniversary in 2024 - such as Diamond
60 years (1963) Golden 50 years (1973) Ruby 40 years (1983) and Silver 25 years (1998).