

November 2024

HARPER LIFE



The Harper Adams Club
Harper Adams Alumni Association
Established November 1920



Introduction from Club President & Vice President

Dale Allen & Charlie Wright



Welcome to the 2024 edition of Harper Life, it has been a very busy year for The Club.

The Club once again sought out exceptional students for its scholarship program who are not only top performers academically, but carry the true Harper Spirit and will go on to be great ambassadors both for the University and The Harper Adams Club.

This year we awarded scholarships to four fantastic scholars, Molly, Emyr, Sophie and Harry who blew us away during their scholarship interviews.

They faced tough competition and thoroughly deserved their scholarships. I hope you all enjoy reading about them in the pages to come.

We also hosted our annual club lunch on the 6th July, where we were joined by around 70 alumni, this year's Harper Adams Club scholars, University Vice Chancellor, Ken Sloan and various university staff.

It was a very enjoyable day, meeting fellow Club members and hearing about new developments at the university.

One of the most memorable moments of The Club lunch was Vice Chancellor Ken Sloan awarding Ros Barsley (Honorary Harper Adams Club President) with the Vice-Chancellor's Medal in recognition of her decades of commitment and help to alumni,

students and the university. I'd like to encourage you all to join us on the 5th July 2025 for our next Club lunch at Harper Adams University.

I'm pleased to announce that the Harper Adams Club, in partnership with the Students' Union, will host the Hobgoblins sporting event on 21st-22nd February 2025. Harper Adams Club members and students have played sports together since 1933, with "Hobgoblins" becoming the official name in 2000.

Join us for a great day of sports, food, and entertainment—families are welcome! Alumni are invited to relive their student bar days at the Harper SU Bar both nights. Alumni interested in joining the teams, please get in touch to register.

I would also like to draw your attention to the annual Reunion Ball (kindly hosted by the Cranwell Bloodhounds) taking place on the 16th November 2024 at Newark Showground. This is always a great evening so please keep an eye on our website for tickets to the 2025 Reunion Ball. For all of our future activities and events check out our new club website harperadamsclub.com.

We are always on the lookout for content for next year's Harper Life and so if you feel inspired to contribute your own story, send a picture, or tell us all something interesting for the next edition, then please do email harperlife@harperadamsclub.com

Dale Allen
Club President



It seems a very long time ago that I entered the hallowed portals of Harper Adams in the early '90's to begin what turned out to be the most fantastic 4 year experience I was lucky enough to be part of. These 4 years shaped me in my outlook and verve for life and have made a tremendous difference to my life and almost certainly those people who in turn interact with me on both professional and social levels.

After leaving college and having made many great friends for life, to begin with very few of us look back as there is a very large world out there with many opportunities beckoning us, but after careers have become established and children raised I started to reminisce (as some are wont to do) and wanted to put something back into the place that helped me so fantastically on my way.

To this end we have recently launched a new club website and hope to involve as many people as possible in events and the sharing of news and making valuable contacts within the industry as we possibly can.

There is no doubt that we all have some terrific memories of Harper, and so because of this I have a very special place in my heart for our alma mater. At our 25th anniversary lunch (without realising) I was recruited onto the alumni committee, and the rest as they say is history.

This passing lunch saw us say goodbye to Ros Barsley and Simon Jones, both previously past presidents and stalwarts of the alumni committee, who I'd like to thank for their generosity with their time and their commitment to driving it onwards and upwards. I only hope that I can step into the void that they have left and continue building on their legacy.

The Harper Adams Club Committee 2023 – 2024

President

Dale Allen – BSc Countryside and Environmental Management 2011-2015

Vice President

Charlie Wright - BSc Agriculture 1992-1996

Committee Members

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

Ed Cooper – BSc Agriculture 1992 - 1996

Sarah Furness – BSc Agriculture with Land and Farm Management 1998 - 2002

Pam Jones - BSc Agriculture Food Marketing & Business 1997-2001

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

Ex Officio

Ros Barsley – HND Agriculture 1970 - 1973

Simon Jones – BSc Rural Environmental Protection 1996 - 2000

I'd like to thank all the contributors to this edition of Harper Life, as it is these stories and people that make Harper the fantastic place that it was and continues to be, and would ask all of you to reach out to those people who you know that don't receive this publication and other updates and urge them to register on our new website to once again be directly in touch with the club. Until we meet again;

Charlie Wright
Vice President



Harper Adams Club Lunch and Open Day

Much to celebrate at the annual lunch club



On Saturday 6th July 2024, the Harper Adams Club held its annual alumni lunch on campus.

Around 70 former students gathered for a two-course meal in QMH, followed by tours of both new and old facilities.

Among the attendees was a group from the 1971-74 cohort, celebrating 50 years since leaving the University.

Before the lunch began, several presentations were made. Vice-President Charlie Wright, on behalf of the Club, presented Honorary Club Presidents Ros Barsley and Simon Jones with caricatures to recognise their decades of service to the Club Committee.



A special surprise

A special surprise followed when Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan awarded Ros Barsley the Vice-Chancellor's Medal, acknowledging her long-standing commitment to the University.

Ros, the first female agriculture student in 1970, has been a stalwart of Harper Adams, joining the Club Committee in 1979 and serving as Club President three times. She was also a founding member of the Harper Adams Development Trust in 2005.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sloan praised Ros's extensive contributions during his speech, highlighting her dedication to Harper Adams over more than five decades. Ros herself expressed delight at receiving the medal and appreciation that the work of the Harper Adams Club had been recognised.

Dale Allen, the new Club President, and Vice-President Charlie Wright gave welcome speeches before Professor Sloan updated the alumni on the University's latest developments.

Doris Taylor, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, further commended Ros, noting her instrumental role in organising alumni reunions, her involvement in scholarship interviews, and her service to the Harper Adams Development Trust.

Next year's alumni lunch will be held on Saturday 5th July 2025, offering another opportunity for Harper Adams alumni to gather on campus.

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



Harper Adams Club Annual Lunch 2025 Save the Date

Join us for the Harper Adams Club Lunch on Saturday 5th July 2025 – a day packed with memories, connections, and celebrations!

Whether you're marking a special anniversary –Diamond 60 years (1965), Golden 50 years (1975), Ruby 40 Years (1985), or Silver 25 years (2000) – or simply reconnecting with old friends,

this is an event you won't want to miss. Save the date, gather fellow alumni, and get ready for an unforgettable reunion on campus!

Booking details will be announced soon, but if you have any questions in the meantime, reach out to: info@harperadamsclub.com

Don't miss out!



Save the Date
Saturday 5th July

An update from Vice Chancellor, Professor Ken Sloan



Dear Harper Alumni,

I am delighted to be able to share another update with you as part of Harper Life. As always, I will look backwards and forwards, so you are up to speed with what is happening, and what is coming up.

Firstly, one of our key measures of success, graduate employability, remained one of the highest in the country at 97.5% and our students went on to secure excellent jobs in the sectors we support.

I am delighted once again by the generosity of our partners and donors, enabling us to increase further the total value of scholarships awarded.

Our students have also continued to excel in national, regional and industry awards and prizes. Thank you to everyone who plays a part, and if you are not, why not? Do get in touch if you can help.

This has taken place in the context of a challenging year financially across the higher education sector. Changes to immigration policy, and its effects on demand for postgraduate study, have contributed to material reductions in the income of over half of the universities in the UK sector. This is in addition to tuition fees being held at the same rate they were originally set at in 2012.

Universities, including Harper Adams, are having to find ways to deliver more with less, whilst also diversifying the income sources they draw upon. Income diversity is a genuine opportunity for

Harper Adams, but it takes time, and we have needed to invest in the academic, professional, and technical capabilities to realise it. In having a smaller international student population, the in-year effect of immigration changes has not been significant.

As an institution which is purpose-led and which brings a distinctive offer, we will need to navigate the next few years with care but with confidence. The updates below follow the structure of our Strategic Plan: Together, We Will Make the Difference.

Excellence with Impact and Enterprise: Education

We've developed a partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council and Telford College to establish "The Quad," a digital skills hub, offering new courses starting in 2025. Our outreach with schools will demonstrate our commitment to local impact.

The University was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) for the third time. Additionally, Harper Adams achieved high rankings in both the Daily Mail league table and The Times.

Excellent Research with Impact and Enterprise

Harper Adams attended COP 28 as an observer, with a delegation led by Professor Michael Lee. Our research supported Railscape to win the 2023 Robotics and Innovation Awards for their Unmanned Precision Aerial Sprayer.

We also launched a new Collaborative Simulation Lab to integrate Participatory Design and Multiphysics Simulation.

Inclusion

We've embedded our Respect Policy and remain committed to fostering a sense of belonging. A Harper researcher, Liz Tree, completed a study on the impact of Farms for City Children, a charity supporting disadvantaged youth.

The Kildare Trust donated £750,000 for scholarships, extending their support to new students in undergraduate, postgraduate, and apprenticeship programs.

Community

Our first 'Harper Together' event celebrated employees and presented the 'Make the Difference' awards. We launched a Community Fridge project, redistributing nearly 10 tonnes of food.

Future Fest, a community event, saw over 350 young people engaged, and Dr Catherine Baxter was recognized in the 2024 New Year Honours list.

Globally Connected

I visited Beijing Agricultural University to mark the 20th anniversary of our joint program. Harper Adams also expanded its partnership with Mississippi State University, focusing on autonomous agriculture. We continue to welcome students from across Africa as part of the Marshal Papworth Sustainable Agriculture Programme.

Influence

We hosted the Environment, Farming, and Rural Affairs Select Committee, which held a live evidence session. Harper Adams also launched the Harper Commission, focused on food security and economic growth.

Sustainability

Our School of Sustainable Food and Farming continues to impact net-zero efforts in the agri-food sector. M&S launched the Farm of the Future Programme in partnership with Harper Adams to help livestock farmers decarbonize. We also planted rare black poplars on campus in collaboration with Chester Zoo.

Looking Forward

We've created two new departments: Harper Adams Business School and Harper Food Innovation. Plans are underway for a new Institute of Animal Diagnostics and Health.

We also continue to develop our Future Farm. If you are interested in supporting scholarships, bursaries, or collaborations, we would love to hear from you.

In 2026/27, we will celebrate 125 years of Harper Adams and 100 years of the National Institute of Poultry Husbandry. Plans are in development, and we welcome your ideas and involvement.

Important Thanks

I was delighted to present a Vice-Chancellor's Medal to Ros Barsley in recognition of her long standing support for the University, and her service on the Development Trust and in the Harper Club.

We wish Ros well as she begins her move to a warmer climate. We also thanked outgoing Chair of the Board of Governors, Peter Nixon, for over ten years of exemplary service.

A university is nothing without its people and its communities. They are the distinctive strength of Harper Adams. Thank you for the role you play in promoting Harper Adams. We need that support and advocacy more than ever before.

If you want to get more involved or want to support the University in the impact it has, please do get in touch.

My best wishes to you and your families.

Professor Ken Sloan
Vice-Chancellor

Harper Adams Club Scholars 2024

Emyr Williams - Post Graduate Scholarship

Having thoroughly enjoyed my first stint at Harper Adams from 1990-95, it was back to Harper I turned when, in my 50s, I decided it was time for a fresh challenge. With a growing awareness of the climate and biodiversity crises, I became fascinated by the issue of how a growing global population can be fed sustainably. So, I took the plunge and signed up to study for an MSc in Agroecology.

The course gave me the opportunity to gain a vast amount of knowledge and fuelled my passion for climate and nature-friendly farming. For someone who hadn't been in a lecture for over 25 years, the Master's was a very steep learning curve, so it was hugely satisfying to graduate with a Distinction.

I'm often asked, "What exactly is agroecology?" While it has many different definitions, it can be summarised as the application of ecological principles and processes to the design and management of sustainable food systems, or very simply, the science of sustainable agriculture.

To gain industry accreditation, I recently studied for the BASIS Certificate in Sustainable Land Management. This was a 5-day course at the GWCT farm in Loddington, focusing on the practical implementation of environmental schemes, SFI actions, and the sustainable use of resources on farms.

Completing the course and passing the exam that followed enabled me to join the BASIS Environmental Advisers Register, a recognised accreditation for providing environmental advice to farmers.

With both qualifications safely negotiated, I am now actively searching for a role where I can help farmers successfully overcome the new challenges that the transition to sustainable agriculture brings.

In my spare time, I am very fortunate to look after the family farm in Pembrokeshire, which allows me to put into practice some of what I have learned. A current focus is on introducing a wider range of crops and growing crops with different root architectures to improve soil structure; enhance nutrient capturing and cycling; and increase soil organic matter. Ultimately, these soil health benefits will help reduce the need for purchased inputs, improving sustainability and, hopefully, the bottom line.

A few days ago, I was excited to learn that the farm had been selected as one of 170 UK farms to be part of the AHDB Environmental Baseline Pilot. The 6-year program will evaluate carbon sequestration and emissions alongside a range of environmental measures on pilot farms to help improve efficiency, build resilience, and evidence how farms interact with the wider natural environment. It will be very interesting to see the results and hopefully contribute towards helping farmers tell a positive story about the benefits of UK agriculture.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to the Harper Adams Club for giving me the honour of the Postgraduate Scholarship Club for 2024. The funds were invaluable in helping me make my personal transition into the field of sustainable agriculture, while the kind words and support of the committee members have given me added belief in myself and the path I am taking.

Should anyone want to get in touch to discuss any aspect of agroecology or sustainable agriculture, I can be reached at EmyrWilliams@gmail.com



Harry Parson - President's Scholarship

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking the Harper Adams Club members for their sponsorship during my final year of undergraduate. Whilst when I made my application, I of course hoped I would be selected, I did not truly believe I stood a chance. To be honoured with the award truly gave me a much-needed boost going into the final 8 weeks of university, which saw the submission of assignments/exams which would make up the majority of the credits owing to my final degree classification. Alongside this confidence boost, I cannot express enough how much stress the financial reward took off my shoulders – overall, I truly believe that there is a good chance I would not have been able to achieve a first-class degree without the scholarship.

It is slightly surreal that my 4 years at Harper Adams is now over. It only feels like yesterday that I was in sixth form, eagerly scrolling

through the university degree offerings for Agriculture with Farm Business Management available on UCAS. Even then, I knew I wanted a career in agricultural consultancy; I knew that, whilst I didn't want to farm in my own right, I wanted to continue my career to be in the fantastic agricultural industry, albeit in its wider spheres. My decision framework to pick a university was an easy one: ask all the industry contacts I knew, which degree was viewed most favourably in industry... Harper Adams was the unanimous vote.

Since then, I have taken every step I can to pursue my goal of a career in agricultural consultancy, diving into each module on my course and

even competing for Harper Adams at this year's Pinnacle Awards for Farm Business Management. Similarly to this scholarship, I did not expect my entry to yield much beyond a 'Thank you for entering' email, however I was thrilled to have made it to the competition's final: this saw me travel to The Farmer's Club in London, meeting some of the best farm business management students from across the country and brilliant industry contacts.

My pursuit for a career in agricultural consultancy has accumulated in my securing of a role as a Rural Business Advisor at SRH Agribusiness LTD. During this turbulent time for UK Agriculture,

I am incredibly excited for the opportunity to help my agri-food clients improve their business management and seize every opportunity offered to them whilst simultaneously increasing their resistance to the various external threats facing rural businesses in the UK.

I will forever be grateful to Harper Adams for how well my degree equipped me for my career, arming me with the necessary real-world experiences to deal with a myriad of agri-food businesses, and again, I will forever be grateful for the monetary and confidence boost that the Harper Adams Club President's Award scholarship provided me – THANK YOU!



Molly Bradley – Animal & Veterinary Sciences Scholarship

Growing up in rural South Wales on a game farm, I have always been immersed by the countryside way of life. Applying to university was daunting, coming from a small comprehensive school, however when I discovered Harper I suddenly felt at ease. It was the offer holder day, meeting many apprehensive yet alike prospective students that made me firm my place here, and now three years into my veterinary medicine and surgery course, I know that I made the right decision.

The veterinary course is a long degree, full of detailed science lectures, blood-covered practicals, countless evenings spent with my head in a textbook and many unpaid EMS placements in our holidays, mostly shovelling muck! From this year in the course we can progress to clinical EMS placements, and this summer I have spent 6 weeks at a small animal practice, being lucky enough to scrub into surgeries! Placements such as this teach invaluable practical skills, using our anatomy and physiology knowledge whilst learning what it is like to work in a high intensity environment and most of all alongside the public.

When I received the call from Ros, I felt incredibly proud and lucky to have been selected for this scholarship. I knew from the moment that I had told my mother that I had been successful, how far this scholarship would go in helping me complete my EMS placements and open up many more indispensable opportunities.

Despite loving growing up surrounded by pets, it was the dissection of a pheasant, whilst visiting a poultry practice with my gamekeeper father, that inspired me to pursue this career.

I have filled up my calendar with many weeks of large animal, mixed, poultry and game bird practice, around home and further afield, as now I can consider staying away or commuting further from home or Harper. With this money, I am also now looking into travelling abroad to further my experience at specialist surgical shelters across Europe and Asia, which is something I certainly would never have even dreamed of before.

I hope that these experiences can enhance the remarkable teaching that Harper & Keele provides, so that when I become a rural vet, I can inspire other young girls from small towns in Wales to follow their dreams – even if that dream is covered in faeces, blood and many, many tears!

I cannot thank the generous Harper Adams Club enough for this scholarship and the opportunities that this has opened up for me. I look forward to exploring the wider field of veterinary medicine, that this scholarship can now allow me to do and represent this wonderful institute that has created so many beautiful friendships and memories.



Sophie Ashcroft - Final Year Scholarship

Hailing from my family's farm in West Lancashire, I have always had a love for agriculture but was conflicted about whether there was a future in it for me due to my limited experience outside of the home farm and years working in the fashion industry. However, my time at Harper Adams, alongside fellow students, lecturers and alumni has completely changed my outlook and I will be forever grateful for the roles each played in facilitating this change.

It is an honour to receive a university scholarship, let alone the Harper Adams Club Final Year Scholarship, especially considering the high calibre of talent that the university naturally attracts. Having Harper alumni recognise my achievements and invest in my professional development has not only given me the confidence to continue pursuing a career in agriculture but also compounded my drive to give back to the industry that has given me so much.

The generosity of the Harper Adams Club has supported my move to Denmark to join Arla's highly competitive Future 15 programme, where I will complete three eight-month rotations around the global business working with various leadership teams on high profile projects. This is a massive achievement, as I am one of the few agricultural students to have ever made it onto the programme - a testament that my unique experience should not be a deterrent but rather an opportunity to offer fresh perspectives.

I'm currently one month into my new role and when I reflect on my favourite moments so far, being on farm comes out on top. Showing my fellow colleagues, some of whom had never set foot on a farm, the work that goes into producing the food we eat emphasised to me that my passion is in showcasing the beauty of farming whilst also addressing the hard reality that

comes with it. It was endearing to see genuine interest in all things animal health, sustainability, and business development, and it was clear that some colleagues left with a new understanding of what it means to be a "Farmer".

I hope to one day pursue this passion and diversify my family farm, developing an educational space where people from various backgrounds can learn about British agriculture and the vital role it plays in creating a more sustainable world. From regenerating the environment to improving human health, I would like to provide opportunities for those interested in exploring the dynamics of the food system despite having limited access to the agricultural industry. There is no industry (or rather community) like it, and I want to demonstrate that there is a place for everyone, regardless of their background or interests.

I believe this ethos strongly aligns with that of Harper Adams and so would love to hear from other members of the Harper Adams Club if this resonates with you. Please feel free to connect with me via LinkedIn - it would be great to hear other's experiences.

With that, thank you once again for awarding me the scholarship. It has truly changed the trajectory of my personal and professional development and I look forward to seeing what happens next.

Hobgoblins – 2025



Calling for Support: Hobgoblins 2025 at Harper Adams University

Get ready for one of the biggest alumni events of the year! The Hobgoblins 2025 fixture is fast approaching, and we need your support to make it a huge success. Whether you're an alumnus or a current student, this is the perfect opportunity to reunite, make new memories, and keep the Harper Adams spirit alive!

Event Details:

Dates: 21st & 22nd February 2025

Location: Harper Adams University

Friday Night (21st February):

Kick off the festivities at the Harper Bar! Open to both alumni and current students, this is the ultimate way to reconnect with old friends and meet new faces. Don't forget—tickets are required for entry, so be sure to secure yours early!

Saturday Daytime (22nd February):

The fun continues with the exciting Alumni vs Current Students sports matches. Whether you're playing or cheering from the sidelines, come support your teams!

There will also be food and entertainment throughout the day to keep the energy high.

Saturday Evening:

As the sun sets, the celebrations shift back to the Harper Bar for another round of socialising with alumni and students alike. Tickets are required for this exclusive bar night, so gather your friends and enjoy the lively atmosphere.

Why Attend?

The Hobgoblins have a rich history, officially affiliating with the Harper Adams Club back in 2000. The first committee, led by Roger Davies as Chairman, Kevin Guy as Captain, and Ian Robinson as Secretary, laid the groundwork for the strong tradition of sports and camaraderie.

Since that time, the Hobgoblins have been more than just a team; they are a symbol of Harper spirit, with regular matches, charitable events, and lasting bonds between alumni and current students.

Hobgoblins 2025 isn't just a sports fixture—it's an unforgettable chance to strengthen the bond between alumni and current students, celebrate our shared Harper Adams experience, and keep our community thriving.

Let's show our support, make this event one for the books, and keep the Hobgoblin spirit alive!

How to Get Involved:

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and secure your tickets for the Friday and Saturday night events. Your participation will help make Hobgoblins 2025 an incredible success!

Don't miss out—join us in February 2025 for two days of fun, sports, and celebration at Harper Adams University!

21st & 22nd February 2025 at Harper Adams University.



From the history books

Harper Adams College opened to six students in April 1901. The College consisted of the Main Building and a 178 acre farm on its doorstep, along with the family farmhouse, Ancellor House. In these early years the College, under the first Principal Hedworth Foulkes (1901-22), offered certificate courses very much of a practical nature. His wife wrote the accompanying music to the song below, with the words written by R E C Burder.

The Harper Adams College Song written in 1919

Words by R E C Burder

Music by Mrs Hedworth-Foulkes
(Principal's wife)

We were founded to make men
wiser, And this must be our desire,
To extend sound knowledge
amongst them In field and in fold,
and in byre.

For with Utile Dulci our motto
Our work with pleasures we blend,
Let usefulness then be our object,
And our pleasure never shall end.

Then to that glorious motto,
In work and play be true,
And carry its colours proudly
Its colour of gold and blue.

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

And with that gold untarnished,
And that blue without a stain,
Floreat Harper Adams
And win yourself a name.



The Harper Adams Club
Harper Adams Alumni Association

QMH, Harper
Adams University

Harper Adams Club
(Alumni) Lunch

SAVE
THE
DATE
JULY
SAT 5
2025

News of old students—

Roger Bell 1966-1967 – Agriculture

I live near Lympington in Hampshire and apart from doing some competition ploughing with a 1962 MF35 and some contracting with my MF390T 4WD on muck shifting and hedging I do little else.

I have a little plane which I used to go on a tour of France with 30 other Flying Farmers last summer and some bikes and a boat, being near the Solent.

I caught up with Peter Sedgley who is living in a happy retirement in Malaysia. He was VP of Freight for Emirates Airlines before retirement. I heard from Lin Evans a few years ago who was then near Louth in Lincolnshire.

The photos are the 2nd and 3rd XV's for the 1966-67 season. I am in the middle at the back. How about some news of other Harper old boys and girls from this era? Stay safe, Yours, Roger Bell



Kate Scott 2000-2005

I was at Harper from 2000 to 2005. I started on the Foundation course, then a HND in Land & Farm Management and stayed on an extra year to get a Degree in Ag Management & Marketing through Associated Studies.

When I left Harper I went on to be a graduate trainee for Bakkavor on their accelerated management scheme. In 2007 I went travelling around Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji on my own. When I returned I worked as a raw material buyer for ABN, a pig and poultry feed supplier, for 4/5 years. I then went back into the fresh produce world working for Orchard House Foods in procurement. In 2013 I got married to James Scott, and went on to have two boys, Digby and Wilbur (aged 6 & 9).

In July 2014, my family and I lost my brother to suicide. He also studied at Harper (Robert Chapman) where we crossed over with our studies.

I was made redundant in 2014, whilst pregnant, however we were planning on me being a full time Mum, which I was until 2022 when I got a part time job at our local National Trust property. In 2019 I started to take on the accounts for my parent's farm to help me have a little income and help them. I still do this, along with their field mapping amongst other things.

This leads me on to what I am doing today, along with working for the National Trust, working for my parents, being a mum to two crazy boys, I've now set up a mental health charity. Over the past 10 years, I have hosted charity balls to raise money for POPYRUS in my brother's memory.

This year I decided I wanted to create my own charity, so I knew where the money I am raising from my balls was going and how it was helping people.

The charity is called The Rural Communities Mental Health (RCMH) Foundation. Please take a look at www.rcmhfoundation.org

We launched the charity at my ball this September just gone. The foundation is aiming to provide Mental Health First Aid training to those in the rural communities who have contact with farmers themselves, as we know they aren't very good at talking.

Caroline Cavill - 2005-6 MSC RELM



My news since leaving Harper is I help APC candidates - many ex Harper!

I am an RICS assessor and chair, and coach APC candidates, I am APC Achieve, with a range of offers depending on candidate/firm need I love seeing candidates flourish, and ultimately pass their APC!

I can be found at
<https://www.apcachieve.com/>

And on LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-caroline-c-a52aba23>

Ian Michell (HND Agriculture 1992-1995 and Harper Barman for 3 years)

Having graduated from Harper in 1995, I spent 26 years working for the Flamingo group both in Kenya and the UK. Over this period, I worked in various roles from Agronomist to Technical Director and Managing Director to Group Technical and ESG Director. My passion was always developing growers and helping the local communities through schools and healthcare. However, after a fantastic time working with growers and communities all over the world, it was time for a change... A fantastic opportunity arose to help shape the future of agriculture in Saudi Arabia – working for a part-government owned company called NADEC (National Agricultural Development Company). So, in late March this year, myself, my wife Amy and our 5 year old daughter Georgie (whose name literally means farmer) packed up our lives and moved to Riyadh!

My role as Vice President of Agriculture in Saudi is to grow produce across our 91,000 ha in the Saudi desert to make the country more sustainable and reduce reliance on the high number of imports, which are often poor quality and very expensive. We are pioneering new technology for advanced and intensive controlled environment Agriculture. It's a long journey ahead, but projects currently underway involve airponix potato seed tuber production, 5m olive trees for our own extra virgin olive oil production, date palms, 600 multiple pivots and tissue culture facilities for developing our fruit berry businesses.

It's a huge but exciting project, as well as a massive cultural difference from the UK and global but we are all settling in well and embracing the change. Any help welcome, no Bars to manage here I am afraid so have had to step away from my comfort zone!!

I wish you all and very happy 2025 to come. Some 30 years ago graduating from Harper - time flies. If you want to reach out ian@nadec.com.sa.

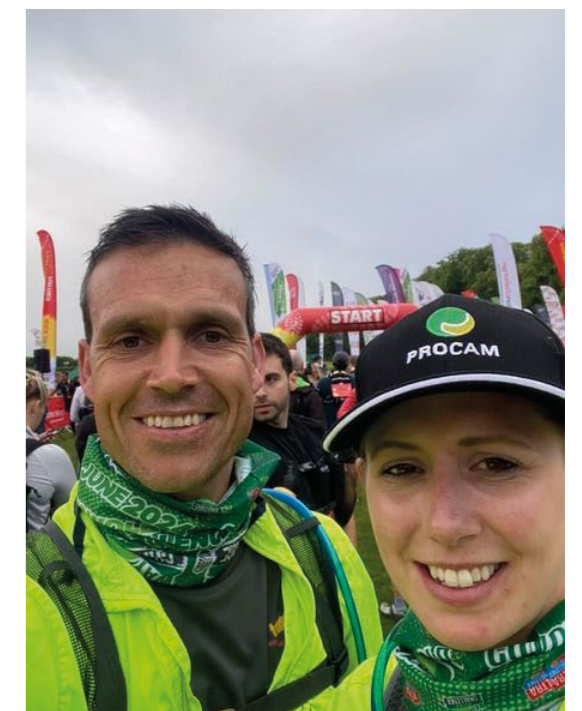
Regards
Ian Michell

Imogen Greenaway (Goatman) BSc Agriculture with Land Management 2009-2013

Since leaving Harper I married Chris (BSc Ag 2007-2011) and we have three girls together. This year Chris took on the challenge of completing a marathon, the 3 peaks and then I joined him for the 100km Cotswold Ultra.

This was all in aid of SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) due to the tireless work they carried out in November 2022 when sadly my eldest sister Emily took her own life.

Together we have raised over £12,000 this year, with many old Harper friends donating to our cause. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and for the words of support, without you none of this would have been possible.



News



Upcoming Events for Women in Food and Farming

Established in 2011, Women in Food and Farming is the UK's pioneering network for women in the food production industry, uniquely covering the entire supply chain, from farm to fork. It provides a free, supportive platform for women at all career stages, from established leaders to future industry champions.

The network focuses on fostering leadership, overcoming industry

challenges, and promoting career development through the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and mentorship.

Women in Food and Farming offers a mix of in-person and online events that facilitate networking, professional growth, and signposting to relevant mentoring and training opportunities.

As part of its evolution in 2024, the network is becoming more collaborative, offering increased face-to-face events across broader regions, while strengthening partnerships with specialised groups like Meat Business Women, Women in Dairy, and Women in the Food Industry.

These collaborations provide members with access to additional resources and support across different sectors.

The network is thriving, with over 30% of recent members having joined in

the past year, and its impressive Net Promoter Score of 52 reflects a strong sense of community and satisfaction.

The main reasons for joining include seeking empowerment, support, and professional opportunities.

Looking ahead, strategic aims include establishing a private online forum for members, increasing formal partnerships, and providing more structured support, such as mentoring and training.

Women in Food and Farming remains committed to empowering women throughout the food production industry, helping them thrive in a traditionally male-dominated space.

For more details, visit: www.womeninfoodandfarming.org.

The next event will be on Tuesday, November 12.

Women in Food and Farming Networking Forum

Join us for our bi-annual face-to-face networking event for women in the Food and Farming Industry. Sponsored by Savills.

Cultivating Connections

Mentoring and Support for Women across all stages of Careers in Food and Farming.

Thursday 21st November, 5pm–7pm at Harper Adams in the Barn.

The Corn Exchange Benevolent Society

The Corn Exchange Benevolent Society is here to help and offer financial support to past and present members of the UK grain trade and their families, including those who have worked at any level in grain, seed, animal feed, malting, milling, grain storage, and transport.



Can we help?

The Society always wants to be made aware if members of the trade are in any sort of hardship and might need some help.

People who qualify as a result of their current or past employment, and who are in genuine need, are encouraged to contact the Society.

Approaches from those helping possible applicants, such as care agencies, are also welcomed.

You don't have to be a member to receive assistance, but we encourage all those who qualify to apply for life membership for a one-off subscription of £50.

How to contact us

The Corn Exchange
Benevolent Society, PO
Box 6311, Newbury, RG14 9RF
Office: **0207 283 6090**

Messages from beneficiaries

"I am so grateful to the Trustees for the support they give to me."

"As I always say, you and the society have been such a godsend."

"First of all, thank you to all the Trustees for the very kind Christmas cheque and Covid cheque and also for the continued support and kindness you have shown us over the years, it is so very much appreciated, probably more than you'll ever realise."

"I cannot begin to express my feelings of gratitude, understanding, assistance and kindness given to me by you and the society. You have been so nice and encouraging. God bless you all."

"That is an extremely generous gesture from yourself and the board, and one that is gratefully received."

E-mail: enquiries@becf.co.uk

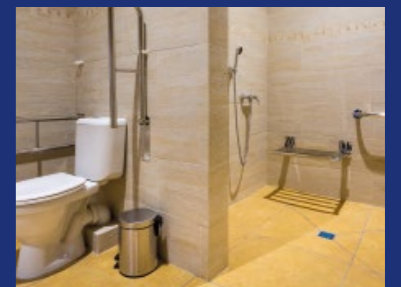
Web: cornexchange-charity.com

or contact any trustee known to you.

Some examples of support provided



Help towards mobility



Help towards disability aids



Help towards transport costs and unexpected expenses



Payments to supplement insufficient family income

University News



HRH The Princess Royal to open Telford Digital Skills and Enterprise Hub

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the Chancellor of Harper Adams University, has officially opened a new first-class education facility at Station Quarter in Telford Town Centre in October.

She will be visiting the new digital skills and enterprise hub - The Quad - a unique collaboration between Telford & Wrekin Council, Telford College, Harper Adams University and other partners, to see the completed building and hear about the work already going on at the site - as well as ambitious plans for its future.

The project is funded by the UK Government and Telford & Wrekin Council, in partnership with Telford College, Harper Adams University, European Innovation and Invest Telford.

The Quad is part of the Council's ambitious Station Quarter project to create a vibrant new residential, education and business community in the heart of Telford.

This development aims to retain local talent, be the catalyst for creating careers in applied sciences and the digital sector and is expected to host more than 300 students a year.

New Business School set to transform education and industry engagement

Harper Adams University is transforming how it delivers education, knowledge exchange, research and business support by creating two new entities that will be shaped to best meet the university's strategic vision for 2030.

The Harper Adams Business School will be dedicated to outstanding teaching and learning across business and land management, overseeing existing programmes and introducing new ones to meet the needs of individuals and industry, with innovative approaches to management, knowledge exchange and land-based decision-making.

Harper Food Innovation will drive forward research, knowledge exchange, university-business engagement and sustainable food product innovation, alongside delivering education and upskilling for food industry professionals.

Professor Ken Sloan, Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor, said: "A key strength of Harper Adams University is our relationship with industry and the ability to provide high calibre graduates for their employment needs and applied research. The creation of these two new entities will not only further clarify and promote the education provision of our students, but also the provision of applied research."

The Harper Adams Business School will be led by Rebecca Payne, previously Head of the University's Food Land and Agribusiness Management Department, which will be replaced by the two new entities.

New employment figures show Harper Adams 'meeting the future skills needs of the industries we serve'

100 per cent of UK graduates from five Harper Adams University honours degree subject areas and three foundation degree subject areas are in employment or studying after completing their first degree, new figures show.

The figures have emerged from the latest Graduate Outcomes survey, which tracks the progress of UK graduates 15 months after they complete their studies.

Among those in employment or further study were 100 per cent of full-time UK based Harper graduates graduating with honours degrees in Zoology, Business, Food, Engineering and Vet Nursing Undergraduate routes and those graduating with a Foundation Degree in Agriculture, Business or Environment, Sustainability and Wildlife.

In the figures overall, Harper ranks second among universities in the UK for the proportion of graduates in full time employment, and second in the UK for those in either full-time employment or further study.

With a rate of 97.5 per cent of its Degree or Top Up respondents having secured employment or continuing their studies, the University continues to perform several points ahead of the sector average - as it has for the past five years.



Vice-Chancellor invited to Number 10's Farm to Fork Summit

Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan has taken views on food and farming directly to 10 Downing Street's second UK Farm to Fork Summit.

Professor Sloan was among leading figures in the food and farming industries selected by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to attend the summit, held in May earlier this year.

The annual event brings together farmers and growers, ministers, stakeholders from organisations such as the NFU, and representatives from retailers and businesses such as Tesco, Aldi and McCain's.

At this year's summit, the PM announced the publication of a new Food Security Index, aimed at helping farmers, the industry and the Government to monitor how external factors - such as war or adverse weather - are affecting British food supplies.

Among other announcements, the Government also detailed new measures to help develop the UK's fruit and vegetable sector, as well as

providing more detail about a £75 million fund to protect agricultural land and rural communities from flooding.

The Prime Minister said: "Come rain or shine, I will always back British farmers. From feeding the nation to protecting our countryside, they are vital to the security and the fabric of our country.

"This package of support will help farmers produce more British food, delivers on our long-term plan to invest in our rural communities, and ensures the very best of our homegrown products end up on our plates."

Environment Secretary Steve Barclay said: "Food security is vital to our national security, which is why today's summit is so important, bringing together government and key representatives from the farming and food sector at Downing Street."



International experts meet at University to discuss latest research on major crop pest

International experts on a crop pest that causes millions of pounds worth of damage annually have met at Harper Adams University to discuss the latest research into the issue.

Delegates at the sixth symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management were drawn from across the globe - with attendees from the UK, Kenya, the Netherlands, the United States of America, and many more among the

researchers, scientists and students represented.

The symposium was organised by the Harper Adams University Nematology Research Group and Group Lead, Reader in Nematology Dr Matthew Back, who explained that bringing the symposium back to Harper presented a chance to showcase the University's latest research, to share ideas with fellow experts from across the globe - and to network with friends of old as well as meeting friends anew and building new alliances.

He said: "Potato cyst nematodes are ranked as the second most important nematode pest worldwide, costing an estimated £31 million annually to the potato industry in the UK alone.

"A huge range of topics were discussed at the meeting including advances in breeding, new virulence, novel control strategies and new insights on the biology of the pest.

"Of the 70 delegates, four had recently graduated from Harper Adams, and five current and one prospective PhD students were in attendance - a great metric.

"PhD students Vongai Chekanai, Francis Kawalya and Ronald Manjoro all gave talks at the meeting, and I'd like to thank them.

"I would also like to acknowledge Researcher in Nematology Katarzyna Dybal who was instrumental in co-organising the meeting, the staff at Harper Adams who helped facilitate the event, and all the delegates, who made it such a fantastic meeting!"



Work underway on new cattle handling facility on Harper Adams Future Farm

A major project is underway to create a new facility at Harper Adams University that will enable students to gain hands-on experience working with cattle.

The new cattle handling facility will extend the dairy at Harper Adams, with the Welshpool-based SWG Construction leading the project.

Harper Adams Future Farm Director Richard Hooper said the development - which the Kildare Trust has generously provided funding towards - would greatly benefit students.

He said: "To support the safe and effective training of veterinary science

students, Harper Adams University is investing in a new cattle handling facility.

"The relevant practical elements of the course involving cattle can be taught and practised by groups and individuals in a carefully designed system that maintains a calm and safe environment - for both the students and the cattle."

Julian Kirkham, Director at SWG Construction, said: "We are delighted to be working with Harper Adams on this project, which will make a big difference to the way the university delivers its teaching of veterinary science.

"Work has already started on the extension to the leading dairy, and it's

an exciting project.

"Our teams will be carrying out a huge range of work, including the installation of concrete foundations, flooring, and the provision of a new steel frame open-side structure with a mono-pitched roof.

"We will be constructing rooms for veterinary functions, roof and wall coverings, gate and fencing solutions and all associated mechanical and electrical service installations inside and outside the building area.

"We would like to say thank you to Harper Adams University for trusting us with such an important project and are looking forward to getting on with the job."

Entry Scholarships to offer financial support for new Harper Adams students

Students beginning their studies at Harper Adams University this September are to be contacted about two Scholarships for 2024 entrants.

The Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust Entry Scholarship and the David Lewis Davies Entry Scholarship each aim to encourage new students and young people into the agriculture sector, and each offers significant financial support for the chosen Scholar.

Potential Scholars will be contacted directly by the University, and information about each Scholarship is also available on the Harper Adams University website.

The Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust aims to advance and improve agriculture, and in particular to educate farmers and young persons in agricultural methods, developments and techniques.

Its Entry Scholarship is open to students from Suffolk and its neighbouring counties of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

Meanwhile, the David Lewis Davies Entry Scholarship will be open to applicants on Agriculture and all Agriculture routes courses who are from a non-farming background, and can provide evidence of financial need.

The Scholarship is named after David Lewis Davies, a Harper Adams alumnus who sadly died in 2022. Mr Davies, who studied at Harper Adams in the 1950s, was a farmer all his life, and wanted to help fund new students to become qualified in agriculture.

—Births



Rob and Charlotte Playfair-Hannay

Rob and Charlotte Playfair-Hannay had a daughter, Morag, born on 23rd August 2024.



Poppy Arnet, BSc Countryside & Land Management 2004-2008

Sibyl Rose Smith was born 06.09.23, a little sister for Digby born in 2020. Mum Poppy Arnett studied between 2004-2008 and is set to marry Ben in December of this year; Poppy's bridesmaids are her Harper friend's and their daughter's flower girls! Ben studied at Askham Bryan and is an ag engineer and Poppy works for the NFU. Wedding photos to follow!



Marriages—



Ian and Amy Michell

On 7th January this year, Ian Michell (HND Agriculture 1992-1995 and Harper Barman for 3 years) married his long-term partner, Amy, in a small ceremony with their daughter Georgie (5), and Ian's 3 older children, Harry (23), Lotti (21) and Ben (19).

Obituaries—



Philip Thirtle, University Lecturer 1968 – 1986

The IAgRE was saddened to learn of the passing of Phil Thirtle who has died recently aged 75. A farmer's son from Suffolk, Phil gained his degree in Agricultural Engineering from Silsoe College.

On graduating in 1968 he joined the Mechanisation Department at Harper Adams Agricultural College and was pivotal in establishing the HND course in Agricultural Engineering at the college in 1978 and subsequently the BSc course. In 1986 he left teaching to establish FarmForce Engineering, a company based in North Yorkshire specialising in the manufacture and sales of tractor front linkages and front mounted equipment predominantly for crop establishment.

He took early retirement in 2001 and enjoyed flying a Cessna light aircraft and playing tennis and golf. He was a member of IAgRE from 1972 - 2001 and during his Harper years was active within the Wrekin Branch Committee. He is survived by his wife Joyce and their sons Paul and Adam and their families.



Martin Jones, HND Agriculture 1969 – 72

Warm tributes have been paid after the death of a Shropshire farmer who was equally adept at comedy having been involved in more than 500 concerts.

Dairy farmer Martin 'Monologue' Jones, who has died at the age of 74, spent 40 years presenting comedy shows throughout the county writing crazy comedy songs on subjects including slurry tsunamis, and malevolent milking machines.

Mr Jones, of Pontesbury, was fondly remembered far and wide, perhaps best known in Shropshire's village halls as the manic farmer in the comedy group Three Men in a Bow Tie. He died on Friday 12th January after a short illness.

Martin wrote more than 500 concerts and performed scores of crazy comic songs such as The Robot Milker - about a malevolent machine which mistakes the farm cat for a cow.

Then there was The Slurry Song, about tsunamis of dung, and The Pig with No Poke; all written from his own farming experiences and his piece de resistance was to dress up as Freda, the Female Farmer, trying to sell baler-twine thongs to the audience. His humour is best described as 'unique'.

His other achievements include appearing at The Edinburgh Festival, writing and performing a historical farming pageant at the West Mid Showground, and being profiled in a BBC 2 documentary on the state of farming in 1999.

In 2003 he appeared at Shrewsbury Music Hall as Harry Hotspur in the Battle of Shrewsbury anniversary stage adaptation of Ellis Peters' A Bloody Field by Shrewsbury.

He was much loved by visitors to the National Trust's Attingham Park where he would lead tours of the house in the guise of the owner Lord Berwick, and would inevitably go down on one knee to propose at random to a rather surprised lady tourist.

Martin Jones was also a staunch member of the Pontesbury Players. 1990 he represented Shropshire at a national drama competition final, playing a budgie in a cage in the absurdist play Bird Song.

He was later commissioned to create and perform two plays by the Wenlock Festival, one of which, One Man and His Jog, was based on his passion for long distance running. In fact, he ran continuously whilst performing the play.

He wrote and directed a dozen pantomimes for Pontesbury, including The Pied Piper which was on stage at the Public Hall from January 31 to February 3 2024. As a final tribute to Martin, The Players gave a standing ovation for him at the end of every performance.

He leaves his wife Sue, a daughter Rosie and two sons, Matthew and Tom.



Colin REG Barry, HND Agric 1981-84

Sadly, Reg lost his five year battle with cancer in December 2023. After gaining his diploma at HAAC he married Christine and they both went on VSO to Kenya for a couple of years. Upon their return, he gained an appointment to run a city farm in Liverpool, where he promoted rearing of rare breed cattle, sheep and pigs. At the same time he studied part time for a Degree in Environmental Studies at Liverpool John Moores University.

Funding cuts led Reg to set up his own Landscaping & Environmental business. He progressed to serving public bodies and the NHS in the Liverpool - Manchester area until his illness was diagnosed.

Reg was instrumental in setting up two "Herd" reunions at college, and latterly, many informal Harper ex-student gatherings in various locations. He will be much missed by his many friends and family, illustrated by the two dozen ex Harper folk amongst the hundreds who attended his funeral in Liverpool.

He is survived by his wife Christine, two daughters, and his Liverpool FC season ticket.



**Professor Simon Blackmore,
University Staff 2011-2019**

On his appointment in 2011, Professor Simon Blackmore was the first Harper Adams Professor of Agricultural Engineering.

His varied career at that point had taken him from a small farm in South Wales to Africa, where he worked as a volunteer in Nigeria and Lesotho and a Project Engineer in Sierra Leone.

His academic work saw him move from Agricultural Engineering Studies at Silsoe College to become a lecturer in ICT and Precision Farming at the same institution.

He then became a Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark, and the Manager of European FutureFarm project in Greece, before taking up his post at Harper Adams.

Bringing an already formidable reputation to his role as Professor of Agricultural Engineering, Professor Blackmore's personal research aim was to improve Precision Agriculture by developing more intelligent machines and processes

and through making crop production more efficient and sustainable.

His new role drew upon his global reputation as a key figure in the research and development of agricultural technology systems, including investigations into how satellite and information technologies can be used to improve farming practices and the design of mobile outdoor robots.

In his inaugural lecture, Professor Blackmore explained the importance of new technologies in tackling the challenge of global food security, particularly in the light of volatile climatic events that can make the use of large machinery difficult.

He proposed the use of smaller agricultural robots as part of the solution.

In 2012, Harper Adams launched the National Centre for Precision Farming, with a mission to facilitate the knowledge exchange required to bring "smart" agricultural machinery into wider and more productive use in UK, and global, farming. Professor Blackmore was the inaugural Director of the Centre and was committed to sharing its knowledge globally.

He toured China and Malaysia show-casing the future of farming; on-farm drone safety training was delivered in conjunction with BASIS; and the initial USER-PA project ended with a demonstration of Pomona, the autonomous orchard tractor.

In 2016 Professor Blackmore handed the reins of the Engineering Department to its new Head, Parmjit Chima - but continued with Harper Adams as Head of Robotics and Automation for the then Agri EPI-Centre, one of four national agritech centres created by the Government, and maintaining

his role as Director of the National Centre for Precision Farming.

His activities were many and varied, from international work on precision agriculture - at one point holding seven chairs around the world - to advising the producers of the BBC Radio 4 drama the Archers on mapping and drone technology.

In early 2018, alongside former Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor Dr David Llewellyn, Professor Blackmore was presented with a 2017 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education, from the then Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, at Buckingham Palace.

The Prize was awarded in recognition of the university's pioneering work in developing agricultural technologies, and associated alternative farming methods, to deliver global food security.

In 2018, Professor Blackmore gave extensive evidence on precision agriculture whilst on a panel feeding into the Industry 4.0 - The Future of Wales report.

He told the committee the UK was in a good position to lead the robotic agriculture industry, saying, "The technology that we've got in the UK is as good as anywhere else in the world, if not better. We're one of the leading areas."

Professor Blackmore retired in 2019, becoming an emeritus professor.

Asked to consider his role in connection to Precision Farming, he said: "I consider myself a multidisciplinary systems thinker with a good appreciation of how novel technologies should work in practice. I get a deep sense of satisfaction from designing and building things.

"My latest contribution to science is the improved understanding of how robotics and smart machines can be adapted to serve the needs

of modern agriculture, thus making the whole crop production system significantly more efficient by using what I now call intelligently-targeted inputs.

"My vision is that these technologies can not only improve current agricultural practices by using less energy, but will also lead to a new system of smarter machines that can help feed the world under increasing environmental pressures."

Professor Peter Mills, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams, was on the panel team who recruited Professor Blackmore.

He said: "Over a period of time he created the environment, guidance and mentoring that led to the Hands-Free Hectare, laser weeding and robotic strawberry harvesting.

"Simon was truly an inspirational platform speaker, probably the best of his generation, and was passionate about how precision farming could transform crop production.

"He frequently quoted figures suggesting that 90 percent of the energy used each year for soil cultivation was necessary simply to repair the damage that large tractors had caused the previous year.

"He foresaw a world where inputs, such as herbicide application, could be reduced by 99 per cent through precision application. He predicted that globally, most efficiency gains would be made in small to medium sized farming enterprises.

"He always got a gasp or chuckle when he said that tractors had reached their maximum size because their size was determined by the dimensions of railway tunnels through which newly manufactured tractors had to be transported.

"Simon was frequently invited to present his vision to wider audiences, such as The Royal Society and the Oxford Farming Conference. We also asked Simon to host important visitors for visits to Harper Adams and the National Centre for Precision Farming, including a succession of ministers.

"As an aside, I always knew that my timetable for site tours would be completely blown out of the water as Simon's vision was always utterly compelling to our visitors. I couldn't drag our visitors away!

"He greatly valued his time with students, in particular the Masters students, who loved him."

Harper Adams Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken Sloan added: "It is with deep sadness that I learned of Simon's death, especially coming so soon after he and his wife, Chrissy, had relocated to their new home in the South-West of England.

"I knew of Simon's reputation in technology and innovation before joining Harper Adams and could see the profound impact he had had on the University's confidence and reputation in this area.

"You can see how far this area of precision technology and

automation has developed through Simon's work, something in which we are continuing to invest. The University was honoured to see this work recognised through a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

"Simon and Chrissy were quick to reach out to Dan and I on the news we were moving to Shropshire, and were amongst the first to welcome us to the County.

"Simon showed us generosity and warmth and, with Chrissy, played a pivotal role in helping us to settle in those first few months.

"I have been inspired by how many colleagues and former students have spoken with fondness about Simon and his contribution to the University and its reputation."

"We will find an appropriate way to acknowledge Simon and his contribution, with Chrissy and his many friends and supporters, at an appropriate point in the future.

"Our priority now is to send our thoughts and messages of support to Chrissy and everyone who is saddened by the news of Simon's death."

There was a celebration of life for Professor Simon Blackmore on Friday 18th October, held at the University.

“He greatly valued his time with students, in particular the Masters students, who loved him.”

Discover Harper Adams Club

Your gateway to staying connected with the Harper Adams University community.

Whether you're a current student, alumni, or supporter, the Harper Adams Club offers exclusive access to networking opportunities, events, career support, and more.

Reconnect with old friends, expand your professional network, and stay informed about the latest news and developments from the Harper Adams family.

After graduating from Harper Adams, you automatically become part of a thriving, engaged community that shares your passion for agriculture, food, and rural industries.

Visit harperadamsclub.com to join now!



The Harper Adams Club
Harper Adams Alumni Association

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: harperlife@harperadamsclub.com



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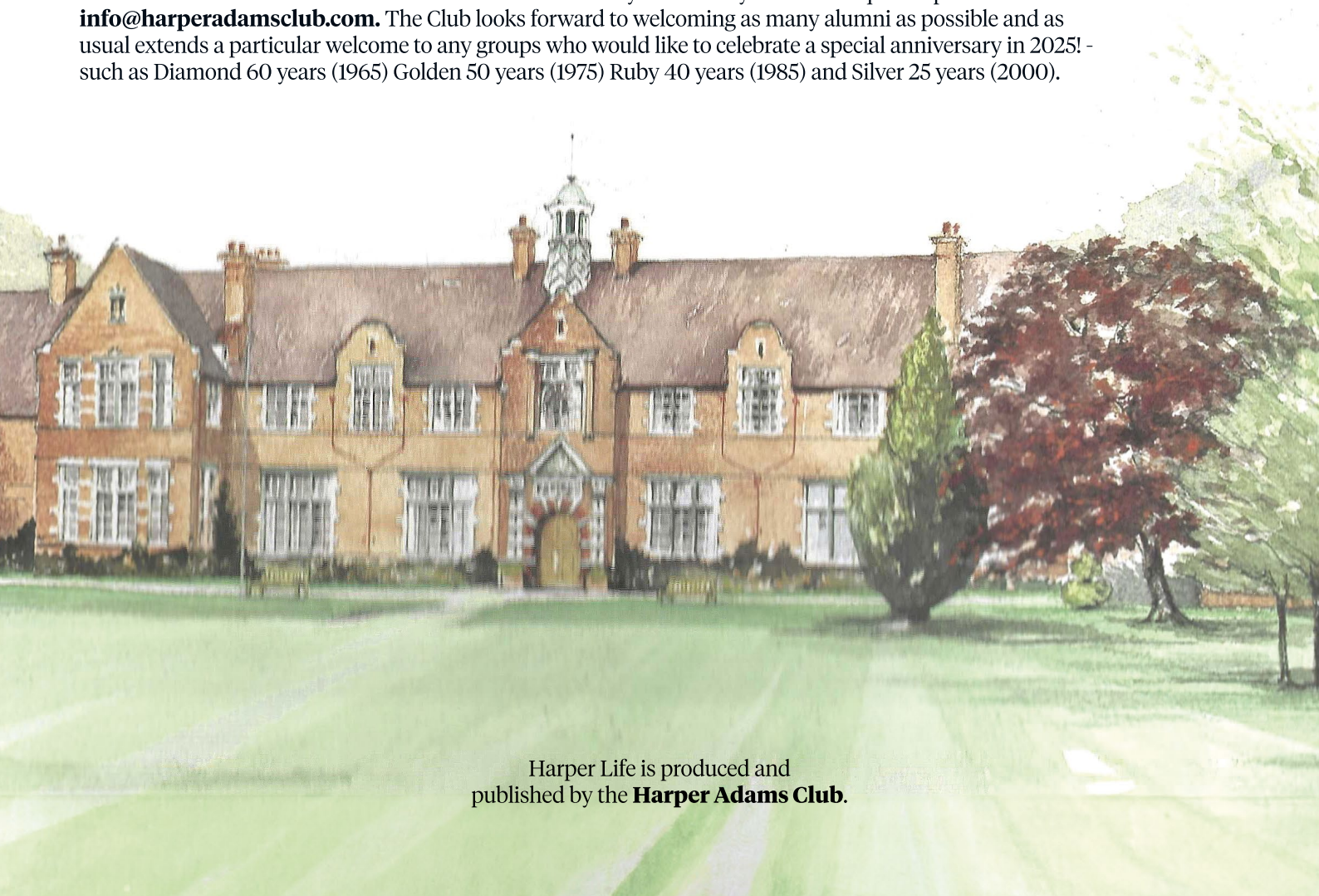
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Save the date

The Harper Adams Club Lunch will take place at Harper Adams on Saturday 5th July 2025.

Further details on how to book will follow in due course. If you have any immediate queries please contact info@harperadamsclub.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 2025! - such as Diamond 60 years (1965) Golden 50 years (1975) Ruby 40 years (1985) and Silver 25 years (2000).



Harper Life is produced and published by the **Harper Adams Club**.