

# History of Agricultural Education in Wiltshire

by

J. O Thomas

1984

Transcribed and edited by  
Tony Pratt 2011

Wiltshire College Lackham

## Introduction

The original book from which this edition is taken was published by Lackham College of Agriculture in 1984 and is held in the Library at Lackham. This online edition has been made possible by the very kind permission of the Thomas family and the College.. JO Thomas was intimately involved in Education in Wiltshire either side of the Second World War and was a passionate educator.

This edition is as true to the original as possible and, apart from correcting the (very occasional) typo, the text has been transcribed word for word. The original page length has not been retained and so the original Contents page has not been included as it would be inaccurate and confusing.

The new contents page includes hyperlinks to allow access directly to the part of the document referred to. Ctrl + Clicking on any of the blue underlined titles will move to the section concerned, please note that the chapter starts at the chapter title, not the first sub section below it. So that it is possible to return to the Contents page easily hyperlinks (indicated by a small blue [\[i\]](#) ) are placed at the end of each section. It is hoped that, although necessarily not present in the original, these will not detract from the experience.

Lackham still holds historically important photographic archives of the College from its very start. I would like to record my thanks to Ian Revil, Director of Curriculum Land Based and Service Industries, Wiltshire College, for permission to use images from this collection. Throughout the text there are hyperlinks to relevant images, clicking on the [\[\\*\]](#) hyperlink below the image will return you to the departure point in the text. To return to the Illustrations menu use the [\[p\]](#) link beneath each picture instead of the [\[\\*\]](#)

The few external links will open in a new window, to return simply close that window.

The early history of the College is not widely known, and the publication of this book, the 1957 HMI report and early photographs, on the College website, is an attempt to make this important period more accessible.

If you have any further information on anything in the book please do get in touch with the College or myself

Tony Pratt

Hon. Estate Historian, member of the Gardens Staff, Wiltshire College Lackham  
August 2011

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# HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN WILTSHIRE

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PART I

Written and compiled by

**J. O. THOMAS, M.Sc., N.D.A., N.D.D.**

Principal of Lackham Agricultural College

1948 - 1970

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PART II

Contributions by

MEMBERS OF LACKHAM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STAFF

on various specialist subjects

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## PREFACE

The establishment and development of agricultural education in Great Britain is a fascinating chapter in the history of technical education in this country. The very beginnings of the desire to initiate an improved knowledge of the science and practice of farming techniques has its roots in the application of principles to the art and skill of the husbandman.

During the war years, this island's food supply was entirely dependent upon the ability and ingenuity of farmers to adopt production and cultivation techniques emanating from the government's university and commercial and research establishments. The dissemination of new information and methods was largely the responsibility of advisory services which sort to establish credibility through close liaison with the agricultural community by means of lectures and practical demonstrations. From this grew the early beginnings of formal agricultural education enhanced by the 1944 Education Act and others which required local education authorities to organise courses of instruction in agriculture and horticulture

J O Thomas (JO to all his friends and ex-students), was one of those educationists charged with creating an agricultural educational school in the rural county of Wiltshire. His farming, advisory and teaching background proved invaluable qualities for the task which lay ahead. His wisdom and perspicacity coupled with that tenacious characteristic of all Welshmen provided the county with a man who both knew what was needed and how best to achieve it. The suspicions of countryman and councillor had to be overcome during the pioneering years. Farmers had to be convinced that the School of Agriculture had something better to offer than what could be gained by learning on the home farm. Ignorance had to be overcome through the process of demonstrating improvements achieved by early students. The very cautious optimism of those controlling the purse strings of technical education needed cultivating. Through the process of persuasion, negotiation and sheer hard work, JO and his staff gradually built up relationships throughout the farming population and the increasing number of students attending Lackham School of Agriculture soon justified their faith.

Fortunately JO maintained a detailed record throughout his 22 years as principal. Press cuttings, photographs, building programmes and farm developments relating to these two decades were collected in an album. On his retirement in 1970 Mr Thomas devoted himself to collating the historical information and writing this book which so vividly describes the joys and difficulties experienced.

The contributions by colleagues who shared in the development of the school, later

to become college, are characteristic of a man who recognised and valued the part played by fellow members of staff and students.

This book is a lasting tribute to a person who gave so much of himself to the agricultural community of Wiltshire. I am certain it would be his wish that this book be dedicated to his wife, Eunice, who so devotedly supported her husband in all his endeavours.

Peter W Morris  
Principal



MRS J O THOMAS AND HER FAMILY MAKE GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
TO:

Mrs Jennifer Keevil (*nee* Guy)  
for typing the original manuscript

Mr Peter Morris, Principal Lackham College  
for preparing the manuscript for publication

the Director, Wiltshire Library & Museum Service and his staff  
for arranging the production and binding of this book



## CHAPTER 1

### SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FROM THE 14th CENTURY

Although Agriculture is the oldest and most important industry in Britain, no organised Agricultural Education existed until the latter half of the 19th Century. For many generations, children learnt from their parents, knowledge and experience were handed down from one generation to the next. Several rich and famous men, however, carried out field trials and experiments, and their discoveries were made known through a few books, Agricultural Shows, Societies, Clubs, competitions etc. No grant aid was available as we know it today. The Rothamsted Research Station and the Royal Agricultural College were two isolated examples of privately endowed establishments created in 1843 and 1845 respectively. Dauntseys School, West Lavington, founded in 1543, also included Agriculture and Horticulture in its curriculum.

The following list of dates illustrates some of the major events in Agriculture and the names of men who pioneered experiments by trial and error.

The first book on farming in English was written by Fitzherbert of Norbury in 1553 and was called the "Boke of Husbandry". He advocated the application of plenty of "muck" and deep ploughing, followed by a spell of bare fallow. He was a great believer in sheep and wrote they were "The moste profytablest cattell".

A second book was written in poetry by Thomas Tusser, 1524 - 1580. It was entitled "A Hundreth Good Pointes of Husbandrie". Like Fitzherbert, he found the application of "Compass" (muck) and bare fallow advantageous. Crops mentioned were peas, hops and saffron.

#### Tusser's Advice:

"Where stones be too many annoying the land  
Make servant come home with stone in his hand  
By daily so doing, have plenty ye shall  
Both handsome for paving,  
and good for a wall".

"If meadow be forward be mowing of some  
But mow as the makers may well overcome  
Take heed to the weather, the wind and the sky  
If danger approacheth

then 'Cockface<sup>1</sup>! Cry."

In 1652, Bligh's book mentioned the importance of irrigation or "drowning" the land by digging trenches in winter and bringing the water from the nearest river or stream. The water was allowed to flow evenly over the grass for a short time and quickly drained away by means of deep drains. He advocated windmill pumps to lift water where gravity was not possible.

- 1653 Sir Richard Weston introduced lucerne, clovers and sainfoin.
- 1720 Jethro Tull, Berkshire, invented the corn drill and horse hoe and did much to improve the cultivation and fertility of thoil. The drill was used extensively in Wiltshire.
- 1730 Lord Townshend, Norfolk, developed the famous four course rotation on his estate using clover, turnips between two corn crops.
- 1760 Robert Bakewell, Leicestershire, improved the old English horse, the Longhorn cattle and Leicestershire sheep.
- 1776 Coke of Holkham, the Earl of Leicester, improved his poor Norfolk soil by "marling". He also established a fine herd of South Down sheep and Red Devon cattle. He was a good landlord and taught his tenants.
- 1777 Bath and West Society formed. Show now on a permanent site near Shepton Mallet
- 1793 Charles Collins improved the Shorthorn breed by inbreeding and out crossing. His famous bulls were "Hubback", the "Durham Ox" and "Comet".
- 1793 The Duke of Bedford established the Woburn experimental farm and encouraged his tenants and others to attend his sheep shearing and ploughing demonstrations etc. He was called the "Farming Duke"
- 1793 Board of Agriculture formed:  
President Sir John Sinclair  
Secretary Sir Arthur Young  
Scientific Consultant Dr A. Voelcker
- 1793-1815 Britain at war with France. Food became scarce and expensive.

- 1798 Smithfield Club formed in London, hence the famous Smithfield Fatstock Show.
- 1800 Around this time, the woollen industry in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset flourished. Weavers worked their hand looms in their houses; and factories worked by water wheels were to be found in the towns and villages. Steam was later introduced to work the machinery and the industry was drawn to the West Riding of Yorkshire where it made rapid progress.
- 1803 Arthur Young, Suffolk, developed a system of land drainage, which is commonly used at the present time.
- 1811 Bates continued the work of Collins with the improvement of Shorthorn cattle.
- 1812 Sir Humphrey Davy wrote the famous book "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry" and gave a series of lectures for the Board of Agriculture.
- 1831 Jas Smith's book "Remarks on Thorough Draining".
- 1837 Royal Agricultural Society formed. Show now held on a permanent site at Stoneleigh.
- 1840 "The Book of the Farm" by Henry Stephens.
- 1840 Rothamsted Research Station started by Lawes. Lawes patented a process for the manufacture of superphosphate. Gilbert joined Lawes in 1843 and directed the laboratory work and proved that nitrogen was not taken from the air by cereals, opposing the views of J.V. Liebig in 1840
- 1842 Formation of Farmers' Club, London.
- 1843 General Enclosure Act.
- 1845 Potato famine in Ireland.
- 1849 Repeal of Corn Laws.
- 1850 Railways developed. Much quicker and more convenient than canals and horse waggons for transport of cattle and goods

- 1850           Reaper invented in America by McCormack.
- 1854           Outbreak of Crimean War and wars in Europe and America. Farm prices increased and the years between 1853 and 1876 were prosperous for farmers. Rents for farms very much increased. There followed a severe depression until the early years of the 20th Century.
- 1872           Agricultural Labourers' Union formed.
- 1873           Education Act. Compulsory education.
- 1875           First Agricultural Holdings Act.
- 1880           Ground Game Act. Compensation for damage to crops.
- 1880 -         A private agricultural school was established at Downton, 1906  
1906           Wiltshire, by John Wrightson, principal.
- 1889           Technical Instruction Act, resulting in a grant of £5000 for Agricultural Education. This appears to be the first grant ever for this purpose.
- 1890           Whisky Tax money, £75000, was distributed to Universities and County Councils for Agricultural Education.
- 1892           Smallholdings Act.
- 1895           R.H. Elliot wrote "Agricultural Changes" - complex seeds mixtures at Clifton Park.
- 1902           Central Landowners' Association formed.
- 1908           Lord Reay Report, resulting in the sum of £3,000,000 for Agricultural Education by the Board of Agriculture.
- 1908           National Farmers' Union formed.
- 1910           Development Commission for Agricultural Education set up.
- 1911           Several Agricultural Research Stations developed, mainly attached to Universities.



- 1914 -1918 World War I.  
Tractors began to replace horses on the farms and 3,000,000 acres of grass ploughed up to increase food production.
- 1920 Agricultural Wages Board fixed minimum wage for farm workers.
- 1927 Agricultural Land Commission, compensation for disturbance etc.
- 1931 Agricultural Research Council formed.
- 1932 National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs formed with head quarters in London.
- 1933 Formation of Milk Marketing Board and several sugar beet factories erected.
- 1939 Declaration of World War II.
- 1940 War Agricultural Committees formed in the counties to increase food production. The Agricultural Education staffs were seconded to the War Agricultural Committees.

With grant aid by the Board of Agriculture following the Technical Instruction Act of 1889 and the 'Whisky'<sup>1</sup> award of £75,000, seven Universities and two Agricultural Colleges received grants to carry out Agricultural Research and to train teachers and advisers for Local Authorities. Only four Farm Institutes were established at this stage. The development of Farm Institutes was slow and the whole system was reviewed in 1908 by Lord Reay and his Committee. It recommended that an Agricultural Organiser should be appointed in each county to advise farmers and appoint instructors in Horticulture, Poultry, Dairying and Beekeeping. The Organiser should be attached to a provincial centre of Higher Education e.g. Wiltshire should be linked with Bristol University.

In 1911, the Development Committee provided large sums of money for further development of research in Universities and Agricultural Colleges and advisory work in the counties. In 1939, there were:

- 8 Provincial Centres
- 7 Universities
- 7 Agricultural Colleges
- 13 Farm Institutes

- 55 Agricultural Organisers
- 468 Agricultural Assistants in the counties

The Universities offered three to four year Degree and Honours Courses in Agriculture and allied subjects. In addition, Cambridge and Oxford arranged one year Post Graduate Diplomas and Durham, Leeds, Reading, Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities offered two year Diploma Courses in either Agriculture, Dairying, Horticulture or Estate Management. On completion of the Diploma Courses, the majority of students sat for one or other of the National Diplomas: N.D.A., N.D.D., N.D.P., N.D.H., etc.

The Agricultural Colleges offered two year courses leading to a Diploma and the majority of the Colleges catered for the external National Diploma examinations. The Farm Institutes offered a one year General Course in Agriculture or Horticulture. The Principal was also responsible for all Agricultural Education and advisory work in his county.<sup>[i]</sup>

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRES IN 1939			
Provincial Agricultural Advisory Centres	Universities with Agricultural Departments	Agricultural Colleges	Farm Institutes
Bristol University Cambridge University Leeds University Newcastle University Aberystwyth University University	Cambridge Durham Leeds London Oxford Reading Aberystwyth Bangor	Cirencester Swanley Horticulture Wye Button Bonington Studley Harper Adams Seale Hayne	Essex Cumberland Lancashire Hampshire Staffordshire Cheshire Hertfordshire Northamptonshire East Sussex Kent Durham Caernarvonshire Denbighshire Monmouthshire Carmarthenshire

<sup>[i]</sup>

Counties which had not established Farm Institutes, such as Wiltshire, appointed an Agricultural Organiser and assistants to deal with all matters concerning Agriculture and Agricultural Education. In 1939, there were 55 Agricultural Organisers and 468 assistants.

When World War II ended, and following the Butler Education Act of 1944 which recognised Agricultural Education as a branch of Further Education, exchequer grants were increased to provide more Research Stations and Farm Institutes.

During this period, 1945-1970, a technological revolution was taking place in in British Agriculture and-Horticulture. New techniques in Crop and animal husbandry, mechanisation and labour saving devices, together with work studies and improved business and marketing methods, all contributed towards a decline in the number of full-time farm workers and new entrants to the industry.

In 1964, the number of regular full-time male farm workers between the ages of 20 and 64 was 250,000, which declined by 60,000 in 1970. The old craftsmen, such as thatchers, stack builders, carters, hedgers, handmilkers etc. were no longer needed and there was a new demand for well-educated and skilled trained workers by farmers to handle the sophisticated and expensive machinery, and technicians to supervise the work of various departments on the larger farms and estates.

By 1965, the number of Agricultural students attending Universities and Colleges doubled the pre-war figure and there were 37 Farm Institutes with a record number of 2900 full-time and 8000 part-time students (all ages).

It is interesting to find that although the number of new entrants declined, there was a steady increase in the number receiving full-time and part-time education and training. On the farms, the productivity was also increasing by double the national average in industry.

Farmers were paying good wages to skilled and well-trained men and a new wages structure, based on Proficiency Tests by the newly formed Agricultural Training Board, was an added incentive for skilled farm workers and apprentices. By 1975, it is estimated that approximately half of those employed full-time in the industry will have received some from of Agricultural education and training.

Between 1943 and 1970, the development of Agricultural Education was considered by independent Committees and a series of reports were issued from time to time by the Ministries of Education and Agriculture offering advice, guidance and recommendations to those Local Authorities interested in the subject. These reports were far reaching and helpful and will be discussed in some detail in Chapter II, which deals with the History of Agricultural Education in Wiltshire.

DATES OF GOVERNMENT REPORTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS  
AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION 1943-70

- 1943 Luxmore (Chairman) Report on Post-War Agricultural Education.
- 1944 Butler's Education Act.
- 1944 T. Williams' Agricultural Act.
- 1945 Loveday (Chairman) Report on the provision in Secondary Schools of courses preparatory to agricultural employment
- 1946 Formation of National Agricultural Advisory Service.
- 1947 Second Loveday Report on Agricultural and Horticultural Institutes
- 1948 Agricultural Wages Act.
- 1949 Interim Loveday Report on the provision of part-time instruction by Local Authorities in Agriculture, Horticulture and domestic production
- 1953 Carrington Report on Agricultural Education.
- 1958 Earl de la Warr Report on Further Education provided by Local Authorities.
- 1959 Ministry of Agriculture ceased to finance Local Authorities for Agricultural Education. This responsibility was transferred to the Ministry of Education.
- 1964 Industrial Training Act.
- 1966 Pilkington Report of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education.
- 1966 National Agricultural Advisory Service changed to Agricultural Development Advisory Service - A.D.A.S.
- 1966 Agricultural Training Board set up. 1968 Houghton Report - staff salaries.
- 1970 Re-organisation of Local Government. Britain joined the E.E.C. [\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER II

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN WILTSHIRE 1900-1970

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEES WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 1902 - 1970

- 1902-20      Agricultural Education Committee.  
Chairman - Col. G Best.
- 1920-28      Agricultural Education Committee.  
Sub-Committee of Agricultural Committee.  
Chairmen - Mr W Carey and Mr T C P Colley.
- 1928-46      Chairman - Mr R Stratton.
- 1939-46      Agricultural Education matters dealt with in conjunction with the  
Wiltshire War Agricultural Executive Committee.  
Chairman of both Committees - Mr R Stratton.  
Agricultural Organiser and Chief Executive Officer -  
Mr W T Price.
- 1946-58      Agricultural Education Committee. Sub-  
Committee of Education Committee. Chairman -  
Mr C W Whatley.
- 1951-58      Chairman of Lackham Farm Committee - Mr F Swanton.  
Chairman of Lackham House Committee - Mr G W Olive.
- 1958-64      Agricultural Education and Farm Institute Sub-Committee  
Chairman - Mr F Swanton.  
Chairman of Lackham Farm Committee - Mr F Swanton.  
Chairman of Lackham House Committee - Mr G W Olive.
- 1959          Ministry of Agriculture ceased to finance Agricultural Institutes and this  
responsibility was transferred to the Ministry of Education.
- 1964          Agricultural Education transferred to Further Education. Sub-Committee  
and a Board of Governors appointed for Lackham  
Chairman of Governors 1963-67 - Mr F Swanton (retired).  
Chairman of Governors 1967- - Mr J M Stratton [\[i\]](#)
- .

## SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN WILTSHIRE

1902-1922. During this period Agricultural Education in Wiltshire consisted of instruction and demonstrations in the basic skills:-hedge laying, land drainage, horse ploughing, thatching, milking, poultry, beekeeping etc.

Travelling schools were introduced whereby part-time instructors travelled from district to district demonstrating on selected farms. "On the farm training" is an efficient method of teaching and it is interesting to find the Agricultural Training Board adopting somewhat similar methods in 1976.

A typical example of a travelling school was conducted in butter and cheesemaking by [Mrs Ida Bull](#), who travelled from farm to farm instructing the housewives. When the Committee discontinued the travelling schools, Mrs Bull continued her work on a voluntary basis and formed the "Wiltshire Association of Dairy Students" with branches scattered throughout the County. Mrs Bull was a unique and dynamic personality and devoted the whole of her retired life to the well-being of the Association. Following her death in 1973, the W.A.D.S. changed the name of the Association to the "Wiltshire Farmers' Club".

There was no systematic theoretical training in Agriculture in the County except at Dauntseys School, West Lavington, where the subject was included in the school curriculum. Scholarships were awarded by the Wiltshire County Council to suitable candidates to attend such courses and in 1976 many progressive Wiltshire farmers are seen wearing the Old Boys' School tie.

In 1922, [Mr R Boutflour](#) was appointed full-time Agricultural Organiser for Wiltshire with Headquarters at Polebarn House, Trowbridge. He lectured to large audiences of farmers on Animal Nutrition, with special reference to the feeding of dairy cows. He advocated less roots and more concentrates (according to yield) in the cow's daily winter ration. His theory met with great success, at the same time breaking a long tradition. In 1926, he left Wiltshire to direct research work on the feeding of livestock for the Ministry of Agriculture. Later in 1931, he became Principal of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and during the War, he served as County Agricultural Executive Officer for Gloucestershire.

During Mr Boutflour's term of office, several assistants were appointed:-Mr W T Price in 1924, Mr H Tomlinson in 1926, Mr J F H Thomas and Ralph Whiteman in 1928. Mr Price succeeded Mr Boutflour as County Agricultural Organiser in 1926.

[Mr Price](#) and his staff were popular with the farming community and their advice was always sound and appreciated. He carried out important soil surveys in the County and was Chairman of the Dairy Students' Association. He was appointed Chief Agricultural Executive Officer for Wiltshire in 1939 and took a keen interest in the Agricultural Training Scheme for leavers at Bowden Hill Farm, which the Agricultural Executive Committee occupied during the War. In 1946, Mr Price was appointed Chief National Agricultural Advisory Officer for the South West region and later accepted the post of Principal of Harper Adams Agricultural College.

Mr J F H Thomas remained in Wiltshire for several years before taking up the appointment of Vice Principal of the Royal Agricultural College. Later he returned to his farm in South Wiltshire and was elected Chairman of the County Branch of the National Farmers' Union and a member of the Lackham Farm Institute Committee. He wrote several books on Sheep Husbandry and purchased the first flock of Clun Forest ewe lambs for the Institute farm on behalf of the Wiltshire County Council

[Mr Tomlinson](#) devoted much of his time to field trials and Livestock Husbandry on the chalk downs of the County and was one of the first to discover a distinct deficiency of potash on this type of soil. He carried out interesting and valuable trials with sheep and fat lamb production

In 1932, Mr L D C McLees was appointed Assistant Agricultural Organiser. He formed several Young Farmers' Clubs (Calf Clubs open to farmers' sons and daughters) in the County. A County Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs was convened in 1934 and a grant of £20 was made by the County Council towards expenses. (See History of Y.F.C. in Chapter IX).

Miss McCredie Forster was appointed Assistant in 1936 and did much valuable pioneer work in Rural Domestic Economy (see Appendix), Domestic Horticulture and rural subjects in schools throughout the County.

Two further appointments were made by the County Council before the declaration of War in 1939:- Mr Fleming, Dairy Adviser, and Mr Shaw, General Agricultural Assistant and Y.F.C. Secretary.

Soon after the declaration of War, Mr Price and the whole of his staff were seconded to the newly formed [War Agricultural Executive Committee](#), with Headquarters at County Hall. The Ministry of Agriculture informed the County Councils that during the War, the responsibility for Agricultural Education and advisory work in the counties would be carried out by the

Executive Committees. Wiltshire was fortunate in having Alderman R Stratton as Chairman of both committees, and with Mr Price as Chief Executive Officer, the work was co-ordinated without much difficulty.

The main function of the War Agricultural Executive Committee was to launch a compulsory ploughing up campaign and increase food production in the form of grain, meat, milk and vegetables as rapidly as possible. This involved a considerable increase in staff since the Committee was committed to the reclamation of large tracts of derelict land and had to assist those farmers without the necessary labour and equipment to drain and plough their very old, worn out pastures.

Several District Officers and foremen were temporarily appointed to supervise the work. Labour was scarce and farmers had to contend with unskilled workers. Members of the Women's Land Army, evacuees, school children, prisoners-of-war and everyone available responded magnificently to the slogan "Dig for Victory".

Conferences and demonstrations were well attended and frequently arranged in different parts of the County on all aspects of Agriculture, Horticulture and food preservation. The provincial centre at Bristol University was responsible for giving any special advice needed on items such as fertilizers, feeding stuffs, diseases of plants and animals, buildings and economics, etc. [\[1\]](#)

## LUXMORE REPORT

In 1943, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries produced the Luxmore Report on post-war Agricultural Education, with recommendations to local Authorities.

It stated that:-

- (a) There should be at least one Farm Institute in each County to provide a one year course in Agriculture for those intending to become farmers, smallholders, managers, bailiffs and farm workers, and the students should not be limited to either sex.
- (b) Authorities should provide short courses in subjects such as clean milk production, silage making, pig and poultry keeping, animal nutrition etc.
- (c) The teaching staff of all Farm Institutes should be trained in teaching methods and lecturing.



- (d) There should be a suitably trained Inspectorate.
- (e) Support should be given to the Young Farmers' Club Movement as stated in "Service of Youth".

The report was distributed to all local Authorities and the Wiltshire County Council decided that the time had arrived to establish a Farm Institute in the County for young people. In 1945, the County Council appointed the following small Sub-Committee to find a suitable site:-

<a href="#"><u>Alderman R Stratton</u></a>	Chairman
Alderman A W Case	Organiser, Agricultural Workers' Union for Wiltshire
Mr G W Olive	Headmaster, Dauntseys School
Mr O M Peall	Farmer and President of County Y.F.C. Federation
Alderman C W Whatley	Farmer and member of the Agricultural Executive Committee
Mr W T Price	Chief Agricultural Executive Officer

After many inspections and much discussion, they finally decided to purchase the Lackham Estate of 600 acres from Major Holt for the sum of £42,600. During the latter part of the War, Lackham House and stables were occupied by the 'American forces and it is understood that the deal was made in a cottage near the stable yard (now the Vice Principal's House). An old servant who had worked on the estate all his life spoke of visits by Generals Patton and Eisenhower and how, immediately after 'D' Day, "the whole place became calm and desolate". [\[i\]](#)

The Estate consisted of 600 acres, including 60 acres of woodland, Lackham House and gardens, stables, 23 cottages and five sets of farm buildings at Home Farm, Naish Hill, Notton, Cuckoo Bush and Biddestone Lane. Home Farm, Cuckoo Bush, Biddestone Lane and woodland were purchased with vacant possession. Notton Farm and Naish Hill were let off to tenants. Changes later took place which finally increased the size of the College farm to 450 acres, together with approximately 50 acres of woodland and gardens. These changes are shown on Maps 1 to 6 in photograph album.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after the purchase of Lackham by the County Council in 1945, it was decided to lease the Estate to the Ministry of Agriculture for a period of not more than five years for use as a training centre under the Government's

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<sup>1</sup> Held at Wiltshire College Lackham (TP)

Vocational Training Scheme to provide a series of one year courses in General Agriculture for ex-servicemen (50 students per year).

In 1946, Mr. Stratton retired as Chairman of the Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee and with the word "War" deleted, a new Committee was formed by the Ministry known as the [County Agricultural Executive Committee](#) - A.E.C

Mr. Stratton had been Chairman of the War Agricultural Committee for six years and Chairman of the Agricultural Education Committee since 1928. He was also Chairman of the Lackham Founders' Committee in 1945.

To quote [Alderman C.W. Whatley](#), "Mr. Stratton had been Alderman of the Wiltshire County Council for many years and finally after an exhausting six years as Chairman of the W.A.E.C., he received the honour of C.B.E. from His Majesty. No man could have done more to deserve it."

The personnel of the new Wiltshire A.E.G. were well known in the County, including land owners, representatives from the National Farmers' Union and the Union of Agricultural Workers. Mr. R.W. Horton was elected Chairman.

In addition to the countless duties, one of their functions was to administer Lackham Training Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture until 1951 and a Sub-Committee for Lackham was set up in 1946 consisting of: -

Mr F Swanton	-	Chairman
Mr R to Horton	-	Vice Chairman
Mr G W Olive		
Mr C W Whatley		
Mr O M Peall		
Mr A W Case		
Sir Gerard Fuller		
Lady K McNeile		
Mr G Bishop		Secretary

In the first place, all the existing Farm and garden staff were offered employment by the A.E.G., viz:-

<a href="#">Mr H Cole</a>	Estate Mason
Mr J Pike	Groom
<a href="#">Mr P Brunt</a>	Gardener
<a href="#">Mr J Chivers</a>	Carter
Mr C Gullis	Farm Worker
Mr J Hutchins	Woodman

Mr B Savage

Estate Carpenter

It is interesting to note that all these first class craftsmen were allowed to remain in a cottage on the Estate following their retirement.

The Committee then appointed the following Teaching and Domestic Staff:-

Principal	Mr F Foster
Agriculture - Vice Principal	<a href="#">Mr E Watkinson</a>
Agriculture	Mr W Edwards
Machinery	Mr E Witchell
Horticulture	Mr H S Bell
Warden	Mr W London
Poultry (part-time)	Miss Inkpen
Bees (part-time)	Mr H Teal
Matron Mrs Craven	1 year only followed by Mrs D Cribb
Domestic Staff	Displaced persons (all foreigners)
Secretary and Accountant	Miss J Guley

In 1948, Mr F Foster tendered his resignation to the Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee and the County Council appointed Mr J O Thomas as County Agricultural Education Officer and Principal of Lackham Farm Institute. His immediate duties were:-

- (1) To supervise and organise the work at the Farm Institute {For the first three years, he was responsible to the A.E.C. and afterwards to the Wiltshire Education Committee}.
- (2) To organise and teach at day release and evening classes in Agriculture for the Education Committee.
- (3) To support the Y.F.C. movement in the County.
- (4) To prepare for the transfer of Lackham to the Wiltshire County Council from the A.E.C. in 1951.
- (5) To co-operate with:
  - (a) the National Agricultural Advisory Service
  - (b) the National Farmers' Union
  - (c) the Agricultural Workers' Union
  - (d) domestic producers and beekeepers

## THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1947

The Agricultural Act of 1947 offered many concessions to farmers in the way of subsidies, deficiency payments, grants etc., as an alternative to import tariffs. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr T Williams, had already agreed with the N.F.U. on the procedure for conducting annual price reviews. The farmers were well satisfied, which paved the way for the A.E.G. to implement the Act and establish the industry on a new basis, by promoting efficiency and increased productivity.

The target set by the Minister in his expansion programme was an increase in the net agricultural output in the United Kingdom by 100 million pounds by 1952. This, he explained, could be accomplished by greater all-round efficiency in farm practice, increased mechanisation, improving the yield per cow and hen, ley farming, the better use of grass and conservation, and by an increase in tillage crops for winter fodder and home consumption. He also called for an increase in pig meat by 300 per cent and beef by 20 per cent. [\[i\]](#)

## THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICE

The National Agricultural Advisory Service was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1946 with headquarters in London. A number of provincial centres were arranged, together with teams of Agricultural and Horticultural advisors in each County. The main function of the N.A.A.S. was to provide free advice to farmers and commercial horticulturalists and to arrange demonstrations and conferences. Agricultural education and advice for domestic producers became the responsibility of Local Authorities.

The County N.A.A.S. worked in conjunction with the County Agricultural Executive and Technical Development Committees and was available at all times to advise, to attend meetings and report progress in connection with the expansion programme etc

The majority of officials at one time responsible for Agricultural Education in the Counties joined the Service and became Civil Servants and were no longer employees of the Local Authorities.

In Wiltshire, Mr Price left in 1946 to become Provincial Advisory Officer for the South-West region at Bristol and Mr W J Brimacombe was appointed Wiltshire County Agricultural Advisory Officer. His staff consisted of five district advisors and a specialist in Horticulture, Farm Buildings and Dairying. Mr G Bishop was appointed Executive Officer and dealt with the payment to the farmer of subsidies etc. approved by the Executive Committee.

The Regional Advisory Officers at Bristol were mostly specialists in specific subjects relating to Agriculture and Horticulture and were closely connected with the various Research Departments throughout the country. They were in a position to convey new ideas to the County Advisors in their province and assist with technical problems that occurred on the farms from time to time.

It was not long before the W.E.C. and N.A.A.S. gained the confidence and co-operation of the farmers. Surveys and work studies were carried out on the farms resulting in many new ideas in mechanisation and labour-saving devices. Experimental farms were set up in various parts of the country.

Efficiency and farm management improved and productivity increased in accordance with the Minister's request,

It was undoubtedly the beginning of a new era in British Agriculture calling for a well-trained, skilled labour force and education for the younger generation.

In 1966, the N.A.A.S. changed its name to A.D.A.S. - Agricultural Development and Advisory Service. [\[i\]](#)

Mr R W Horton was an outstanding Chairman of the Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Lackham Committee and was responsible for purchasing the foundation Friesian stock for Home Farm, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, in 1947. Mr Brimacombe and his staff were good friends to Lackham, always ready to advise and co-operate.

Mr Bishop was Secretary of the W.A.E.C. and was Administrative Officer on their behalf for Lackham from 1946 to 1951. He was promoted to the post of Divisional Officer in 1957 with Headquarters at Gloucester.

His main task was to implement the Farm Improvement Scheme, Part II of the Agriculture Act 1957, in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. (See photograph album p 14) .

## LOVEDAY REPORT I

In 1947, the Ministries of Agriculture and Education published an interim report on Agricultural and Horticultural Institutes. Chairman -Dr Loveday.

The Report recommended that provision be made for specialised courses in Animal and Crop Husbandry and Poultry Keeping at Institutes, in addition to the

one year full-time Agricultural Course. [\[i\]](#)

## LOVEDAY REPORT II

In 1949, a second Loveday Report was published. It stated that since training at Farm Institutes provided training for only 10 per cent of the entrants into the industry, in order to meet the needs of the expansion programme part-time instruction should be provided by Local Authorities for all, or as many as possible, who were unable to attend an Institute course. Short courses for machinery operators, herdsman, shepherds, pig and poultry keepers etc. should be provided. Also courses for apprentices, as set out by the National Joint Apprenticeship Council, should be arranged and certificates of proficiency awarded. Advice and instruction should be given to domestic producers and voluntary organisations, viz. domestic poultry keepers, bee keepers, gardeners and allotment holders, small pig keepers, Young Farmers<sup>1</sup> Clubs and Women's Institutes.

The Report also recommended the appointment of Extra Mural Officers and more part-time instructors. [\[i\]](#)

When Mr Stratton retired in 1946, a new Agricultural Education Sub-Committee was set up, composed of:-

Chairman: Ald. C W Whatley, O.B.E.

Vice Chairman: J A Arnold-Foster, O.B.E.

R H Angel

J L Calderwood

W A J Case

H H Dyer

Brig. K M F Hedges

R W Horton

Mrs Jackson

Lady K McNeile

G W Olive, M.A.

O M Peall

S Pond

D Potter

W R Robins, O.B.E.

W E Stevens, M.A., J.P.

M Stratton

F Swanton

F C Taylor

H N Tilley

G C Whatley

Major R S Williams

Director of Education: K S Innes, M.A.

This Committee, with a limited staff, did what they could to implement the recommendations outlined in the Loveday Report. Mr Corley was available to advise and instruct domestic gardeners and allotment holders, and Mr Teal was

appointed full-time Bee Keeping Officer. Miss J McCredie Forster, who had earlier joined the Education Committee as full-time Rural Subjects Organiser, continued her work as head of Rural Domestic Economy at the Hill Street Centre, Trowbridge. In 1943, Miss Jolly and Miss E Freke were appointed Assistants in R.D.E. and Rural Subjects respectively. Miss J Dunn joined the R.D.E. staff in 1948. Miss Jolly resigned in 1955 and was succeeded by Miss Carew Hunt.

In 1964, the R.D.E. Department was transferred to Lackham College of Agriculture, with Miss J Dunn as Head of Department.

For further information on R.D.E., refer to H.M.I.'s Report in photograph album p48 and Miss Dunn's contribution in part II.

The Agricultural Education Committee was responsible for awarding scholarships and grants to prospective Agricultural Students.

The Principal of Lackham Training Centre organised and conducted several evening and day classes at suitable centres in the County with the aid of Mr Brimacombe and his Advisory Staff.

In 1950-51, the County Council took over the responsibility of Lackham Farm Institute from the Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Agricultural Education Committee appointed two Sub-Committees from its members to manage the Lackham Farm and Estate and House respectively. Mr Swanton continued as Chairman of the Farm Committee and Mr G W Olive was elected Chairman of the House Committee.

The name of the Institute was changed to Lackham School of Agriculture.

The equipment and farm live and dead stock were transferred to the County Council. The whole of the Lackham Staff became employees of the Local Authority and Mr Corley and Mr Teal became members of the School staff.

The period between 1951-54 was a difficult one for Lackham with a number of ex-service men still coming forward to attend the same one year course in Agriculture as young entrants from the County.

There was also surprisingly at this time considerable opposition to Lackham by a minority of farmers and others which affected the recruitment of students as well as progress. The Chairman, Committee and staff, however, withstood the onslaught with courage and determination. Several farmers were still of the opinion that Agricultural Education for the young entrants to the industry was

unnecessary and that they themselves were able to teach their sons and daughters all they needed to know. Education did not appeal to the majority of young farm workers - wages were not attractive and there was no guarantee that a course at Lackham or an apprenticeship would benefit them financially. Members of staff found difficulty in establishing day and evening classes, Apprentices were slow coming forward and farmers were not eager to accept them.

With tact and good teaching on behalf of the staff, the opposition gradually subsided. Organised visits to Lackham were arranged when farmers and their workers saw good husbandry and a healthy balance sheet. Rather than new costly buildings, they saw the improvisation of existing buildings by direct labour, which impressed immensely. They saw students at work on the farm and in the workshops. "Not all book work then" was a comment passed by many. They enjoyed seeing the ever-growing Museum, the Library and interesting demonstrations and experiments in the Biology Laboratory.

They were invited to Speech Days and conferences when well-known agriculturalists like Sir George Stapledon, Sir James Scott Watson, Earl de la Warr, Mr John Cherrington and others attended as guest speakers.

Special Open Days were arranged for school children and the N.F.U. subsidised children's courses during the vacations, Short residential courses were organised for school teachers, herdsman, shepherds, gardeners, machinery operators etc.

All these activities added grist to the mill and Lackham became well-known in the County. By 1960, there was a long waiting list of applications from students to pursue one or other of the various courses. The hostel was full and 30 outboarders were accommodated in cottages on the estate. No funds were available for additional accommodation and it was somewhat frustrating for all those concerned with Lackham to see huge new Technical Colleges springing up when the centre for Agricultural Education serving the whole of Wiltshire lacked accommodation for its students. On the other hand, the School farm was extended, well-managed, up-to-date and showing a substantial trading profit. The Extra Mural work in the County was progressing favourably, with over 1,000 students on courses in Agriculture and allied subjects.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

The Butler Education Act of 1944 made further education mandatory upon Local Authorities and stated that Agricultural Education should be recognised as a branch of further education.



The first Further Education Sub-Committee in Wiltshire was set up in 1949, with Mr Shawcross as F.E. Officer. The Wiltshire Authority, however, elected to continue with its Agricultural Education Sub-Committee until 1963 rather than allow Lackham itself to be administered by the F.E. Sub-Committee. This decision could have been due to the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture grant aided all the Colleges and Farm Institutes and that Further Education, including Agricultural Education outside the Institutes, was grant aided by the Ministry of Education. Mr Gover, the efficient Officer responsible to the Agricultural Education Sub-Committee for administration in those days, must have found the division of grant aid between the Ministries of Agriculture and Education very confusing and difficult.

Most counties formed Further Education Sub-Committees, and Regional Advisory Councils were established as advisory and consultative bodies, and a Secretary appointed for each region. Sub-Committees were set up in each region to consider all matters relating to specific subjects, including Agricultural and Horticultural Education. For Agricultural matters, Wiltshire was included in the South and South Western regions, with Headquarters at Reading and Bristol respectively. The Agricultural Committees consisted of representatives from the various organisations relating to the industry: N.F.U., N.U.A.W. etc., together with the Further Education Officers and Principals of Farm Institutes in the region financing the whole of Agricultural Education, including the Farm Institutes.

In view of the rapid growth of Lackham and its importance in Agricultural Education, the County Agricultural Education Sub-Committee was disbanded and was succeeded by the Agricultural Education and Farm Institute Sub-Committee, with Mr F Swanton as Chairman.[\[\\*\]](#)

#### Agricultural Education and Farm Institute Sub-Committee

Alderman F Swanton, O.B.E. (Chairman)	Mr. W J Osmond
Mr H W Annetts	Mr O M Peall
Lt. Col. R C Bartlett	Alderman S Pond
Lt. Col. C N C Boyle	Brigadier D M Sole, D.S.O.
Mr W J Brimacombe, M.Sc.	Mr J M Stratton
Alderman W A J Case, M.B.E.	Alderman A F S Sykes
Mrs M Culverwell	Mr H N Tilley
Major Sir Gerard Fuller, Bt. O.B.E.	Alderman C W Whatley,
The Lady Katharine McNeile	Mr G C Whatley
Mr C A Morrison	Mr J H Williams
Mr G W Olive, C.B.E., M.A.	Mr T W York King

(Chairman, House Sub-Committee)

Ex-officio Members:

The Chairman of the County Council - Alderman W E Stevens, M.A. , J.P.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee - Alderman S V Christie-Miller

The Chairman of the Education Committee - Brigadier K M F Hedges, C.B.E.,  
D.S.O.

The Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee - Mr G King Forster

Chief Education Officer:

Mr J H Bradley, M.A. [\[i\]](#)

This Committee was very much concerned with the De La Warr and H.M.I.'s Reports and recommended that the following items be placed in the County Council's Building Programme without delay:-

1. New yard and parlour at Home Farm
2. New Hostel and R.D.E. Centre for girl students and Women's Institutes
3. New Assembly Hall for students and conferences
4. 100 new study bedrooms for additional students
5. Seven new cottages for farm workers and staff
6. New Machinery Workshops.

The new yard and parlour were approved without delay and were completed in 1963.

The new Hostel for 20 girl students and R.D.E. block were opened by Lady Radnor in November 1964. The new Hostel Block was named after Miss Scott Baker, who died on October 16th, 1957, a former Chief Education Officer for Wiltshire. She was a Vice-President of the Old Students' Association, a great friend and a loyal supporter of the School of Agriculture.

The new Assembly Avon Hall and four Hostels to accommodate 32 students were completed in 1966. The car park was laid out and constructed by direct labour in 1967.

New Machinery Workshops were erected in 1963-64 to meet the needs of a record intake of apprentices and others pursuing the City and Guilds Mechanics and Technicians courses.

The erection of seven cottages and study bedrooms for a further 48 students was deferred.

In 1963, it was decided to set up a Governing Body for Lackham to take over from the Agricultural Education and Farm Institute Sub-Committee, which meant that:

- (a) Those matters relating to the governance of 'Lackham and admission of students went to the Governing Body.
- (b) Items concerning awards went to the Scholarship and Awards Sub-Committee.
- (c) Matters dealing with the general issues relating to Agricultural and Horticultural Education went to the Further Education Sub-Committee.

The Governing Body in this way was placed on a par with the Governing Bodies of the four major Technical Colleges, reporting to the Further Education Committee.

The Governors of Lackham School of Agriculture consisted of members of the Education and Further Education Committees and other bodies connected with the Industry.

Mr F Swanton was unanimously elected Chairman of the Governors. In 1967, he wished to retire as Chairman in favour of a younger person. He had been Chairman of every Committee directly connected with Lackham since its inception in 1946 - twenty-one years of devoted and unselfish service, To mark his retirement, he was presented with a Silver Salver by the Old Students' Association at their Annual Dinner, and the School's 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, in 1967. In 1961 he was awarded the well deserved honour of O.B.E. for his services to Agriculture. He was one of Wiltshire's successful farmers and his last words to the Principal were "Farm well, don't overstock, and keep the Estate tidy". What words of wisdom and foresight.

Mr J M Stratton of Stockton Manor Farm was elected to succeed Mr Swanton as Chairman: another well-known farmer who had served on many committees connected with Lackham and Chairman of the County Agricultural Technical Development Committee. [\[i\]](#)

#### Governing Body - Lackham - 1968

Chairman: J M Stratton, O.B.E., M.A.

N J M Anderson, M.C. Chairman of Education Committee

J B Ainslie (Vice-Chairman of Education Committee  
(Chairman of Further Education Committee

R K Hedges

Education Committee Representatives:

E C Bartlett	Miss-J-Mann, M.A.
Ald W A J Case MBE	Ald. F.W. Swanton, J.P., O.B.E.
Ald. Major Sir Gerard Fuller Bt	J.D. Wallis A
W.J.Gale, A.I.Agr. E.	

Governors appointed by other bodies:

Lt. Col J I Littlewood	National Farmers' Union
E W Barnes	National Farmers' Union
A W Falconer	Institution of Agricultural Engineers
F Hayward, J.P.	National Union of Agricultural Workers
Mrs F Carter	Wilts. Federation of Women's Institutes
H N Tilley	Wilts. County Agricultural Executive Committee
W J Osmond	Wilts. County Agricultural Executive Committee

Co-opted Member:

R J Drew Lackham Old Students' Association

Further Education Officer: F Crabbe

Chief Education Officer: J H Bradley, M.A.

Mr Stratton's impressive maiden speech as Chairman of the Governors was well received by the County Council. He strongly recommended that the following items be included in the Building Programme to complete Stage III in the development of the School of Agriculture:-

1. The completion of study bedrooms for 48 students
2. New additional room for dairying instruction adjoining the R.D.E. Block.
3. A new pig fattening house
4. Completion of seven cottages for farm workers and staff.
5. Cow kennels to accommodate 80 cows at Notton Farm
6. Adaptation of farm buildings at Home Farm for calf rearing and store cattle.

All these recommendations were adopted and buildings completed by 1972.

Later Mr Stratton was responsible for repairs to Lackham House and its adaptation for the County Agricultural and Horticultural Library. There was

already a wealth of up-to-date books collected over the years at Lackham and when the new Library is complete, it will undoubtedly be one of the finest of its kind in the country.<sup>[1]</sup>

## PILKINGTON REPORT 1966

This [Report](#) of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural and Horticultural Education was published by the Department of Education (previously the Ministry of Education).

It referred to part and full-time courses outside Universities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Dairying, Estate Management and Poultry Husbandry. The Report emphasised the need for a progressive system of Agricultural Education, accompanied by practical (industrial) training integrated with theory (further education).

It suggested that new courses requiring two or more years' attendance at an educational establishment should be organised on a sandwich basis: first year - practical farming, second year - college, third year - practical on an approved farm, fourth and final year - college

Examination. In view of the large number of Boards conducting examinations (mostly external), such as N.D.A., N.D.D., N.D.P., N.D.Agr.E., B.D.F.D. etc., the Advisory Committee decided that more uniformity was needed and avenues of progression similar to those formed in other vocational training centres. It suggested that courses should fit the needs of the industry and that teaching establishments should be free to evolve their own syllabus with examinations set internally and externally assessed, similar to the National Certificate in Agriculture introduced in 1957.

The Report recommended the following pattern of full-time courses above the level of the existing one year National Certificate in Agriculture Course:-

- (a) Ordinary National Diploma suitable for students with four 'O' level G.C.E. passes, or the equivalent.
- (b) Higher National Diploma suitable for students with one pass at 'A' level G.C.E. or with an Ordinary National Diploma or Ordinary National Certificate.
- (c) Degree courses suitable for students with two passes at

'A' level or equivalent.

(d) Post Diploma courses.

A central body called the Council of Agricultural Examinations was established to advise on the rationalisation of examinations., [\[i\]](#)

Since Lackham enjoyed a high reputation in Agricultural Engineering and Farm Machinery and well-conducted courses in Agriculture, the Governors and staff decided to apply to the National Council of Examinations to arrange a three year O.N.D. Course in Farm Mechanisation, designed for young men who wished to become technicians or unit managers on large farms etc.

A suitable scheme of work and syllabus were presented and the course was approved by the Council and Department of Education and Science in 1969. The first course commenced in September 1970, with 17 students.

The Governors were grateful to Col. Littlewood and the National Farmers' Union for finding suitably equipped farms in the County for the students' practical training during the second year of the course.

The Report also suggested that there would be no objection to Schools and Institutes with a wide range of work applying the term "College", hence LACKHAM COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

At a farewell Dinner, Mr J M Stratton described how the year 1970 marked the end of an "epoch" in the history of Agricultural Education in the County.

The County Agricultural Executive Committee and the County Agricultural Technical Development Committee were abandoned.

Mrs M Moncrieffe, Secretary of both Committees mentioned above - retired.

Mr W J Brimacombe, Chief County National Agricultural Advisory Officer retired after 27 years' service - succeeded by Mr J Mathews.

Mr J O Thomas, Principal of Lackham College of Agriculture and County Agricultural Education Officer, retired after 22 years' service - succeeded by Mr P Walters.[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER III

### LACKHAM HOUSE AND ESTATE 1000-1970

It is interesting to find that a huge Agricultural Estate stretching from Chippenham to Lacock and a Manor existed at Lackham several hundred years before Lacock Abbey, founded by Ela, the Countess of Salisbury, in 1232.

A fine old Manor House is mentioned in Wilts "Notes and Queries" March 1899 dating at least from medieval times, for many ages, the residence successively of the Bluet, Baynard and Montagu families. Unfortunately James Montagu V had the ancient and historic house demolished between 1791—96 and had built in its place a Georgian house with a debased classical front, described by Britton in "Beauties of Wilts" Volume III, page 246, 1825 "as a plain edifice situated in a rich fertile vale near the banks of the river Avon". Since then, many alterations have been made and it is now the Headquarters of the Lackham College of Agriculture,

The destruction of the ancient Manor House was a sad blow to the County of Wiltshire: one of its gems gone forever.

The earliest sketch of the Manor appears in Dingley's "History from Marble" compiled in the reign of Charles II, 1667-8. The sketch was taken at the close of the reign of Charles II in 1684. It represents the house as an irregular structure, evidently of different dates (Norman in places), enclosed in a large courtyard and completely embosomed in woods. The River Avon close by formed the ancient boundary of the Royal forest of Pewsham, in which the Lords of Lackham enjoyed the right of hunting by grant from Edward III, which grant continued in force until the disafforestation of Pewsham in the reign of James I.

A second sketch illustrates drawings by Grimm of the central portion of the building, taken August 1790. The porch forms a principal feature. A shield on the gable is apparently carved with the Arms of Bluet and Baynard and another shield at the base of the projecting window over the entrance bears Baynard quartering Bluet with two unicorns as supporters.

The Great Hall was to the left on entering the porch.

According to Aubrey, writing in 1670, the great Gothic halls were kept for dining and entertaining.

The gable on the right of the porch with its large window buttresses was most probably that of the banqueting room, in which Henry VIII was entertained when visiting Lackham on his way to Wulfhall before his marriage with his third wife and Wiltshire Queen, Jane, daughter of Sir John Seymour. The room was newly floored for the occasion with oak grown on the estate and on the stone-work underneath the window is seen the Royal Badge of Henry VIII, a crowned rose with lion and dragon as supporters, in commemoration of the Royal visit.

The hatchment which nearly covers the gable window is that of James Montagu IV, see History of the Lords of the Manor of Lackham.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MANOR OF LACKHAM

compiled by Miss T Vernon

### AELFSTAN OF BOSCOMBE

The richest of the Saxon Thengs in Wiltshire, a trusted friend of King Edward the Confessor.

### WILLIAM OF EU

A member of the ducal house of Normandy. William the Conqueror gave him the vast inheritance of Aelfstan. 1086-87 he entertained the King and the leading men of the day at Lackham.

With the Lord of the Manor of Lacock, Edward of Salisbury, the Sheriff, he had Lacock Church rebuilt, and dedicated to St. Cyriac. He twice rebelled against William II (Rufus) and in 1096 lost all (attainer) and was blinded and mutilated. His tenant at Lackham was one, Ralf.

### ROGER BIGOD, 4th EARL OF NORFOLK, EARL MARSHALL

William of Eu's fief in Wiltshire seems to have survived in the 12th century, but little is known of individual estates, though it is probable the Bigods held some earlier than evidence proves. 1242-43 the Earl Marshall held Lackham and eight other of William of Eu's manors in Wiltshire. He died 1270.

### ROGER BIGOD, 5th EARL OF NORFOLK, EARL MARSHALL

Grandson of the 3rd Earl and nephew of the 4th Earl and his heir. He died 11th December, 1306. Among his knight's fees and advowsons in Wiltshire was Lackham, which his tenant, John Bluet held "of the fee of the said Earl one



Knight's fee worth 60s. p.a."

### SIR JOHN BLUET, KT.

(Arms: Or an Eagle with two heads displayed gules)

The Bluets were tenants of the Earls of Norfolk at Lackham from an unknown date, probably early 13th century. A John Bluet was Warden of the Royal Forests of Pewsham and Melksham, across the Avon, from about 1314-1327.

Sir John was granted Free Warren at his Manor of Lackham by Edward I. First mention is made of a private Chapel, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the manor house.

1312 - Lacock Abbey (founded 1232 by Ela, Countess of Salisbury, great-great granddaughter of Edward of Salisbury) bought out the Bluet's alternate share in the advowson of Lacock. In exchange, Sir John gained a Chantry Chapel on the South of the Nuns' Church, to be built at joint cost, mass to be said daily for his soul etc. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny to be given to each of Church, and his coat of arms is on the vaulting. He died 1522, and his Will is in the Prerogative Court at Canterbury.

### ROBERT BAYNARD, ESQUIRE

Son and heir. 1534 High Sheriff of Wiltshire. He married Ann, daughter of Robert Blake of Pinhill, Calne and had five sons and three daughters. 1536, either he, or his son, Edward the heir, entertained King Henry VIII at Lackham, at the time the King was courting Jane Seymour at Wulfhall in the County. His Will is in the P.C.C. and probate granted October 1537.

### EDWARD BAYNARD, ESQUIRE

Son and heir, born about 1512. 1539, fears of an invasion caused the equipping of 15 men at Lackham as seven archers and eight billmen. July 1553 became High Sheriff of Wiltshire, on the sudden death of the High Sheriff, Sir William Sharington of Lacock Abbey. He married three times, but only by his third wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John Warneford of Sevenhampton, Wiltshire, did he have children, ten in all. He died 1575. Nearly fifty years later his son and successor, Robert, raised the oak panelled tablet to him in the Lackham Chapel in Lacock Church:

"Lett envy sayre what it can,  
This was an honest man,  
Whoe in his life did many goode,  
And to the trveth firmly Stode ..."

(1565 'Sir<sup>1</sup> Michael Brickett the last Chaplain at the manor house of Lackham

was buried in Lacock Church.)

#### SIR ROBERT BAYNARD, KT.

Second, but eldest surviving son, born 1563. M.P. for Chippenham, 1584-85, and for Westbury, 1586—87. James I visited him at Lackham, and in 1618 knighted him at Theobalds. 1629 High Sheriff of Wiltshire. By his wife, Ursula (1587-1623) daughter of Sir Robert Stapleton, and Dame Olive (nee Sharington of Lacock Abbey; by her first marriage, Mrs. John Talbot) he had two children, Edward who died an infant, 1617. and Mary, born in 1621.

Lady Baynard's memorial, also en an oak panel, is in Lacock Church. Sir Robert died 1636. (His Inventory gives a good picture of the rooms and their contents.)

#### CAPTAIN THE HON. JAMES MONTAGU

(Arms: Argent, three lozenges conjoined in fesse gules, within a bordure sable)

Born 1609. Third son of Henry, First Earl of Manchester. Married the heiress of Lackham &c., Mary Baynard, in Lacock Church in 1635. They had eleven sons and two daughters. He died 1665-66. His widow "Ye Honoured Mary Mountague" died 1685.

#### JAMES MONTAGU, ESQUIRE (II)

Second, but eldest surviving son. Born 1638. 1671 he married Diana, daughter of Anthony Hungerford of Black Bourton, and later of Farleigh Castle. They had four sons. He died March, 1675-76. His widow died 1736. Tablet on East wall of the Lackham Chapel to them, and to their sons.

#### EDWARD MONTAGU, ESQUIRE

Eldest son, born 1672. Died 1710. Never married. Nothing is known of him, and he was probably physically weak.

#### JAMES MONTAGU, ESQUIRE (III)

Brother of the above, born 1673. He seems to have early succeeded to Lackham. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Eyles, Lord Mayor of London, the owner of Southbroom, Devizes. They had five sons and three daughters. He died 1747, his wife had died 1741. Their names occur on the same tablet as James Montagu(II).

#### JAMES MONTAGU, ESQUIRE (IV)

Eldest son of the above, born 1713. 1744 he married Elinor, daughter and heiress of William Hedges of Alderton, Wiltshire, and had four sons and nine daughters. (In 1790 August, Grimm made a drawing of the old manor house of

Lackham, from which it looks like a smaller edition of South Ufraxall Manor). He died April 1790. His wife had died in 1786. A white marble tablet in the East wall of the Lackham Chapel in Lacock Church is in their memory.

#### JAMES MONTAGU, ESQUIRE (V)

Second, but eldest surviving son, born 1749. He never married. His hobby was to try and enlarge the Lackham Estate. Between 1791-1796 he had the ancient manor house demolished to the loss of the County, and had built in its place a Georgian house with a debased classical front, and though much altered it is the present Lackham House.

#### CAPTAIN GEORGE CONWAY COURTENAY MONTAGU

Nephew of James Montagu, Esquire (V). Born 1776, the eldest son of James (V's) next brother. Colonel George Montagu "the Naturalist" (1753-1815) who was passed over for forsaking his wife for another, a fact that caused even greater discord in the family. Captain Montagu gambled away his inheritance and spent some part of his life dodging his creditors; seldom at Lackham, the estate was heavily mortgaged and other estates and lands were sold piecemeal during the first half of the 19th century. There were lawsuits and eventually the estate was in Chancery. He married first Margaret, daughter of R G Wilson of Lancaster, and secondly Jessy, daughter of J E Campbell, and had issue. He died 30th May, 1847.

#### CAPTAIN FREDERICK WILLIAM ROOKE, R.N.

Born 1782, the fifth son of Captain George Rooke, Inskilling Dragoons of Castle House, Calne. Married 1813 Anne, daughter of Robert Wallace of Edinburgh, and had eight sons and three daughters. In 1833 he married secondly Miss Harriet Hyde. He was lessee of Captain Montagu at Lackham from 1813, and in 1835 he bought the estate, approx. 590 acres for £29,657 He caused a top storey to be added to Lackham House. He died 1856, and has a tablet and a stained glass window in his memory in the Lackham Chapel, Lacock Church.

#### HENRY BERNEY CALDWELL, ESQUIRE

Bought the Lackham estate in 1858 from the Rooke family, 585 acres, for £40,000. Little is known of him. (About this time the restoration of Lacock Church took place, and the ancient manorial chapel of Lackham was filled with pews facing north, and lost much character.)

#### THE HON. MRS GILBERT STAPLETON (Later Marchioness Stapleton-Bretherton)

She was Mary, only child of Bartholomew Bretherton of Rainhill and Ditton, Lancashire, married first William Gerard, who died 1844, and secondly the Hon. Gilbert Stapleton, a brother of Lord Beaumont, who died 1856. She had no

children. She was created a Marchesa by the Pope. She purchased the Lackham estate in 1866 from Mr. Caldwell for £46,000, 585 acres. She died 22nd December 1883.

#### SIR GEORGE ERRINGTON, BT.

He was co-trustee and probably a relative of the Marchesa and seems to have lived at Lackham as a life tenant. He was born in 1839, and died in 1920.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL G. LL. PALMER, D.L.

Born 1856. He bought the estate of 585 acres for £17,652 in 1893 from Sir George Errington, and let it to a Mrs Taylor, not living there until about 1900. He built the stables about 1900-02. He was a D.L., and High Sheriff of Wiltshire, 1903. M.P. for Westbury, 1918-22. He added considerably to the estate. He was married with issue, and died in 1932.

#### THE LORD GLANELY, D.L.

Sir William James Tatem, St., 1st Baron (cr. 1918). Born 1868. He purchased the Lackham estate in 1919 from Brig. General Palmer for £62,000, about 1469 acres. He married Ada Mary, daughter of Thomas Williams of Cardiff. No heir. High Sheriff of Glamorgan, 1911-12. A shipping magnate, and famous racehorse owner.

#### MAJOR HERBERT PATON HOLT, M.C.

Born in Montreal, 1890 of Irish descent, eldest son of Sir Herbert Holt. President of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Joined the 3rd Dragoon Guards, 1910. Married Ada Elizabeth Cairns of Montreal, and had one son and two daughters. M.P. for Upton Division of West Ham 1924-29. High Sheriff of Wiltshire, 1935-36. Bought Lackham estate from Lord Glanely, approximately 1469 acres for £78,000 in 1927, and a few months later offered outlying portions 1030 acres for sale, retaining only 440 acres. He was the last private owner of Lackham. His only son, Lt. G H P Holt, Royal Armoured Corps, attached 9th Lancers, was killed in action in Italy, 25th November, 1944, aged 21. Memorial tablet to him and to his mother (who died in 1945) in the Lackhani Chapel in Lacock Church,

#### WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

In 1945, Major Holt sold the estate, about 600 acres for £42,500, to the Wiltshire County Council, since when it has become the Lackham College of Agriculture.[\[1\]](#)

## SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF LACKHAM ESTATE

Lackham lies in the great crook of the River Avon between Chippenham and Lacock. In the Domesday Survey, it is recorded as one of the manors granted to the "Stormy" William of Eu who rebelled against William Rufus and was blinded and mutilated in 1096. During the 12th Century, the Estates were held by the Earls of Norfolk, with a family of Bluets as tenants. Sir John Bluet became owner in about 1306 until 1349.

Edmund Baynard married Elinor, youngest daughter of Sir John Bluet, in 1349 and took Lackham as his seat, A succession of the Baynard families held Lackham until 1636 (287 years). The last of the family had two children, Edward, who died young, and Mary, who married Captain James Montagu, the son of the Earl of Manchester, in 1635. The Montagu family held Lackham until 1835 (199 years). At this time, economic and other pressures forced the sale of a large portion of the Estate. Between 1790 and 1796, James Montagu 5th demolished the old Manor House and replaced it with a Georgian one, the present house, now the County Agricultural College.

Between 1835 and 1945, there were seven different owners.

Name	Years in Residence	Acreage Purchased	Amount Paid	Remarks
Captain Rooke	22 as tenant 23 as owner 1813-1858 In 1835 bought estate	590	£30000, Per acre £68	Built top storey to house
Henry Caldwell	1858-1866	590	£40,000 Per acre £51	
The Marchioness Stapleton - Bretherton	1866-1883	585	£46,000 Per acre £80	
Sir George Errington	183-1893	585	Probably tenant to Lady Stapleton	

Brig. Gen Palmer	1893-1919	585	£18,000 Per acre £31	Enlarged estate to 1469 acres and built stables
Lord Glanely	1919-1927	1469	£62,000 Per acre £42	
Major Holt	1927-1945	1469	£78,000 Per acre £53	Sold outlying farm. American Forces occupied house 1943- 1945
Wiltshire County Council	1945-	Approx. 600	£42,500 Per acre £70	Bought by County Council for a Farm Institute

It appears that the price of land between 1835 and 1945 remained fairly static except during the latter half of the 19th Century when there was a severe agricultural depression in Britain, due largely to foreign competition.

Amongst the occupiers of Lackham from 1306 until 1945, there were three members of Parliament, one Baron, two Knights, one Marchioness, six High Sheriffs and three Generals.

The majority were closely connected with the Church of St. Cyriac, Lacock, where their Coats of Arms and memorial tablets can be seen. An excellent booklet on the Heraldry of the Church has been produced by the former Vicar of Lacock, the Rev. G R Brocklebank, and is available to visitors.

No attempt is made in this thesis to describe the systems of farming and changes in country life through the ages since numerous excellent books have already been produced on the subject, including:

"The Evolution of the English Farm" by M E Seebohm .George Allen & Unwin Ltd.  
"Country Life through the Ages" by Elizabeth Bagg Watson, M.A. and J. Isabel Curruthers, M.A.

"The Changing English Village 1066-1914" by M K Ashby. The Roundwood Press, 1974

"A History of Agricultural Science in Britain" by Sir John Russell, George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

"A Short History of British Agriculture" by John Orr, Oxford University Press

"History of British Agriculture 1846-1914" by C S Orwin and E Whetham, Longmans, Green & Co.

[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER IV

### CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LACKHAM COLLEGE ESTATE 1946 - 1970

See maps in photograph album

- 1945      [MAP I](#)      Lackham Estate, purchased by the Wiltshire County Council 600 acres  
The Estate consisted of:  
Lackham Home Farm and Woodland  
Cuckoo Bush Farm  
Biddestone Lane Farm  
Great Notton Farm  
Naish Hill Farm and Woodland  
Fields coloured brown were owned by Major C. Awdry and not purchased.
- 1946      [MAP II](#)      Lackham Home Farm, Cuckoo Bush and Biddestone Lane were farmed as one unit and purchased with vacant possession. 250 acres .  
-  
1952
- Great Notton Farm coloured green, and Naish Hill Farm and Woodland coloured red, were rented to Mr Habershon and Mr Drew respectively
- 1952      [MAP III](#)      Great Notton Farm acquired by County Council, coloured green . 125 acres .
- 1958      [MAP IV](#)      Naish Hill Farm, coloured red, sold to tenant (105 acres) and Woodland sold to Forestry Commission. Field No. 41 retained by County Council. 15 acres
- 1964      [MAP V](#)      Fields No. 19A and 24A rented by County Council from Major Awdry . 34/£ acres                      Field No. 29 rented to Mr Self by the County Council. 10 acres .
- 1966      [MAP VI](#)      Field Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27 purchased from Mr Self by Wiltshire County Council. 51/£ acres
- Plot marked blue retained by County Council for houses



- 1972 Naish Hill Cottage and paddock sold by County Council, see Map I for position.
- 1970 The whole of MAP VI, except the Council House plot, became the College Farm. The Fields Nos. 20 and 28 continue to be rented from the Awdry Estate.

Acreages and Names of Fields as shown on Map VI

Field No.	Field	Acres
1	Oxenlease	14
2	Engine Ground East	10
3	Engine Ground West	7
4	Plucking Grove	10
5	School Close	12
6	Luckhorn East	10
7	Luckhorn West	10
8	Drivepiece	14
9	Ash Lea	14
10	River Field	9
11	Drive Sides	3
12	Lodge I	8
13	Lodge II	6
14	Bank Field	12
15	Showel Field	10
17	Pond Field	11
18	Chivers Field	7
19	Barn Field	11
20	Notton Park Field	17
21	Bottom Field	14
22	Railway Field	14
23	Wall Field	12
24	Line Ground	17
25	Fifteen Acres	15
26	Long Bottom	5
27	Camp Field	12
28	The Rocks	17.5
29	Orchards	9
30	Quarry Ground	8
31	Dairy Meadow	14
32	Aden Ground	7
33	Cuckoo Bush Meadow	14
34	Horse Paddock	2.5
35	Upper Knightsmead	11
36	Lower knightsmead	11
37	Football Pitch	5

38	Home Paddock	6
39	Park I	9
40	Park II	12
41	Park III	7
42	Park IV	14
43	Allotments	1.5
44	Dews Field	11
Total Farm Land		430.5
Total Woodland		40.0
Total Gardens and Orchards		5.0
Total Lawns and Pleasure Grounds		15.0
Total Playing Field		14.0
Total Roads, Buildings and Cottages (Estimate)		10.0
		-----
Total College Estate		514.5 acres

The names of the fields are interesting and could provide a useful research project on their origin for the Students.[\[i\]](#)

#### SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND BUILDINGS FROM 1946-1972

- 1945-46 Premises purchased with Estate - Squash Court and ablutions block, Lackham House,  
23 houses and cottages, Stables and walled garden.  
5 sets of Farm Buildings — Home Farm, Notton Farm, Cuckoo Bush, Biddestone Lane, Naish Hill {Oxenlease - Dutch Barn). Lackham House repaired and made good to accommodate 48 Ex-Servicemen  
Improvised - Milking Shed - Home Farm behind Principal's House.  
Concreting of Yards at Home Farm + drive in + drainage
- 1946-47 Stables degutted and converted to a hall for teaching purposes
- 1948-49 Cowsheds repaired at Home Farm. New Milking Parlour behind house.  
Pot holes on drives repaired.  
Mains water pipeline repaired. Water laid on to fields.  
Telephones and sewerage extended.  
Electricity repaired - new wiring at cottages.  
General repairs to cottages.
- 1949— Swimming Pool excavated (direct labour), served College for 20 years.  
50 Beekeeping Department under Bothie improved.  
New Playing Field in front of House

- 1951-52 Biological Laboratory built + 2 classrooms and lavatories.  
First New Machinery Workshop built (asbestos).  
New Cow Yard and converted Milking Shed at Notton.
- 1952-53 Mr Witchell's old Shed in yard converted to Machinery  
Science Shop.  
Harper Adams Pig House built by direct labour at Cuckoo Bush  
Old Estate Carpenter's Shop at Cuckoo Bush converted to Battery  
House and deep litter. New poultry fold units in field.
- 1954—  
55 Hunting Bridge washed away in flood, connected Dews Field with  
Naish Hill Farm.
- 1956-57 Full inspection of buildings etc. by Her Majesty's Inspectors.  
Grain in sack electric drier - storage bins, hammer mill etc. installed  
under old Barn at Home Farm by direct labour. First irrigation plant  
used in Wiltshire on grass.  
New Dutch Barn at Home Farm.
- 1958—  
59 Back half of Cuckoo Bush House converted to incubation and  
rearing quarters for chicks, and a demonstration trussing room  
Tennis Courts relaid and playing fields much extended.  
Folding units in field abandoned and replaced by straw yards at  
Cuckoo Bush
- 1959-69 New service road built from end of herbaceous border via  
entrance to sports field to the machinery department.
- 1960 Very high floods at Lackham and half of estate, including Home Farm,  
under water.  
Carpenter's Shop moved to loose boxes near Garden Cottages.  
Museum moved from loose boxes to old wooden Carpenter's Shop -  
foundations remain.
- 1961-62 New Deep Litter House at Cuckoo Bush.  
New Battery Cages in Battery House.  
Old loose boxes in Stable Yard converted to offices for Extra Mural  
Officers. New Smithy Shop for J.Lewis. Biddestone Lane Yard  
concreted. Lean-to Sheds at back of Workshops. New washing bay  
for implements.  
Repairs to Biddestone Lane yard for young cattle.

- Mechanics' Laboratory in yard enlarged. Repairs to cottages etc.
- 1963 New Potting Shed and classroom + greenhouses in garden
- 1963-64 New Girls' Hostel and Dining Room and Kitchen. New mains water pipe laid from Notton. New R.D.E Block. Improvements to Yard and Parlour at Home Farm. Second new Machinery Workshop. New Machinery Science Laboratory
- 1965 A change round of rooms in Lackham House - Dining Room, Kitchen etc. moved to New Hostel.  
Change from coke to oil in Lackham House.  
New telephones set up in basement of Lackham House.  
Rapid development of Library in 2 front rooms of Lackham House
- 1965-66 Carpenter's Shop moved next door to Mechanics' Laboratory and old Shop taken over by gardens for implement store.  
Old Carpenter's Shop (Museum) removed to gardens for implement store.  
New Museum by direct labour. Garden Cottages renovated for apprentices.
- 1966-67 Avon Hall built.  
4 Hostels to accommodate 32 Students.  
New Dutch Barn at Home Farm and new converted Milking Shed.  
Longleat and Floyd's Granaries rebuilt at Lackham by direct labour.
- 1967-68 New Car Park near Avon Hall by direct labour. Hard core from old pill boxes.  
Drives resurfaced.  
New Greenhouse for Alpines and Cyclamen - direct labour.
- 1969 Notton Farm - Silage Barn, cubicles for 70 cows, bulk tank etc. New Sow Yards at Cuckoo Bush.  
Notton Farm - old cowshed now for young stock.
- 1969-70 Converted Calf Heating Unit in Old Cowshed at Home Farm.  
Repairs to roof of Old Hall.

- 1970-71 New Dairy to R.D.E. Block.  
Pig Fattening House - Cuckoo Bush.  
Converted Store Cattle Yard at Home  
Farm. Poultry Rearing House - Cuckoo  
Bush.  
Third New Machinery Demonstration Shop.
- 1971-72 Naish Hill Cottage sold - £22,000. Hostels  
for 48 Study Bedrooms.  
New Cottages - 2 at Notton, 4 at Lackham.

[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER V

### COURSES OF STUDY 1970

All courses at Lackham have been designed over the years to meet the needs of students entering the Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Industries within the region. Care has been taken to consult representatives from the Industries and Examination Boards involved when framing the syllabus content, which must always be flexible and revised from time to time.

#### Full -Time Courses

*Course A. One Year Courses in General Agriculture for men and women introduced in 1946, and a National Certificate awarded to successful students from 1957 onwards.*

The students spend at least half their working time on the farm in order that the classroom study may be closely related to the practical work carried out. An integral part of the course also consists of visits to farms, factories, research stations etc., to study particular problems in connection with production and management.

Candidates for admission should preferably be 17 years of age or over. Evidence of a sound general education will be required of each entrant and no student will be accepted who has not carried out practical agricultural work entailing at least one complete year on a farm, but at the discretion of the Committee certain exceptions can be made to this rule.

Preference given to candidates resident in the County of Wiltshire, but students from other counties may be admitted provided accommodation is available.

Course B. One Year Supplementary Course in Farm Machinery and Crop Husbandry introduced in 1952.

This course of training has been approved by the Department of Education and Science, the South West Regional Council for Further Education and the Southern Council for Further Education.

in this course there is a close relationship between the study of the actual crop and the machinery used to deal with it from beginning to end. In addition to the theoretical work given at the Lackham College of Agriculture, students spend one day and evening per week during the course at the College of Further Education at

Chippenham to study engineering drawing, workshop technology and workshop practice. This course is designed to cover the general requirements of an agricultural mechanic in a farm machinery depot or on a large mechanised farm - Examination: City and Guilds Farm Machinery Operation and Care.

An extended syllabus covers the maintenance and running repairs of farm tractors, field implements and machinery, barn machinery and dairy equipment. Students will be eligible to sit the City and Guilds Agricultural Mechanic's Certificate examination (No. 260) at the end of the course. The course is open to students who have already gained the National Certificate in Agriculture, and to those with a sound practical and theoretical knowledge of agriculture.

Course C. Second Year Course in Farm Mechanisation and Engineering.  
Introduced in 1962.

This course has also been approved by the Department of Education and Science, the South West Regional Council for Further Education and the Southern Regional Council for Further Education. It is not only for students who have successfully completed the first year (Course B) but also for students who have passed the City and Guilds examination No. 260 elsewhere or are otherwise suitably qualified.

The syllabus covers the management, overhaul, maintenance and repair of farm tractors, field implements and machinery, barn machinery and dairy equipment. The principles of farm mechanisation management covering the basic factors of economics, farm work organisation and business management will also be included.

At the end of this course students will be eligible to sit the City and Guilds Agricultural Engineering Technician's examination (No. 261).

Course D. One Year Course in Rural Home Economics, introduced in 1964.

This course has been approved by the Department of Education and Science and the South Western Council of Further Education.

The students spend three days per week in the Rural Home Economics centre and the rest of the week on the farm, in the garden, and poultry department.

The course is designed to qualify students in the management and economics of running a rural home in the 1970s.

Candidates for admission should preferably be 17 years of age or over. Evidence of a sound general education will be required of each entrant.

Course E Block Release Course for Agricultural Engineering Apprentices introduced in 1967. This course was previously run on a Day Release basis.



A block release course for apprentices leading to the City and Guilds 260 Agricultural Mechanic's Certificate examination. The course consists of three blocks each of 10 weeks, spread over a period of 18 months. Students living near the College will attend daily and those living some distance away may be residential.

Course F Ordinary National Diploma in Farm Mechanisation, introduced in 1970.

A three year sandwich course of study leading to the award of the Ordinary National Diploma in Farm Mechanisation which is designed for young men who wish to become technicians and to obtain posts as unit managers on large farms, with tractor dealers and agricultural engineers and in developing territories overseas. The study of crop husbandry, animal husbandry and economic factors of farm machinery management form an integral part of the course, which will have a high practical content throughout.

Prospective students must be at least 16½ years of age and must possess the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (or Certificate of Secondary Education Grade 1) in four subjects: Mathematics, a Science subject, English and one other. They must normally spend one year gaining practical experience on a mechanised farm prior to the first year of College study.

The first and third year of the course will be spent at Lackham. The student will return to industry during the second year to selected employers to gain further experience in Farm Mechanisation. [\[i\]](#)

#### Part-Time Courses and Extra Mural Work in the County 1950-1970

Part-time courses of instruction in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Rural Home Economics, Horticulture and Allied Subjects are organised at various centres throughout the County in conjunction with the Principals of the various Colleges of Further Education and the Local Further Education Organisers. Residential courses for school children, Herdsmen, Shepherds etc., are held at Lackham during vacations.

Day Release Classes in Agriculture and Horticulture are held on one day per week during the winter months at various centres. Young people attending these classes can sit City and Guilds examinations at the end of each course.

Evening classes in Farm Management are held at two centres in the County each year, together with a comprehensive list of evening classes in Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Home Economics.

Members of Young Farmers' Clubs and new entrants to the industry are prepared for proficiency tests in the various Farm and Farmhouse crafts.

Single lectures and demonstrations are arranged for voluntary organisations such as Allotment and Garden Societies, Beekeeping Associations, Women's Institutes, Dairy Students, and Young Farmers' Clubs. Demonstrations are held in conjunction with the recently formed Agricultural Training Board.<sup>[i]</sup>

### ADVISORY SERVICE

Members of staff are available to give advice to domestic producers in Horticulture, Poultry and Beekeeping.

Open Days for School children - once per year

Open Days for Farmers - once per year

Open Days for Gardeners - three times per year (for charity)

### COLLEGE ACTIVITIES AND RECREATIONS

The broader life of the College has not been forgotten, in which staff and students alike take part. Discussion groups every Thursday evening with outside speakers, choral societies, natural history, photography, dramatics, art and dancing are some of the activities that exist. Christian Union meetings play an important part in the life of the College, assisted by Mr J Breton and the Rev G Brocklebank, Vicar of Lacock.

For a healthy, well-balanced school life, games are important and necessary if well-organised and played in the right spirit. Lackham offers facilities for most of the team games: rugby, soccer, hockey, squash and billiards in the Spring and Winter terms and cricket, athletics, swimming and boating in the Summer. Wednesday afternoons are set aside for the purpose and matches are arranged between neighbouring clubs and other Agricultural Colleges in the region.

Those students who are unable to play games, or not inclined to do so, are expected to assist in the Museum or Workshops.

<sup>[i]</sup>

## CHAPTER VI

### THE COLLEGE FARM 1970

The farm is essentially a teaching unit but since it must be run on commercial lines to allow realistic accounts and records to be kept, to some extent a compromise has to be made between educational and financial considerations. Over the years the farm has shown a trading profit whilst playing a full part in providing practical work and demonstrations for students.

The farm extends over 430 acres with four sets of farm buildings. Old buildings have been reconstructed and modernised to provide accommodation for two herds of dairy cows and their followers, two hundred fattening pigs and approximately two thousand head of laying hens.

CROPS. There are three types of soil, ranging from light corn brash to heavy clay. The farm is half arable and advantage is taken of the different soils to demonstrate ley farming and a diversity of crops. The corn extent is about 150 acres, being divided about equally between wheat and barley, both winter and spring varieties of each included. In addition, nine acres of potatoes are grown. [\[i\]](#)

LIVESTOCK. At Home Farm a herd of 85 attested Friesian cows is being graded up to pedigree standard. A second herd of 60 is centred at Notton Farm and wintered in cow kennels. The herds are milked in abreast type parlours.

There is a herd of twenty Angus x Friesian beef cows introduced recently and having their first calves this Spring. These replace the old pedigree Herefords. A Hereford bull continues to be used though.

There is a herd of 40 Large White sows crossed with a Landrace boar, progeny sold as weaners and bacon. New farrowing accommodation and dry sow yards have been constructed.

One hundred pedigree Clun Forest breeding ewes are flock recorded and kept intensively on the paddock system with forward creep for the lambs. Part of the flock are crossed with a Dorset Down ram, and part with a Colbred ram.

A deep litter house and battery cage laying system house 1800 hens. These are purchased as day—olds and reared intensively for eight weeks followed by range.

## STOCK ANALYSIS - 31st MARCH 1970

LACKHAM HERD (Friesian)	85 Milking Cows
NOTTON HERD (Friesian G.U. from Shorthorn)	61 Milking Cows
DAIRY HEIFERS	14 Autumn Calving 36 6 - 24 months 49 Calves to 6 months
BEEF HERD	2 Hereford Bulls 21 Aberdeen Angus and Hereford Cross Friesian Beef Cows 6 Heifers 36 Yearlings 21 Calves
SHEEP (Clun Forest and Cross Breeds)	103 Ewes with Lambs 28 Ewe Tegs 3 Rams (Clun, Dorset Down and Colbred)
PIGS	38 Large White Sows 2 Landrace Boars 132 Fattening Pigs
POULTRY	1715 Hybrid Layers <a href="#">[i]</a>

## CROP ANALYSIS - 1970

GRASS	Temporary Leys	131 acres
	Permanent Pasture	120½ acres
CEREALS	Wheat	62 acres
	Barley	70 acres
ROOTS	Potatoes	8 acres
	Mangels	½ acre
FORAGE CROPS	Kale	20 acres
	Italian Rye Grass	28 acres
		430 acres

Permanent pasture - 74 acres of permanent pasture are liable to flood or are too steep to incorporate in the ley farming system. The remaining 50% acres are used for beef and sheep paddocks, or grazing for the dairy herds and followers.

All of the barley is kept as livestock feed, and the wheat sold partly for seed, and some for feed. Both early and maincrop varieties of potatoes are grown.

Grass, kale, silage and hay provide maintenance and one gallon for the dairy cows, and maintain all followers. During the grazing season, grass provides a minimum of two gallons of milk per cow daily, and an early start is made in the Spring with the use of Italian Ryegrass leys. [\[i\]](#)

#### LABOUR FORCE

Farm Bailiff  
2 Herdsmen  
1 General Farm Worker  
1 Tractor Driver  
1 Pig and Poultry Man [\[i\]](#)

#### EXPERIMENTS AND FIELD TRIALS

Many original experiments and trials have been conducted on the College farm over the years in conjunction with the National Agricultural Advisory Service and commercial firms; members of the teaching staff and students have usually undertaken the responsibility and work involved. Such projects are an excellent teaching aid and develop in the student an enquiring mind, enhance his thinking capacity and powers of operation and oft times reading. [\[i\]](#)

#### PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN 1946-70

Barn hay drying

Silage making by various methods - polythene was first introduced to Wiltshire at Lackharn

Maize trials in 1960 and feeding trials with maize silage - first in Wiltshire

Conservation of grass by deep freeze

Irrigation of grassland and early potatoes

Trials with Charolais cattle for Ministry of Agriculture

Nitrogen application trials on grassland and cereals in conjunction with N.A.A.S. •

County Egg Laying Trials

Sheep recording and paddock grazing

Pig recording and restrictive feeding for quality bacon for the F.M.C.

Results have been interesting and beneficial to both students and the Agricultural Industry. [\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER VII

### STAFF

Until 1946, the members of the Agricultural Education Staff were not numerous and it has been possible to mention them by name and describe some of their activities.

Since Lackham was established in 1946, the changes in Staff have naturally been numerous due to retirements and young Staff seeking promotion elsewhere. There may be several omissions and incorrect dates for which we apologise.

#### STAFF CHANGES 1946-70

##### Principals

1946 -48 Mr F Foster  
1948 - 70 [Mr J O Thomas](#)  
1970 onwards Mr P Walters

##### Vice Principals

1946 - 57 [Mr E Watkinson](#)  
1957 - 59 Mr J A Greenslade  
1959 - 68 Mr H F Magee  
1968 onwards Mr E W Culling

##### Livestock Lecturers

1946 - 57 Mr E Watkinson  
1949 - 5 [Mr J M Maddox](#)  
1953 - 57 [Mr A H Walker](#)  
1957 - 59 Mr J H Greenslade  
1957 - 59 Mr H Jones  
1959 onwards Mr F A Stockwell  
1959 - 68 Mr H F Magee  
1968 onwards Mr E W Culling

##### Crop Husbandry Lecturers

1948 - 70 Mr J O Thomas  
1948 - 50 Mr E McCubbin  
1950 - 53 [Mr R Brain](#)  
1956 - 58 Mr D J Brazier  
1958 - 62 Mr M C Turner  
1962 - 66 Mr B B Cripps  
1966 - 69 Mr R Coster  
1968 - 71 Mr A R Nobbs  
1968 - 71 Mr S D Howe  
1964 - 68 Mr J C Sartain  
1966 - 71 Mr C Hughes  
1966 - 71 Mr P Tadman  
1965 onwards Mr R Savage  
1960 - 67 Mr E W Gibbs  
1967- 70 Mr S P Battle  
1968 - 71 Mr G R Keevil  
1969 onwards Mr J D Pemberton  
1970 - 72 Mr R Thacker

##### Machinery Lecturers

1946 - 52  
1954 - 65 [Mr T J Wiltchell](#)  
1951- 59 Mr Robertson  
1952 - 54 Mr J P Leacey  
1957 onwards Mr J Lewis (part-time)  
1959 onwards Mr H L Harrison  
1959 - 64 Mr J Hawkins  
1961 - 68 Mr R Partridge  
1964 - 65 Mr M Gee-Pemberton

### Horticultural Lecturers

1946 - 65	Mr F F Corley
1946 - 59	<a href="#">Mr H S Bell</a>
1959 - 64	Mr G C Courtney
1968 onwards	Mr O N Menhinick
1965 -68	Mr Carnell
1965 onwards	Mr M J Burgess

### Extra Mural Lecturers

1946 - 47	Teaching Staff
1957 - 59	Mr J M Baker
1959 m- 65	Mr E W Culling (Senior Lecturer)
1961 -65	Mr C Dobson
1960 - 67	Mr J Jasper
1960 - 67	Mr C W Gibbs
1965 onwards	Mr P J Chamberlin (Senior Lecturer)
1965 - 70	Mr J M Woodcraft
1965 -71	Mr B B Cripps
1961 -68	Mr R Partridge
1965 onwards	Mr R Savage

### Agricultural Science Lecturers

1946 - 53	Teaching Staff
1953 - 57	<a href="#">Mr D J Lumbar</a>
1956 - 58	Mr J MckBaker
1957 - 59	Mr D J Brazier
1965 onwards	Mr M J Burgess

### Poultry Lecturers

1946 - 48	Miss J Inkpen
1948 - 53	Mr G J Pickering
1953 - 54	<a href="#">Miss Chaborel</a>
1954 -- 59	<a href="#">Mrs P A Beney</a>
1959 - 62	Mr A J Ham
1962 - 67	Mr I Marchington
1967 - 68	Mr P Lewis

### Beekeeping Lecturers

1946 - 54	<a href="#">Mr H Teal</a>
1954 - 58	Mr M J Farrer
1953 - 65	Mr W Brooke
1965 - 68	Mr R J Oxenham

### Rural Home Economics Lecturers

1948 - 76	Miss M J Dunn (Senior Lecturer)
	Miss P Knight
	Miss B Gilbert
	Miss J Clough
	Miss M Lee
	Miss D Gladwin
	Miss J Scott
	<a href="#">Mrs J Harman</a>
	Mrs S Tumatly
Left 1970	Mrs J Taylor
Left 1968	Miss M Salmon
Left 1971	Miss J Batty
1967 - 68	Miss K Open
1969 - 75	Miss P Hinwood
1970 - 75	Miss J Mapstone
1970 onwards	Miss E Parsons
1971 - 74	Miss M Johnston
1974 onwards	Miss C Copping
1975	Miss J Davell
1975 onwards	Miss P Bradbeer
1977 onwards	Miss M Greasley (Senior Lecturer)

Matrons

1946 - 47 Mrs Williams  
 1947 - 49 Mrs S Craven  
 1949 - 54 [Mrs D Cribb](#)  
 1954 - 69 [Miss M A Penny](#)  
 1969 - 71 Miss A H Burbidge

Assistant Matrons

1948- 52 [Mrs B E Salt](#)  
 1952 - 55 Mrs K Gelder  
 1955 - 58 Mrs F M Maundrell  
 1958 - 62 Mrs J Appleyard  
 1962 - 64 Miss H Cowan  
 1964 - 65 Miss E Harry  
 1966 - 69 Mrs A E Penwarden  
 1969 -73 Miss P Hinwood

Office Staff

1946 - 54 [Miss J Guley](#)  
 1954 - 75 [Mr D L Willett](#)  
 1954 - 62 [Miss D A Lewis](#)  
 1957 - 60 Miss S Potter  
 1960 Miss J Barkwell  
 1960 onwards Mrs G Faulkner  
 1960 - 69 Miss J Northover  
 1962 - 63 Miss M Phillis  
 1963 - 64 Miss B Reynolds  
 1965 - 66 Miss D Spearing  
 1965 - 72 Miss J Guy  
 1967 - 71 Mrs B Goodyear  
 1969 - 71 Miss M Leaman

Wardens

1946 - 52 Mr W F London  
 1952 - 59 [Mr J Leese](#)  
 1959 - 68 Mr J Wilson  
 1968 - 72 Mr J Hookey

Farm Bailiffs

1948 - 57 [Mr EG Weetman](#) 57  
 1959 onwards Mr WR Legg-Bagg

General Farm Workers

1946 - 57 Mr J Chivers (Carter)  
 1946 -69 Mr B Stepney (Pigman)  
 1958 - 61 Mr J Russel (Pigs & Poultry)  
 1956 - 58 Miss P Eglin (Poultry)  
 1956 - 58 Miss W Woods (Poultry)  
 1946 - 72 Mr C Gullis (Tractor Driver)  
 1949 - 53 Mr G Hicks (General)  
 1952 onwards Mr S Hutchins (General)  
 1952 onwards Mr P Wiltshire (General)



### Home Farm Herdsmen

1945 - - 48	Mr Edington
1948 - 53	Mr F Ludlow
1953 - 59	Mr G Smith Mr Harris
1959 - 65	Mr Cole
1960 - 61	Mr N Roberts
1961 -- 63	Mr D Brown
1963 -- 65	Mr Hughes
1965 - 69	Mr W Early
1969 onwards	Mr P James

### Garden Staff

1946 - 47	Mr Bannerman
1946 onwards	Mr P Brunt
1950 -63	Mr Bird
1962 onwards	Mrs A Menhinick
1963 onwards	Mr K Kercher

### Caretakers

1946 -59	Mr J Pike
1959 - 68	Mr W Cottrell
1968 - 69	Mr H Bula
1968 - 73	Mr W Legg
1969 - 74	Mr F Scripps

### Notton Farm Herdsmen

1953 - 60	Mr L J Rogers
1960 - 62	Mr F Arnold
1962 - 64	Mr K Young Mr Hall
1964 - 65	Mr A H Lee
1965 onwards	Mr G Rossi

### Woodmen and Estate

1946 - 68	Mr J Hutchins
1946 - 50	Mr H Cole Mason
1946 - 49	Mr S Hutchins
1965 onward	Mr C Williams
1953 - 57	Mr J Woods

### Estate Carpenters

1946 - 59	Mr B Savage
1959 - 62	Mr Jaynes
1962 onwards	Mr W C Fraser

## STAFF 1970

Principal of the College and  
County Agricultural Education Officer:

J O Thomas, M.Sc., N.D.A., N.D.D.

Vice Principal: E W Culling, B.Sc.(Hons.)

Clerk to the Governors and Administrative Officer

D L Willett, F.I.A.C.

### Agriculture:

F A Stockwell NDD

(Senior Lecturer)

(Livestock Husbandry)

S D Howe, N.D.A.(Crop Husbandry)

A R Nobbs, N.D.A.

(Farm Records and Management)

W R Legg-Bagg (Farm Bailiff)

BT Wicks, M.A. , B.V.Sc. ,M.R.C.V.S.

(Visiting Lecturer)

### Agricultural Machinery:

H L Harrison, N.D.Agr.E., A.I. Agr. E.

(Senior Lecturer )

S P Battle, N.D.Agr.E.

C Hughes, F.T.C.

G R Keevil, N.D.Agr.E.

J D Pemberton, F.T.C., A. I. Agr. E.

R Savage, F.T.C.

P Tadman, F.T.C.

J A Tait (Workshop Technician)

F H J Lewis, R.S.S.

(Visiting Lecturer)

### Extra Mural Work:

P J Chamberlin, B.Sc. (Agric.)

{Senior Lecturer) -

North Wilts Area

B B Cripps, N.D.A. Mid-Wilts Area

J M Woodcraft, N.D.A.

South Wilts Area

### Horticulture:

O N Menhinick N.D.H. (Hons)

County Officer

M J Burgess, Dip.Hort.

### Beekeeping:

### Rural Home Economics:

Miss M J Dunn, Dip. H.

(Senior Lecturer)

Mrs S A Tumlty (Cookery)

Miss P J Batty (Dairying and  
Poultry)

Miss P A Hinwood (Homecraft)

### Woodwork: W C Fraser

### Officer Staff:

Miss J Guy (Principal's  
Secretary)

Mrs G Faulkner

Miss M E Leanian (Extra Mural)

Mrs B H Goodyear

### Domestic Bursar:

Miss A H Burbidge

### Assistant Domestic Bursar:

Warden: J Hook

## CHAPTER VIII

### LACKHAM AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

The Lackham Museum has given pleasure to many thousands of visitors and students since its inception in 1950. The College *is* grateful to those members of staff and students who have given up their leisure time to act as voluntary part-time curators.

1950	Mr W London	Warden and Founder
1951-00	Mr J Leese	Warden
1960-64	Mr W Brooke	Beekeeping Officer
1964-66	Mr T J Witchell	Machinery Lecturer
1967-68	Sir J Spencer-Smith) Mr Richard K Hart )	Students
1968-71	Mr J Hookey	Warden
1971-72	Mr K Hill	Warden
1972-73	Mr A Heron	Warden
1973-74	Mr G H Owen	Warden

The following notes were written by Mr Brooke and Mr Witchell:-

#### W BROOKE, PART-TIME CURATOR 1966

The Lackham Museum, an interesting and worthwhile contribution to local historical knowledge and records, was born about 14 years ago, the then Warden, Mr W London, was given a few old hand tools from the Tithe Barn at Bradford-on-Avon. Since then we have continually added to our collection, and we are always on the lookout for more, either by gift or purchase. What may have become redundant on the farm could be a valuable link in the chronicle compiled in the museum,

It is surprising how quickly the names and the purposes of old tools are forgotten. For instance, how many young farmers, who are expert on tractors, would know the names of different pieces of horse harness, of which we now have some very good examples?

Adept though they may be at hitching a tractor, would they know how to harness a horse for ploughing or for carting? Unless records of old implements and tools are kept, knowledge of old methods in farming could be lost for ever. We aim at keeping a permanent record, although the size of some of the implements and labour involved would cause a lot of head scratching and perhaps coarse words today.

The museum is now widely known. It can boast television appearances on more than one occasion, write-ups in local and national newspapers, and agricultural journals publish photographs and articles quite readily. The American press have shown such interest that we can expect a take-over bid any day now! Every week more visitors

arrive and numerous letters asking for, or offering information and advice. Agricultural Show organisers and exhibitors ask to borrow such tools as Adzes, Bill-hooks, Frails, Wimbles, Gamerels, Puddlers and so on for Rural Crafts exhibits.

A recent addition is a Wiltshire Wagon (a gift from last year's students), complete with a skid shoe and roller scotch; dished wheels, large at the rear and small at the front^aving somewhat limited turning lock to minimize the risk of overturning on the Downs. The body has fine sweeping curves, and is a wonderful tribute to the skill and craftsmanship of local wheel-rights who made these wagons in winter when trade was usually quiet.

Every county has its own particular type to suit local conditions and preferences and in 1880 the price of such a wagon as ours was £25. Considering the amount of work and timber that was involved in construction (a lot of wood was spoke-shaved or planed away in the interests of lightness), this was a very reasonable sum, even in those days.

Chaff cutters are now practically obsolete. We have one a hundred years old, minus the wheel with the cutting blades. We hope one will turn up some day. To this group of tools was recently added a chaff cutter about two hundred years old. Here the material was pushed in with the left hand, compressed by a foot lever and the knife worked by the right hand. No safety guards were fitted; you were careful or else!!

We have a number of Oxen shoes which were made and used in Wiltshire. Oxen probably pulled the Hiscock wooden plough of our collection. This was made at All Cannings near Devizes, and has been harnessed to oxen for demonstrations at shows. It is interesting that the mould-board is made of apple wood. The soil adhered to this very little. A skid is also fitted instead of a wheel to avoid clogging on chalky or marly soils.

The latest addition in working order, is a Cider pulper and press, reminiscent of the days when farmers made their own for supplying their workers either as a perquisite or as part of their wages, and we have a variety of harvesters' barrels. All we need now is a Hogshead and some cider apples and we are in business! The students are keen on this idea, even offering to work in their spare time. We may catch them one night using our old barn lamps and rush light-holders while they concoct a potent, if inexpert brew.

We have made many friends in connection with our museum and owe thanks to many contributors. We are always pleased to conduct visitors around this fine collection - a post card request would be appreciated.[\[1\]](#)

### T J WITCHELL, PART-TIME CURATOR 1965

I find this job both interesting and rewarding, as during the last few months we have been presented with several very good exhibits. Among these are the Archimedes water lift, which was rescued from oblivion at Britford, near Salisbury. I knew when I saw this old piece of machinery that it was unique, also that it must have been made by some village craftsmen. Subsequent investigations proved this to be correct. It was made to lift water from the River Avon into the various irrigation channels or "Carriages" of the water meadows, which are found in that part of the County. The machine was originally worked by a horse gear. "Buzzer" Brooke first located this machine in his "bee travels".

The second large exhibit we have installed is the Donkey wheel, which was also found by Mr Brooke at Coombe Bissett, Salisbury. This huge wheel, 12 fet in diameter was turned by a donkey walking round inside. It was used to bring up water in buckets from a very deep well. Since installing this wheel at Lackham we have located another in Wiltshire, which we have had reluctantly to refuse.

These exhibits, with many others just recently acquired, make our collection quite an imposing one. We are at the moment about to re-house them in a more spacious building. I look forward to the time when they will be displayed properly and catalogued.

Several of these exhibits have recently been on Television programmes, arid we are constantly having enquiries and visits since these features appeared. I will be pleased to show you and your friends the Museum at any time. Don't forget to look us up.[\[i\]](#)

The museum has been largely self-supporting. Substantial subscriptions and gifts have been received from the Old Students' Association and from many other kind friends of the College, including the Marquis of Bath and Col. C Floyd for their ancient and attractive granaries.

The rapid development of the Museum has caused the exhibits to be moved to larger premises from time to time:-

- 1950-52 Exhibits in Front Porch of Lackham House
- 1952—60 Exhibits moved to old loose boxes in stable yard
- 1960-65 To old Carpenter's Shop under oak tree near Science Laboratory. Foundations remain
- 1965 To new Museum built by Mr Fraser, Estate Carpenter, and Students

1966 Longleat and Chalfield Manor granaries moved from their original sites and rebuilt by Mr Fraser and students near new Museum

The dismantling, removal and rebuilding of the granaries brick by brick was an outstanding achievement in craftsmanship.

Many offers of interesting exhibits have had to be turned down owing to the lack of suitable accommodation.

During the last decade in Wiltshire, much interest has been aroused in the preservation of old Rural Crafts, farm tools and implements and it is hoped that Lackham will receive its fair share of any funds available to provide a shelter for the development of a living Agricultural Museum.

Lackham lends itself admirably to such a project, for the following reasons

1. It has become the "Home of Agricultural Education" in Wiltshire and the Museum serves as a valuable teaching aid in Agricultural History and Economics.
2. Lackham has an ancient history dating from Saxon times
3. Excellent library facilities, particularly in Agriculture and allied subjects.
4. Workshops are available repairs in joinery and metal work.
5. Storage room for films and records etc. on top floor of Lackham House.
6. Residential accommodation for environmental studies - woodland, rivers, wild life and rural crafts.
7. In close proximity to Lacock, Bath, Malmesbury, Swindon, Bristol, Avebury, Silbury Hill, Stonehenge etc.
8. Satisfactory car parking facilities and the Museum fits in well with other visits to the College - farm, gardens, Rural Domestic Economy etc.
9. Room for extension in neighbouring woodland.
10. Main Railway Station at Chippenham — four miles.
11. Regular bus route from front drive entrance.[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER IX

### WILTSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Between 1931 and 1935, a number of Young Farmers' Clubs, generally known as Calf Clubs, were formed in Wiltshire through the influence of Captain O W Drew, Organiser for England and Wales, on behalf of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. He enlisted the support of the Wiltshire Agricultural Education Committee and the National Farmers' Union.

Mr L D C McLees, Assistant Agricultural Organiser for Wiltshire, acted as General Secretary and set up a County Federation in 1934.

The exact number of Calf Clubs formed is not certain but it is known that seven clubs existed in the County at the following centres:—

Club	Leader
Chippenham and District	Mr GA King, Corsham
Malmesbury and District	Mr Abbot, Crudwell
Calne and District	Mr C Wareham, Lyneham
Pewsey and District	Mr OM Peall, Oare
Swindon and District	Mr E Webb, Blunsdon
Mere and District	
Melksham and District	Mr A Webb, Atworth

Ald. R Stratton represented the Wiltshire Agricultural Education Committee on the County Federation and a grant of £20 per year was provided by the County Council to cover incidental expenses.

The clubs were voluntary and self-governing and the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Advisory Committee was comprised of members of the local N.F.U.

At the Annual General Meeting, the members were divided into two age groups: 10 - 14 years (Junior) and 15 - 21 years (Senior). The leader was responsible for finding and distributing evenly selected calves to individual members who would then be responsible for the feeding and care of the animal and for accurate costing records etc. The advisory committee visited the farm periodically to inspect the competitor's work.

Later the animals were taken to a show and sale and prizes and the profits on the sale divided between the members and club funds.

Despite their limitations, the clubs had much in their favour and a foundation was laid for further development of the movement in the years ahead.

Soon after the outbreak of war in 1939, club membership dropped severely to a mere 7000 in England and Wales. In Wiltshire Mr McLees and his colleagues were transferred from Agricultural Education to the Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee and travelling in continuous blackouts, shortage of petrol and feeding stuffs etc. all contributed to the many difficulties which caused several clubs to close down for the duration.

In November 1939, the Government realised that Voluntary Youth Organisations could play an important part in the war effort if given the incentive and soon with financial aid the N.F.Y.F.C. appointed thirty full-time and part-time organisers throughout England and Wales to extend the Y.F.C. activities and became an integral part of the service of youth in the countryside. This meant that the doors were opened wide and membership was no longer limited to the sons and daughters of farmers, but to all young people interested in rural life. A remarkable surge forward took place and by 1946, the number of clubs had risen to 1282 with a membership of 65,500 throughout the country.

By 1942, the movement had recovered from its set back imposed by war conditions and the Wiltshire County Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs was reformed.

President:	The Earl of Radnor
Chairman:	Mr O M Peall
Secretary:	Mr L D C McLees
Treasurer:	Mr W E Beedel
Lloyds Bank, Devizes	

Part-time Organiser for N.F.Y.F.C.	Mr J O Thomas
	Dauntseys School

During this time Agricultural Education in the form of teaching and courses was curtailed and officers who had assisted Young Farmers' Clubs in the past were seconded to the newly formed War Agricultural Committees. Many Clubs closed down for the duration and by 1940, the membership throughout the country had dropped severely to a mere 7000.

Practically all the County Federations are now affiliated to the National Federation. The County Federations are represented on the Council and Annual General Meetings are held when resolutions from the various Clubs are debated and voted upon if necessary. The Council are responsible for the general direction



of the movement throughout England and Wales.

An excellent booklet on the History of Young Farmers' Clubs has recently been published by the General Secretary of the National Federation, Mr F E Shields. Copies are available from their new headquarters at the Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Between 1942 and 1945, twenty-two senior and junior clubs were established and seven pre-war calf clubs revived in the county. The total membership based on statistics in 1944 was 1941.

Winter and Summer programmes for each club were planned well in advance in booklet form with a wide range of activities to suit the educational, social, and recreational needs of the local community. (See album page 63 for further information on activities). It is clear that the Young Farmers' Clubs during the depressing days of war served their country admirably.

The first County Rally was held at Dauntseys School in 1944. The second Rally was also held at Dauntseys in 1945, attended by the President of the National Federation, the late Duke of Norfolk. It was a glorious day in early June and His Grace elected to address the huge audience from the School pavilion

In view of the large number of Clubs and members scattered evenly throughout the County, it became necessary in 1943 to divide the County into five regions, with a regional chairman and a small advisory committee.

South West Region

Tisbury Club  
Mere  
Warminster  
Dauntseys School  
Market Lavington School

West Region

Chippenham Club  
Devizes  
Trowbridge  
Steeple Ashton  
Melksham  
Bishops Cannings School

Eastern Region

Pewsey Club  
Marlborough College  
Oxenwood  
Tidworth  
Chute Forest School

North Eastern Region

Malmesbury Club  
Swindon  
Wootton Bassett  
Cotswold School  
Marlborough

### South Eastern Region

Salisbury Club School	South Wiltshire Girls
Chalke Valley Longford and Downton School	Amesbury Bishop Wordsworth
Landford Pitton	Gomeldon School

The regional development proved to be highly successful and many inter regional events took place in the way of competitions, public speaking, stock judging, essays on local and natural history, dramatics, games, dances etc.

In 1945, the Treasury decided to withdraw grant aid for the employment of the County Organisers by the National Federation, which meant that after 1946 the County Federations themselves would be responsible for financing their own movement and at the same time subscribe what they could afford to the National Federation.

This was a serious blow to the movement, particularly for the Federations in the smaller and less densely populated counties. Like most other County Federations, Wiltshire decided to continue their affiliation to the National Federation and retain their voluntary and independent status.

Mr McLees accepted an appointment in Essex in 1944 and Mr Thomas left the County in September 1945. Mr R Graham, who served on the staff of the War Agricultural Committee, voluntarily took over the work of Organiser/ Secretary until 1946.' In the meantime, the Wiltshire County Federation appointed Mrs M Robertson as part-time Organiser/Secretary with grant aid from the Wiltshire County Council, the Carnegie Trust and the National Farmers' Union.

Subscriptions were increased and many fund raising events organised. [\[i\]](#)

### WILTSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS 1943-45

Membership and Club	Leader	Chairman	Secretary
Arnesbury (61)	Mr J H Muggleton	Miss F Cowmeadow	Miss Nash
Calne (34)	Mr A J Roach	Mr J Wilson	Miss B Perrett
Chalke Valley (40)	Mr G Belfield	Mr G Belfield	

Chippenham (76)	Mr GA King Mr EH Self	Miss D King	Mr D Minty
Membership and Club	Leader	Chairman	Secretary
Devizes (43)	Mr JN Coombs	Mr D Butler	Miss J Hibberd
Landford (29)	Mr J Densham	Miss D Seaward	Mr J Slade
Langford and Downton (75)	Mr G Collington	Mr G Carter	Mr P Parsons
Malmesbury (45)	Mr E Stratton	Mr J Greenhill	Miss M Knight
Marlborough (45)	Mr R Curnick Mr Pocock	Miss S Sinden	Miss S Cloughton
Melksham (32)	Mr A Webb	Mr R Littman	Miss E Banbury
Mere (87)	Mr C Mitchell Mr E Reeves	Mr K Thomas	Miss M Grimwade
Pewsey Vale (143)	Mr R L Cole Miss M Maidment	Mr J Wright	Miss C Sainsbury
Pitton and Earley (44)	Mr R Whitlock	Mr J Judd	Miss B Lane
Salisbury (55)	Mr H Gregory Mr H Sainsbury Mr W Nobbs	Mr F England	Miss J Read
Steeple Ashton (64)	Mr Norton Tilley	Mr J Phillips	Miss M Gerrish
Swindon (79)	Mr E Webb Mr R Hill	Mr R Hewer	Miss A Webb
Oxenwood, Tidcombe and Fosbury (46)	Mr P Hayward Mrs K Marshall	Mr D Orchard	Miss E Banbury
Tidworth Down and School (69)	Mr WE Cave	Mr M Phillpot	
Tisbury and District (39)	Mr R Fisher Crouch	Mr D Branford	Miss N Newbury
Trowbridge (55)	Mr H Greenhill	Mr M Candy	Mr K Stubbs
Warminster (112)	Mr H Osborne Mr H Cary	Mr S Russell	Miss S Whiteman
Wootton Bassett	Mr JD Cook	Mr C Hicks	Miss M Miles

WILTSHIRE SCHOOL YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS  
1943-45

Membership and Club	Leader	Chairman	Secretary
Bishop Wordsworth Salisbury (60)	Mr G Carter	Mr G Carter	Mr G Carter
Bishop Cannings (62)	Mr BC Dix	Mr BC Dix	Mr BC Dix
Chute Forest School (44)	Mr JW Rankin	Mr Parry Jones	Mr Parry Jones
Cotswold School (55)	Mr A Preston	Mr A Preston	Mr A Preston
Dauntseys School (86)	Mr JO Thomas	Mr RE Cook	Mr RE Cook
Gomeldon School (23)	Mr D Vincent	Mr D Vincent	Mr D Vincent
Market Lavington (45)	Mr EJ Stowe	Mr EJ Stowe	Mr EJ Stowe
Marlborough College (150)	Mr JR Payne	Mr JR Payne	Mr JR Payne
South Wilts Girls Salisbury (45)	Mr EG Parsons	Mr EG Parsons	Miss B Cane

PART II

CHAPTERS X TO XVIII PREPARED  
BY MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE  
STAFF AND OTHERS

Compiled 1976

## CHAPTER X

### CATTLE AND SHEEP

by [F A Stockwell](#)

#### DAIRY HERDS 1959-1976

As early as 1959 there were two dairy herds on the College farms, a Shorthorn dairy of around 30 cows based on Notton Farm and a Friesian dairy of 45 cows. At this time, the Notton Dairy was loose housed, bedded on straw and milked through a small abreast parlour direct to churn. The churns were subsequently cooled on an ice bank water cooling system using rotary coolers, One man was employed to look after the 30 cows and this was considered to be a good economic unit at that time.

In 1962/63 in an attempt to improve the performance of the cows at Notton, pedigree cattle were purchased from several well known Shorthorn breeders:

- 2 heifers from Mrs Fielding Johnson at £155 the pair.
- 1 heifer from the Avoncourt Herd at £65
- 2 heifers from The Calston Herd (Mr Maundrell) at £130 the pair.
- 5 heifers from The Cotley Herd (Mr Osbourn) at £325 (5).
- 1 cow from Mr Turner (North Devon) at £157

These cattle, together with the existing cows, continued to perform well and maintained a herd average of around 1000 gallons, equal to the performance of the Friesian cows in the Home Farm dairy at that time.

The Shorthorns proved consistently to be very economical to feed, suffered few health problems and had a superior milk quality to the Friesian.

From this time onwards, the herd size at Notton slowly increased by way of home bred stock bred by several bulls from the M.M.B. A.I. stud and by semen purchased from other well known breeders, e.g. Maundrell and "Horlicks Farms". However, in spite of using the best bulls available it became increasingly more difficult to improve or even maintain the performance of the new generations of Shorthorn heifers entering the herd and herd averages began to decline. By the late 1960's, the herd size had risen to nearly 50, extra accommodation had been provided in the lower yard and because of the amount of hand work involved in feeding, cleaning out and bedding them down, plans were put to the Governors for modernisation at Notton Farm.

In 1968/69 work began to provide new accommodation for the herd, including self-feed silage, cow kennels, liquid slurry disposal pit and a bulk milk tank. This used up

most of the money available and only minor changes were made to the parlour. At about this time, 1968/69, also the decision was taken, in view of the continuing decline in production to change the herd over slowly to Friesians using mainly surplus home bred heifers from the Home Farm herd and by putting the best of the Shorthorn cows to Friesian bulls.

With the completion of the new buildings 1969, the herd size increased to 60 cows and then to speed up the changeover to Friesians, purchases of cattle were again made for this herd:

1968/69: 10 Friesian heifers from J Waight at £1050

1971 : 10 heifers from Messrs. White (Thingley) at £1050

1971/72 : 11 heifers from G Swanton at £1430

These brought the herd total to about 70 cows at which level it now stands today (1976). The remaining Shorthorns were sold as they completed their lactations and the last to go did so in 1973/74.

There have been no major changes since those outlined above, the herd performance has now recovered and stands at a little over 1100 gallons per cow at present.[\[i\]](#)

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## HOME FARM

The dairy at Home Farm has always been the larger of the two and has always been of Friesians. In 1959 the herd of 45 cows was housed in traditional cowsheds and tied by the neck. They were bedded on straw in their stall's and cleaned out by use of a pedestrian operated power scraper of Lackham make and design. The stalls were also fitted with another Lackham device designed to keep the stalls clear of dung. This amounted to an electrified wire positioned above the cows' backs which effectively prevented them from dunging without first stepping back into the gutter.

Herd size at Home Farm was limited by the number of stalls, although some dry cows were loose housed in a separate yard. To overcome this problem in 1962/63 work began to provide a new milking parlour and loose housing for a larger herd. The new parlour was again of the abreast type with high level standings for the cows. Milk was still cooled on open surface milk coolers operated from the water mains and again sold in churns. This extra accommodation allowed herd numbers to build up slowly and was added to at various times between 1963 and 1970 until herd numbers now stand at around 85 cows. Few changes have been made over the years to the parlour other than its enlargement by two stalls and by the introduction of a bulk milk tank in about 1965.

The original cows (1959) had a high proportion of "Normead" blood from the Ben Cooper herd in them and further purchases of Normead bulls were made in 1961 and 1963, both of which were bought as calves for £50 each and reared at Lackham..

Only one purchase of cattle was made into this herd: 15 heifers from Norman Pike for £975 in 1967/68, so the herd has been more or less self-contained throughout. Performance in this herd has progressed satisfactorily over the years and now (1976) also stands at over 1100 gallons per cow.

Both herds of cows have always been used for teaching purposes and are milked by different students on a weekly basis throughout the College year while, at the same time, each is still looked after by one man, in 1959 two men looked after a total of 75 cows while today the two men are able to look after 155 cows.[\[1\]](#)

### THE BEEF HERD

Pedigree Herefords formed the basis of the beef herd for many years. From very small numbers in the early days the number rose slowly to 10 - 12 cows and one bull in 1959 and were maintained at around 15 cows until 1966/67. For all but the last year or two the cows single suckled their own calves born in the spring.

The original cattle were from the Everlode Herd of Brig. General Winser with subsequent bull purchases from the Wraxall Herd of Mr S M Evans and the Cheyney herd of Mr T L Parker. Sales comprised of steers sold fat or as stores while, over the years, a useful trade in the sale of yearling Hereford bulls for crossing purposes was built up. Most heifer calves were reared and retained.

With increasing production costs it became increasingly more difficult to make these single sucklers pay on the class of land which was used and so to try to improve the level of output each cow was given a foster calf to rear along with her own. This idea worked quite well but then the point was made that if more than one calf was to be reared there were better cows for the job than the pure Hereford. This led to the decision to change the breed of cow and in 1966/67, 20 Aberdeen Angus x Friesian heifer calves were purchased from Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society for £138 and reared to form the basis of a new suckler herd. A Hereford bull was used on these cross-bred cows and as they calved down the remaining Herefords were sold. These Angus cross cows have proved very suitable for double suckling and still form the basis of the present herd of 20 cows.

Hereford bulls were used on them until 1973 when a change was made to using the Charolais to produce a larger framed calf. Today, the 20 cows and their 40 calves paddock graze during the summer on 12 acres of permanent pasture by the river,



while new winter accommodation has been provided for calving and fostering at Biddestone Lane Farm. [\[i\]](#)

### THE EWE FLOCK

Clun Forest ewes have always formed the basis of the College flock and the only purchases made throughout the period have been rams. From very small beginnings the number had risen to about 45 ewes in 1959 and since has remained constant after a further rise by 1962/63 to 100 - 120.

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Paddock grazing was first introduced in 1958 and was of the "Sideways Creep" type but after two years this was changed to "Forward Creep" grazing and has been used in this form ever since. The ewes are stocked on their paddocks throughout the summer at 10 ewes and their lambs per acre. During the winter the flock is used to tidy up the grass area of the farm. The flock has consistently performed well with a lambing percentage normally in the order of 180 - 190 per cent, although the target figure of 200 per cent has always managed to elude them so far. [\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER XI

### PIGS AND POULTRY

.by [E W Culling](#)

Cuckoo Bush Farm had its old fashioned cottage pig sties before Lackham School of Agriculture was ever envisaged. Mr Stepney was shown them by Mr Thomas, and both had, to fight their way through a forest of stinging nettles to investigate. This was very soon after Mr Stepney had metamorphosed from student to employee. It was the idea of Mr Thomas that a pig herd should be added to the list of enterprises on Lackham farms.

Mr W T Price had left Wiltshire, after some years as its County Agricultural Officer, having had a considerable hand in the decision to purchase the Lackham Estate, and had begun to make the Harper Adams fattening house famous. He had become the Principal of the National Poultry College, where there was also great interest in pigs. It was perhaps natural therefore that Mr Thomas took Mr Stepney to see the enterprising Harper Adams pig herd and its buildings.

Thus began the Cuckoo Bush pig herd. The old skilling wall formed the backbone of the now familiar battery of fattening pens, which incidentally are by no means decadent yet. They currently form perfectly adequate dry sow housing. The breeding sows were to be kept mainly on the outdoor system, like many famous herds in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. This system is particularly suited to the free draining downland and limestone soils.

It was to such a farm that the founders of the Lackham herd, sallied forth to purchase a nucleus of Wessex sows. Mr Frank Swanton, Chairman of the Lackham Governors for many years had a large folded sheep flock, and also a large pig herd. Incidentally, he had put up a Danish pattern fattening house in 1930 and it was still going strong in 1975 with the same pigman. Mr Stepney did not achieve quite that longevity, but was not too far off!

So the early breeding was from Wessex females (now amalgamated with the earlier distinct Essex, to form the British Saddleback) and for many years the main lines were bred from the "Sunbeam" females purchased from Mr Swanton, at Overton (he donated the brass hames and harness and several other items in the Museum). There were also one or two Large White sows and crosses, mainly with Wessex, and some useful Welsh sows from the noted Frilford Herd.

These were crossed with Landrace Boars of which several purchases were made from the Minelea herd, the obvious purpose being to improve carcass quality. There is, of course, no doubt that the Welsh and Large White pigs and possibly their

crosses would grade well, but the Wessex breed put paid to any hopes of achieving any reasonable grading targets.

The sole reason for the use of the Wessex breed at Lackham was on the strength of their reputation for prolificacy and fecundity, and the herd register shows they frequently averaged figures such as 9.8 reared per litter and 1.9 to 2.0 litters per year. They were also marvellous for the outdoor system [\[i\]](#)

### THE INDOOR HERD

A radical change took place in 1968 however. A figure of only thirty per cent grade 'A<sup>1</sup> pigs could not be tolerated, and particularly as the system was being changed from a typical Wessex or Cotswold outdoor basis to all indoors.

All the breeding stock were sold and a nucleus of Large White maiden gilts purchased from elite herds, as they were then designated. (They are currently referred to as "nucleus herds"). Some came from Sway in Hampshire (Harlaw Field Marshall and King David), others from Southam in Gloucestershire (Southam King David line). These were crossed with Landrace boars of Wychcross breeding to produce first-cross breeding gilts, which is still the herd policy.

Since 1968 some F.M.C. blood has been introduced, but although these are minimal disease stock, no attempt has been made to adopt a similar policy at Lackham. It seems quite out of the question in view of the many visitors which continuously descend upon the pig unit.

By the adoption of this breeding policy the grading results for the unit were converted, at a stroke, from a mediocre 30 per cent to a regular achievement of 90 - 95 per cent A1 carcasses. Food conversion has never risen above 3.3 or 3.4 and has frequently been 3.2 or less. An occasional worry has been the comparatively slow growth rate of over 180 in a few of the six monthly figures in M.L.C. reports. The herd has been a member of the recording scheme since 1968. [\[i\]](#)

### BUILDINGS FOR THE NEW PIG HERD

Much of the farrowing for the Wessex sows took place in outdoor huts, especially in the summer and these were situated in fields around Cuckoo Bush Farm, Cuckoo Bush meadow, Aden ground in particular. Eventually the huts were moved to much more suitable land in Wall Field, where drainage was superior and the problems of mud much reduced. Mr Stepney, who had been pig herdsman since 1950, had to provide himself with a moped, and there were regular to—ings and fro—ings, carrying piglets or weaners to Cuckoo Bush Farm, this being the major difficulty for the scheme.

The most urgent need in any change therefore was for farrowing accommodation, and Solari type buildings were decided upon owing to their possible service as

follow-on pens. Performance in these is mainly a function of the herdsman's skill and application and Mr Hustler, the first man after Mr Stepney, worked them satisfactorily, indeed the young pigs in his charge, mainly maiden gilts, achieved an average of ten reared per litter. These pens have never worked very well despite the efforts of half a dozen different herdsmen. However, Mr Fuller, with some guidance from the consulting vet produced very high performance results. The original 20 sow herd had meanwhile doubled and the Harper Adams fattening house, after much patching and alteration, eventually gave way to a new timber and masonite Suffolk fattening house for 200, at a cost of £25 per pig place.

Lately the old Harper house has been converted to dry sow yards with concrete block individual feeders. The steel ones had had to be almost continuously repaired, the best set by far being those constructed by the old 260 (Mechanics) class under the instruction of Mr John Hawkins.

The larger number of sows have given repeated problems of housing young pigs. A bacon contract does not easily fit selling weaners, and the old buildings have not been really satisfactory, but have had to be used. Thus, the next reasonable development was new weaner pools, which at the time of writing are on the site of the old covered yard. The farm is now an infinitely tidier place.

The closing down of the poultry department has released useful buildings, one of which is in the process of conversion to a slatted floor crate-farrowing house. There are also plans to develop the herd to 100 sows, and adopt stall housing for the sows with flat deck weaner pens in controlled environment buildings, and verandah houses for growers.

This is a far cry from the original conception, but in the march of progress it is inevitable. An educational establishment such as Lackham has to move in this way, to provide realistic facilities for the training and education of its students.[\[i\]](#)

## POULTRY

Small as it has always been the Lackham poultry unit has mirrored an astonishing rate of progress in a section of the British livestock industry. Beginning with the free range hen in huts which now serve as sheds in the gardens of various properties on the estate, the first step towards intensification was the development of modest pebble yards. The old glass bottomed battery cages, the first real signs of intensification which were introduced in the 1950's gave way to highly automated visi— chick designs. These were decimated by the necessity for hand feeding to accommodate the Wiltshire Accredited Poultry breeders random sample laying trials.

Meanwhile, the deep litter house for 1,000 birds was erected in the end of Fourteen

Acres, a field which was later leased to Whitehall Farm, whilst Lackham took over the Rocks on a similar basis. The deep litter house has a rather large droppings pit, and was originally hand fed, with some rather poorly designed drinkers. It was also a windowed house and the single speed fans, and hopper type window and inlets, gave rather poor ventilation.

Some major improvements have taken place in recent years. The battery house floor has been concreted completely, the drinking troughs replaced by nipple drinkers, and the cleaning system is now plastic belt, replacing the old electrically powered scrapers. Despite the replacement of the cage floors on two or three occasions the cages have served the College remarkably well. Now thirteen years old, they owe us nothing.

The deep litter house is now fed by an Eltex Briton continuous chain feeder, but we have resisted the arguments to concrete the floor. The drinkers are really very efficient, plastic can be a boon in some situations !

So far as breeding is concerned, it is almost incredible to think that a pre-war hen produced less than 100 eggs, and the average in any self-respecting house is now in excess of 240, and of late the brown eggger with its greater egg size, is slowly but surely creeping up on the smaller white breeds. Lackham has had its share of good examples, operating on a policy of giving most companies a fair opportunity. Notable individual performances have been the Shaver and the Warren, with Sykes and Ross (formerly Sterling) in close pursuit.

But of course the greatest turn round has been in the table bird industry. We have not produced broilers as such in any quantity, although the superb Pratten rearing house could have done. This little house replaced the hay boxes which gave us so many problems.

But we really made a minor piece of history when, in conjunction with Norman Chinn at Salisbury College we organised a conference with a record fee for a Further Education short event. It was a sell-out, showing the great interest in the broiler. This surprising bird, some individuals reaching marketable weights at six weeks, revolutionised the table bird industry. Even the capon had taken 20 weeks, and the cockerel fattened for Christmas was often June hatched.

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Perhaps it is appropriate to be writing about it all now that the plans are to run the unit down. Mrs Beney, Mr Ham, Mr Marchington and Mr Lewis all played their part and not many realise that the Lackham random sample laying trials were internationally known. Great strides are currently taking place, the high temperature house, pressure ventilation and so on are creating much interest. At the same time rising feed prices with no parallel climb in egg price is forcing units to expand even larger, the death knell of the small unit such as ours.[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER XII

### HORTICULTURE

by O N Menhinick

The garden survived the war years when the old mansion house was occupied by General Patton's servicemen and tanks were parked on the grass. The paths had grown over but Percy Brunt and Bert Bird found them by probing with an iron bar. Only a few of the fine shrubs survived, though the larger specimen trees remained in good condition.

Mr Bell used the great energy of the ex-servicemen to grow and harvest sprouts and root vegetables in the farm rotation on the cornbrash soils of Biddestone Lane and rhubarb on Engine Ground, opposite the walled garden. The orchard site was very carefully picked with two years of temperature records taken during the blossom periods of 1949 and 1950. The site chosen close to Pond Field, with 30 inches of top soil and reasonably frost free, was certainly better than the lower land at Notton. A committee helped to lay out the four acre orchard at 12 feet square with a great collection of varieties of apples, pears and plums.

Mr Bell was in charge of Horticulture during the post-war decade. Indeed up to the end of the 1950's, his job was identified by the War Agricultural Executive Committee to be the production of food. Bill Bannerman was the Head Gardener. The walled garden of one acre had additional cold glass and cloches. It produced generous quantities of lettuces, tomatoes, soft fruit and greens. There were seven staff and usually seven ex—servicemen students who provided the energy. Mr Brunt had an Iron Horse tractor with equipment, there was a BMB cultivator and a 24 inch Ransomes motor mower. In all, a slender collection of mechanical aids; manpower and enthusiasm overcame the difficulties of crop production.

In 1961, there was comment on the possible re-arrangement of the gardens to improve their educational potential. Mr F F Corley and Mr O N Menhinick were sent to the Monmouthshire Farm Institute at Usk to see their rather large set up. Plans were submitted and accepted by the Governors and H.M.I.'s in December 1961 which involved the layout of the walled garden as a demonstration garden with plots illustrating a wide range of plants. The glasshouses were also to accommodate a wide range of species but adequate heating was not to become available until 1964. In the 1960's, and up to 1975, the gardens production was limited in size to the orchard (latterly entirely apples) and the walled garden. In addition, there were non-productive areas of landscaped garden around the College and drives (in all, the area of grass amounting to 587720 sq. ft., excluding the sportsfields). The gardens were used primarily by the Rural Home Economics Course for instruction in farmhouse gardening, by the National Certificate in Agriculture Course until 1970 for instruction in horticultural crop production, by the Day Release Horticulture

students, by Garden Societies and amateur groups visiting the College. A further use of the material was as visual aids at meetings held throughout the county. In 1975, the Local Government Training Board's Training Modules for the county grounds staff were offered on a regular basis, occasional residential accommodation being available to those requiring it. Domestic advice up to the late 1960's included visits to gardens, but gradually this service was reduced to those few problems impossible to solve by telephone, letter or by the "client" visiting the College by appointment. With the rise in interest in domestic food production, there have been a very large number of soil and plant samples brought in for advice.[\[i\]](#)

### GROWTH OF DAY RELEASE IN HORTICULTURE

In 1960/61, the U.E.I. Stage I Horticulture course was offered at the Trowbridge College to six students. In 1962, this was changed to the City & Guilds of London Institute Stage I Horticulture syllabus with a class of eight students. The numbers in the Trowbridge recruiting area stayed static in the region of 8 to 16, apart from 1965 when there was a great influx of school groundstaff for one winter period. Swindon College and Salisbury College became centres in the mid 1960's with enrolments from the Parks Departments. Enrolment numbers reached a maximum in 1965 with over 50, but gradually slipped until the mid 1970's when numbers began to pick up after being at a steady 35 or so. By 1972, all the Horticulture Day Release classes were held at Lackham with a day for each area. Tuesday for South Wiltshire, Wednesday for the Warminster/ Trowbridge/Devizes area, Thursday for Swindon and North Wiltshire. Enrolment numbers for 1976: Salisbury area 15, Mid Wiltshire 13, Swindon area 14 (42).

The careers office who undertook to provide the information relating to school leavers entering the industry have so far been unable to produce this latter statistic up to 1976, though they have been very helpful indeed with first job information.

It is not clear if there has been a decline in numbers entering the horticultural industry. While there has been a 'shake out' of the staff at nurseries due to Selective Employment Tax, and the high overheads of employment such as the National Insurance Stamp contributions, there have been other areas of development - both in some new glasshouse and shrub nurseries, more jobs at the Department of Environment (improving the horticultural amenities of the large area of Army camps, R.A.F. stations and the ancient monuments). Also the more professional approach to school playing fields and other Local Authority amenity maintenance has increased the number of full-time appointments - maybe by reducing considerably the number of part-time personnel. Commercial horticulture has made a big swing to part-timers - mainly women, as their main labour source.

The largest single employer of groundstaff and horticulturists in the county, the Estates and Valuations Department, support training courses, as do the Swindon (Thamesdown) authorities with their own training scheme, all within the guide lines of

the Local Government Industry Training Board. The work of the Agricultural Training Board has increased the number of entrants attending training for the craft skills. With pay premiums for craft status, there has been a greater awareness of the advantages accruing to qualifications though the 'academic' examination courses are not accepted by the Agricultural Wages Board as a measure of skill attainment. In 1976, 'guestimated' proportions of full-time staff who entered horticultural employment over the previous 10 years who have received some full-time training or education are:-

Local Authority and District Council	60 per cent
Commercial Horticulture	30 per cent
Part-time Commercial Horticulturists	10 per cent

There has been a changing pattern of qualifications at entry, from mainly non-academic students with no Ordinary Level passes in the early 1960's, through a gradual improvement to include those with an easy capacity to express themselves on paper, but there has remained a hard core of entrants to horticulture whose employability in some years will be severely restricted by their poor showing with the three R's. The advent of the multiple choice questionnaire type of examination paper has aided the weak entrant as the Stage I level in the City and Guilds Horticulture examinations [\[i\]](#)

### CAREERS IN HORTICULTURE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

<u>No G.C.E./C.S.E.</u>	<u>'O' levels</u>	<u>'O' and 'A' levels,</u> <u>O.N.D.</u>	3 'A' levels, Degree
Apprenticeships A.T.B. L.G.T.B. Training for Craftsmen and Movement gradually up the supervisory ladder, and/or Day Release + opportunity on passing Stage I to attend full- time course in Amenity or Commercial N.C.H. If Credit level pass + opportunity to do A.N.C.H. Considerable opportunity to rise on the ladder.	A.N.C.H. Routes  O.N.D. if 4 'O' levels  Supervisory and Technical Posts and N.D.H.*	Management Technologists Education Advisory	All the options Plus Experimentation Research

\*National Diploma in Horticulture continues to remain the hallmark of a practical horticulturist [\[i\]](#)



## COURSES AND ADVISORY WORK DURING 1975/76

Visits of an advisory nature have virtually ceased, maybe two per year

Number of classes last year (ending Speech Day 1976):

- 86 occasional talks and visiting parties to the horticultural gardens.
- 9 series of talks to groups across the county.
- 4 series of Produce and Home Grown demonstrations in the county.
- 8 lectures for the pre-retirement classes.
- 7 practical demonstrations at the College.
- 7 chain saw courses (of 2 days)
- 1 'Trees Day' at the College 1 Beekeepers' Day at the College.
- 3 series of Beekeeping lectures at the College.
- 1 Horticultural Quiz series between societies with the final at the College.
- 3 Day Release Classes, all Lackham based, 27 days duration (each).

Number of visitors to the gardens: about 4000 — 5000

Money received for charity on the last Gardens Open Days:

July 1975	£245
October 1975	£70
May 1976	£243.70
July 1976	£468
October 1976	£ 50

The May and October Open Days were in aid of the Gardeners Sunday Organisation and the July day in aid of the National Gardens Scheme for the benefit of Retired Nurses. [\[i\]](#)

## NEW COURSES

The Local Government Industry Training Board Scheme for the training of its craft staff had its introduction with the first course in 1973 and 1974 but it was not until April 1975 that the five day modules were run on one a month basis with eight students attending each module.

## COURSE PROGRAMME FOR GROUNDS STAFF TRAINING MODULES LACKHAM COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE 1976

Jan. 12th - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Arboriculture Breadth
Jan. 19th - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Arboriculture Breadth
Feb. 16th - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Depth Machinery 2D Machinery and Mechanical Aids

Feb. 23rd - 27 <sup>th</sup>	Depth Machinery 2D Machinery and Mechanical Aids (16-20 Gardeners) (23-27 Groundsmen)
Mar. 22nd - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Groundsmanship (1 week only)
Apr. 19th - 23rd	Initial Gardening (1 week only)
May 24th - 28th	Breadth Gardening-June 21st - 25th-
July 26th - 30th	Chemical Control ID Groundsmanship
Aug. 16th - 20th	Breadth Glasshouse
Sept.20th - 24th	Fine Sports Turf 11D
Oct. 18th - 22nd	Breadth Groundsmanship
Nov. 8th - 12th	Chemical Control ID (Gardener)
Nov. 15th - 19th	Chemical Control ID (Groundsman)
Dec. 13th - 17th	Arboriculture Breadth <a href="#">[i]</a>

### T. S. A.

The Training Services Agency, a Government Manpower organisation, held its first Lackham course starting in September 1976 with 15 students in Gardens, Grounds and Woods Maintenance. The T.S.A. seems likely to become a major part of the education and training scene in the future.

### JOB CREATION

This may be an ephemeral event and just off the educational map, but schemes are 'afloat' for a 1977 job creation scheme to do with conservation, ponds and woods. (Fencing, thinning and planting).

### CITY AND GUILDS 013 GREENKEEPERS' CERTIFICATE

A day release class course for the Wiltshire and nearby county green-keeping staff seems likely to start in January 1977.

### CITY AND GUILDS 011 STAGE 2 HORTICULTURE

Application has been made to start the course from September 1977. [\[i\]](#)

### HORTICULTURE INCENTIVE SCHEMES

The horticultural incentive schemes under the Agricultural Wages Board have not affected the horticultural staff. The conditions of service are those under the Western District Council scale which have permitted a Productivity Bonus Scheme. Following work measurement, some areas of increased productivity were found to be acceptable for productivity bonus. The scheme came into functioning operation in the Summer of 1976. Since the acceptance of the scheme in 1975, savings from increased productivity resulted in a bonus payment of 12.92p per hour for the Horticultural Craft Staff. [\[i\]](#)

## GARDENING STAFF

Trainees	J. Seaton	I. D. Seager
	D. Binnie	C. Stanford
	R. Mellors	M. Peck
	Miss Lyn Marie Stretton	C.J. Vickery
	R. Pickford	R. Trimmer
	K. Hawkins	S. Burrows



## HORTICULTURAL EXTRA MURAL EDUCATION REPORT FOR 1966-67

### GENERAL.: HORTICULTURE

Part-time Day Release Classes, 24 weeks duration.

Courses of National Joint Council for Certificated Gardeners,

Swindon	11 students
Trowbridge	9 students
Total	20

### Special Part-time Classes:

For Groundsmen	Lackham	12 meetings	22 students
Produce Guilds	Lackham	12 meetings	12 students
Produce Guilds	Salisbury	12 meetings	11 students

## EVENING CLASSES

Lackham ( 1 )	6 meetings	10 students
Lackham (2)	6 meetings	19 students
Lackham (3)	6 meetings	9 students
Lackham (4)	6 meetings	11 students
Lackham (5)	6 meetings	5 students
Lackham ( 6 )	6 meetings	13 students
Devizes	6 meetings	8 students
Warminster	6 meetings	9 students
Trowbridge	6 meetings	15 students
Corsley	6 meetings	16 students
	Total	<u>105</u>

Advisory visits by County Horticultural Officer	54
Advisory letters by County Horticultural Officer	413
Vistors to the Garden (to 10.6.76)	3328
Demonstrations and talks to WI's, Horticultural Societies and others	92

[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER XIII

### NATURE STUDIES AT LACKHAM

by O N Menhinick

A walk through Lackham Woods has been planned for visitors starting at the Avon Hall.

The woods are mainly ornamental but have a certain commercial value in the sale of trunks from blown and dangerous trees and thinnings for use on the farm and as pulpwood.

There are many interesting species of trees to be seen and visitors may be interested in testing their abilities to identify the varieties, including: Ash, Beech, Chestnut, Eucalyptus, Hornbeam, Lime, Sycamore and other hardwoods; Norway and Sitka Spruce, Hybrid and European Larch, Douglas Fir, Scots and Corsican Pine, Cedars, Cypresses, Redwoods and Yew.

Many interesting Birds and Animals are to be seen, including: Herons, Treecreepers, Firecrests, Rabbits, Squirrel and Foxes.

Upon leaving the Hall, one goes through the entrance immediately opposite where on the right hand side, one can see the Herbaceous border, a small fish pond and a line of conifers which protect the interesting flower beds.

Proceeding straight ahead, one passes the cricket pavilion on to the lawn *where*, on the left, can be seen the new plantings of Rhododendron and Magnolia. Continuing in the same direction one comes to a wide pathway and, turning left on to this path, one passes odd clumps of ornamental Bamboo canes.

On arriving at the small stone pillar on the bank above the river, to the right is a new plantation of Eucalyptus, turning to the left at the pillar, one walks along under the Lime trees and upon reaching another pathway, pause to look at the Redwood plantation on the right. These trees are not grown commercially in the British Isles but the wood can be used for garden furniture.

Follow the pathway round the Larch plantation. Note the marks or blazes on certain trees which have been marked for thinning. They are used mainly for fencing materials, a small selection of which is on view at the timber exhibition. Further on are the pollarded Hornbeams which are showing signs of Squirrel damage. The Grey Squirrel is, of course, vermin and causes untold damage in woodlands by removing the bark of trees. The best method of control is by shooting.

The arrows marking the footpath have been placed for your convenience, please follow them.

Crossing the ride, one passes an area of Hazel Coppice with large Oak trees giving protection. The hard track now leads back to the Avon Hall, passing a mixed tree plantation on your right, but a pause to look at the areas of permanent pasture with the sheep grazing would be appreciated by the farm staff.

We hope you have- enjoyed this walk and will come again. [\[i\]](#)

## TREES AND SHRUBS OF LACKHAM

by Mrs A Menhinick

<i>Abies procea</i> - Noble Fir	Pinaceae
<i>Acer campestre</i> — Field Maple	Aceraceae
<i>Acer cappadocicum</i> 'rubrum' <sup>1</sup>	
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	
<i>Acer palmatum dissectum</i>	
<i>Acer platanoides</i> - Norway Maple	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> - Sycamore and a variegated form	
<i>Aesculus carnea</i> - Red Chestnut	Hippocastanaceae
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> - Horsechestnut	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - Alder	Betulaceae
<i>Araucaria araucana</i> - Monkey—puzzle	Araucariaceae
<i>Arundinaria calycina</i> - Bamboo	Gramineae
<i>Arundinaria nitida</i> — Bamboo	
Azalea species and hybrids	Ericaceae
<i>Betula pendula</i> — Silver Birch	Betulaceae
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> — Box	Buxaceae
<i>Castanea sativa</i> - Sweet or Spanish Chestnut	Fagaceae
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> - Hornbeam	Carpinaceae
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> - Atlas Cedar	Pinaceae
<i>Cedrus atlantica glauca</i> - Blue Cedar	
<i>Cedrus deodora</i> - The Deodar	
<i>Cedrus libani</i> - Cedar of Lebanon	
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> — Lawson Cypress	Cupressaceae
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> Golden Form	
<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis variegata</i> - Nootka Cypress	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i> - Old Mans Beard	Ranunculaceae
<i>Cornus mas</i> - Cornelian Cherry	Cornaceae
<i>Cornus mas variegata</i>	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> - Dogwood	

<i>Corylus avellana</i> - Hazel	Corylaceae
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> - Hawthorn	Rosaceae
<i>Crataegus oxycantha rosea flore plena</i>	
<i>Crataegus oxycantha coccinea plena</i>	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> - Spindle	Celastraceae
<i>Fagus sylvatica roseomarginata</i>	Fagaceae
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - Beech	
<i>Fagus sylvatica Riversii</i> — Copper Beech	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - Ash	Oleaceae
<i>Forsythia X intermedia 'Spectabilis'</i>	
<i>Hedera helix</i> - Ivy	Araliaceae
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> - Holly	Aquifoliaceae
<i>Juglans regia</i> - Walnut	Juglandaceae
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> - Winter Flowering Jasmine	Oleaceae
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i> - Common Laburnum	Leguminosae
<i>Larix decidua</i> — Larch	Pinaceae
<i>Lavendula spica</i> - Old English Lavender	Labiatae
<i>Liquidamber styraciflora</i> - Sweet Gum	Hamamelidaceae
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium aureum</i> — Golden Privet	Oleaceae
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> - Privet	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> - Tulip Tree	Magnoliaceae
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> - Honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> — Fly Honeysuckle	
<i>Magnolia denudata</i>	Magnoliaceae
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> - Crab Apple	Rosaceae
<i>Mespilus germanica</i> - Medlar	
<i>Picea abies</i> - Norway Spruce	Pinaceae
<i>Pinus nigra</i> - Austrian Pine	

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<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> - Scots Pine	Pinaceae
<i>Platanus</i> sp. — Plane	Platanaceae
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> - Japanese Knotweed	Polygonaceae
<i>Populus alba</i> - White Poplar	Salicaceae
<i>Populus nigra</i> - Black Poplar	
<i>Prunus avium</i> - Wild Cherry	Rosaceae
<i>Prunus avium plena</i> - Double Wild Cherry	
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> - Cherry plum - Myrobalan	
<i>Prunus cerasifera atropurpurea</i>	
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> - Common Laurel	
<i>Prunus padus</i> — Bird Cherry	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> — Sloe	
<i>Prunus subhirtilla pendula</i>	
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> - Douglas Fir	Pinaceae
<i>Pyrus salicifolia pendula</i> - Silver Pear	Rosaceae
<i>Quercus cerris</i> - Turkey Oak	Fagaceae
<i>Quercus X hispanice Lucombeana</i>	
<i>Quercus ilex</i> — Evergreen Oak	
<i>Quercus robur</i> - English Oak —	
<i>Quercus robur purpurascens</i>	
<i>Quercus suber</i> - Cork Oak	
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> - Flowering Currant	Grossulariaceae
<i>Rhododendron</i> species and hybrids	Ericaceae
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> - Common Acacia	Leguminosae
<i>Rosa arvensis</i> - Trailing Rose <i>Rosa canina</i>	Rosaceae
- Dog Rose <i>Rubus caesius</i> - Dewberry	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> - Blackberry	
<i>Salix alba</i> - White Willow	Salicaceae
<i>Salix babylonica</i> - Weeping Willow	
<i>Salix caprea</i> - Pussy Willow - Goat Willow	
<i>Salix fragilis</i> - Crack Willow	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> — Elder	Caprifoliaceae
<i>Symphoricarpos rivularis</i> - Snowberry	



Syringa vulgaris - Lilac	Oleaceae
Taxus baccata aurea - Golden Yew	Taxaceae
Taxus baccata - Yew	
Tilia X europea - Common Lime	Tiliaceae
Viscum album - Mistletoe	Loranthaceae

## BIRDS AT LACKHAM

Those birds named below are not intended as a comprehensive list of all that could be found on the Estate but simply those which Mr A Stockwell has seen over the years, 1960-75.

### Riverside and Water

Mallard	Snipe	Swift
Teal	Common Sandpiper	Sand Martin
Mute Swan	Kingfisher	Reed Warbler
Canada Goose	Curlew	Sedge Warbler
Heron	Great Black Backed Gull	Willow
Moor Hen	Herring Gull	Warbler Reed
Coot		Bunting

### Open Farmland and Around Buildings

Buzzard	Pied Wagtail	Swallow
Kestrel	Yellow Wagtail	Rook
Lapwing	Gold Finch	Redwing
Wood Pigeon	Brambling	Stonechat
Collared Dove	Sparrow Sparrow	Redstart
Skylark	Hawk Partridge	Meadow Pipit
House Martin	Black Headed Gull	Grey Wagtail
Fieldfare	Turtle Dove Barn	Starling
Wheatear	Owl	Linnet
Whinchat	Great Tit	Corn Bunting
Spotted Flycatcher	Blue Tit	Nightingale
		Robin

### Woodland and

Pheasant  
Woodcock

### Hedgerows

Woodland and Hedgerows continued

Cuckoo	Coal Tit	Blackcap
Little Owl	Marsh Tit	Garden
Tawny Owl	Willow Tit	Warbler
Green Woodpecker	Long Tailed Tit	Whiethroat
Great Spotted	Nuthatch	Chiffchaff
Woodpecker	Tree Creeper	Goldcrest
Lesser Spotted	Wren	Duncock
Woodpecker	Mistle Thrush	Green Finch
Carrion Crow	Song Thrush	Bull Finch
Jackdaw	Blackbird	Chaffinch
Magpie		Yellowhammer
Jay		

## CHAPTER XIV

### HOME ECONOMIC EXTRA MURAL SERVICES FOR THE WOMEN AND SOME OF THE MEN OF WILTSHIRE

by Miss M J Dunn

The service was designed specially for the rural organisation such as the Women's Institutes, Young Farmers' Clubs and Townswomen's Guilds. Over the years about thirty different types of organisation have had lectures and demonstrations; to name but a few: the Royal Women's British Legion, Horticultural Societies, the Association of Wiltshire Midwives. The work now falls into three main groups:

- (a) Residential Courses. A week's residential course for all women resident in Wiltshire is held annually in July or September. The number of students accepted vary from 24 to 30. Each year it is over-subscribed and a ballot has to take place for those attending. The programme varies between practical work and visits of educational and local interest. Some of the titles over the years have been: "Countrywomen and the World", "Self Sufficiency", "From Plot to Pot". The residential weekend courses are held from time to time for Young Farmers' Club girl members based on Proficiency Test work or work for the Young Farmers' Club County Show.
- (b) Activities at Lackham. Organisations may come and hold their monthly meeting at the Rural Home Economics Centre when a member of staff will give a demonstration. Practical days are held in a large variety of subjects, some for a special organisation such as "Yeast Cookery" for Beanacre W.I., but they may cover a wider range such as "Hard Cheese Making" or "Bacon Curing". These days will include practical work for all the members of the class.

A/b Home Days. Over the years a tradition has grown up when members of the public (the number of men is increasing) come from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for demonstration instruction in a particular subject such as Wessex Cookery, Home Maintenance, Beef and Beef Cookery. Courses are held on a one or two term basis with special emphasis for those members who wish to take their Women's Institute or Young Farmer's Club, Home Economics Basic Certificates. These are being undertaken in a wide range of subjects, the latest being "Convenience Foods" which covers a large range of the foods available to the housewife in 1977.

- (c) Extra Mural. The Department makes about 200 single lectures and demonstrations per annum. In addition to this, a number of kitchen demonstrations are undertaken when the members meet in their own village and a mixture of practical and demonstration work is included. Courses are held at centres in the county, again with the object of Basic Certificates\_ being taken. In addition to this, a great amount of advice is given by letter and on the telephone, judging is undertaken at Shows throughout the County and advice on schedule making is given. Members of the Department sit on W.I. and Y.F.C. Committees and a great deal of help is given to the Inter-Organisation Committee, which runs competitions at the Young Farmers' Show.

[i]

## RURAL HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

### REPORT FOR 1966-67

*Residential Course:* A week's Country Housewives' Course was held, 20 members being chosen from 80 applications. Members attending came from the W.I., T.W.G., Young Wives and Service Wives Clubs. The main theme of the course was the life of women in the countryside today, and some very interesting and searching discussions were held on this. Practical work was carried out on a variety of subjects.

Two courses were held for the W.R.A.C., for their Homecraft Promotion Proficiency Test, one for a fortnight in October, the other for a fortnight in February. A total of 17 attending. Following the course, all members took their Promotion Examination and all passed.

Proficiency Test Courses were held for women members of the Young Farmers' Clubs in Pastry Making, Baking, Frozen Foods, Lampshade Making. 53 attended.

Proficiency Test Courses for W.I. members were held in. Meal Cookery, Preservation. Lampshade Making and Soft Furnishings, and for W.I. Demonstrators in Cookery, Preservation and Gardening, 52 attending.

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Evening Classes were held in Home Made Wine at Pewsey, and a craft course for members of Devizes Townswomen's Guild had 14 attending.

*At Home Days:* During the Spring Term, the policy of At Home Days on Fridays for women's organisations was continued, 567 women attending from W.I.'s, T.W.G.'s, Young Wives, Young Farmers, Service Wives Clubs and the Farmers' Wives Club. Special interest was shown in the Deep Freeze Days when the latest information gained by two members of staff attending the Long Ashton Deep Freeze Course was put to full use.

A visit was made to the R.H.E. Centre during the Rally of H.M.I.'s and County Organisers to Wiltshire. Great interest was shown in the full-time course and the extra mural work being done.

Lectures and Demonstrations: 134 were carried out, both at Lackham and in the County.

Judging: Three day schools were held for Judging for the W.I. Denman Cup, one at Lackham and two in the County. Judging was carried out on 23 occasions.

Miss Dunn attended 16 Committee Meetings of the W.I. Produce Guild, Agriculture and Denman Cup Committees, Y.F.C. Rally and Girls Committees, and Inter Women's Organisation Competition Committee.

The Inter Women's Organisation Competition was staged at the Y.F.C. Rally at Bowood with 50 entries. This Competition is now a feature of rural life in Wiltshire and is gaining a reputation in the area [\[i\]](#)

## RURAL HOME ECONOMICS

### ONE YEAR FULL-TIME COURSE

From 1953 to 1959, women students were accepted for the National Certificate in Agriculture adapted course, and one day a week they came to the Rural Home Economics kitchen, Hill Street, Trowbridge, for instruction in Rural Home Economics. It was decided to close this course in July 1959, with the objective that the College would have its own centre and women's hostel and have a course in Agriculture with Home Economics.

There were the usual ups and downs in the high politics of obtaining permission for this course and the finance for the buildings. Finally, the Scott Baker Hostel was built, followed by the Rural Home Economics centre. The National Certificate in Rural Home Economics Course commenced in September 1964 - the name of the course was changed to the National Certificate in Agriculture with Home Economics in September 1975.

Below is the list of the number of women students attending these courses, making a total of 217 for the R.H.E. Course, plus approximately 36 for the adapted course.

[\[i\]](#)

### R.H.E. STAFF FROM 1960

Miss M J Dunn

Head of Department, August 1948 - Dec 1976

Miss P Knight	
Miss B Gilbert	Afterwards Mrs Partridge
Miss J Clough	
Miss M Lee	
Miss D Gladwin	
Miss J Scott	South African
Mrs J Harman	
Mrs S Tumlty	Temporary
Mrs J Taylor	Now Mrs Green left 1970
Miss M Salmon	Left July 1968
Miss J Batty	Now Mrs Smith left January 1971
Miss K Open	Now Mrs Young July 1967 - July 1968
Miss P Hinwood	September 1969 - May 1975
Miss J Mapstone	May 1970 - July 1975
Miss E Parsons	Now Mrs Bremridge, September 1970 -
Miss M Johnston	June 1971 - January 1974
Miss C Copping	January 1974 -
Miss J Davell	May 1975 - September 1975
Miss P Bradbeer	September 1975 -
Miss M Greasley	Head of Department, January 1977

In addition, we have had student teachers from Radbrooke College of Home Economics and several Home Economic Teachers for short periods while members of staff were sick.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE (adopted course)

1953	-	1954	6
1954		1955	7
1955		1956	8
1956		1957	5
1957		1958	5
1958		1959	5
			<hr/>
			36

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RURAL HOME ECONOMICS COURSE

1964 - 1965	17
1965 - 1966	15
1966 - 1967	16
1967 - 1968	17
1968 - 1969	15
1969 - 1970	17
1970 - 1971	16
1971 - 1972	16
1972 - 1973	14
1973 - 1974	18
1974 - 1975	16

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE WITH HOME ECONOMICS

1975 - 1976	17
1976 - 1977	23
	<hr/>
	217

## CHAPTER XV

### AGRICULTURAL EXTRA MURAL EDUCATION

1965-1975

by P J Chamberlin

The department was established to provide courses for all sections of the Agricultural community. The pattern of courses provided reflects the various changes in attitudes; in technology; in political and financial climates which influence the Agricultural industry.

By the Autumn of 1965 the department had grown to a staff of seven and was offering a wide range of courses viz:

Day Release classes in Agriculture at seven centres.

Day Release classes for Agricultural Engineering apprentices at the three centres.

Day Release classes for employees of the Corn and Agricultural trades at two centres.

A Link course with schools in Salisbury district.

A large and varied selection of short courses available both during the day and in the evening.

Day Release for milk processing operatives (Trowbridge).

Day Release classes had undergone considerable expansion up to this time. Many of the students were sons of local farmers, in some cases employees were losing a day's pay in order to be able to attend. The classes were small and held in an odd assortment of rooms in towns and villages of Wiltshire. They relied to a considerable extent on the willingness of local farmers to allow visits so that students could achieve some very limited practicals. 1965 was perhaps the year in which it became obvious that certain pressures were building up which would lead to rationalisation of classes:

- (a) A declining intake of apprentices into the Agricultural Machinery dealers would lead to the eventual decision to admit Block Release students on these courses at a central point - Lackham - which could provide residential accommodation for those living some distance away.
- (b) The centralisation of courses for operatives in the milk processing companies by establishing a residential course at the Somerset Farm Institute - Cannington.
- (c) A decision by the Institute of Corn and Agricultural Merchants to appoint their own Education Officer whose job it was to



organise relevant courses for all grades within their association, both short residential courses and correspondence courses.

The centralisation of the milk operatives courses was not achieved before 1968/69, the machinery courses in 1969/70. The course for Corn Merchants was abandoned after the 1965/66 session.

A member of the Extra Mural staff, Mr J M Woodcraft, felt strongly that it would be in the students' interests to include much more practical work in the day courses in Agriculture than had been the case hitherto. Thus in 1966, two pilot schemes were launched which allowed the classes at Mere (Mr Woodcraft) and Marlborough (Mr Chamberlin) centres to be given a total of nine days practical instruction in a course of some twenty-four days. • Added to this was a one week residential course in January 1967 to give instruction in Animal Husbandry subjects and Milking Techniques. The success of this early venture was ample reward for the difficulties of staffing and servicing. The lessons learned helped to improve both these and the more traditional courses over the next year or two until the traumatic birth of the Agricultural Training Board - this caused County Hall to reconsider the fee and raise it from £1 12s. Od. to £21. Thus we withdrew to a more traditional course. The obvious advantages of the practical course in enabling students to gain a better understanding of the principles of the subject were felt keenly by staff trying to enthuse students amongst the distractions of a Technical College, dusty scout huts and village halls. Thus in 1972 it was felt politically right to centralise classes for Day Release students in Agriculture and Horticulture at Lackham College. Special buses were provided. Students who now attend these classes (1975) are able to benefit from the college farm and the workshop facilities as well as the expertise of staff not formerly available.[\[i\]](#)

#### EVENING CLASSES (AGRICULTURE)

In 1965/66, a very wide range of courses were offered, some long term and some short. The subjects offered included Welding, Beekeeping, Animal Health, Records and Accounts, Grassland etc. This pattern was repeated in 1966/67 and attracted a total of 192 students, plus a further 23 on Farm Management. A similar pattern was employed for Horticulture. Whilst this picture appears quite healthy, many courses were offered which found no takers. The influence of Farmers' Clubs which were becoming a very important feature in the county, of television and of the increasing variety of classes in alternative subjects provided by the Adult Education Service may have been contributory factors to the decline in popularity of these classes. The most important reason must have been the advent of the A.T.B.

The Agricultural Training Board was resisted in Wiltshire for its first two to three years. Eventually it was accepted and the influence which it has, has been widely felt. With its extensive finance it is able to (and indeed required to) initiate and pay for very expensive Industrial Training Courses. Lackham College has been able to participate in this programme

due to the facilities which it possesses and the various skills of the staff. This has been important in that the 'spin off' can be seen in the teaching methods and syllabus content of most City and Guilds educational courses. The Agricultural Training Board has encouraged employers to release their young employees not only to training courses, but also to Educational courses following a recognised national syllabus. It does this by means of a small grant in respect of each day's attendance at Day Release by an employee.

Stockmen's Clubs were initiated in 1969/70 to replace conventional evening classes and by their relaxed informal atmosphere have attracted many a keen stockman to their meetings.

### 1975 - 1976

The prospectus for this year shows the continued presence of formal day release classes at Lackham. A noticeable feature this year has been the growth of one day training courses in specific skills — these days are either specific training days for young new entrants to the Industry or, perhaps more encouraging still, courses for adult workers facing new responsibilities or new machines. Altogether some 300 new 'students' came into contact with Lackham as a result of this development in 1975/76

Fashion change! In the 1960's and early 1970's, there was a vogue for Farm Management courses. This was met both by the traditional City and Guilds course with a minimum content of 120 hours class contact and short sharp three to five day courses dealing with more specific aspects. This interest has largely been replaced in the 1970's with the training courses referred to above.

A lot of work is now done by day, very little during the evening - a far cry from the beginnings of Extra Mural, which was all evening work. [\[i\]](#)

## AGRICULTURAL EXTRA MURAL DEPARTMENT 1966 - 1967 SESSION

### STAGE I - GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Part-time Day Release Classes, 24 weeks duration.

	<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chippenham	10	11	21
Swindon	14	-	14
Salisbury	17	9	26
Marlborough	9	9	

Devizes	9	-	9
Trowbridge	10	-	10
Mere	16	-	16

Total 105

2. STAGE II - GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Part-time evening course, 30 weeks duration.

Chippenham	3 students
Trowbridge	11 students

3. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Part-time Block Release, leading to City & Guilds 260, 30 weeks each year.

Salisbury	39
Swindon	44
Trowbridge	17

Total 100

Salisbury — Advanced Tractor Mechanics  
Day Release 9 students

4. (a) FARM MANAGEMENT

24 week evening course over two Winters. City & Guilds 278 Farm Organisation and Management.

Trowbridge	11
Salisbury	12
Total	23

(b) One week course for Farmers on "Farm Business Control".

Devizes	24
Salisbury	11

Total 35

A further advanced course of 2/£ days duration for farmers at Devizes, 26 attended.

5. SHORT EVENING CLASSES

Centre	Subject	No. of Weeks	Student
Cricklade	Grass	6	15
Malmesbury	Digging Deeper	6	8
Melksham	Beekeeping	6	14
Rushall	Welding	12	11
Rushall	Welding	12	14
Salisbury	Beekeeping	6	18
Salisbury	Animal Health	6	13
Trowbridge	Records	6	14
Pewsey	Animal Health	6	20
Warminster	Records	6	12
Warminster	Digging Deeper	6	12
Devizes	Grass	6	8
Edington	Herdsmen's Courses	4	10
Pewsey	Herdsmen's Courses	4	12
Kington Langley	Herdsmen's Courses	4	11
Total			192

6. A one week Residential Course in Practical Stock handling was held at Lackham in January 1967. The course was limited to 20 places, all of which were taken up.

7. Short Courses of six meetings each were arranged for five Schools in the County.

8. Milk Technology (Trowbridge). City & Guilds Full Technological Certificate. 9 students [\[i\]](#).

9. YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Single Lectures and Film Shows, together with Proficiency Test training. Attendance at County Executive, Rally and Education Committees.

10. Attendance at Careers Conventions arranged by Youth Employment Officers and other bodies.

11. National Proficiency Test training and examinations. As a result of these training sessions in Farm Crafts, a total of 64 Proficiency Test Certificates have been awarded, 3 students gaining their Silver Badge.

- 12 The Extra Mural Staff have also been engaged in lecturing to Students attending courses which the Department does not administer.

Chippenham O.N.D. Engineering (Comparative Agriculture).

Lackham Supplementary Machinery Courses.

Lackham N.C.A. Science Lectures.

Salisbury Welding to students attending a course not epecifically for farmers

Salisbury Engineerin g Course for Hosier Employees.

[\[i\]](#)

### AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS 1957 - 1973

#### England and Wales

	1957	1959	1965	1968	1973
1 Total workers (June)	606,674		450,515		345,987
2 Whole time male and female	448,009		370,995		272,012
3 Whole time under 20 (male)	63,536		44,753		not available
Wiltshire (June)					
a Total regular workers	11,439	10,969	8,281	7,589	6,786
b Whole time male and female	10,189	9,796	7,279	6,187	4,796
c Whole time male	9,711	9,369	6,971	5,881	4,446
d Whole time male (under 20 yrs)	1,269	1,317	851	621	not available
e Whole time male (under 18 yrs)	738	774	486	327	not available

[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER XVI

### AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING 1946-1970

by H L Harrison

The first machinery instruction at Lackham was given by Mr T J Witchell to Ex-Servicemen pursuing the one year *General Agricultural Course*, 1946-51.

After detailed discussions with the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, the Ministry of Education Inspectorate and Chippenham Technical College, the first course for the National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering examination was offered at Lackham in the 1951 session. This course ended in 1957 and transferred to either Writtle or the West of Scotland Agricultural College where better accommodation and facilities prevailed.

In 1952, a one year Supplementary Course in Farm Machinery was offered following approval by the Ministry of Education and the South-West Regional Council for Further Education. In 1954 the syllabus was amended slightly to cover the City and Guilds Agricultural Mechanics 260 examination requirements. This has been a very successful course and is still running after 25 years, attracting an average annual intake of 16 students.

In 1954, the City and Guilds introduced a new examination 'Farm Machinery Operation and Care' designed for the farm tractor and machine operator. The boys on the *General Agricultural Course* were encouraged to take this examination and about 60 per cent of them did so each year with good results. This course continued until the early part of the 1970's when it was discontinued in its original form to be replaced by a new approach for day release candidates.

In 1957 a new examination was introduced by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, known as the *Graduate Membership* examination. Lackham altered the content of the Supplementary Course to cover this by having (A) and (B) groups. The (A) group had to satisfy the four 'O' level entry requirements of the Institution, whereas the (B) group continued with the City and Guilds syllabus. This meant a good deal of extra work by the teachers concerned for the (A) group, plus more time spent at Chippenham Technical College. This examination continued until 1966 when it was discontinued by the Institution for economic reasons.

The year 1962 saw the introduction of a further higher level course at Lackham. The City and Guilds course for Agricultural Engineering Technicians was approved by H.M. Inspectorate to be run jointly by Lackham and Chippenham Technical College. With this approval came a new workshop and mechanics laboratory block,

plus a good deal of valuable teaching equipment. This course is still running and attracts an intake of around 16 per course.

It has been found over the years that some students were not entirely workshop biased, but had expressed a view that more "farm mechanisation" would be helpful to them. In order to satisfy this need, a one year course in Farm Mechanisation was introduced in 1967 and ran for three years with small numbers.

The latter part of the 1960s saw a change taking place concerning agricultural education generally, with the suggestion of O.N.D. and H.N.D. courses being introduced. These were to be sandwich type courses with a minimum educational standard of four 'O' levels or equivalent being needed for O.N.D. and 'A' level for H.N.D. in one or more subjects.

It was considered at length by the Lackham staff what should be offered at the College and after long and detailed discussion, it was decided to offer an O.N.D. Course in Farm Mechanisation.

The previous experience gained from the one year approach proved most helpful and it is pleasing to note that the O.N.D. in Farm Mechanisation, started in 1970, has been successful for over seven courses.

It would not be a complete record of what the Machinery Department staff have done over the years if the valuable work done in centres all over the County on day release work was omitted.

The course for Agricultural Mechanics held at Trowbridge, Salisbury and Swindon were run for varying periods, the longest being at Salisbury for 11 years. It was decided that it would be more beneficial to the apprentices and reduce travelling costs if the instruction was offered on a Block Release system at Lackham. The changeover started in 1967 and is running at the present time very successfully. A good deal of work is done for Young Farmers' Clubs and for the various Training Boards on short courses at Lackham and also on farm locations.

Advice to students and parents is given at all times and it is very gratifying to know that many ex-Lackham students are bringing their own sons and daughters for interviews on careers linked with agriculture and allied industries. [i]

## MACHINERY DEPARTMENT STAFF 1946-1970

Mr T J Witchell	1946 - Easter 1952
Returned - December 1965	
Mr Robertson	1951 - 1959
Mr J P Leacey	1952 - 1954
Mr J Lewis	1957 part-time onwards
Mr H L Harrison	1959 onwards
Mr J Hawkins	1.959 - 1964
Mr R Partridge	September 1961 - August 1968
Mr M Gee-Pemberton	Replaced J. Hawkins Easter 1964 - December 1965
Mr J C Sartain	September 1964 - August 1968
Mr C Hughes	Workshop Technician September 1964 Replaced T J Witchell January 1966 Upgraded September 1969 Left December 1971
Mr P Tadman	Replaced Mr Gee-Pemberton January 1966
Mr R Savage	September 1965 onwards
Mr E W Gibbs	September 1960 - August 1967
Mr S P Battle	September 1967 - August 1970
Mr G R Keevil	Replaced J C Sartain September 1968 - September 1971
Mr J D Pemberton	September 1969 onwards
Mr R Thacker	Replaced S P Battle September 1970

[\[i\]](#)

## LACKHAM COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING - EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

### CITY AND GUILDS 260 AGRIC MECHANICS

Year	First Class	Second Class	Fail
1955		7	
1956		11	
1957		5	2



1958	3 *	Bronze Medal (Partridge)	5	1
1959			15	
1960	6		6	
1961	7*	Bronze Medal (Sheppard)	6	
1962	7*	Bronze Medal (Webb)	8	
1963	4		10	2
1964	3		12	1
1965	7		11	
1966	9		14	
1967	8			1

	Distinction	Credit	Pass	Fail
1968		15	5	1
1969	1	17	6	
1970	1	9	5	
1971		14	3	1

#### CITY AND GUILDS 270

	Pass	Fail
1955	9	10
1956	17	8
1957	8	15
1958	12	2
1959	27	5
1960	26	
1961	22	7
1962	25	3

	First Class	Second Class	Fail
1963	10	12	
1964	2	29	5
1965	12	19	1
1966	7	28	4
1967	2	38	1

	Credit	Pass	Fail
1968	18	11	9
1969	16	13	1
1970	15	10	2
1971	7	4	

#### CITY AND GUILDS 261 AGRIC FITTER/TECHNICIANS

	First Class	Second Class	Fail
1963	3	3	1
1964	5	4	
1965	3	7	
1966	6* Silver Medal (Gelnar)	8	

1967	2	14		
	Distinction	Credit	Pass	Fail
1968	5	18	1	
1969	2	11	2	
1970		6	4	
1971	4* Silver Medal (Richardson)	9	3	1

1972		15		
------	--	----	--	--

#### I AGR. E MEMBERSHIP EXAM

	Pass	Fail
1958	1	1
1959	6	
1960	4	1
1961	5	1
1962	7	
1963	8	
1964		
1965	2	
1966	2	
	35	3

## CHAPTER XVII

### AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN WILTSHIRE by J Alexander, Agricultural Training Board

Although the Agricultural Training Board was set up in 1966 as a national body under the terms of the 1964 Industrial Training Act, it might be appropriate, before entering into details of the comparatively short history of its activities in the county, to recall the operations of the National Agricultural Apprenticeship scheme. This in many ways preceded the Board and was, for all practical purposes, taken over by it.

The Agricultural Apprenticeship Council's scheme was launched in 1953 -very much along the lines of apprenticeship schemes for other industries. Its funds and resources were extremely limited and at county level. The Council relied almost entirely on voluntary help from public spirited people and the goodwill of the local representatives of N.A.A.S., L.E.A., N.F.U., N.U.A.A.W. and the Youth Employment Service, who were formed into local committees. In Wiltshire, a committee was formed in 1953 under the chairmanship of Mr E F Boulton of Hannington, with Mr W Case of Bowerchalke as Secretary and administered by the then Secretary of the County Wages Committee based in Bath. Shortly afterwards the administration was moved to Trowbridge and thence to N.A.A.S. county offices at Devizes. Mr Boulton and Mr Case continued as Chairman and Secretary alternatively, until the County Apprenticeship Committee's administration was taken over by the A.T.B. in 1968, when Mr Y W York-King of Edington assumed the Chairmanship. The Committee continued until 1971, when it was agreed to hand over its responsibilities to the local Area Training Committee of the Board, as recommended by the Agricultural Apprenticeship Council. In that year, the A.T.B. launched the New Entrant Training Scheme, to supercede the Apprenticeship Scheme, which was wound up. The New Entrant Training Scheme, is in practice, broadly similar to the old Apprenticeship Scheme, as revised in 1961.

In 1961 the Agricultural Apprenticeship Council had revised its scheme and introduced a feature, which was to have considerable implications later, namely the taking by apprentices of Proficiency Tests which, if successfully completed, qualified the candidate for a wage premium under the Wages Act. The tests selected were those of the Young Farmers' Movement, to be administered by the local test committees of that organisation.

It was hoped that this move would give a greater incentive to young people entering agriculture to undertake more formal training than had been the case, but unfortunately in most counties, including Wiltshire, it did not have the desired effect. Most employers in Wiltshire were paying in excess of the basic rate anyway. Adequate resources to carry out tests at a local level did not exist in the

county and the County Proficiency Test Committees had fallen into disuse.

The last apprentice to be signed up under the old council scheme in the county completed his apprenticeship in 1974, by which time the New Entrant Scheme was also producing the first trained craftsmen from trainees signed up in 1971. By a strange coincidence, the last apprentice to qualify under the old council scheme in the county and also the first to qualify under the A.T.B. scheme, were both horticulturalists. They are shown in the photograph album, at extreme left and right, being presented with their certificates by the Chairman of the County N.F.U. Branch, Mr Breach and the late Fred Hayward, County Organiser of the N.U.A.A.W. and for many years a member of the County Apprenticeship Committee.

In October 1970, because of the need to formalise testing arrangements in the county for apprentices, and more especially because of the imminence of acceptance by the Agricultural Wages Board of a wages structure based on proficiency testing, interested parties in the county were called together to a meeting at Lackham College. This meeting was addressed by the National Proficiency Test Council Secretary and as a result of it, a new county Proficiency Test Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr P Walters, who had recently been appointed Principal of the College. Mr P Chamberlin, Extra Mural Organiser at the College was appointed Secretary.

In the meantime while these developments proceeded, many other problems connected with the A.T.B. work in the county were being resolved. It had become obvious by the end of 1968 that the detailed implementation of the 1964 Industrial Training Act was not feasible in Agriculture, either nationally or locally. The fragmented nature of agriculture meant that the finance of the Board, by levy of individual employers on a per capita basis of employees, was impossible. Also, the large number of self-employed people in the Industry were out of the Board's scope and this was an ever present administrative stumbling block.

With commendable foresight, the Governors of Lackham had in 1966 attempted a pilot exercise of training courses, assuming that when constituted, the A.T.B. would be able to finance them directly to the L.E.A., but because of the weakness outlined above, in the unsuitability of the 1964 Act this was not possible. Hence for a year or two, this exercise had to be shelved, with much regret on the part of both L.E.A. and A.T.B. staff. These local difficulties were, however, mirrored nationally and therefore in late 1969, after much consultation with all interested parties, the A.T.B. was placed on a new footing. It was transferred from the responsibility of the Department of Employment to the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and financed direct by Government Agricultural funds. The self-employed and the employers in the Industry were brought into scope and the Board was enabled to reimburse the L.E.A.s in respect of all trainees in the Agricultural Industry. Area Training Committees at county level were set up for local consultation and to administer the New Entrant Scheme. As far as Wiltshire was concerned, this meant that the years 1970/71 were a landmark. While much

remained to be done, the foundation for a productive relationship between the Board and Lackham College had been laid, to enable both to work together for the benefit of the Agricultural Industry.

The first Chairman of the new Area Training Committee was Mr M M Mortimer of Broughton Gifford and the first meeting was held in Devizes in May 1970. At that meeting, working parties were set up to produce a programme of training courses in the county in conjunction with Lackham College. At a subsequent meeting in July of the same year, a programme was approved and later agreed with the L.E.A., for direct payment by the Board. Since that time, a steady progress has been made and whereas in 1970 a programme of approximately 10 x 1 and 2 day courses were run, in 1976, at the time of writing, this figure is approaching 60 courses, involving almost 200 trainees (from April 1975 to April 1976) of all ages. These courses covered many skills including calving cows using a plastic simulator, the operation and maintenance of chain saws and the use of the metric system in the farm office.

Similar progress can be recorded in the County in the recruitment of young people into formal training schemes. The attached graph shows the numbers of formal apprentices under the old scheme, from 1953 to 1971 and from that year onward under the new A.T.B. scheme. From the graph again it may be seen that the years 1970/71 saw the real increase in apprentice trainee numbers in the county. A number of developments contributed to this, including the formal adoption by the Industry of a wages structure based on Proficiency Tests and the reconstitution of the A.T.B.

While it was becoming clear that the consistent labour shedding of the previous 20 years in agriculture, which had made the old apprenticeship scheme so difficult to operate in a county like Wiltshire with its rapid farm mechanisation progress, could not continue indefinitely at the same rate, it was also apparent to many progressive farmers that mechanisation had brought its own labour problems. Many tasks now are carried out on the farm by highly skilled men operating sophisticated and complex machinery in isolation and a trainee, especially a 16 year old, can be at least an expensive luxury, at most an acceptable liability in such situations. Hence more and more training has to be done "off the job" in a learning situation.

It was with this problem in mind that the first Initial (i.e. basic) Training Course was held at Lackham in 1974, when a small group of about 12 school leavers, just about to enter farm employment, were given a fortnight's intensive instruction in the basic farm skills of tractor driving and livestock handling. The course was jointly sponsored by the County Council and the A.T.B. and judged to be successful. A further course was held in 1975 and two such courses are planned for 1976. The time may well come when all young entrants to agriculture will require some sort of basic instruction along these lines.[\[1\]](#)

## CONCLUSION

Agricultural Education and Training have never been "easy subjects", easy that is, in the sense that all in the Industry can agree on what form they should take, and set against the background of an industry which has undergone some turbulent and traumatic changes in the last 50 years, *many* difficulties are^ as yet, unresolved. Not the least of these difficulties as far as Wiltshire is concerned, lies in the very wide ranges of farming types and situations to be found in the county - it is a hard task to provide education and training to suit them all.

[\[i\]](#)

## CHAPTER XVIII

### LACKHAM OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

by Leslie Rogers (1951-52)

Lackham College of Agriculture had its beginnings in a welter of post-war shortages and improvisation. Rather grudgingly, I feel, His late Majesty's Government had offered the young men and youths who survived the war a resettlement course. The Ex-Service intake which filled Lackham in its first five years were a cosmopolitan crowd.

Landowners and pre-war farm workers, ex-corporals and former colonels all came the same way home. It is perhaps natural that a generation which reluctantly accepted prolonged regimentation, and who found the rigours of this regimentation softened by social relationships would hope to continue civil life in the same spirit.

As the Association's first secretary and general everything, the Warden, Bill London, supplied this need. It was an unpretentious but successful start. The story of the L.O.S.A. in a way 'mirrors the progress of our changing society. Advancing technology and widening expertise made for greater specialisation. In addition to the General Agricultural and Horticultural Courses, Lackham provided Rural Domestic Economy Courses and specialised courses in Machinery and Mechanisation on the farm and in the workshops. This led to the Ordinary and Advanced Diplomas in Farm Mechanisation. Students now came from all parts of the United Kingdom and at the end of a year or two spread throughout our islands and beyond. It was accepted that these movements to faraway places with unpronounceable names would effect the dropout and composition of the Association membership. But these ex-students have and still do provide articles for the Annual Magazine, "The Lackhamian", telling us how they are helping the old Empire of Britain to die in peace and tranquillity and promoting new relationships of inestimable value for the future.

After a faltering start, the magazine got under way by the expedient of willing away the advertising rights to an agency in return for free printing. It has established a tradition of moving from an editorial crisis to a publishing crisis and back again, but it survives, albeit late in publication. Magazine editors who will stay the pace have been hard to come by over the years. Without exception they have been staff members of the Association. It is noticeable that numbers of ex-students who never attend a reunion regularly renew their membership. The magazine fills a positive roll, as twentieth century society will not be remembered as a great age of letter writing. Many friendships which in the English fashion, are both warm and casual survive through its good offices.

Most ex-students would agree that when making a career in Agriculture, an ambitious young man should consider any option which comes his way. To the ex-student without farming connections, Lackham's extensive curriculum provided more openings and this is

reflected in their ultimate careers. From growing shrubs for the suburban gardens of Manchester, to arable farming on the East coast to dairying on the West, producing quality tomatoes and lettuce for a selective consumer market to developing methods of usefully employing the reluctant 'farmers' of H.M. prisons in a complex industry.

In the early days of L.O.S.A. reunions it was the practice to engage a speaker to comment on current trends in Agriculture, but this function was never well supported. Most members who attended reunions, particularly those engaged in commercial farming, prefer to assess new techniques which Lackham, in fulfilling one of its functions, practises by moving around and getting the opinion of the staff engaged in the various projects. The reunions, which began as a booze-up in a local pub, changed to a formal occasion with a speaker, a sit down meal, and the appropriate toasts, then to an informal get-together, a buffet meal and the current mood in dance music,

In its time, the Association has honoured two members with a life associate. Mr J O Thomas, Lackham Principal for twenty-two years, could always be relied on to work unobtrusively, with the energy which those of us who studied under him remember so well and Bert Stepney, who was the L.O.S.A. secretary for about the same period. Bert, a mild and unpretentious man, would defend the Association's interests on all occasions and against all comers. The relationship of the L.O.S.A. with the College has been mutually beneficial. Much of the spade work for the Association has been done by staff members, while the L.O.S.A. has supported student functions and made a sizeable donation to the rural crafts museum. This museum, expanded rapidly during the 1950's and 60's, to a fine collection of craft tools and domestic bric-a-brac. It was a combined effort of students, staff and the L.O.S.A. The strength of the Association is its sensitivity to its members' likes and its readiness to change, in spite of a slow and ponderous attitude to innovation. It took three A.G.M.'s to agree on the Association's tie and badge. It has a durable constitution, which took four years to complete. It came into being as a social club, and as a social club it survives, in an age of staggering social and economic changes.

It is right and proper that some detail of these changes which make history should be recorded at least in part by the participants. This is my brief contribution. [\[i\]](#)



Illustrations



Mrs Bull (ringed) [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Professor R. Boutflour, one of the first Agricultural Organisers in Wiltshire, 1922-26. This was the beginning of a new technical era in British Agriculture.

[\*] [p]



Mr. W. T. Price, the popular Agricultural Organiser for  
Wiltshire 1926-46, presenting a prize to one of  
Mrs. Bull's Dairy Students.

[\*] [p]



Mr. H. W. Tomlinson (wearing spectacles), Assistant to Professor Boutflour, discussing a farm problem, 1928.

[\*] [p]



Ald Stratton

[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



CW Whatley

[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



War Agricultural Executive Committee

Front Row

Ald. CW Whatley JP; WT Price MC (Chief Ex Officer); Ald R Stratton JP (Chairman); Ald E Pritchard JP; The Hon Mrs Methuen JP

Back Row

Mr Stratton; Ald P Swanton JP; Ald WE Case JP;  
G Bishop (Secretary); LH Way OBE (Land Commissioner); HW Tomlinson (Assistant Officer); Capt FF Spicer; Maj TK Jeans MC; RW Horton JP; K Badger (Land Agent); J Fleming (Assistant Officer) [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



*Photo: Bath and Wiltshire Chronicle and Herald.*

The new Wiltshire ~~Wiltshire~~ Agricultural Executive Committee on the occasion of their first meeting on 30th August, 1946.

Front Row (left to right)—Ald. C. W. Whatley, J.P.; W. T. Price, M.C. (Chief Executive Officer); R. W. Horton, J.P. (Chairman); Mrs. R. W. Awdry.

Second Row—L. H. Way, O.B.E. (Land Commissioner); G. Bishop (Secretary); Major T. K. Jeans, M.C.; Captain F. F. Spicer; W. A. J. Case; R. H. Angell.

Back Row—H. Horton; E. G. Parsons; F. J. Keen; J. A. Arnold-Forster; Ald. F. Swanton, J.P.; Mrs. M. Hall (Secretariat).

Mr. J. V. Coe, the only other member of the Committee, was absent.

YOUR ADDRESS TO THE NEW COMMITTEE. See page 13.

[\*] [p]



The "Address" on p13 is below

Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee

## THE NEW WILTS ~~WAR~~ AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The W.A.E.C. has done its work, and has now passed away to be replaced by a new Committee. I hope the "War" will be dropped and the new Committee known as the A.E.C.

The personnel of the Wilts Agricultural Executive Committee are well known in this County, and I hope will inspire confidence.

They have undertaken a great task at a time when all previous standards have been thrown into the melting pot.

Upon them devolves the duty of establishing agriculture upon a new basis.

The Union realises that certain commodities are more necessary than others for the economy of the Country, and that our farming must be fitted into our Financial position.

We look to the new Committee to frame as their Policy for Wiltshire a policy which will enable us to have the greatest freedom compatible with good husbandry and the needs of the Nation.

In order that this policy may succeed there must be 100 % co-operation between the farmers and the Committee, and through the Committee with the Ministry of Agriculture. This can only be obtained by the adoption of a plan which permits of the average farmer both to make a living and to restore and maintain the fertility of his farm.

The Minister has from time to time pointed out that the Committee members are his agents; this, of course, must be so. The duty of an agent is to foster his principal's affairs and promote goodwill between the principal and third parties, who are in this case the Farmers.

The industry on the whole accepted compulsion as an unpleasant necessity of war; now it looks forward to freedom.

Bureaucracy and officials have a limited place upon the land. Forms must be simple, easy to complete, and reduced in number to an absolute minimum.

Whereas we realise that in return for guaranteed and stable prices some measure of control is inevitable,

the acceptance of directions by the farmers can only be expected when such directions are not likely to prejudice either his income and/or the fertility of his farm.

The present food crisis we hope will soon pass, and then there must be an acceptance of the undeniable fact that, in spite of a measure of control, the industry is inevitably changing from a War-time Policy to a Peace-time Policy, and the Farmers' mind is now directed towards the question of economic rather than maximum production from his land.

The British people in general, and the farming community in particular, have since September, 1939, been engaged in an all-out effort to preserve the principles of democracy. We, with our Allies, are recorded as having won this most important battle, and the value of this victory will only be assessed on the administration of our industries in the years that lie immediately ahead.

On the 15th August the Council met Mr. T. Williams, when he offered a joint examination between the Union and his Department into the procedure for conducting price reviews. This offer was accepted subject to certain conditions. Mr. Williams has now written indicating the Government's agreement with these conditions, and it now looks as if the stage is set for friendly negotiations for the settlement of our outstanding grievances. Thus the new A.E.C. starts work in an atmosphere which a few weeks ago seemed impossible, and the Union, on behalf of the Farmers, are able to pledge their maximum support, and each of us will settle down to work for the benefit of the industry and the Nation.

We wish the new Committee every success in their work upon which depends the whole future of our industry. If the Committee fails in its task chaos will prevail; if they succeed, they will earn the thanks and esteem of everyone engaged on the land.

**THEY MUST NOT FAIL.**

C.R.A.

31st August, 1946.

[\*]

Agricultural Executive text





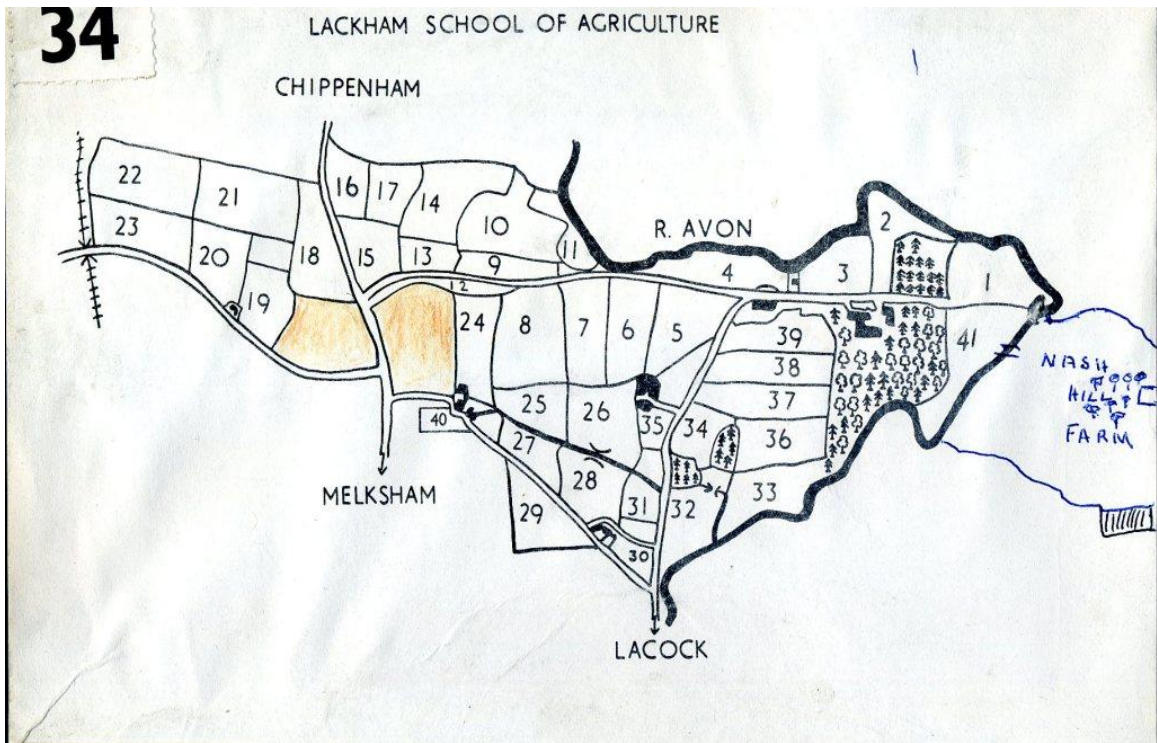
Henry Cole who worked for Lord Glanely and Major Holt, dry stone walling at Home Farm, 1950. He was responsible for building the wall on the road side enclosing Wall Field, Biddestone Lane.

[\*] [p]

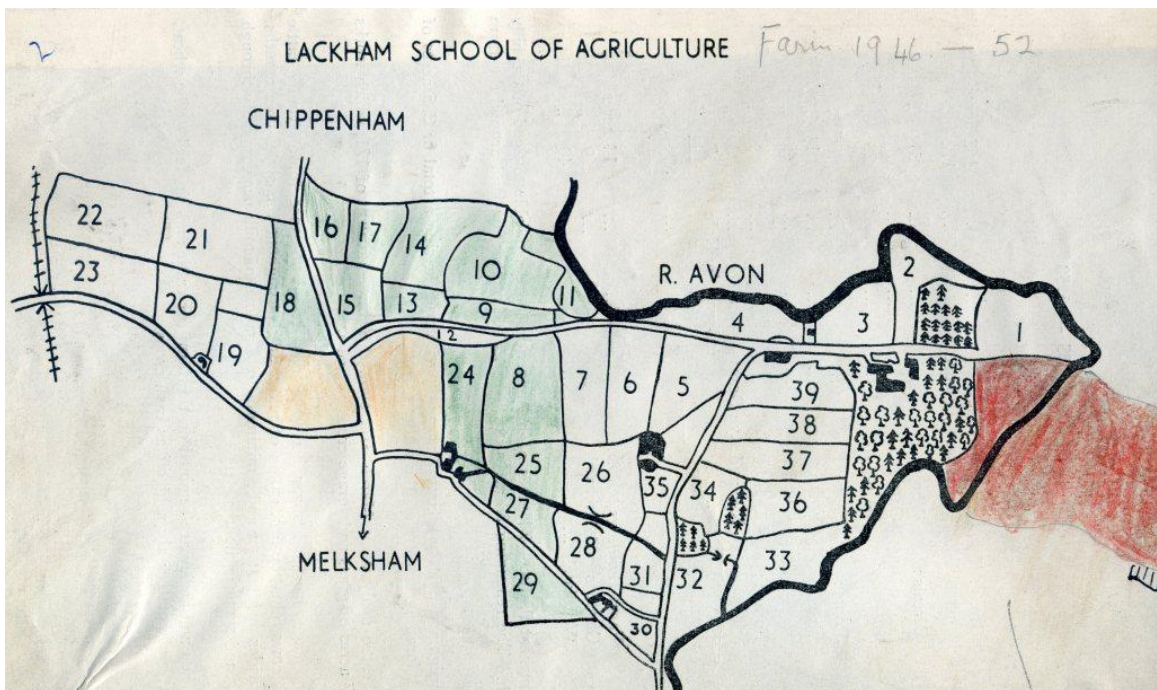


Jack Chivers 1949 - *not* 1848!

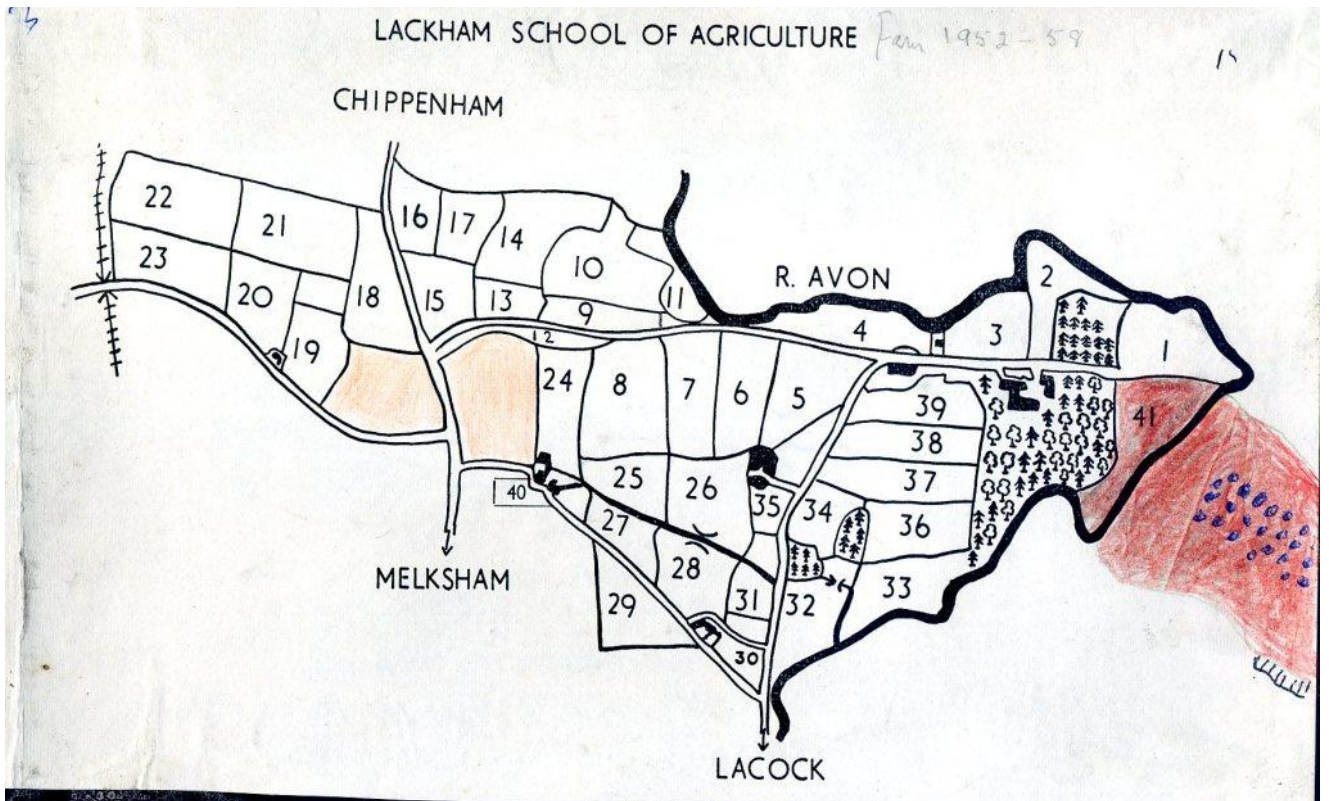
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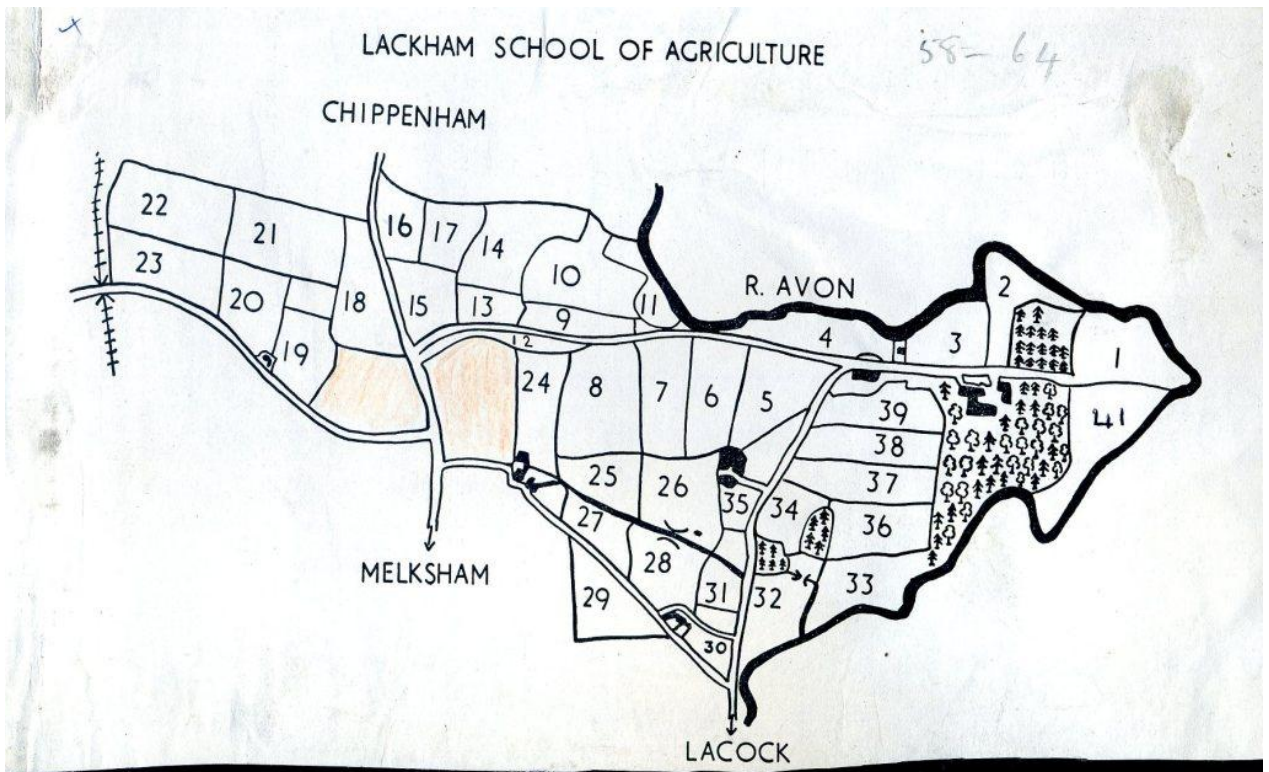
Map 1 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



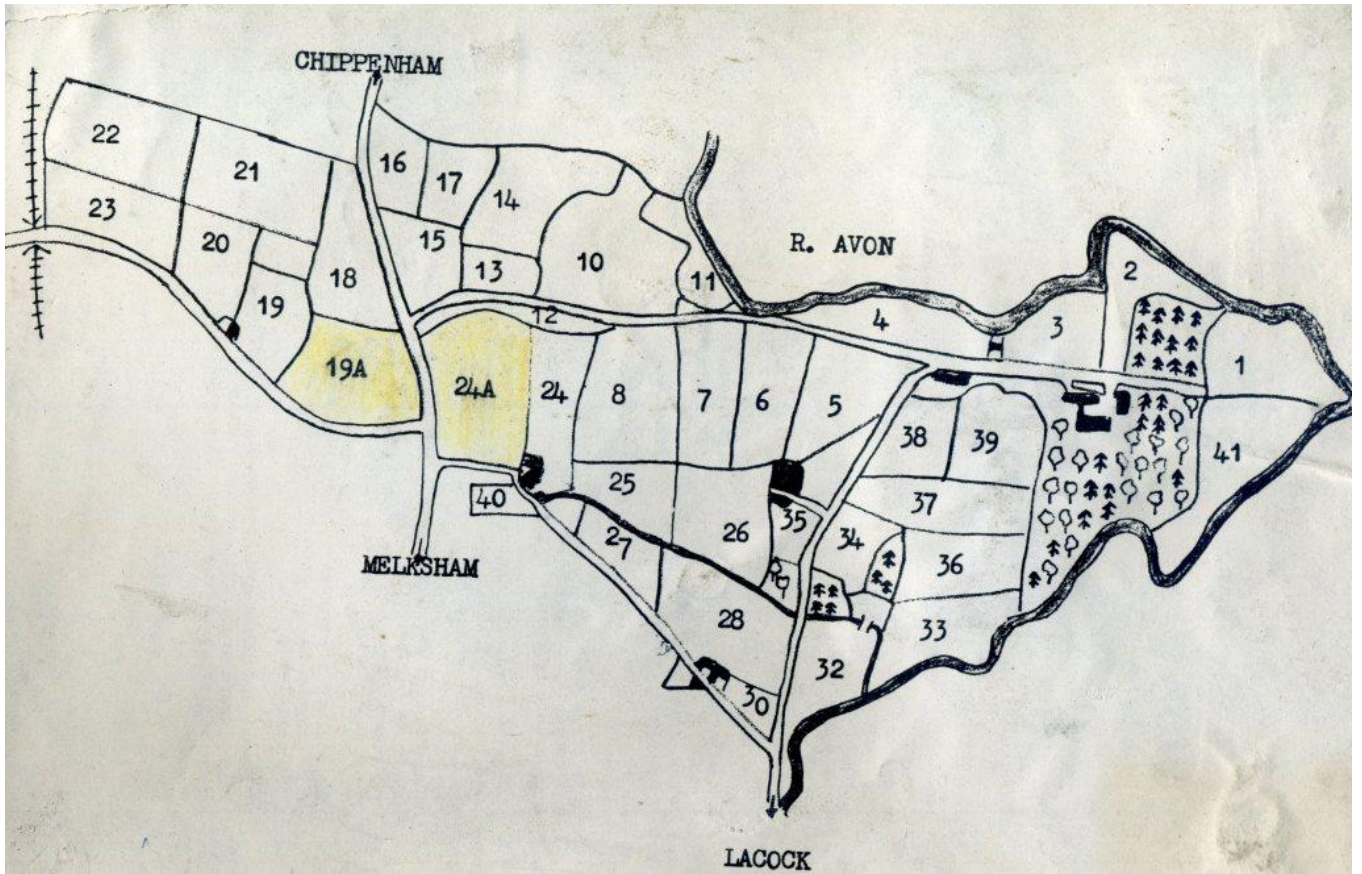
Map 2 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



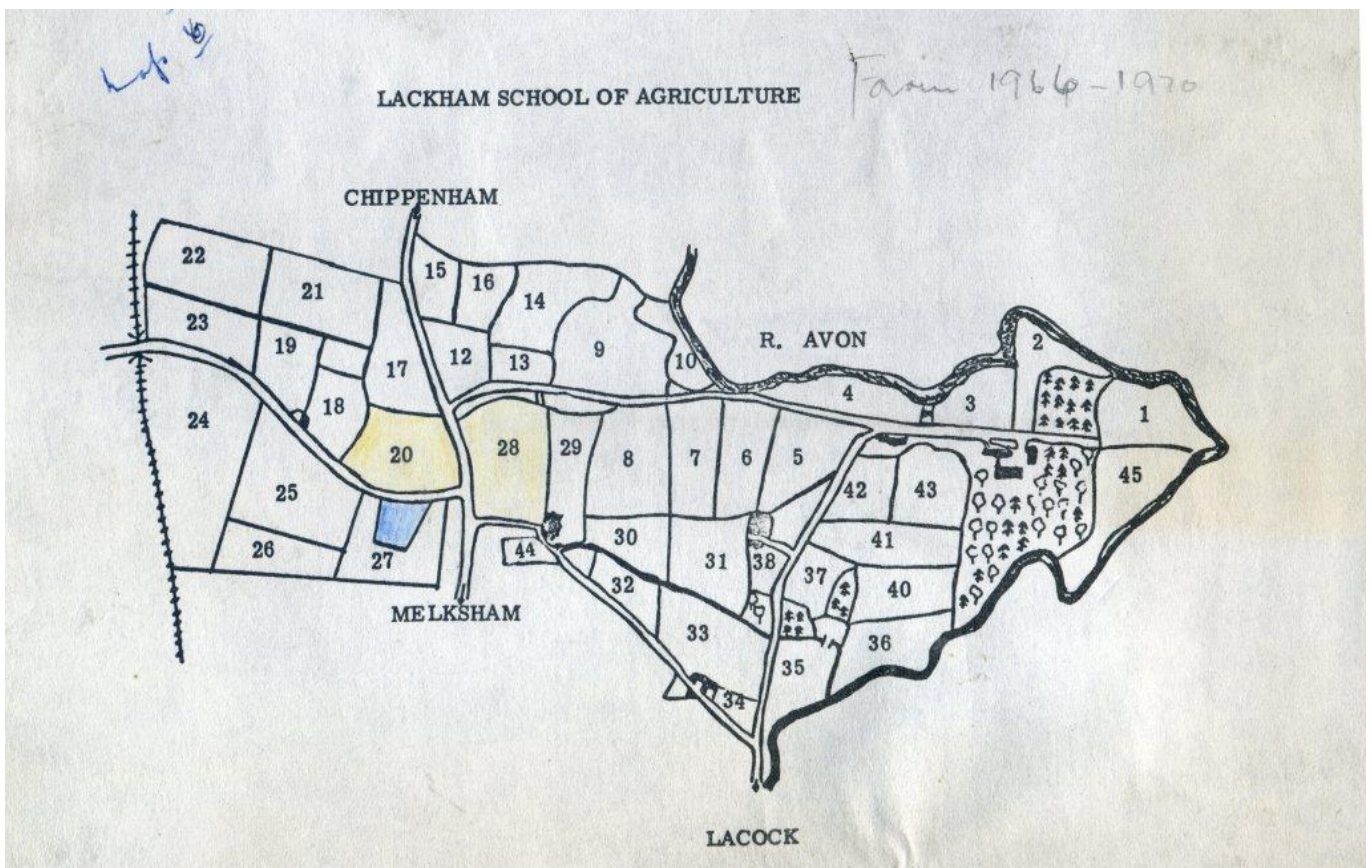
Map 3 [\*] [p]



Map 4 [\*] [p]



Map 5 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Map 6 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)

The Pilkington Report - Abstract of the article published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB). The abstract is from their website at

<http://www.cabdirect.org/abstracts/19661802937.html;jsessionid=4A52DC6648136B30FF3240AEA57B3503> There is a subscription service charge for more than just the Abstract

### **ABSTRACT**

*The National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce appointed an Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education in 1963 which was asked to report on " the present provision of, and future requirements for, full-time further education for agriculture in institutions other than universities with special reference to courses above the level of one-year certificate courses". In the introduction it is stated that the technological revolution which has taken place in agriculture in the past 25 years, current developments in its business organization and marketing arrangements, and the requirements of ancillary occupations, all emphasize the need for a progressive system of agricultural education, accompanied by practical (industrial) training and integrated with the rest of further education. The remaining chapters of the report deal with the occupations served, numerical demand, education and training course organization, special branches and allied technologies, women, examinations, the institutional pattern. One of the four appendices is devoted to management education in agriculture. A. T. S.*





Arthur Stockwell, about 1960? [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Ted Culling about 1960? [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



LACKHAM AWARD WINNERS at the annual prizegiving at the Lackham School of Agriculture on Saturday (Harry Lacey photo). Below: Mr. John Cherrington presents the Royal Horticultural Society's long service medal to Mr. P. R. Brunt of the garden staff. (Peter Francis photo).



Percy Brunt [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mrs J Harman [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr G Weetman  
1951 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr H Teal 1951  
[[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Miss J Guley  
1951 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr J Maddox  
1951 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Miss B Salt 1951  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mrs D Cribb 1951  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr E  
Watkinson 1951  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr R Brain 1951  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr S Bell 1951  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr JO Thomas  
1951 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Miss DA Lewis  
1957 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr J Leese 1957  
[\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mrs PA Beney  
1957 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr DL Willet 1957  
[[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr AH Walker  
1957 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Miss MA Penny  
1957 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



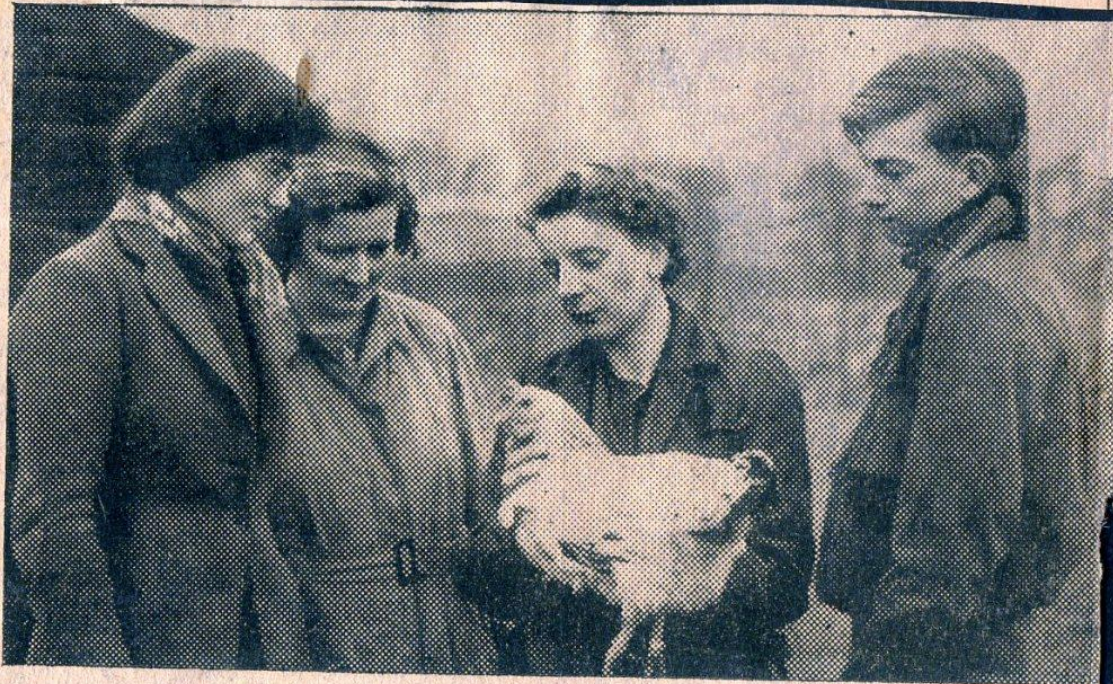
Mr DJ Lumbard  
1957 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr TJ Whitchell  
1957 [[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Mr EG  
Weetman 1957  
[[\\*](#)] [[p](#)]



Miss L. F. Chaborel gives useful advice on poultry handling and recognition to students Miss R. Thomas (left), Miss J. Ponting and Mr. D. Illman.

Miss LF Chaborel 1953 [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)



Mr. Watkinson with a School Children's Course.  
How the milking machine works, 1953

Mr E Watkinson, Vice Principal [\[\\*\]](#) [\[p\]](#)