

Outstanding Seale-Haynians

Fred Harper, ed, 2020

The Seale-Haynians Club

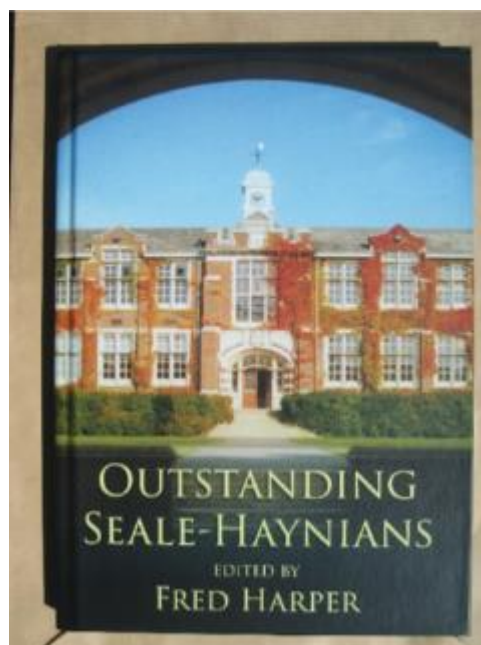
Hardback, 137 pages, £12, incl. p&p

ISBN 979-1-5272-6588-2

Available from:

https://seale-hayne.com/?page_id=1588

This beautifully produced and well-illustrated hardback book celebrates Seale-Hayne Agricultural College which gained a strong international reputation. It sat strategically at the heart of southwest England and covered agricultural, food, technological and environmental studies/ research at diploma, degree and postgraduate levels – from field to plate and beyond into catering and tourism management. No other UK agricultural education provider then covered that whole range. Southwest England produces some 25 percent of the output of British agriculture and thus many, including those in rival establishments of agricultural education provision, were much saddened by its ‘merger’ into what became the University of Plymouth – and its subsequent sale. Its alumni and those awarded its honorary degrees continue to represent the sound foundations for their careers gained at Seale- Hayne. This book celebrates some of them and was edited by Dr Fred Harper, the last Principal of Seale-Hayne College and First Dean of Faculty at Plymouth. He was ably assisted by a small panel, and by two stalwart supporters of their alma mater, Raymond (Ray) Bartlett, Chairman of The Seale-Haynians, and Ian Goodwin, Chairman of the Seale- Hayne Future Group, both rightly persuaded to feature in the book.



The first 16 pages are devoted to a brief history of the college and two key figures in its establishment – Rt Hon Sir Charles Seale-Hayne (whose GBP 100 000 bequest in 1903 seeded the project) and Viscount Lambert as the first Chairman of Governors from 1909, who continued his active support until his death in 1958. Owing to the First World War, the College began teaching agricultural courses from 1920. Dr H Ian Moore CBE, Seale-Hayne’s long-serving Principal from 1948 to 1971, features in the book, as does alumnus Dr AG (Tony) Harris CBE who was the distinguished Principal and CEO at rival Harper Adams Agricultural College from 1977 to 1994.

In all, illustrated portraits of 30 outstanding alumni are presented in alphabetical order. In addition, there follows a chronological presentation of the citations used at the time of their awards for 20 recipients of honorary degrees at Seale-Hayne from 1993 to 2004. Pages 126–130 provide a reflection on the wide range of people and disciplines described, which is followed by acknowledgements, and a piece on the Seale-Hayne Education Trust. Pages 133–136 portray

the editor Professor Fred Harper, who resigned his Plymouth professorship in protest at the sale of Seale-Hayne. The book ends with a list of references and more photographs.

I am aware of some outstanding Seale-Hayne alumni who declined to feature, and others who perhaps were not approached. I count among my friends a number of those featured, but that bias apart, my academic links are with rival institutions who relished past competition with this great College whose alumni continue to do it credit. Anyone associated with Seale-Hayne will find this book a fascinating record, as will all those interested in agricultural education worldwide. The compilers are to be congratulated for their initiative, ably edited by Fred Harper.

John Wibberley

(TAA member)