

A DORSET CHILDHOOD

Andrew Norman

Rural England in the 1940s and '50s was often far from a rustic idyll. Just as the World War was ending, Rachel Jordan was born to parents who were working on the land, her mother a member of the Land Army and her father a conscientious objector. Rachel was a happy child who excelled at school, particularly in music and tennis, and harboured an ambition to become a nurse.

Simultaneously, however, there was a parallel narrative going on in her life, because her father Arthur became Dorset County Organiser for the National Union of Agricultural Workers (NUAW), and a convinced communist – a rare phenomenon in those days of the Cold War! Arthur's political views and those of his wife, Joan (who shared them) impacted inevitably on Rachel.

Growing up in Dorset, childhood travels in Eastern Europe, married life in Communist Hungary, becoming a Nursing Sister, and a return to Dorset where her father had played the central role in reviving the Tolpuddle Martyr rallies, are key points in this fascinating personal journey.

Rachel modestly described herself as an uninteresting person who had an exciting life. In an ironic twist, part of this life would be spent behind the 'Iron Curtain' where the reality was far different from what Arthur and Joan could ever have imagined!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew Norman was born in Newbury, Berkshire, UK in 1943. Having been educated at Thornhill High School, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Midsomer Norton Grammar School, and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he qualified in medicine at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He has two children Bridget and Thomas, by his first wife.

From 1972-83, Andrew worked as a general practitioner in Poole, Dorset, before a spinal injury cut short his medical career. He is now an established writer whose published works include biographies of Charles Darwin, Winston Churchill, Thomas Hardy, T. E. Lawrence, Adolf Hitler, Agatha Christie, Enid Blyton, Beatrix Potter, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Andrew married his second wife Rachel in 2005.

***For a full listing of all Halsgrove titles,
please visit our website at www.halsgrove.com***

The Halsgrove Group includes DAA Halsgrove Ltd., Halsgrove Ltd. & Halstar Ltd.
Registered in England & Wales Nos. 4136732, 6029724 & 6472636 at Halsgrove House, Wellington TA21 9PZ.
Imprints: Halsgrove, Ryelands, Halstar, PIXZ Books & Halswood Journals. Halsgrove® is a registered trademark. Copyright© 2016

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION

ANDREW NORMAN

A Dorset Childhood



Growing up in the land of the Tolpuddle
Martyrs at the time of the Cold War

Format: *Hardback, 136 pages, A5, illustrated
throughout with b/w photographs.*

Price: *£14.99*

ISBN: *978 1 906551 53 7*

Imprint: *Ryelands*

Published: *August 2023*



ryelands

Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com