

# A PURBECK ROMANCE

*Set in Thomas Hardy's Glorious Wessex*

**Andrew Norman**

When I set out on my bicycle one sunny summer day in early June, from my hometown of Poole, in Dorset in southern England, for the village of Studland, on a date to meet a lady called Rachel from nearby Swanage, I could not have imagined that this event would change my life.

To my delight, I discovered that Rachel shared my love for the works of Dorset poet and writer Thomas Hardy, and when we discovered that he had written his novel *The Hand of Ethelberta* in Swanage, we decided to retrace the steps of the book's eponymous heroine: for example to Corfe Castle, Nine Barrow Down, and Encombe House.

Ethelberta's dreams were realised when she married Lord Mountclere. As for myself, my own dreams were realised when Rachel accepted my proposal of marriage, and our wedding day was the happiest day of my life!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

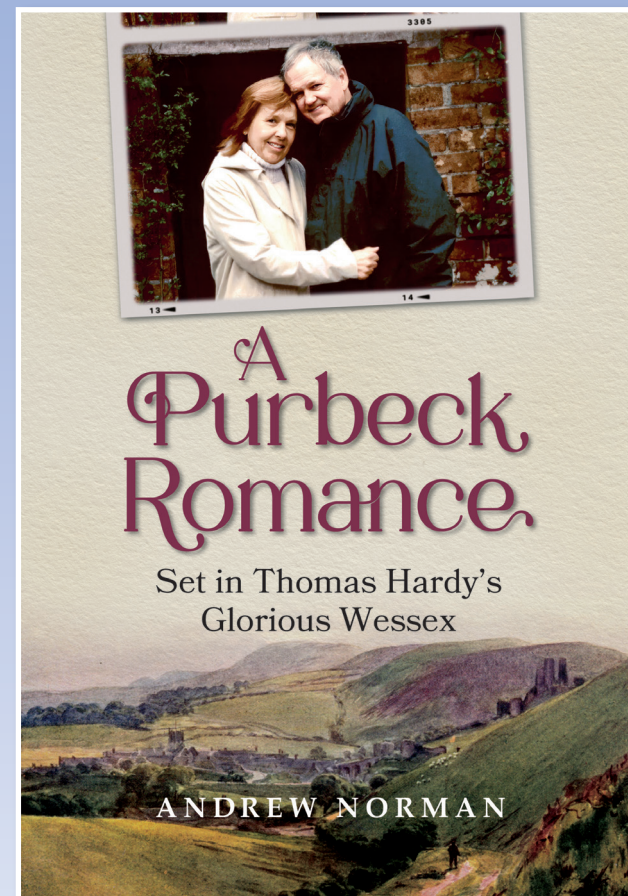
**Andrew Norman** was born in Newbury, Berkshire, UK in 1943. Having been educated at Thornhill High School, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Midsomer Norton Grammar School, and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he qualified in medicine at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He has two children Bridget and Thomas,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

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## HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



**Format:** *Hardback, 112 pages, A5, illustrated throughout with b/w photographs.*

**Price:** *£12.99*

**ISBN:** *978 1 90655 152 0*

**Imprint:** *Ryelands*

**Published:** *May 2023*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,  
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