

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

Newsletter Winter 2013 : Issue 119

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Club News From the PRESS OFFICER

PETER FOSTER TO BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE OLD HARDYEANS

My three year term as President of the Old Hardyans ends in March and I'm pleased to announce that my old friend Peter Foster will follow me as President. In a change from the usual procedure, the new President will be invested with the ribbon and jewel of office immediately prior to Grace, at the Annual Reunion Dinner on 16 March.

I am delighted Peter Foster is to be the new President. We have been firm friends for more than 54 years- starting at Wollaston House in September 1958, we sat together for many years.

I remember my days at Hardye's mostly with affection. That friendships such as ours have lasted over half a century is partly due to good luck, but mainly due to the existence of the Old Hardyans- which keeps us all together. I wonder how many modern Thomas Hardye School students will still be in touch in 54 years time?"

I have greatly enjoyed my three years as President of the Old Hardyans; I thank members for the support and encouragement they have given me. Heather Foster will be supporting Peter in his new role, in the same way that Joan has sustained and helped me during my three years.

I wish Peter a happy three years as President and under his guidance, I know the Old Hardyans will continue to grow and flourish.

Michel Hooper-Immins.

THE FINAL LONDON DINNER

The final London Dinner, at the Royal Overseas League in Pall Mall in early November, proved to be a great success, with excellent food and outstanding silver service.

Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins told diners that the Council had made the decision with a heavy heart. "Sadly support from London members is decreasing and we have decided this will be the final London Dinner. It could be revived at some time in the future." He thanked Past President Gordon Crocker for suggesting the Royal Overseas League as a venue- "an inspired choice."

The President welcomed Michael Foley, "doing a splendid job as Head Teacher. Some of us attended the Act of Remembrance at Thomas Hardye School, when over 2,500 students stood in the open, a respectful and dignified event. Old Hardyans are delighted the tradition continues." "Last Friday I met Gary Batt, the new Chairman of Governors of Thomas Hardye School, who has replaced Jean Lang," continued Michel Hooper-Immins. "I repeated my idea that there needs to be many more Old Hardyans on the Board of Governors. I said this last year at the House of Commons- the new Chairman said he would consider the idea."

"Finally, I was amused to see Andrew Mitchell, lately Government Chief Whip, is alleged to have called a Downing Street policeman a 'pleb.' I was never good at latin and considered it a most difficult language, although occasionally useful in old churches to decipher tombstones. Most of us remember the tedious book Civis Romanus, which portrayed Rome as divided between the Patricians and the Plebians. To call somebody a 'pleb' at Hardye's was an insult- 50 years on it is an enduring insult delivered by a Government Minister. He really ought to have known better and it demonstrates the declining standards in public life."

Michael Foley said he was pleased to see so many familiar faces and was impressed by the success of many Old Hardyens, an inspiration to present students. "I tell them not to listen to people saying they can't do something. Resilience is a good quality, with hard work, success will come."

Hans Wells-Furby thanked Michael Foley for his wise words and well remembered Civis Romanus.

Chairman Colin Lucas concluded the evening, saying "our schooldays bind us together. The Charitable Trust is doing a good job in sponsoring needy Thomas Hardy School students who go on to university."

President Elect Peter Foster gave the Grace, at the start of the dinner.

Attending the final London Dinner were:

- Allard, Roger, Orpington, Kent 1957/64
- Coltart, John, London W1 1955/62
- Crocker, Gordon & Anne, Exmouth, Devon 1938/46
- Culver, David & Jeannette, Eltham [London] 1946/54
- Day, Tony, Dorchester 1957/62
- Farwell, John, South Woodford [London] 1955/63
- Foley, Mike Dorchester
- Ford, Tony, Limassol, Cyprus 1960/62
- Foster, Peter & Heather, Dorchester 1958/64
- Hooper-Immins, Michel & Joan, Weymouth 1958/65
- Lucas, Colin & Brenda, Dorchester 1946/50
- McCririck, David, Weymouth 1946/53
- Rench, Bob & Helen, Poole 1952/59
- Russell, Hayne & Pat, Weymouth 1947/53
- Welch, George & Sylvia, Longfield, Kent 1948/53
- Wells-Furby, Hans, Yeovil, Somerset 1944/51



Head Teacher Michael Foley speaks and Michel Hooper-Immins listens, at the last London Dinner. Photograph by Heather Foster.

NEWS OF STEPHEN VENNER



Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Venner [Hardye's School [1956/62] has become the Bishop to the Armed Forces and the Falkland Islands. Dr. Venner carries out Episcopal duties within the UK's Armed Forces, including pastoral oversight of Anglican Chaplains and the Anglican Church within the armed services. On a visit to his family home at Weymouth during the Olympic fortnight, Stephen Venner was invited to visit the Coastwatch Lookout at Portland Bill, accompanied by his wife Judy. Coastwatch monitor and record the inshore passage between Portland Race and the Bill.

Pic. Stephen Venner at Portland Bill Coastwatch Lookout.

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

On the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, we Old Hardyans gathered at the Memorial Gates of the Thomas Hardy School for the traditional Act of Remembrance. The entire school and staff - numbering over 2,500 - line up in a hollow square outside the gates, silently respectful of the solemn occasion. We have a privileged position to the left of the gates, just behind the Head Teacher.

The Combined Cadet Force band march up Queens Avenue to take their place in front of the gates, which are ceremonially closed just before 11am. Head Teacher Michael Foley introduced the Act of Remembrance, saying the brief service was "not to glorify war, but to remember those who were prepared to lay down their lives for their country and freedom."

Roni Neale, Oliver Ford and Sixth Form President Rory Newberry gave the readings, followed by Hannah Whaley, Chris Hoare and Ellis Buckley- who proclaimed the names of all those from Dorchester Grammar School who had lost their lives in the two world wars.

The Last Post by bugler Joe Brindley preceded the two minutes silence. Following Reveille, wreaths were laid by Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Skinner, Garry Batt [the new Chairman of the Governors] and Charley Billing & Sarah Elliot for Thomas Hardy School.

Before the students were dismissed, Michael Foley thanked the students for their dignity and respect throughout the ceremony. Old Hardyans were kindly entertained to tea in the Head Teacher's study.



The CCF Band marches into place as 2,500 staff and students look on.

Wreaths are laid by [left to right:] Lieutenant Colonel Mark Skinner, Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins, Sarah Elliot, Charley Billing, and the new Chairman of Governors, Garry Batt.

Photographs by Marilyn Peddle.

For further information and pictures of the event please visit the School website page as follows:

http://www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk/pages/news/2012/11_12/remembrance/remembrance.php

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS.

Now at the King's Arms Hotel, last Thursday of the month. Enquiries to Chairman Colin Lucas at 01305 265446 or Alan Brown, Treasurer, 01202 535034

FINAL LONDON DINNER took place on Tuesday 13th November 2012 see report, Front page

ANNUAL DINNER with AGMs for Club and Charitable Association, Saturday 16th March 2013, 7.15 for 7.30pm **St Peter's, Dorchester, Sunday 17th March 2013** at 1030am, Thomas Hardy School Chapel Choir leads the Schubert mass setting for the Eucharist. *Musical Director:* Peter Oakes (THS); *Celebrant and Preacher:* The Revd Vicky Thurtell, Vicar (Green School '71-79) Hardyans will read at the service; Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome.

Hardyeans' Club Information

Hardyeans' Club Newsletter

Editor Peter FOSTER.

Design, Typing and Preparation Heather FOSTER

Editorial Address Holmecroft, 12, South Court Ave, Dorchester,
Dorset. DT1 2BX (tel 01305 262121)

E-Mail heather.foster1@btinternet.com

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President Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

Chairman Colin LUCAS

Hon Membership Secretary A R (Bob) RENCH,
15 North Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset
BH14 0LT (tel. 01202 746684)

Hon Secretary Tony DAY (tel 01305 266095)

Hon Treasurer Alan BROWN (tel 01202 535034)

Hon Press Officer Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

Hardyeans' Club Website : www.hardyeansclub.com

E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

hardyeanspresident@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeanssecretary@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeanschairman@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeansmembership@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeanstreasurer@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeanseditor@hardyeansclub.com

hardyeanspressofficer@hardyeansclub.com

thethomashardyeschool@hardyeansclub.com

webmaster@hardyeansclub.com

theheadteacher@hardyeansclub.com

Also have a look at the school website: <http://www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk/>

CHAIRMAN Colin LUCAS

Colin LUCAS has unfortunately had to make further visits to hospital in Salisbury and is now at home. All good wishes to Colin for a full recovery. Colin is arranging the Guest Speaker for the Annual Dinner, watch the club website for an update.

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OBITUARIES

Sadly we have been notified recently that some Hardyeans' Club members have passed away, Thanks to all contributors for the information.

Harry POWELL (1940-44)

[From the Dorset Echo] Harry passed away on 18th January 2013 aged 85. Dearest husband of Jo, much loved father of Nigel and the late Lynda and father-in-law of Tricia and Graham. His funeral service was due to be held at St Andrews, Preston on 31st January. Donations were requested for the Weldmar Hospicecare Trust, care of Grassby Funeral Service, Dorchester.

Nicholas TUFFIN (1957-65) from Roger ALLARD

You will be very sad to read that Nick Tuffin died on Boxing Day after a long illness.

Pauline and I attended his funeral in Nottingham on 8 January at St Leonard's Church, Wollaton. Sandra, Nick's wife, has given me a few details of Nick's life post Hardye's and I thought you would like these to put in the Hardyeans Club Newsletter.

Nick was at Hardye's from 1957 to 1965 and stayed on, I think, for a third year in the sixth form. At school he was in the cross country team and always spoke passionately about his runs at Hardye's.

Nick worked in finance all his life, initially in Reading in local government before moving to Nottingham and further education and then many years in the National Health Service.

Nick had two children, Alison who is expecting their first grandchild in April, and Paul.

Nick was a committed Christian, active in St Leonards, his local church, and had been the church Treasurer. His other interests were kayaking which he took up in later life, becoming a leisure kayaker of 3 star standard and he loved the Musical Theatre.

Nick never lost his passion for football and always checked the Dorchester Town results. He was at Wembley in 1966 when England beat Germany to win the World Cup. One of the last things he was able to do was to watch the DVD of the Dorchester v Plymouth Argyle FA Cup 1st Round match, which I sent him.

Nick was a good friend and I have kept in touch with him over the years and he was godfather to my elder daughter. I last saw Nick in October when sadly it was clear that he didn't have long to live. He will be much missed by his family, friends and his local community in which he played an active part.

As Always, the Club extends condolences to the relatives and friends of the above- mentioned.

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You Write *Thanks to all contributors*

John BARBARA gill.barbara@talktalk.net

The number 13 may be unlucky for some, but on Saturday 13th October 2012 a clutch of (not so old) Old Hardyean's met at Exeter for what turned out to be a great mini-reunion. Nick Baker, David Knapman, David Comely, Robin Laidlaw, Peter Broad and myself met at the Whitehorse Inn just outside Exeter for lunch and bevies and, of course, much chatting. Afterwards we continued reminiscing at my home, Woodlands.



It was as if we were just picking up conversations from nigh on 50 years ago when we were last all together. Old nicknames were remembered along with with old school pals and, of course, our old teachers. We caught up on what we had all been doing to earn an honest crust and our careers had certainly been diverse. Nick was an accountant, Dave K an educational psychologist, Dave C a solicitor, Robin engineered around the world, Pete had retired as a Major from REME and I was a consultant microbiologist. We all remained very busy (so much for retirement!) and continued to 'keep our hand in' with our chosen careers.

Accompanied by a Devon cream tea (a delicacy prepared the proper Devonian way i.e. cream first and then jam) we pored over our year photograph and several others. I attach one taken at the CCF 1964 AGI. I'm far left, then Dave C, Robin and Dave K. I also attach a 'reprise' 48 years later! All older and wiser, but just as good looking... Nick took the photo' but he is on the far left of the third one followed by Robin, Pete, Dave K and me.

One thing we all agreed on was our particular good fortune in having attended Hardyean's.

John Barbara.

[Editor: John adds -If this elicits any memories from contemporaries do let us know and copy to jai.barbara@talktalk.net]



Neil MATTHEWS (1969-75)

As part of the process of getting his email address corrected, Neil Matthews (1969-75) sent Membership Secretary Bob Rench the following information.

Hi Bob, Thanks for contacting me.

For your information I work at Bovington Camp some 10 miles from Dorchester. I work with Army Instructors helping them gain civilian teacher training qualifications. All four of my children have been through the Thomas Hardy School and last year I attended the Remembrance Parade as it was held on Friday 11/11/11. My uncle's name (R C Matthews) is included on the Roll of Honour.

I regularly attend the Community lectures held at the school, so keep in touch with developments

You might be interested to know that both my father and his brother attended Dorchester Grammar School (as it was known then). My mother attended Dorchester Secondary Modern School (on the present site). I attended both the Secondary Modern and Hardyean's, and, as noted above, my four children attended THS. Quite a connection, I think you'll agree.

Neil Matthews BSc (Open), LCGI, MCoIP, MifL

Robin MOORS (1941-47) Long Cottage, Church Green, Semley, Shaftesbury SP7 9AU 01747 830454

I read with great interest the newsletters and always feel guilty that I have not contributed so herewith my effort, I hope it might reach one or two golden oldies' who might remember some of my wanderings.

I attended the Dorchester Grammar School from 1941-47(the war years), I don't think as early teenagers we realised the seriousness of the situation, but were thrilled and excited watching the Hurricanes from Warmwell flying to battle, I recall being in the trenches around the playing fields and the isolation of the 'wintergarden' classroom.

I have good memories of Monti Hill, the Duchess, Stella Evans, Steamboat, Ticker Cole, Saffy Fox, Captain Whittaker, and Hopewell. My regular friends included John Mainwaring, the Swannie Brothers, Chris Trewella and Bernard Watts. Colin Allsop and Ted Shellabere were very much our seniors but great guys.

Sport was a very important part of my school experiences; I regularly played for the 2nd XV at Rugby and the 2nd II at Cricket. I enclose an old team photograph of the 2nd XV in 1946, I can name a few – Chris Bryant captain and John Mainwaring and myself 2nd row right. I wonder if any readers can name others. [See right]



I achieved matriculation at School Certificate and left school in June 1947. I was found a post as a pupil with Crickmay and Sons Architects in Weymouth. I stayed with them for 4 years and then went to London University School of Architecture and eventually qualified. I worked in two practices in London for a few years and then started my own practice in Kingston upon Thames which fortunately was fairly successful and when I retired we had a second office in Newbury.

I married in the early 50s to Cicely who I met when she was at Teacher Training College in Weymouth. We had two sons, Simon and Adam, but Simon unfortunately died in his forties. Adam is now a successful Consultant Surgeon in Southampton. We have three granddaughters and two great grandchildren. We eventually migrated from London back to Dorset and we now live on the Dorset Wiltshire border near Shaftesbury

Mastermind Contestant – Rob WHITE (1964-72) robwhite54@hotmail.com

Rob White has been successful in getting through to the semi-finals of the current series of Mastermind. His winning heat was screened shortly before Christmas and his specialised subject was Thomas Hardy, author and poet. His semi-final subject will be Scott(of the Antarctic)'s Last Journey. The date of his next appearance is not known as yet.

Rob writes that he was Head of School in his final year, which might help to jog the memories of former friends or teachers.

* * * * *

**THE HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER
AT THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE
THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL, COBURG ROAD, DORCHESTER DT1 2HT**

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2013

NB CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS Friday 1st March 2013

Menu

**Cream of Mushroom Soup
Roast Beef
Or Vegetable Lasagne (must be ordered on booking)
Fruit Salad
Tea or Coffee and mints
Cost £17.50**

**Wives and partners welcome
Lounge suits or smart casual.
Bring your own wine or other beverage – glasses will be provided
Raffle prizes to help our funds are welcome**

ANNUAL DINNER 2013 BOOKING FORM

Please print out this form and return to the Treasurer (address below) or email the details.

Name.....

Home address.....

.....

Dinner £ No's required..... Table of 4/6 required? Years at School.....

Vegetarian Option required ?.....

Hardyeans' Club Tie required ?.....(Add £10 to your payment)

E-mail address for confirmation (and receipt if paying by cheque).....

Please make cheques payable to The Hardyeans Club, and send to Alan Brown, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD

If you wish to pay by Internet Bank Transfer, the bank Sort Code is 30-92-69, Account No. 00403528, Account Name "The Hardyeans Club". Please, if possible, quote your surname as a reference, and e-mail Alan Brown at alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com to let him know when you have paid.

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CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS Friday 1st March 2013

Please ensure that your booking and payment are with Alan Brown by this date !

The Hardyeans Club tie, costing £10, is an essential, smart and iconic addition to the wardrobe of all former Hardyeans and Grammarians, based on the traditional blue, gold and red stripes of the old school - with the addition of the centenary crest.

Alan Brown is selling these, you will need one for the Annual Dinner.

Add £10 to your dinner payment to receive a club tie.

The Headteacher's Page

The new term has got off to a good start despite the wintry conditions. For students taking examinations in the summer, this marks the mid-point of their school year since they will be taking study leave in May. The examination cycle is much earlier than it used to be with a busy programme of examinations before the May half-term. It means that students taking GCSE's, AS Levels and A Levels spend an inordinate amount of time doing examinations during their final years in education and the government is right to raise this as a matter for concern. However I fear the latest proposals for a return to exclusively linear examinations will lead to us 'throwing the baby out with the bath water'.

January is the month for publication of performance league tables. Our A level results were outstanding – the top-performing state school in Dorset. The GCSE results were slightly down on last year but the value added score measuring progress was significantly higher than any other school. In fact, Thomas Hardy was the only school in Dorset where students made significant progress and performed beyond expectation taking into consideration their starting point.

Unusually, there is no major building work taking place at the current time but work on phase VI is due to begin in June. This will involve the complete refurbishment of the upper sports hall and is likely to take 12 months. Beyond that, we would dearly like to improve facilities for athletics and tennis, and to build a new auditorium. If there are any former students interested in supporting us with any of these projects I would be delighted to hear from you.

Very best wishes

Michael Foley

Headteacher