

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

President : John PEARSON

Chairman : A R(Bob) RENCH

Hon Secretary : Colin LUCAS (tel 01305 265446)

Hon Membership Secretary : Peter POWELL, 3 Durngate St., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JP
(tel 01305 264420)

Hon Treasurer : Lt Cdr Ken PEARCE (RN retd)

Hon Press Officer : Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

Newsletter

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*Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

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EVENTS DIARY *A REMINDER THAT WIVES & PARTNERS ARE MOST WELCOME AT SOCIAL EVENTS!*

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Last Thursday of the month, except December, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. It helps if you let Peter LEWENDON know if you intend to come; he can be contacted at Higher Folly Farm Cottage, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8PN (Tel 01460 73927) NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £15 per head. ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE !!

2004 ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs for both Club and Charitable Association were held on Saturday 20th March 2004, at the School, Queens Avenue. Minutes for the Club AGM appear later in this issue.

LONDON DINNER will be held on *Tuesday 9th November at University College as before. Booking form at end. [*Second Tuesday as indicated in the AGM minutes]

CRICKET MATCH Annual School v The Club, is scheduled for Wednesday 14th July, starting at 2pm at the Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground. Please contact Tony FOOT for more details or to offer to play Tel 01305 250137(home); 01305 251400 (work); 07812 516345(mobile)

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE Thursday 11th November 2004, 10.20am, at the School Gates

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

AGM's AND ANNUAL DINNER



Past President Gordon Crocker [centre] congratulates John Pearson [right] on his election as President of the Old Hardyans Club Secretary Colin Lucas and guest speaker Professor Hugh Griffiths are on the left and Thomas Hardy School headmaster Dr Iain Melvin is second right.

Photograph by Michel Hooper-Immins.

The annual general meeting preceded the annual dinner of the **Old Hardyans Club**, held for the first time in the sixth form centre at Thomas Hardy School. There was universal praise for the organisation of the occasion and the quality of the food, served by seven sixth-formers.

Members were joined by 15 Thomas Hardy School sixth formers at this year's annual dinner.

In his final speech as President, Gordon Crocker spoke of the progress of the club and congratulated headmaster Dr Iain Melvin, "he leads this school with great skill and respect." Thanks were expressed to Clinton Grassby who had donated and installed a plaque explaining the origin of the historic Elizabethan screen- taken from a captured galleon of the Spanish Armada, brought into Weymouth. The oak screen has the unique distinction of having been in all three schools - the old Dorchester Grammar School, Hardy's School and the new Thomas Hardy School. The President thanked members for supporting the monthly lunch on the last Thursday of the month at Dorchester Conservative Club, where Old Hardyans are always welcome.

Guest speaker was Professor Hugh Griffiths, head of electrical engineering at the University College of London. He spoke about the University's science college.

Headmaster since 1988, Dr Iain Melvin warmly welcomed the Old Hardyans to the School and hoped it would become the permanent venue for the annual dinner. "Young people these days often get a bad press," he said, "but we have hundreds and hundreds of super young people here." He thanked club

secretary Colin Lucas in particular and the Old Hardyans generally, for their fulsome support of the School at all times.

John Pearson became President in succession to Gordon Crocker, who has completed his three year term. Many tributes were paid to Gordon, who has been most active in raising funds for the Hardyans Club Charitable Trust. The Trust gives university bursaries to deserving students of the Thomas Hardy School.

At the annual general meeting, Bob Rench was re-elected Chairman, with Colin Lucas as Secretary and Ken Pearce as Treasurer. The committee includes Alf Barrett, Gordon Crocker, Tony Day, Tony Foot, Andrew Gillett, Clinton Grassby, Michel Hooper-Immins, Pat Pollard, Peter Powell, John Stephenson and Jack Westlake. Felicity Murray is Minutes Secretary.

Old Hardyans enthusiastic and hardworking secretary Colin Lucas intends to retire next year and a search is on for his successor. President Gordon Crocker was among the many who praised Colin, "always working superbly and unstintingly in the interests of us all."

Next year sees the centenary of the Old Hardyans, founded in 1905 and the dinner will be held at the School on the third Saturday in March. The guest speaker will be Rt. Rev. Stephen Venner, former Vicar of Holy Trinity at Weymouth and now Bishop of Dover, a distinguished old boy of Hardy's School.

The following extracts are taken from the Dorset Echo's By The Way column written by our Press Officer

9 FEBRUARY 2004

Congratulations to Old Hardyman Michael Perham, the next Bishop of Gloucester. I was at school with Michael, who was born in Dorchester. His mother, Marcelle Perham and a sister still live in the county town. Michael Perham became Dean of Derby Cathedral in 1998, having served as Vice Dean and Precentor at Norwich, Rector of Oakdale in Poole and chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester.

I chatted to him about his happy years at Hardy's School. "I enjoyed my schooldays, but didn't work as hard as I should have," he told me. "I never really enjoyed rugby at Hardy's, but everybody follows rugby football at Gloucester, so now I can see it was useful!" He has fond memories of Dorchester, of attending St George's Fordington, where he sang in the choir. "Canon Edward Brooks was a major influence in my life - he encouraged me to become a priest." The new bishop does not return as often as he would wish, "I'm always pleased to be back in Dorchester," he told me.

Michael Perham knows Stephen Venner, another distinguished Old Hardyman, now Bishop of Dover. Stephen was Vicar of Holy Trinity at Weymouth, while Michael was Rector of Oakdale.

Old Hardyman Peter Foster well remembers Michael Perham, "he was always interested in choral and church music- a fellow parishioner of St George's."

BY THE WAY 29 MARCH 2004

Among our privileges as sixthformers at Hardy's School in the sixties, we could carry an umbrella and sit in the peaceful library reading the newspaper.

I was amazed, and pleased, to see the spacious sixth form centre at Thomas Hardy School, a purpose built block including "Scolarest" the cafeteria. Here a long menu includes such healthy options as bacon rolls, turkeyburgers, doughnuts and milk shakes!

The quality of education at Thomas Hardy School wins many awards and although much bigger than the old school I attended in Culliford Road, it remains one of the flagship schools of Dorset.

YOU WRITE

Martin ALLINGHAM(1959-1966) Email : Martin.Allingham@conocophillips.com

I thought that I would send you an update on my life for your Newsletter.

After nearly 37 years in the electricity power industry with the C.E.G.B. and then with Powergen since privatisation, I was made redundant last June from my position as Commercial Manager of a gas fired Power Station outside Grimsby. This was brought about by a rationalisation of the Commercial functions within Powergen to a central point with no Power Station now having its own Commercial Manager. At the same time, the Power Station was put into "mothballs" after only 11 years of operation due to the poor state of the electricity market in Britain. As a result I was joined by another 35 of my colleagues looking for something else to do.

Every cloud has a silver lining and having 36 years in a pension fund is one of them. I have now slowed down in my pace of life, enjoying and not feeling guilty when I sit down to read the Sunday paper whilst the grass is still not being cut. As my wife also "retired" from her job last summer (which had meant her working school term times), we are now free to do lots of things that we never had time to do before. With my youngest about to leave home to join the police force, we are looking towards a new life as modern day Derby and Jones. I have also been lucky enough to get a little part-time consultancy work for ConocoPhillips at a new Combined Heat and Power Plant being built only 1 mile down the road from my old plant, writing their commercial procedures to help them get set up for operation this summer. This plant is to provide steam to 2 very large oil refineries as well as electricity. It is very nice working for 2 days a week with 5 days off rather than the other way round.

As part of my strategy to keep the old grey matter alive, I am now an Independent Member of North Lincs Council Standards Committee where we oversee the ethical behaviour of all Councillors and monitor such things as audit reports and the Constitution of the Council. I am also a member of the Lincolnshire Valuation Tribunal that hears appeals against the domestic and commercial rates demands made by councils from the Wash to the Humber.

Dr Douglas John COLTART (1955-62), MD,FRCP,FACC,FESC,MRCS.

15, Upper Wimpole Street, London W1M 7TB (tel: 020-7486-5787) E-Mail : john@coltarts.demon.co.uk

Dr John COLTART writes to say his brother David, who was also at Hardyes', often sends him details of the club and he feels he has been very remiss in not getting in touch. He was recently at a reunion in London involving Old Hardyeans from South Africa as well as himself. John enclosed a very full CV of his career to date. He has been Clinical Director of Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust from 1997 and also Consultant Physician and Cardiologist there since 1974. He holds several other appointments, including Hon Senior Lecturer in Cardiology at University of London; Consultant Cardiologist, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers; Civilian Consultant in Cardiology to the Army; Hon. Consultant Physician to St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy and to St. Dunstan's Hospital for the Blind; and is a Member of the Faculty and Board of Studies in Medicine.

After leaving Hardye's in 1962, he attended St Bartholomews' Hospital Medical School until 1967. He held various appointments at Bart's, Hammersmith Hospital, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond St as House Physician and Surgeon, and later Registrar until 1974, including a period at Stanford University Medical Center, California as Senior Fellow in the Cardiology Division there. He gained his MD at the University of London in 1972. He has written or co-authored many articles for medical journals and travelled widely, lecturing in the 1970's in South Africa, Mexico, Bulgaria and was Visiting Professor at Medical City, Baghdad, in 1975!

F. John GILLINGHAM (1926-33)

East Park House, East Park Drive, Edinburgh EH4 6SN

Writes to congratulate Dr Melvin and his staff on a marvellous performance at Hardyes'..I began school in the old building in South Street - brought to the front by a terrifying old Dr Francis for fidgeting!! And of course went on to the new school "out in the country" leaving in 1933 when urged (is a weak word) by my mother and that fine headmaster RW Hill (Monty) from dilatoriness (at 15 or so) to gain an entrance at Bart's to do medicine : Graduation, the War (at No 4 Mobile Neurosurgical Unit - Eighth Army) in North Africa and Italy. Back to Bart's, then, 1950, Edinburgh until 1980, finally as Professor of Neurosurgery and then Royal College of Surgeons here - regret until now - at 88! Looking back I owe so much to the school and the great RWH. Walking to school each day I nearly always passed a shuffling bent man, his fingers pill-rolling with classic Parkinsonism. I felt deep compassion for him and perhaps that led me into medicine and into pioneering work on the surgical benefits and basic research into this serious problem for its sufferers. All these early days were so important. We badly need good young people in medicine now. Young men are not being recruited..partly due to high "A" level requirements (no interviews -no humanity!) - all science.. John GILLINGHAM concludes by wishing Dr Melvin and his staff well and advising he was to have a heart valve replacement, due to be back on his feet by mid-March. We hope he is now recovered.

Ian JEFFREY(1959-66)

Just a note to bring you up to date: in addition to my Hotmail address ianjacksonjeffrey@hotmail.com, I also have a new local Belgian address, Ian.Jeffrey@pandora.be. My new landline is 0032 (0)2 306 7368, work telephone is 0032 (0)2 707 4358, gsm is 0032 (0)473 831008, fax at work is 0032 (0)2 707 5834.

I'm now camping in our new house, furniture to follow from Lee-on-the-Solent later. I've borrowed some lounge furniture, sleep on an airbed, and have a few of my own things (books etc.) to make it feel like home. The decorating will keep me off the streets for a long time to come.

The new address is: Lokaertlaan 43, B-3080 Tervuren, Brussels, Belgium. The best postal address is usually my office address, because if you're in UK you only need to use UK Internal postage rates. It is: Deputy Director NATO HQ C3 Staff, Room T3012, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, BFPO 49

Bob MENZIES

As a follow up to a previous newsletter Major General John STEPHENSON sends Bob's address in Zimbabwe, which is : 17 Thames Road, VAINONA, HARARE, ZIMBABWE. Bob would very much like to receive letters from his old school friends.[Ed.- have also just received an e mail address as follows : bobaijan@zol.co.zw

OBITUARIES Sincere condolences go to the families of the following:

Ronald Frank BROOKS (1929 -36)

Dr Brooks will be remembered in Dorchester as a former GP, and local government Medical Officer and Prison Medical Officer. (We hope to include a more detailed obituary in the next edition. - Ed.)

Roland OLIVER (1934-39)

Contributed by Press Officer Michel HOOPER-IMMINS from his Dorset Echo column published 15th March 2004

Many remember Inspector Roland Oliver as a policeman of the old school. "Roly" served all round Dorset with distinction, earning great respect for his fair-mindedness.

On D-day he landed at Sword Beach with 4 Commando, marching inland against fierce German

resistance, to relieve Pegasus Bridge. This famous operation was led by Lord Lovat, whose piper Bill Millin marched at the head of the column.

News of Roly's sudden death came as a shock to me. As usual, I sat with him at the Old Hardyens' lunch two weeks before, where despite advancing years, he was always cheerful. A glass of red wine and a gentle smile were his trademark.

His great pal and fellow commando Jimmy Foot mourns a very great friend of 46 years. "He was a real gentleman, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. He never complained about anything."

Old Hardyens secretary Colin Lucas remembers Roly Oliver as a stalwart member. "He will be sadly missed by all of us, with his dry sense of humour."

Sammy REDWOOD (1939-46)

Sammy died at the end of September 2003 after a long and courageous fight against Parkinson's Disease. At School he regularly played for the School 1st XV and scored many tries as a three-quarter. In spite of his illness, Sammy retained his wonderful sense of humour and never complained of his disabilities. His memorial service at St Johns Church, Weymouth, on 6th October 2003, was attended by his many friends. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow, Rachel, daughter Pippa and son Matthew. [Contributed by Major General John Stephenson]

(Edward) George WHITE (1937-43)

Sadly passed away at the end of May 2004. Will be remembered for White & Son Shoes in Great Western Road, Dorchester, which shop is still in the family. Was also for 20 years a retained fireman and a well-known steam railway enthusiast. When your Editor started the Dorchester Area Group of the Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust in 1987 George kindly offered his shop as a meeting place until the space was outgrown and the group found alternative accommodation. Camera at the ready, to create a time capsule of a railway scene, and a source of much railway knowledge, George will be remembered as a dedicated follower of railways, his interest readily shared with us, his fellow enthusiasts.

The next edition of the Newsletter will include an obituary to the late Christopher POPE, former Chairman of Eldridge Pope & Co who was at the School for a brief period, we understand.

A REMINDER

There may be many more club members who have Internet connections and could receive the newsletter by e-mail. If you know of anyone please pass the word and ask them to let Colin Lucas know by e-mail at secretary@hardyensclub.com

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The examination season is now upon us with a vengeance with well over 1000 students undertaking some form of assessment. I would advise any individual with spare capital to consider investing in shares in examination boards – they seem to be a very lucrative business. The present annual bill for the school is £170,000.

It is also a traditional product of the examination season that we experience wonderful weather and those of you who are local will be aware that global warming has arrived – not the best weather for intensive studying. Nevertheless students do seem to be working hard and I hope I am not tempting fate to prophesy some good results in August.

Our new building is nearly complete and we will take possession on July 9th. Traditionally the three weeks before are chaotic and this project has been no exception. At present there seem to be more builders on the site than students and I remain to be convinced that all will be ready in time. If and when the building is

completed it will be a wonderful new facility. It has magnificent views across Maiden Castle and reflects our other buildings with great style and grace.

I am grateful once again to the Trustees of the Hardyans Trust for the time taken to make three awards to students about to embark upon Higher Education. The Trust is now a key part of the sixth form support we can offer and this year I know the Trustees had to make some very difficult choices.

The school was honoured to host the Hardyans Dinner in March, the first time in the new buildings. It was an excellent occasion and once again my thanks go out to Colin Lucas and his colleagues for organising such a pleasant occasion.

It was great pleasure to welcome our guest, Professor Hugh Griffiths, who many of you will know is a great friend of the school and also to see a number of new faces – as well as the more familiar.

I believe the next Dinner is the centenary of the Club and I do hope you will try to attend what should be a very special occasion with a notable guest. It is a great opportunity to meet old friends and see the new school.

In relation to guests the next few weeks are something of an annus mirabilis for the school as Adam Hart-Davies, Lord Winston and Seamus Heaney will all be visiting.

Also we have recently welcomed the 'Starchaser' Rocket onto the school site. This is a full size space rocket that was parked for three days at the top of Queens Avenue as part of our Science College initiative and linked in well with our status as the European tracking station for the Transit of Venus. Both these events attracted many amateur (and some professional) astronomers into the school. We continue to reach for the stars!

Dr I E Melvin

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HARDYANS' CLUB

Held on Saturday, 20th March 2004 at 6.00 pm in the Sixth Form Centre at the School.

There were about ten members present.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from David Lacey, Leigh Myers and Peter Foster.
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 15 March 2003** were agreed and unanimously adopted
- 3. Matters Arising**

Referring to item 8, it was reported that Stephen Venner will be the Guest Speaker next year which, hopefully, if all goes well, will be at the School again. Michel Hooper-Immins mentioned that the Bishop of Gloucester is now a Club member.

The plaque for the Oak Screen was unveiled on Armistice Day by Gordon Crocker, who has some pictures of the occasion.

4. President's Remarks

The President, Gordon Crocker, thanked members of the Committee for their support during his term of office. Membership is now at over 800 with 250 receiving their Newsletters electronically.

After the success of the concert held in aid of the Charitable Trust, he hoped that another could be

arranged in the future. There are currently two awards of £500 each and two of £250 each ongoing, with enough money to make one more award this year: it is hoped to raise more money for further years. Two or three students are interviewed annually. Colin Lucas mentioned that this will be the last year for paying two of the students, so £1,000 will be available next year.

Attendance at last year's Christmas luncheon was the best yet, with twelve at the last monthly luncheon: John Stephenson's regular attendance from quite a distance was much appreciated.

He thanked Colin Lucas for all he does for the Club, also Leigh Myers as Treasurer of the Charitable Trust, and Michel Hooper-Immins for keeping the Club mentioned in the Press and also for his support and contacts, etc.

As his three years as President are now up he recommended that John Pearson be elected as the new President.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Bob Rench, thanked all those attending and hoped the numbers would improve next year. There should be 76 attending the Dinner, but numbers could be less due to illness.

The Charitable Trust is doing quite well, with a few large-ish donations this year: in particular, two cheques totalling £3,000 from the Rotary and Dorchester Freemasons Lodge, donated through Colin Lucas.

The plaque for the Oak Screen was unveiled on Armistice Day, with 2,050 students and 250 staff present at the Armistice Day Service. He thanked Gordon Crocker for his enthusiasm.

Peter Lewendon retired as Sports Officer and has been replaced by Tony Foot. Tony was unable to play in the annual Cricket Match, due to injury, which the Club lost.

He thanked Colin Lucas for all his work: as Colin intends retiring at the next AGM, someone with enthusiasm is needed to replace him. He also thanked all Council members for their regular attendance at meetings, Michel Hooper-Immins for his help, and those attending the monthly luncheons. As the Christmas luncheon was so well attended, he wondered if something else could be arranged during the year.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ken Pearce distributed copies of the accounts and reported that the Club has been losing £120 to £130 annually over the last few years, due mainly to the costs of producing the Newsletter. It has now been agreed with the Head Master that the School will pay for the reproduction costs of producing the Newsletter (currently £360 per year), which should help. There have been no more wins from the Premium Bonds - just one win of £500 during the last five years. Gordon Crocker verified the bank statements and thanked Ken Pearce for his presentation of the accounts.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Gordon Crocker, seconded by John Pearson and carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

Colin Lucas thanked Gordon Crocker as he stands down and nominated John Pearson as President. This was seconded by John Stephenson and, there being no more nominations, was carried unanimously. John Pearson thanked members for electing him as President.

Bob Rench was proposed as Chairman by Colin Lucas, seconded by John Pearson and carried

unanimously.

Colin Lucas was proposed as Secretary by Gordon Crocker, seconded by Michel Hooper-Immins and carried unanimously. Colin reiterated that he is not willing to continue next year and that a successor needs to be found.

Ken Pearce was proposed as Treasurer by Colin Lucas, seconded by John Pearson and carried unanimously.

As all members of the Committee were willing to stand again, they were unanimously re-elected.

Felicity Murray was thanked by Colin Lucas for taking the minutes at meetings, and this was endorsed by all present.

8. Recommendations by Council

The only recommendation from the Council was the election of John Pearson as President, which has already been dealt with.

9. Charitable Trust

Gordon Crocker said that more funds need to be raised from outside sources, but this takes time. No major charities are interested because there is no project and most charities like specific projects. There have been some successes from local charities but no clear-cut support has been achieved yet. Two local organisations have donated funds, through Colin Lucas, and some members have donated money: hopefully, there will be enough money to make two more grants next year. Gordon felt that the Trust needs to be kept going to increase support to students. Colin Lucas thanked Gordon Crocker for his support of the Trust.

10. Any Other Business

Colin Lucas mentioned that the Dinner was being held in the Sixth Form Centre for the first time: he hoped it would go well and that it could be held there again next year, the Club's Centenary year, when it would be good to see one hundred attending.

Gordon Crocker concluded by saying that he was very grateful to the Head for suggesting the School as a venue for the Dinner, also for all his support.

11. Dates for Future Meetings

Suggestions for changing the date of the AGM and the format were put forward, but, after a discussion, the following dates were agreed:

Council meetings: 6 May 2004, 27 September 2004 and 24 January 2005, all at 5.30 pm
AGM and Annual Dinner: 19 March 2005

The London Dinner is usually held on the second Tuesday in November.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

LONDON DINNER - TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2004

Hugh GRIFFITHS has made arrangements for the London Dinner on 9th November 2004 to be held at :
University College London
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.
Time : 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Dress: Lounge Suits
Tickets: £30.00 per head, including wine

Transport from Dorchester can be arranged. Please contact Colin LUCAS in good time. Telephone:
(Home) 01305 265446. If writing to Colin, the address is:
4, Fir Tree Close, Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY

Hugh organises an excellent event and we hope it will grow, PLEASE REMEMBER that ladies are MORE
THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND.

LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM

To : Prof. H. Griffiths 34 Rochester Square, London, NW1 9RZ

Telephone: 020 7267 4009 (Home) 020 7679 7310 (Office)

Please send. ticket(s) for the Hardyans' London Dinner on 9th November 2004,

for which I enclose £., by cheque, payable to H. D. Griffiths (£30.00 per head)

Please help Hugh by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS - UPDATE

In some cases we do not have complete records on file, especially e-mail, fax and telephone details. It
would be a great help if members could complete the following form and mail it to the Secretary at 4, Fir
Tree Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY or E-mail the details to the Secretary at:

secretary@hardyansclub.com

NAME.....

TELEPHONE.....

FAX.....

E-MAIL.....

YEARS AT SCHOOL FROM.....UNTIL.....

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER (tick one)

BY POST [] BY E-MAIL []