

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

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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!!

2006 ANNUAL DINNER and AGM's: for both Club and Charitable Association are to be held on Saturday 18th March 2006, beginning at 5.30pm, at the Sixth Form Centre, Thomas Hardye School (Coburg Road entrance). Please see the Annual Dinner booking form at the end of this issue. Guest Speaker will be Roger HEARING, well-known broadcaster on BBC Radio 4, regularly heard on 'The World Tonight'.

CHURCH SERVICE: (to be confirmed) at St Peters', Sunday 19th March, 10.30am

LONDON DINNER: was held on Tuesday 1st November at University College

Report from Colin Lucas:

Because of circumstance the date for the London Dinner was brought forward a week it was probable that this was reflected in a smaller number than usual attending. However it was as usual a first class meal and

excellent company, as always. Our President John Pearson drove up to London accompanied by Colin Lucas and Peter Lewendon. Veteran member George Foley was again in attendance. Hugh Griffiths was as always on top form reeling in 2 former students of the School who have now become members and 4 centenary ties were sold. That is a successful evening by any standard, well done once again Hugh.

SITUATION STILL VACANT!! Hon. Treasurer - Hardyens Club. Colin LUCAS has agreed to remain as the Club's Acting Treasurer until a replacement is found. If anyone is interested in helping the Club in this capacity please get in touch with Colin - for contact details see the Dinner Booking Form at end of this issue.

CENTENARY TIES: If any member would like to purchase a centenary tie at £10 each, please contact the Treasurer, who will donate £1 per tie sold to the Charitable Association.

OBITUARIES

The following obituaries are submitted by Colin Lucas. The Hardyens'Club sends its condolences to the families of all.

Harold James GROOMBRIDGE 1924-29

On leaving school he joined the staff at County Hall He joined the Royal Artillery for the duration of the second world war completing service in the U.K and India and Burma campaigns. After the war he returned to County Hall until his retirement in 1978. He died in the Dorset County Hospital after a short illness at the age of 92

Nigel V.DIGBY 1939-45

On leaving school he was articled to become a Solicitor and spent a considerable part of his career in the eastern conurbation of the county. It was when Major General John Stephenson hit on the idea of forming The Hardyens Club Charitable Trust that Nigel offered his legal services in setting up the funding with the Charity Commission. Although his health was not good he made an enormous contribution of time and effort, without charge, for which the Club will be ever grateful. Because of a renal complaint during the later stages of his life he was subjected to constant dialysis treatment.

Clinton F B GRASSBY

Clinton attended the School during the early part of the 1939-45 war and towards the end of the war he was commissioned into the R.A.O.C. completing his service as Officer in Charge of the 500 Field Park Detachment seconded to 2nd Royal Tank Regiment carrying out Tortoise Tank Trials in Germany.

Having qualified as a teacher he was accepted as a Master at Edgebury Secondary Modern School, Chiselhurst. His teaching career ceased in 1954 when he returned to the family business of Stonemasons and Funeral Directors in Sidcup Kent. In 1970.

Clinton returned to his beloved Dorset and incorporated the Funeral Service into the Stonemasonry business resurrected by brother Tony in the mid 1960s. He retired from active business activities in 1993.

Clinton's love of the Community and his fellow man led him to serve the community in many facets. He was a great organiser and raised substantial sums of money for The Joseph Weld Hospice, MRI Scanner and Critical Care Appeal. He became the President of The Rotary Club of Dorchester and together with Terry Hearing formed the Rotoract Club of Dorchester. He was a past Secretary of The Dorchester Art Club.

He served the Hardyens Club as President, Chairman & Council Member and was always a willing contributor to the Club's activities. He was a Mentor for the Princes Trust. At the time of his death he was the President of The Probus Club in Dorchester.

Sport did not escape his attentions and he was himself a keen athlete and footballer in his younger days. He became a Director of The Dorchester Football Club and when he retired from the Board was invited to be the President of the Supporters Club which he accepted. Civically too Clinton made a valid contribution to

the community serving as a Town & District Councilor for many years. A man respected by all and will be remembered for his contribution to the community and will be sadly missed.

Jack P. WESTLAKE

Jack attended The School 1936-41 with notable distinction, being Captain of Hardy House, secretary of Athletic & Cross-country running, he also obtained his cricket colours. He was a sportsman.

Until his call up for National Service he was a volunteer in the Home Defence assisting with the Ambulance Service, he recalled, with a wicked sense of humour, some of the antics the squad got up to. He was a humorist.

In 1947 he joined the staff of the Dorchester Boys School under the headship of Martin Trehwella. I believe he learned much from that wily Cornishman who also had a wicked sense of humour, but I am sure it stood him in good stead throughout his teaching career.

On his retirement he returned with his wife Jean to Dorchester and turned his attention to The Hardyens' Club and was soon appointed to the Hardyens' Council and became The President in the mid 1990s. He always made a valid contribution to Club affairs even delivering the Newsletters in the Park area of Dorchester. He was a Club stalwart.

In 1988 he was appointed to The Governing Body of The School where he was held in high esteem by all his colleagues. He made a vast contribution to the decisions which had to be made under the re-organisation of Secondary education in Dorchester. He was an experienced advisor.

A helpful man, a Gentleman, a Family man, he always spoke in glowing terms of his successful daughter and regularly updated us on her career. He was a committed Christian. At our monthly meetings it was Jack who said grace. He will be remembered for all these fine qualities and sadly missed by his family, friends, the School and the town he loved. I was privileged to be his friend.

The Editor echoes Colin's comments on Jack WESTLAKE: I always enjoyed Jack's witty company at the monthly luncheons, and will miss him very much. A few years ago Jack agreed to record memories of his life for the hospital radio service with me at Dorset County Hospital, and through him I was also able to record, with his daughter Sue, highlights of her army career. My sincere sympathies go to Jack's family.- PF

YOU WRITE

From Professor John BARBARA, Woodlands, Old Mill Lane, Clyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1AJ.

I'm sure Alan will not mind me sending you the enclosed, [Referring to a picture of **Alan R POTTER** shown in an extract from the programme of a recent Institute of Biomedical Science Congress at Birmingham, at which John Barbara was an invited lecturer].. . As you can see Alan has retained his good looks (and is Chief Executive of the Institute of Biomedical Science)! ...Alan and I were close neighbours in Kings Road, Dorchester, when we were at Hardy's. I like to think (because I was one year older) that I "infected" him with an interest in science. We both had microscopes and extensive chemistry sets in our very patient fathers' garden sheds. We spent many happy hours together doing the chemistry practicals and looking down microscopes. It didn't seem to do us any harm!

Fortunately I met Alan at the Congress and we were able to reminisce. As I approach my dotage I seem to have attracted various "consolation prizes" such as a visiting professorship at the University of the West of England, an award of merit from the International Society of Blood Transfusion and the medal of the Polish Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion.
I can thoroughly recommend semi-retirement!

Godfrey LANCASHIRE

It is ages since I received a newsletter either by post or email, this despite advising my email address many months ago. So for the record here it is again: "godfrey@lh-services.co.uk"

This probably accounts for the reason you have not seen me at the London Dinner or any Dorchester events since the centenary do last year !

I am still regularly in touch with **David PINNELL** and decided to have another go at improved communications.

Best Wishes to all

Godfrey Lancashire[Editor: This forwarded to the webmaster]

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

The Society's website www.hardyansclub.com displays photographs of both the Remembrance Day parade at the School and the Club's Christmas lunch by Michel Hooper-Immins. Thanks to webmaster Terry Stone for looking after the website and for his vital contribution to the Club's publicity.

For those not living in South & West Dorset, the website also reproduces the full page article from the Dorset Echo of 1 November, which commemorated the centenary of the Old Hardyans.

As is now customary, the 2006 Dorset Year Book contains a five page report on the activities of the Old Hardyans and chronicles the 100 years since the Old Grammarians were founded in 1905. It is interesting to observe that in the early days, many Old Grammarians were members of the Society of Dorset Men, founded the year previously in 1904. This is still so today and the warm and informal link between the two societies continues. Indeed Old Hardyane Hayne Russell, a contemporary of Colin Lucas, is Secretary of the Society of Dorset Men, only the tenth Secretary in 101 years! The Dorset Year Book can be purchased for only £6 at most bookshops. For information about joining the Society of Dorset Men, write to Hayne Russell at 34 Brunel Drive, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 6NX. Tel. 01305 833700. email: hayne@hcrussell.wanadoo.co.uk

OLD HARDYANS ARE EVERYWHERE

Watching Midnight Mass on BBC television is always an uplifting experience and the live broadcast on Christmas Eve came from Gloucester Cathedral. I know that majestic building well, having quite a few friends in that lovely City, including my old friend Elvin Young, who sings with the Cathedral choir. He was clearly in view at the end of the cantoris side. Old Hardyane Rt. Rev. Michael Perham is the Bishop of Gloucester and he led the traditional Midnight Mass in a gold cope and mitre. Michael was a near contemporary of mine and Newsletter Editor Peter Foster at Hardy's, a year behind us from 1959 to 1964.

Born in Dorchester, Michael's mother, Marcelle 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. He was named by The Queen as Bishop of Gloucester in February 2004.

Last year, 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." Michael Perham knows Stephen Venner, another distinguished Old Hardyane, now Bishop of Dover. Stephen was Vicar of Holy Trinity at Weymouth, while Michael was Rector of Oakdale. Old Hardyane Peter Foster well remembers Michael Perham, "he was always interested in choral and church music- a fellow parishioner of St. George's."

Michel Hooper-Immins

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

League table time once again and the school was pleased to sustain its position as the highest performing state school in Dorset. It also surpassed a number of independent schools in the county.

IT achieved this distinction at both GCSE and A level and was within the top 5% of schools for the value it added to its students from the age of 11 to 16.

The results brought a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Mrs Kelly, although I am quite sure she has other matters on her mind at present.

The school continues to try and provide the very best facilities and is looking forward to the development of a new sports centre. This will also contain two classrooms and storage space. Perhaps the most interesting part of the project will be a nursery - the school is working hard to attract youngsters at a very young age. The project should be complete in August 2007.

Eight students have places at Oxford or Cambridge for next year, which is our second largest total ever. It is interesting to reflect upon their choice of subject. A number are electing to study the more traditional disciplines - Physics, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, but also we have young people with a passion for Anglo-Saxon and Oriental Studies.

As ever past students of the school continue to make their mark – Tom Clemons has been selected to ski for the British Winter Olympic team and Simon Condon has just passed out of Sandhurst. Almost simultaneously Jamie Irwin began his time there and is within the same cohort as William Windsor. I am confidently informed that the latter bought the former a drink, perhaps paid for from the Privy Purse. Present students are also making their mark representing their country in areas as diverse as Tae Kwando, Sailing, Swimming and Athletics. We also have three young people standing for the UK Youth Parliament.

I noted in the New Year Honours List the name of Simon Winchester, who received an OBE. In terms of my own award I feel rather undeserving compared to one of my student heroes but no doubt we all have our role to play in the scheme of things. My own investiture took place on December 6th in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and whilst I and my wife enjoyed the day a great deal it would seem people were more interested in Terry Wogan than education in Dorchester.

I mention Simon Winchester as one of the past guests at the Hardyens' Dinner, which is a fine excuse to remind everyone that it takes place this year at the school on Saturday 18th March. Those who attended last year will be aware of what a pleasant evening it is and I hope to see many of you again this year.

Dr I E Melvin

FROM THE WEBMASTER: The E-Mail Lost Legion Grows

In this fast moving world many of us change our e-mail addresses on a regular basis and members of the club are no exception. Of the 327 e-mail addresses The Club has registered for delivery of the e-mail edition of the Newsletter, 78 addresses are bouncing back with undeliverable messages, that's very close to 25% of the e-mail deliveries are failing with the consequence that those members have ceased to receive their copy of the newsletter.

Please take a look at http://www.hardyensclub.com/Membership/Lost_Legion.php and see if you recognize any of the names recorded there. If you do please drop an e-mail to The Webmaster at webmaster@hardyensclub.com with an updated e-mail address. Furthermore please could any members who change their e-mail address remember to drop the Webmaster an e-mail so records can be updated and continuous delivery of the newsletter can be ensured.

While on the subject of e-mail perhaps any member who has an e-mail address and is not yet receiving the Newsletter by e-mail would e-mail the webmaster with their e-mail address. This will allow The Club to discontinue snail mail delivery and save the money that is being spent on postage, printing and paper and as a bonus help to save the rain forest as well!

Terry Stone

ANNUAL DINNER - SATURDAY 18TH MARCH 2006

At the Centenary Dinner the booking of tables for parties from the same school years was popular, so you have the option to do the same this year. Also PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN WINE

BOOKING FORM

Name(s).....Years at School.....

.....PARTY OF.....(Nos)

Please reserve seat(s) for 1 / 2 persons / table for 4 / 6 / 8 persons PLEASE SPECIFY

for the Annual Dinner at The Sixth Form Centre

Coburg Road, Dorchester 7.30pm for 8.00pm 18th March 2006

cost £ 15.00 per person

Please forward to The Treasurer, Colin Lucas, 4 Fir Tree Close Dorchester
DT1 2PY

DON'T FORGET - WIVES AND PARTNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME