

The Hardyans' Club Newsletter

Published in **Spring, Autumn and Winter**)



To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

Spring
Edition
2024

In this
Issue

You Write

Around
the
School

2024
Annual
Reunion
Dinner
Booking
Form

Please note
Closing Date
16th March

From the President - Damien Lewis

(the following has been emailed to members but in case you missed it is repeated here)

The President writes

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and you are all looking forward to a wonderful year. Our thoughts are focussing on the Annual Dinner on Saturday 23rd March at 6.45pm for 7.15pm. Lou, Head of Catering at the school, is preparing a fabulous menu. I do hope we will see as many of you as possible for what is only our second dinner since 2019 – booking details should already have been sent via email.

Chief features of the Dinner will include :

- Our guest speaker will be Ross Dewar, former coach at Worcestershire Cricket Club, who promises to deliver a fascinating talk.
- The headteacher, Nick Rutherford, will be able to address us and he is looking forward to that very much.
- I will provide an update on the Great Screen, to augment details you have already received by email.
- The craftsman we have engaged to restore the Great Screen will be present, and he will give a brief outline of his work to date.
- A Thomas Hardy sixth-former will be present on each table to chat about the school.
- There will be a fabulous raffle with some really special and unique prizes.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have contributed to the Screen Fund, to help preserve and resurrect the Elizabethan Great Screen that so many of you will remember from when it graced the school library. Needless to say, your generosity is most appreciated.

With the majority of the 400 school leavers each year joining the Club, we hope to continue to develop our relationship with the school for many years to come, and there are some exciting plans in the offing.

I look forward to seeing you on 23rd March.

Very best wishes

Damien Lewis
Hardyans Club President

Please note: the closing date for Annual Dinner bookings is 16th March, no bookings will be accepted after this date.

Forthcoming Club and other events

Monthly Luncheons on the last Thursday of the month at the Poet Laureate pub in Pummery Square, Poundbury. Meet from 12.30pm.

2024 Annual Reunion Dinner: Saturday March 23rd – Booking Form at end of this issue

Hardyans Club Contacts

President: Damien LEWIS Life Vice-Presidents: Anthony C W Day, Peter Foster, Hugh Griffiths, Godfrey Lancashire, John Pearson

Chairman: Nick GRASSBY

Hon Treasurer/ Membership Secretary Alan BROWN, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD (tel 07989 609165) E-mail: alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com

Hon Joint Secretaries/ Newsletter Editors Peter and Heather FOSTER. Holmecroft, 12, South Court Ave, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2BX E-Mail : heather.foster1@btinternet.com (tel 01305 262121)

Hon Press Officer: Damien Lewis E-mail: mediac21@aol.com

School Liaison Officer Vicky SMYTH (tel 01305 266095 or 01305 231512 Wessex Multi-Academy Trust)

www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyans is the official Club facebook page for news of Club members and friends. and check out the School site

www.facebook.com/thomashardyeshool which links into the main

school website www.thomas-hardye.net on which can be found news of events at the school including the Community Lectures. See also www.facebook.com/groups/452234394961667/ for news of Dorchester Secondary Modern; Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester, Dorset. There are other Thomas Hardy School-related facebook sites, and more generally, 'You're over 30 and from Dorchester when.....' is a good one.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284997108221127>

P.T.O

From the Editors: Whilst Facebook is a valuable way of keeping in touch, please don't forget those who don't 'do' Facebook, and consider writing to the *Newsletter* editors as well, to get a wider membership response

Among recent FaceBook posters:

Ashley Watts, who noted that Sir Roger Gale was wearing his Hardyans Club tie during a debate in Parliament. Jonathan Pullen, Chris Harris, Philip Mackie, Tim King, Neil Archer, John Rickett, Grahame White and several others 'liked' this comment.

Do have a look at the Club's Facebook page - make contact with old friends!

Also be sure to have a look at **Graham Allen's** website (<https://old-hardyans.com>) which contains a wealth of memories This site is regularly updated .



Find us on
Facebook

From the Headteacher



Dear Hardyans,

We are at the mid-point of the school year, and the crocuses (croci?) are out in front of the main building. As the sap rises, spirits lift... for students as much as for staff, and the end of a long winter seems a realistic possibility. The extreme weather has a real impact on the running of the school, never more so than when an early January storm took several tiles of the roof of the communications block, leading to a large area having to be cordoned off while safety works were completed. Other than such excitement, our students continue to represent the school, home and away, with great distinction. I say 'away' as the annual science trip to Florida ran over the recent half-term break, although they had their own excitement when a three-hour delay on the M25 meant that they missed their flight. On the understanding that the chances of there being another flight to Florida with over 50 free seats were surely zero, plans were drawn up for how to contact parents and deal with the inevitable despair and anguish from the disappointed crew. Only for British Airways to call the trip leader on a coach to say that, by pure chance, a flight had been held at Heathrow and many of the passengers put on an earlier plane, and so the whole thing went ahead as planned. Much rejoicing, and an excellent time had by all at the Space Centre and museums.

Our students taking public examinations are entering the final stretch, and we look forward to their hard work and dedication being rewarded. University offers are coming in steadily, and we already know that six of our students have secured offers to Oxbridge – with four holding offers to Oxford and two to Cambridge – and other students applying for highly selective apprenticeships will hear by the end of this term. We wish each of them the best.

I would also like to thank the club president, Damien Lewis, for his help in resolving what Conan-Doyle would have presumably called The Strange Case of the Jacobean Screen. I am very pleased to hear that the screen is now the property of the Hardyans and am look forward to hearing the plans for its triumphant return to the school. I look forward to seeing many of you at the dinner in March, and wish you all the best until then.

Best wishes,

Nick Rutherford

You Write

from Dave Le Breton

In the early stages of a much needed de-clutter, my wife came across this picture of "the class of '62", I think taken at the end of our last term at Hardye's. I am fourth from the left in the back row with the light grey suit.

Webmaster Terry Stone is, I think, second from the left in the back row and Simon Winchester is behind master S A Fox with glasses and the light grey suit.



The back of the print has some, but not all, of the signatures of those present.

Hope this is of some interest.

Dave Le Breton (1955 – 62)

Obituaries

We have been advised of the following who have sadly passed away. Our thanks to the informants and condolences to relatives and friends.

David Crockford

David's son Phil wrote to say: Dad passed away on Tuesday evening (February 27th), he had been suffering from liver cancer for the last year or so. Thankfully he passed peacefully with his family at his bedside, at home as per his wishes.

My sister Sarah and I are taking good care of mum (Barbara) and we are bearing up well as a family.

Please do pass on to the Hardyens, I know that Dad would want them to know. Funeral arrangements are in hand and once we have it confirmed I will be in touch in case anyone does want to make the trip to Aldershot Crematorium.

Charles Edwards

Published on 16/02/2024 in the Dorset Echo

EDWARDS Charles Peacefully on 3rd February 2024 at Portelet Care Home, Bournemouth, aged 68 years. Father to Jess and Bex. Funeral service to be held at St John the Evangelist Church, Tincleton on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 2.30pm followed by Private Cremation..... donations to Margaret Green Animal Rescue may be made online at www.grassby-funeral.co.uk, or cheques can be made payable to the charity and sent c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 8 Princes Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TW. Tel: 01305 262338.

Forwarded by Jonathan Pullen, who recalls:

Charles and his younger brother Amyon ("Boo") who tragically died years ago in an accident on board a tanker, were former pupils of both Sunninghill Prep and Hardye's Schools. Their parents, David and Ruth Edwards, lived at Tincleton House and had a solicitors' practice, latterly in Charles Street, Dorchester.

The only contemporary of Charles at Hardye's I rather vaguely know is Simon Litster whom I last met at his mother's funeral. Charlie is remembered as 'a character'

Barry Leland

Just to advise you that my father Barry Leyland passed away on August 11th 2023 at 93 years old
He really enjoyed meeting old school friends from Hardys school at the reunions
Please include this information in your next news letter, there may a few old boys still alive from the forties
Kind Regards
Bradley Leyland
[Barry Leyland was at Dorchester Grammar School from 1942 to 1948.]

Peter Sedgwick

Peter was at Hardyes from 1952 to 1957.
Membership Secretary Alan Brown was contacted by Peter's widow Hilary Sedgwick, to say that Peter died on the 3rd October, 2023.

Peter Vekic

from Julia Moore, who writes:-
Anthony and I thought that Hardyeans who don't receive the Echo will be saddened to learn of the death of Peter Vekic.

Peter started his teaching career at Hardyes at Barnes Way. He spent his teaching career at Hardyes and Thomas Hardye School and was an inspiration to many students and especially those who went on to study Geography at university. Here is the Death notice as published in the Dorset Echo:

WILLIAM ANTON PETER VEKIC,

Published on 16/02/2024

VEKIC William Anton Peter "Peter" Formerly Head of Geography, The Thomas Hardye School, BA Hons (London) PGCE (Cantab) Peter passed away very suddenly on the 28th January 2024 aged 73. Much loved husband of Hazel, a loving son of the late Milevoye and Francis Vekic and a very special brother to Jenny. Funeral service was to be held on Monday 26th February 2024 at Harbour View, Lytchett Minster BH16 6AN Donations to The British Heart Foundation and Animal Welfare via www.harbourview.co.uk

Around and about the Thomas Hardye School

Here are a couple of items from a recent edition of the Thomas Hardye School Newsletter for parents and carers –

CCF Remembrance day in Poole

Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Dorset,

Squadron Sergeant Major Arianwen Purnell, a student in year 13, accompanied Deputy Lieutenant, Sir George Zambellas to Poole for the Remembrance Day Parade in November. As aide-de-camp, her role was to carry the wreath for the Forces at the front of the procession and then pass it to Sir George at the memorial for him to lay,
see image top right.



After the ceremony, SSM Purnell was invited to join the special guests for refreshments, who included the Mayor of Poole, Jo Clements, Revd Timothy Meachin and other members of the council and armed forces community,
see image bottom right.



Mr K Matthews



From Cadet to Second Lieutenant

On the 15th of December 2023, former THS student, Lauren O'Toole, commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Second Lieutenant into the British Army. Lauren was a student from 2013 - 2018, and a cadet in the school's Combined Cadet Force. A commission from Sandhurst is earned through an arduous year of training, which includes field exercises, war studies, physical training, the bayonet lane, drill, marksmanship and a significant lack of sleep. It is a challenging but enjoyable year, with strong friendships formed through the unique shared suffering of sitting in muddy holes together at 3am, after days of little sleep. Personal highlights for Lauren included a 60km navigation exercise through the Black Mountains called Exercise Long Reach, practising riot control on Exercise Templar's Triumph, and the camaraderie with her fellow Officer Cadets.

The main event on the day of commissioning is the Sovereign's Parade. Lauren was a member of the Sovereign's

Platoon, which is the title awarded to the best platoon of the intake, determined by a competition that runs throughout the year consisting of physical and academic events. Lauren was given the honour of being the ensign to the Sovereign's Banner, which is the task of accepting and carrying the Sovereign's Banner throughout the parade. Thanks to many early morning rehearsals, the parade went well. It was a day filled with joy, pride, and relief! Lauren said, "I never would have considered the Army as an option had it not been for going along to the CCF BBQ for some free food at the start of year 9, and had no idea of the incredible opportunities it would present to me. I am greatly looking forward to what comes next, as I begin my career as a young officer in the Education and Training Services".

IMAGE , TOP LEFT: Second Lieutenant Lauren O'Toole presenting the Sovereign's banner to the Sovereign's Platoon **IMAGE , ABOVE RIGHT:** A rare moment of sunshine on exercise

Mr K Matthews



Music

On 6th December, around 200 students

took part in the Wessex Schools Music and Thomas Hardye School Christmas Concerts. There were some wonderful performances from all of the groups including the Thomas Hardye Orchestra playing 'Sleigh Ride' and the Jazz Band playing the funk piece 'The Chicken'. In the week running up

to the concert, the music department were able to share some of these performances with all students through assemblies - it was lovely for students to be able to support each other in this way. You can see a summary video of most of the performances here: https://youtu.be/_V4N2Ozjm8c

In addition to the Christmas Concerts, several of our ensembles supported other local events during the festive period, including the Thomas Hardye Pop Choir performing at the Dorchester Christmas Cracker. Well done to all who performed this Christmas!

On 14th December, the Thomas Hardye Singers performed for the annual school Carol Service, *see image above*. The choir has grown recently and now has around 40 singers. The choir performed magnificently and there were many supportive comments from across the local community.

Mr B Trevorrow



The Hardyans Club Annual Dinner
Saturday 23rd March 2024 6.45pm for 7.15pm
The Restaurant, Thomas Hardy School

Dress Code: Lounge Suits. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WINE etc. and also don't forget to bring money for the Raffle !!

Our Speaker will be **Ross Dewar** who attended Thomas Hardy School between 1993 and 1998. He went on to be a Strength and Conditioning Coach in the world of cricket and worked for Somerset, Northamptonshire and Worcestershire. Ross feels the school gave him a platform to make a career in professional cricket, and he will provide us with some interesting stories throughout his time in the game.

Menu

Starter: Chicken Liver pate with red onion marmalade and brioche toast

Main: Salmon en crouete with new potatoes glazed baby carrots and tender stem broccoli

Dessert: Warm sticky toffee pudding with vanilla custard OR Fresh fruit platter

Vegetarian Option

Starter: Parsnip soup

Main: Sweet potato and lentil dahl with coconut rice, garlic and coriander naan

Cost per Guest £38

Please pay by BACS to:
The Hardyans Club
Lloyds Bank Dorchester
Sort Code 30-92-69
Account Number 00403528

The closing date for Bookings is 16th March. After this date no bookings will be accepted.

When you have completed the payment please email our Treasurer, Alan Brown, at alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com with the following information:

Number and names of guests.

Years at school where appropriate.

Menu choices; if you are booking for more than one person please make it clear which guest requires which menu choice.

Please let us know of any dietary requirements or allergies.

Any specific people you would like to sit with if possible.

Many thanks, we look forward to seeing you at the Dinner.