

# *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: Tony DAY (tel 01305 266095)

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

Hon Treasurer: (Acting) Colin LUCAS

Hon Press Officer: Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

## *Newsletter*

**Autumn 2006 : Issue 100**

\*Published January, May and September

\*Copy deadline for Issue 101 15th December 2006

Editor: Peter FOSTER.

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

Design, Typing and Preparation: Heather FOSTER

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

visit the website at: [www.hardyansclub.com](http://www.hardyansclub.com)

E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

clubpresident@hardyansclub.com

clubchairman@hardyansclub.com

clubsecretary@hardyansclub.com

clubeditor@hardyansclub.com

clubpressofficer@hardyansclub.com

clubmembership@hardyansclub.com

clubtreasurer@hardyansclub.com

thomashardyeschool@hardyansclub.com

headteacher@hardyansclub.com

webmaster@hardyansclub.com

### **THE EDITOR WRITES**

Welcome to this milestone in our Newsletter's history, **the 100<sup>th</sup> issue**. It is fascinating leafing through the pages of the newsletter archive, a rich store of memories and reflection of the school of which are so proud. My vote of thanks goes first to my better half, Heather, for her outstanding effort in and commitment to producing the Newsletter. Next to Dr Iain Melvin for his regular Newsletter contribution; to the School Repographics Department for their continued support with the Newsletter publishing, and to the Hardyans Club Council Members for their stalwart assistance with pre-dispatch enveloping. Very many thanks to you all, our members worldwide, for contributing to the Newsletter, which, since 1992, when I took over from Jo Roberts, it has been, and will continue to be, my pleasure and privilege to edit.

**Our 100<sup>th</sup> Edition Quiz : Have a go with this new feature, which you'll find on the pro-forma page, with the London Dinner Booking Form, at the end of this issue.**

**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 \(Tel 01460 73927\)](mailto:Peter.Lewendon@hardyansclub.com)

NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £15 per head. ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE !!

## **ARMISTICE DAY**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am at the School Gates, Queens Avenue.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006 at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester, 12.30pm for 1pm; £15.00 per head. Peter Lewendon advises that you may book in advance, with your remittance to him, by cheque made payable to the Dorchester Conservative Club. Seating limited to 60; Christmas Roast; Christmas Pudding.

## **LONDON DINNER**

Is to be held this year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at **Lords'** - see end of Newsletter for a reprinted Booking Form

## **CRICKET MATCH**

Took place 12th July 2006 - please see report from Colin LUCAS

## **SITUATION STILL VACANT!! Hon. Treasurer - Hardyeans 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.

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**

### **George FOLEY (DGS 1925-34)**

We are saddened to report the passing of George FOLEY, one of the Club's longest-serving members, who attended the London Dinner and Annual Dinner regularly. A fuller appreciation hopefully in the next edition.

and another Old Grammarian:

### **Gordon. F. HAWKES**

Roy HAWKES of 18 Higher Holcombe Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8RD.  
(ARD@teighnhawkes.fsnet.co.uk) writes

It is my sad duty to record the death on 19th. May 2006, a week before his 89th birthday of my brother, Commander Gordon. F. Hawkes, AFC., R.N., D.G.S. approx 1925-1933. O.T.C., Rigger Team, Weymouth Sea Scouts, Commission in R.N. Engineering Branch by competitive Civil Service Exam. Saw action in WW2 off Norway, in Mediterranean and Atlantic. Became noteworthy Fleet Air Arm test pilot. Following enforced reduction in armed forces took premature retirement to farm in Pembrokeshire. Survived by his wife of sixty years marriage, four children and four grandchildren.

Although Gordon was an old boy of the D.G.S. he was not a paid up member of the Old Hardyeans. Nevertheless he remained interested and relied on me to keep him informed.

I tried a more interesting obit, but, without losing cohesion, could not reduce it to less than a still overwhelming 1230 words!

Doubtless a common problem for a relative!

Best wishes,  
Sincerely, Roy Hawkes

**As always, the Club extends sincere condolences to family and friends of the above**

### **YOU WRITE**

**Graeme BROWNE 1943-50**, 89 Lakeside Road, Palmers Green, London N13 4PS Tel: 0181 886 8948

Reading Ian Ellis' reminiscences in the last newsletter certainly brought back some memories of my friends at school.

The Headmaster's sister Edith Hill was known as the Duchess, she was my form mistress for a time; ask Hans Wells Furby about an essay he wrote about school dinners - he was extremely critical - little did he know that Miss Hill was also in charge of the kitchens and everything that went on there. She went for Hans in a big way.

It is funny how things stick in your mind after such a long time. I remember a boy called Fox (nothing to do with SA Fox) who was messing about in class. The master in charge was "Daddy" Willis. Patience exhausted he took one stride off the platform and caught Fox on the side of his head with the flat of his hand and the desk turned turtle; another act of desperation was performed by a certain Mr Hanson, who saw fit to march to the back of the form and punch Bernard Grimsby on the nose - quite hard I may add.

As a boarder at Southfield House a few stories came down to us from the other boarding house at South Walks. Boys in the top dorm had a habit of opening the skylight and having a smoke. On one such occasion someone said "Doesn't it smell like the old man's tobacco" and a voice from the corner of the room replied "this is the old man's tobacco" - I don't know what the outcome of that episode was; another story - only a story mind you, was that a certain Mr McGowan, who taught History, slept on the ground floor at South Walks - it is told that certain boys painted his bedroom windows with black paint. McGowan did not surface until midday.

When I was in the top dorm at Southfield we had a metal door that opened onto the fire escape. There was a key in a glass-fronted box - we never used it - the door was easily opened with a nail file! Most of us, including Dick Robinson, Roger Bishop, and others would roam around Dorchester at 3am, this happened quite often, and on one occasion Dick Robinson was ascending the fire escape stairs and saw what he thought was a trip wire - he broke it and two metal tubes suspended on either end of the string went crashing down with enough noise to wake the dead. It seems that John Reavens, whose window we passed on the way up was responsible - there was no response from Walter Lancashire, who must have heard the commotion.

On reflection, I think I took things as they came, but to send a child to boarding school at the age of 8 was really too young, most of the prefects turned out to be 16 year old bullies.

Regards  
Graeme Browne

### **Alan COSTELLO writes**

Thanks for latest newsletter. The bit where Ian Ellis recalls his time at the school brings back memories although I didn't start there until 10 years later. Most of the teachers he mentions were still there in the early 50's. In fact I have a school list of pupils and staff for the year Sept 1955-July 1956 that was given

out. I also have the school end of term photo for 1952. It's one of the long ones measuring 33 inches by 6. I have attached a picture taken on Kleine Scheidegg and another at the French/Swiss border when a school party visited Switzerland in the fifties but I am not sure which year.

Alan Costello



As a result of the Newsletter Distribution E-Mail update request in the last newsletter the following has been forwarded via Webmaster Terry Stone:

From **John NEWMAN**, [pebw@worldonline.co.za](mailto:pebw@worldonline.co.za)

Please could you send me an electronic newsletter to this e-mail address? I have read the Spring 2006, issue 99 which was forwarded to me by my brother Roger.

I left Hardye's in 1951 & then went to Southampton University. We lived in Rhodesia / Zimbabwe from 1961 to 1981 and then moved to Port Elizabeth in South Africa where I was chief chemist at the Cadbury factory.

We moved to Johannesburg in 2002 to be near our children. In November 2003 I suffered a stroke and am now a hemiplegic.

I would be interested in hearing from anybody who was at Hardye's when I was or from other stroke victims or anybody living in the Johannesburg area.

Thank you very much  
John Newman.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Peter POWELL** has forwarded some correspondence from Michael WARBY and Richard WEATHERBURN and also advises that several members who require a postal newsletter have made donations adding up to £65 to help with costs. Please contact Peter POWELL or Colin LUCAS to contribute.

**Michael WARBY** of 71, Limes Avenue, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7HD email [michael.warby@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.warby@btinternet.com)

Writes advising his email address and enclosing some information which may be of interest to keen mountain bikers. Michael's son Ian (now 31) set up Aston Hill mountain bike area in Aston Hill Woods nr. Wendover Bucks in 1997 and it is now acknowledged as the top private mountain bike centre in England. Check out the website: [www.astonhill.com](http://www.astonhill.com)

**Richard WEATHERBURN** e-mail [r.weatherburn@btopenworld.com](mailto:r.weatherburn@btopenworld.com)

Writes to give the following update: Since leaving Hardyes and getting an honours degree in Communication Engineering at Plymouth Poly (as it was then) I worked in the defence industry in Weymouth. However for the last seven years I have worked for Siemens Transportation Systems in Poole, initially as Project Manager and more recently as the Head of the Product Management and Support Group.

I have lived in Weymouth since getting married to Sandy in 1990. I have two daughters Laura - 13 (who attends All Saints School) and Emily - 8 (who attends Holy Trinity School, where I am a Community Governor)

I used to be heavily involved in the sailing scene at Weymouth, but somehow I don't seem to get the time these days... but we are all looking forward to the Olympics!

Best Regards  
Richard

### **OLD HARDYEANS WIN BY 70 RUNS AGAINST THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL**

by Colin LUCAS

Another strong Old Hardyans XI, containing several Dorchester first team regulars, won the annual fixture with Thomas Hardye School for the sixth time in seven years. Against such experienced old boys, again captained by Tony Foot, the School showed great spirit and determination, yet were never going to match the 237 for 4 put on the scoreboard by their elders. A whirlwind start by the Old Hardyans' openers - 50 for no loss in the first six overs - laid a good foundation for the win.

The Old Hardyans opened the batting with Lee Ames and Peter Moxom in aggressive mood. Lee Ames' first three strokes yielded boundaries and Peter Moxom, not to be outdone, responded in similar vein. With 80 runs on the board, an astute bowling change by the School tempted Lee Ames to attack new bowler Chris Senior, but misjudging his stroke, he was well caught at mid on by Sam Goodhew for 34. Adam Rendall joined Peter Moxom and together they soon reached the first 100. The School were not deterred by the aggressive play and showed much promise against the more experienced old boys team. Adam Rendall scored 44 before being caught by Adam Jones off Sam Goodhew. Two overs later, Peter Moxom was given out lbw to Sam Goodhew for 74, a superb innings which provided the backbone of a substantial score. Steve Clifford added 10 and was given out lbw to Sam Goodhew. Late in the Old Hardyans innings, Alan Osbourne [36 not out] and Tony Foot [13 not out] added a further 50 runs, closing the innings at 237 for 4. Bowler Sam Goodhew showed great promise, taking 3 for 25 and the catch for the fourth wicket. Chris Senior bowled tightly with 1 for 20.

After tea, the School set about trying to match the mammoth total amassed by the Old Hardyans. They began with great spirit, but opener Matt Stickland fell to the consistently good length of Dave Trotter, caught by Nick Joslin with the score on 22. Opener Chris Skinner was joined by Adam Jones, well bowled by Martin Richards, with the score only at 27. Courage and determination were not enough as the target became further and further out of reach, but not before useful batting contributions by Chris Skinner [29,] Chris Senior [19,] Liam Coward [23,] Sam Goodhew [17 not out] & Rhys Cole [12 not out.] The School were all out for 167 and the Old Hardyans had won by 70 runs.

This annual fixture, on the well ordered pitch at Dorchester Recreation Ground, was as always a really super occasion, blessed with ideal weather - a bright summer's day with a slight breeze from a southerly direction.

## Old Hardyens XI

Ames c Goodhew b Senior 34  
Moxom lbw Goodhew 74  
Rendall c Jones b Goodhew 44  
Clifford lbw Goodhew 10  
Osbourne not out 36  
Foot not out 13

Extras 26

Total 237 for 4

## Thomas Hardye School

Stickland c Joslin b Trotter 14  
Skinner b Richards 29  
Jones c Rendall b Joslin 5  
Fry st Ames b Richards 12  
Senior b Derrien 19  
Coward b Derrien 23  
Voss lbw Rendall 11  
Winslow c Ames b Richards 1  
Martin run out 1  
Goodhew not out 17  
Cole not out 12

Extras 23

Total 167 all out



Left to right. Old Hardyens XI on left, Thomas Hardye School on right.

Martin Richards, Dave Trotter, Nick. Joslin, Rupert Guppy, Steve Clifford, Tony Foot, Peter Moxom, Lee Ames, Alan Osbourne, Adam Rendall, Mark Derrien, Colin Lucas [umpire,] Liam Coward, Simon Lane [umpire,] Rhys Cole, Phil Winslow, Chris Skinner, Chris Senior, Stuart Voss, Adam Jones, Sam Goodhew, Matt Stickland, Chris Fry, Alex Martin, Simon Mitchem.

## **FROM THE PRESS OFFICER**

The Society's website [www.hardyensclub.com](http://www.hardyensclub.com) is regularly updated with reports and photographs of Old Hardyens' functions and events. We are very grateful to Terry Stone, born at Sherborne, but who grew up in Dorchester, for his professional care and maintenance of the website.

Colin Lucas has added his report on the Old Hardyens cricket XI, who won the annual match with the School yet again. Derek Gallop [1962/69] has contributed some interesting photographs of that era, including some School thespian activities, visit [www.hardyensclub.com/Gallery/Derek\\_Gallop.htm](http://www.hardyensclub.com/Gallery/Derek_Gallop.htm).

The message board is too little used by Old Hardyans and Terry Stone would like to see much more use of it, so members throughout the world can keep in touch. Access [www.hardyansclub.com](http://www.hardyansclub.com), click "messages" from the menu on the left hand side, then send a message of goodwill to your fellow Old Hardyans.

Simon Harris wrote in Newsletter 99 about the disappearance of Wollaston House, or so he thought. As our Editor pointed out, the house is still very much there and Michel Hooper-Immins parked on double yellow lines in Durngate Street one August afternoon to take some photographs to send to Simon in Australia.

By the way, one day in 1958, Michel planted a number of plum stones in the grounds, in the forlorn hope that one day plum trees might grow there. We will never know, since the playing fields are now submerged in concrete and tarmac. If you spot a plum tree poking-up in the car park, you know who planted it!

We've often said Old Hardyans are everywhere. We congratulate David Johnston [1955/59] on becoming President of the Weymouth & Portland Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism. This is a high-profile role in the rejuvenated Chamber, which represents the interests of the business community south of the Ridgeway. David recalls being interviewed by R. W. Hill and has happy memories of Wollaston House under Bunny Lee.

Fellow Old Hardyean Michel Hooper-Immins has become part-time Secretary of the WPCCT, but is continuing as a journalist and writer. Have you seen his series of articles on Dorset village shops and the new series on Dorset personalities in Dorset Magazine?

Old Hardyean Tony Biles was pictured in the Dorset Echo - 75 not out - celebrating seven and a half decades at the Society of Dorset Men's summer gourmet lunch at Bournemouth.

The **Society of Dorset Men** have agreed to fund a bursary for the **Hardyans Club Charitable Trust** over three years, to help a gifted student from Thomas Hardy School at university. Many members of the Society are also Old Hardyans and there are warm links between the two. The Society was founded in 1904, a year before the Old Hardyans in 1905. It will be called the **Society of Dorset Men Bursary**.

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Inevitably in these pieces I report on the achievements of the school and its students, examination results, new buildings and initiatives and the striving towards 'continuous improvement'; that mantra the present Prime Minister sees as the purpose of every school. I hope the Hardyans will not be disappointed if for once I do not concentrate on those aspects of the school.

It will be no surprise to Hardyans to read that once again we have achieved at a high level in the recent examinations, moving to 19<sup>th</sup> in The Guardian List of Top Comprehensive Schools GCSE Results in England. We are justly proud of this; but that is not my main concern at the beginning of a new term and year.

Many of you will have noticed that the media and 'chattering classes' have been stimulated by the 100 'experts' who wrote an open letter to the newspapers claiming that children were being deprived of their childhood through the rigid regime of tests and examinations they experience and their gullible slavery to popular culture and its lowest common denominators. A national debate has begun, flavoured by the further complications of obesity, sexuality and the testing and examinations which all young people now experience. With regards to the latter we may disagree on the quality of the assessments, however the quantity cannot be denied.

As I move into the 'grumpy old man' stage of my career, which includes shouting at the radio (or the wireless as I persist in calling it), I find this revelation and the debate it has engendered ironic, irritating and ultimately depressing.

I would contend that any teacher in any phase of education could have provided this 'revelation'. After nineteen years of leading this school and thirty one years in the profession I have become increasingly depressed by the way young children of both sexes are turned into little men and women. Their slavery to fashion, celebrity and conspicuous consumption has become a disease fed by the very media who now bemoan what is happening to our young people. Such attributes have become far more important than learning and the desire for knowledge.

It is traditional for teachers to 'blame the parents' and whilst this is too simple, one is struck these days by the parents who strive to dress as their children and children who ape the dress of their parents. It is a depressing prospect and places young people in a confused mind set where image is all-important.

Similarly whilst it is gratifying that parents wish their children to attend The Thomas Hardy School, their motivation is often guided by the examination results the school achieves. It is so important that at the same time they consider whether their daughter or son will be happy in what can be a pressurised and intense regime of testing and examination. We are of course always trying to achieve that balance.

As a school we are always trying to do the best for all our children, no matter what their ability. It is important that they gain the best results possible but there is a debate to be had about the real purpose of education which is ultimately a moral venture to turn impressionable minds into good citizens and members of their community.

I find it intensely sad that we seem to be embarked upon a debate about childhood, no doubt orchestrated by many of the elements who have been so instrumental in robbing children of that childhood.

Dr I E Melvin

## **OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION SCHOOL QUIZ**

1. In what year was the School founded?

---

2. What was the School's first name?

---

3. In 1948 there were six houses. Can you name them and their colours ?

---

4. In an Old Boys Club booklet, circa mid 1950s, there is a picture of three generations of Head Masters, THE first was Headmaster from 1882 to 1898; the second from 1907 to 1927 and the third from 1927 to 1955. Can you name them ? (The late George FOLEY, in an archive conversation with me, recorded at our Centenary Dinner, remembered being present when the photograph was taken, at Old Boys day in 1933.)

---

5. Which Chairman of the School Governors, in the 1950s, was a railway enthusiast ? (I travelled with him on the very last special passenger train from Melcombe Regis to Portland and Easton, in 1965)

---

6. In which Dorchester Church will you find the memorial to Thomas Hardy, the School's founder?

---

7. R.U.R. was the title of one of the many plays staged by the School's Drama Department. What do the letters stand for?

---

8. Which Master had the nickname 'Steamboat'?

---

9. In what year were the Memorial Gates installed at Barnes Way?

---

10. The words Labores Varii Unus Amor are carved on the Memorial Gates. What is their English translation?

---

Answers to Editor, by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006, for inclusion, in Newsletter 101. A small prize will be awarded to the winner, the first all correct entry to be opened after the closing date. If the School quiz idea proves popular, I'd be happy to run further School quizzes in the Newsletter. An idea for a future Hardyans Dinner . How about recording an audio general knowledge quiz with teams representing our former School Houses and boarding houses? And teams from the present school? I could use the result for hospital radio in Dorset County Hospital. - PF

**LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM**

**LONDON DINNER 7th November 2006 at LORDS.**

It has now been confirmed that **Lords Cricket Ground** is available and Godfrey Lancashire has made a provisional booking. Numbers are restricted to 48. Please book early so as not to be disappointed. Anticipated cost £35.00 per person. Extras include a guided tour of the Museum etc, depending on numbers and timing. We propose to dine at 7.30pm. so timings may not permit. Please intimate your requirements.

Name.....

Tour cost £6.00..... Dinner Only £35.00.....

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

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope