

# *The Hardyans' Club*

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

## **Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset**

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## *Newsletter*

### **Winter 2007 : Issue 101**

\*Published January, May and September

\*Copy deadline for Issue 102 15th April 2007

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

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**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 !!

**2007 ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs** for both Club and Charitable Association are to be held on Saturday 17th March 2007, 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. It is anticipated that the Guest Speaker will be Professor John Barbara.

Church Service (to be confirmed) at St Peters', Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am

**Please see reports on the CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON and LONDON DINNER on the Press Officer's page**

## **SITUATION STILL VACANT!! Hon. Treasurer - Hardyans 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 Annual 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)**

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of George Foley a stalwart supporter of the Hardyans Club (formerly The Old Grammarians). George was at South Street school in 1926 when the Headmaster was H.A. Francis, M.A. It was a very interesting time to be a scholar. Much was happening for a young active mind to get absorbed in. The visit to Dorchester of The Prince of Wales May 1928, the laying of the foundation stone by Thomas Hardy O.M at the new school on land at South Court Avenue (just south of Culliford Road) and he was at the school on Old Boys Day 1933 when a photographer captured a picture of the then Headmaster R.W. Hill M.A. together with his two predecessors H.N. Kingdon M.A & H.A. Francis M.A. Apart from the usual studies George took on the secretaryship of the Chess Club (he was a formidable exponent) and librarian for the school orchestra. As an instrumentalist he played the violin.

Academically he achieved his Oxford Higher School Certificate and went on to win an open scholarship in natural science at University College Exeter and graduated B.Sc. London. Whilst at school he won prizes for both Physics & Chemistry and rose to the rank of Corporal in the O.T.C. His occupation as a metallurgist made him exempt from military service in WW2. Most of his working life was spent in Hertfordshire and was a regular attendee at the London Dinner.

He was the guest of Honour at the Club's Centenary Dinner at Dorchester 2005 and cut the Anniversary cake. He remained a bachelor and it could be said that the Club was his family and from the club's point of view he was the epitome of what an old boy should be.

He was a devout catholic. and in his will left sizeable bequests to his church and favoured charities. The Hardyans Charitable Association received £12,500. It is intended that a memorial bursary will be created in his name from 2007 annually.

Colin LUCAS

Editor: We recently received a collection of memorabilia from George Foley's cousin Sean O'Connell, including a 1934 picture of the Dorchester Grammar School Orchestra

**Bob HOWELL** writes to report that his wife **Jeanette Helen Howell (nee Frere)**, a fine "Green School" girl died suddenly and unexpectedly on October 13th. Robert Howell <[punjabi44@hotmail.com](mailto:punjabi44@hotmail.com)>

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

**See also Stop Press at end of this issue**

**FROM THE CLUB SECRETARY, TONY DAY.**

Some Hardyans will be aware, but many will not perhaps, of the on-going issue concerning the fate of PE facilities at this school. The purpose of my communication is to inform Hardyans of the present threat to the facilities which the school currently enjoys, and, very simply to ask Hardyans if they would be prepared to do one or both of two things.

We would like Hardyans, if sympathetic to our concern, to write to the West Dorset District Council, Councillors T Jones and D Barrett, Stratton House, 58/60 High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1UZ, to express any feelings of support they may have for retention of swimming at this school, and/or respond to the Thomas Hardy School either by email reply to me or by surface mail to Dr Iain Melvin, Headteacher, Thomas Hardy School, Queen's Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2ET, in respect of the attached 'Save Lives! Save Swimming for our Children!' document.

To return to the kernel of the issue which is giving us such cause for concern, the attached statement that we sent to parents and the media, and the attached statement of the Governors and Trustees set out the basis for our concern. In short, however, we currently enjoy and share with the community extensive wet and dry sport and PE facilities on the Leisure Centre site annexed to the school buildings.

The District Council and County Council share currently the cost of maintaining these facilities in the proportion of 60%/40% respectively. The District Council now wishes to sever the agreement and set up a new swimming pool with very limited dry facilities at Poundbury, the distance to that site from the school being such that the school and two other schools next door to Thomas Hardy School would not be able, for reasons of logistics, to send its students there.

As you can imagine, parents of our students have been invited to respond, our 'student voice' body representing the views of the students in the lower school, and our 6th Form Union, are responding, also. We have asked Oliver Letwin MP to take up the cudgels for us, as it were, and we would be most grateful if we could add the weight of former students of this school. Our PE Department has a very fine name, nationally, in line with, indeed, the reputation that the present school continues to uphold, and we are anxious to present as broad a point of view to the District Council, as possible.

Our president, John Pearson, will be writing personally to the District Council, and supports unequivocally this request to you.

Tony Day

**SAVE LIVES! SAVE SWIMMING FOR OUR CHILDREN!**

We want our children and children yet to come, to learn to swim.  
We know that swimming is healthy exercise.  
We know that more children die by drowning than on the roads.  
We know that Dorchester cannot afford two swimming pools.  
We know that if the new swimming pool is located at Poundbury, none of the children at Thomas Hardy or other schools will have access during the school day.  
We call on West Dorset District Council to support the building of the new swimming pool at Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre.

Signed .....  
Name .....  
Address .....  
.....

**The Future of School Swimming**

You may be aware of the decision by the West Dorset District Council to build a new swimming pool at Poundbury Village and withdraw support from the present swimming and learner pools at The Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre.

This is a complex issue and the school has been working with all concerned to gain the best outcome for the town, while recognising that our main concern must be for the young people at this school and other schools. This is especially true as we encourage youngsters to stay healthy and be safe.

Not all our youngsters can swim when they arrive at this school but given the attractions and proximity of the coast we believe it is crucial that they are able to do so especially as drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death among young people under 16.

There are over 3000 young people educated within 250 metres of the present pools. If these are closed they will have no access to swimming within the school day without serious disruption to teaching to allow time to travel to an off-site facility.

We believe it essential for a school of this size and complexity to retain an on-site swimming pool. If we lose it, swimming, canoeing, water polo, life saving and other activities will disappear.

At a time when we are excited by the prospect of the Olympics in 2012 a reduction in sports facilities is a major setback for our young people. We agree that a new 6 lane pool would be good for everyone in Dorchester and experienced, commercial advice has recommended such a pool be built at The Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre. The school supports this view and has offered to provide financial assistance and restructure its use of the pool to give better and more regular access to the community during the school day.

We are also about to build a new sports hall and nursery which we have already offered to make available to the community as part of a new leisure complex. It makes no sense to close the pools at the school at a time when we are expanding and enhancing our sports facilities.

Renewing the pool and facilities at The Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre would also provide wonderful new facilities in Dorchester. The building at Poundbury Village consists of a pool, a fitness suite and dance studio – there will be no sports halls, no nursery, no artificial turf pitch or other facilities.

The cost of the two options differs by £1m but the community needs to be aware of the difference in the facilities that will be available and also the educational and financial cost of decommissioning the present pools - £1.8m.

The only obstacle to the new facilities at the present Centre is that the town loses its swimming facilities for eighteen months, other than the Damers swimming pool. We accept this is an issue but surely it needs to be viewed in terms of the overall result for the community and its young people.

The School, its Governors and Trustees believe it is very important that you are aware of the circumstances and consequences of the removal of swimming from this school, especially in the light of the rejection by West Dorset District Council of our proposals for a public consultation outlining in full the situation and the recommendations of the recently commissioned survey.

The Thomas Hardye School - November 2006

**The Governors and Trustees** support the need for better swimming facilities and welcome public consultation. They would like to respond to a number of claims and misconceptions that have arisen.

There is a current legally binding dual use agreement that commenced in 1998 and runs until 2023. It includes the main and learner pools, sports hall, all weather pitch, fitness suite, dance studio, outdoor pitches, cricket nets and tennis courts

If this agreement is unilaterally terminated by the District Council it will threaten not only the use of the Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre swimming pools by the school and the community, but all other facilities upon this site. The school is supported in its views by the findings of DC Leisure Ltd., who carried out a study commissioned by the District and County Councils. This study considered two options:

- A new 6 lane pool with very limited dry facilities at Pounbury
- A new 6 lane pool at the Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre site and full refurbishment and upgrading of the centre for the community

The conclusions of the study were clear:

- To maintain a form of dual use agreement
- The Leisure Centre was the preferred and better location
- A new 6 Lane pool should be built on the Leisure Centre site

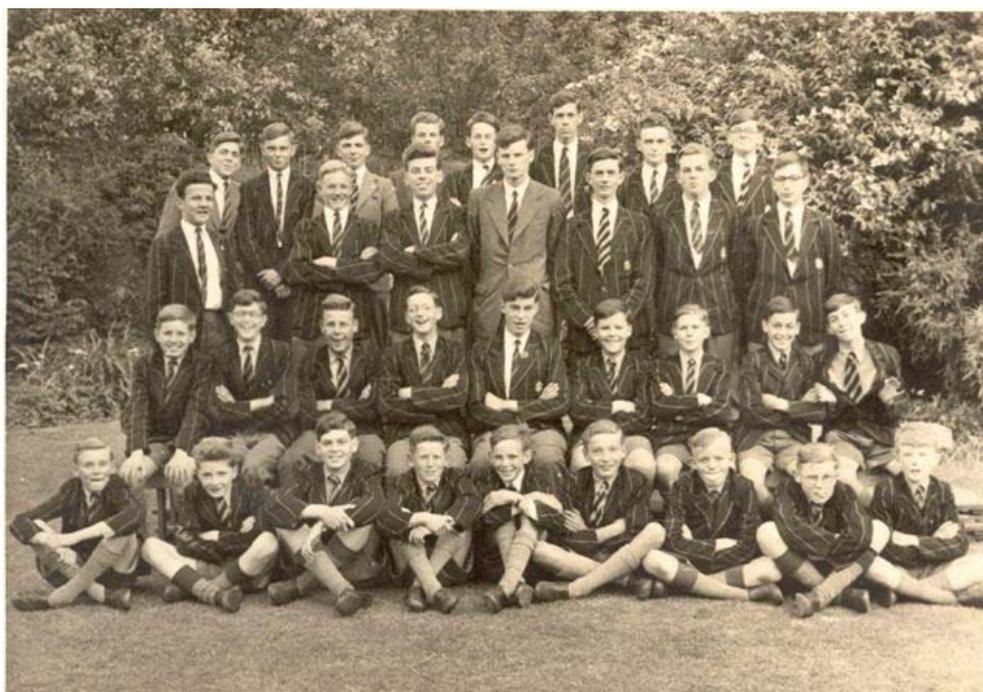
The school has always accepted it must reduce its use of any new swimming pool. We have repeatedly stated this. We believe the use by the school has been exaggerated but also accept the need for more community use and support it. The school is also keen to assist as much as it can with funding – once again we have repeatedly stated this. Essentially the school hopes that sound reason, openness and accurate reporting will prevail to the advantage of all members of the community. We are concerned this has not been the case.

## YOU WRITE

**Tim CUMMINS** writes: [tcummins@iaccm.com](mailto:tcummins@iaccm.com)

At long last I have retrieved myself from the Lost Legion! Having spent most of the last 20 years outside the UK, my Old Hardyean contacts are sadly limited. I do still make it back to Dorchester once or twice a year, to visit my parents in Weymouth, and the internet means that I can follow the fortunes of Dorchester Town FC even more closely than I could when I last lived in the UK! My main contacts are with Rob Taylor (1963-70) and Nigel Bloodworth (1968-70), both of whom remain in the education sector, living in Frome and Emsworth (Hants).

**Chris ETHERINGTON** [cretherington@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cretherington@tiscali.co.uk) has forwarded several interesting pictures including this one of Southfield House in 1955



**Back row:** Sid Collins, Witt, Kevin Donnelly, Gibbons, Willy Caselton, Reg Graham, Philip Saville, Max Millward.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> row:** Brian Rees, Ian Burch, Stuart Shelton, Robin Wallace, Chris Etherington, Peter Sedgwick, John Reiss.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> row:** Eddie Brown, John Ratcliffe, John Zeally, David Pitcher, Lindsay Love, Allan (?), Loveys, Tim Reiss, Perry  
**Squatting:** N/K, Boulwood, Hardy, Richard Duckett, N/K, John Le Quesne, Burch jnr, Taylor, Andrew Beaton

Chris also sent a most interesting picture of the Hardy's School CCF in 1955 and also photos of the 1954 production of Hamlet at the Corn Exchange.

**Alan COSTELLO** has sent a 1952 School panoramic photo (in four sections!) These and others we hope to upload to the website in due course. See also below Nigel Newbery's letter with information on other websites that may be of interest

**Bob MILLS** [bob.mills@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.mills@btinternet.com)

Sorry to hear of George Foley's death. We were contemporaries. At 90 or 91 he must have been the oldest surviving member of the 1933/34 Sixth Form. As I will reach 90 by the end of November I thought I must stand a good chance of succeeding to that honourable position. I have since realised that John Gillingham can give me a few months.

It would be interesting to learn how many Old Hardyans are over 85.

Regards  
L.R.N.(Bob) Mills  
1927-1934

**Nigel NEWBERY** [nigeandann@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigeandann@tiscali.co.uk)

### The Class of '53

Over the last four years research has been undertaken to find old friends who joined Hardyes in 1953. Of the 76 pupils, listed on the 1956 / 57 Lower V class list, 59 have been traced. In the course of the research a number of other contacts were established with old boys from the 1952 and 1954 entries. Several thoroughly enjoyable informal reunions have been held at the Rugby Club where we have been joined by Peter and Jill Lewendon. Any news of the missing 17 would be gratefully received. They are:

Jon Gleghorn, Godfrey Lee, Alfie Wyatt, Dave Blanchard, Mike Burdle, Geoff Crew, Edward Davies-Brown, Nick Dennis, Duncan Emberton, John Morley, Mike Stone, Ivan (Jig) Varley, Bill Edwards, Mike Hartnell, John Kerswell, Neil MacDonald and Dave McGoun.

In April 1957 a Panorama photograph was taken at the school and this is now available on a new website. Every pupil has been numbered and named (where known) and a link established to the School List of 1956/57 where a modern photograph and autobiography can be inserted. This side of the project is at an early stage and there are very few at present - mostly in the Lower V year. The website address is: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hardyes/>

If you can add any names to the site or know the whereabouts of any of the old friends named above please Email Nigel Newbery at: [nigeandann@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigeandann@tiscali.co.uk)

In connection with the Class of '53 research Graham Allen has set up an excellent website containing many old photographs mostly relating to our era i.e. 1953 - 1960. The address is <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/grahamallen/Old%20Hardyans/index.html>

For more about the 1952 entry contact Rodney (Ernie) Middle at: [rodney.middle@btinternet.com](mailto:rodney.middle@btinternet.com)

Nigel Newberry

### **FROM THE PRESS OFFICER**

In the early days of 2007, some jolly Old Hardyans of the class of 1958 met at Tom Browns in High East Street to share a lemonade or two in celebration of the forthcoming marriage of Colin "Squibby" Squibb, scheduled for the following week in Weymouth. Organised by Colin "Smudger" Smith and Richard Sonley - best man at the nuptials - it was as always a most pleasant evening and the extra trade in lemonade was a great boost to Dorchester's evening economy!

It was a particularly happy reunion for Michel Hooper-Immins and Richard Sonley, who started at Wollaston House together in September 1958, but who had actually been at primary school together in Weymouth from 1952. They have been friends for 55 years and although Richard, now an NHS accountant at Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary, had lost some hair, he is little changed facially.

The previous "class of 58" reunion in early 2006, to greet Alan "Algy" Attryde on his brief visit to Dorchester from his diplomatic post in New Delhi, is immortalised in the 2007 **Dorset Year Book**. There, among a four page article on the activities of the Old Hardyans, is a photograph of that 2006 reunion, with the participants again holding glasses of lemonade! What strong constitutions these Old Hardyans of 1958 to 1965 must have.

**Old Hardyans** filled the Dorchester Conservative Club for the traditional **Christmas Lunch**, attended by 60 members and their wives. Organised by Colin Lucas and Peter Lewendon, Old Hardyans came from all over the county and enjoyed the traditional turkey and stuffing, preceded by a prawn cocktail, with Christmas pudding as dessert. In the absence of club president John Pearson, recovering from surgery, Major General John Stephenson gave the welcome and spoke of the next big reunion, the annual dinner on the evening of Saturday March 17 which will again be held at the Thomas Hardy School. With so many compliments about the quality of the food for the last two years, this annual reunion is going from strength to strength. Colin Lucas is already taking bookings for March 17. **PLEASE SEE BOOKING FORM AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE**

There have long been warm links between the **Society of Dorset Men**, founded in 1904 and the Old Hardyans, founded in 1905. At the Society's County Dinner in early November, President Sir Anthony Jolliffe GBE greeted three Old Hardyans and heard how Robert Carew used to travel on the school bus to Hardyes School from Winterbourne Whitechurch and John "Dusty" Miller would get on at Milborne St. Andrew. The two have been firm friends ever since.



Left to right: standing- Robert Carew, Sir Anthony Jolliffe, Colin Lucas; Sitting Anne & John "Dusty" Miller.  
Photograph by Michel Hooper-Immins

## THE EDITOR WRITES

Included in Ridgeway Radio's Christmas Programming for patients in Dorset County Hospital, was the station's recording of the Thomas Hardy School Choir Carol Service in St Peter's Church, Dorchester.

## **OLD HARDYEANS DINE AT LORD'S CRICKET GROUND by Colin Lucas**

Lord's Cricket Ground formed a spectacular backdrop to the Old Hardyans London Dinner, held this year at the President's Suite of the world-famous ground.

A number of members travelled from Dorchester and joined London old boys for this annual reunion, usually held at University of London College. Old Hardyean Godfrey Lancashire -an MCC member- who had suggested the new venue acted as host for the evening, welcoming particularly Hardyans Club president John Pearson and Thomas Hardy School headteacher Dr Iain Melvin.

The visit began with a conducted tour of the historic ground, including the media centre and studio, the dressing rooms and the museum. Pre-dinner drinks were taken in one of the hospitality boxes.

After dinner, Hardyans Club president John Pearson thanked all those involved in the dinner arrangements, particularly for organising the bus from Dorchester. He praised the Club's involvement in arranging bursaries for deserving students and spoke of the support given by The Society of Dorset Men in pledging a new three-year award.

Colin Lucas spoke with sadness of the recent passing of George Foley, for many years an ardent supporter of the London Dinner and possibly a founder member. "A strong supporter of the Club and the School, George was the epitome of what a former student should be," Colin told diners. "Members will recall that as the oldest member of the Hardyans Club, George Foley had been guest-of-honour at the Centenary Dinner at the School in 2005."

Headteacher Iain Melvin and his wife Jan were welcomed by the President. Dr. Melvin thanked the Old Hardyans for their constant support. They could always be relied upon to give help and monitored the continued progress being made by the School, staff and students. Dr. Melvin was also delighted that one of the diners that evening was taught by him at the new school, surely a sign that younger members are taking an interest in the club.

Among the party travelling from Dorset were two former Hardy School masters, David Lacey and Peter Lewendon. Three of the Old Hardyans present were also members of the MCC.

The menu on this memorable occasion started with white bean & truffle volute, followed by pan-fried supreme of free range chicken, stuffed with thyme and served with Dauphin Oise potatoes & roasted Mediterranean vegetables. Dessert was a white chocolate brownie with a trio of chocolate mousse, followed by coffee & chocolates.

The best possible attention was given by the staff at Lord's, which made for a most enjoyable evening. A provisional booking has been made for 13 November 2007.

### **FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

After my excursion into the territory of 'Grumpy Old Men' in the last newsletter I think it better that I now retreat into a more traditional report on the achievements and plans of the school. It is however always tempting to engage in a small amount of 'Government bashing' as we are yet again confronted by a plethora of initiatives and ideas - some sensible, some half-baked, others verging on the plain bonkers. I fear it was ever thus in the Alice in Wonderland world of Whitehall. The temptations of grumpiness are indeed most alluring!

I would like to begin by thanking all those Hardyans who took the time and trouble to respond to the possibility of students losing access to swimming. Tony Day used his substantial skills to organise a Hardyans lobby and we are hopeful that it has been effective - more news in the near future - but we are very cautiously optimistic

The work on our new Sports Centre, which is an addition to the present one, has commenced. The first floor of this substantial building will house a new Learning Resource Centre (they used to be called Libraries) and there will also be a nursery within the building. The latter will do much to provide child care for colleagues who wish to return to school after maternity leave and have their child near at hand. It will be a worthwhile and advantageous addition to our provision. The rumour that the babies who are enrolled will have preferential entry to the school has been greatly exaggerated!

The school continues its worldwide reach with trips to Italy, Russia and the USA all scheduled for half - term this year. Spain, Kenya, Honduras and possibly China are all planned for the future as well as the now annual excursions.

A group of our students represented the UK in the recent International Junior Science Olympiad in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This was the second time the school has been given this honour, the first time being in 2005 in Jakarta.

The team came second in the Team Event, only being defeated by Thailand. This is a remarkable achievement and gives the lie to the oft repeated claim that our young people are not interested in Science and lag well behind the rest of the world. Their performance is even more remarkable when one considers how many countries coach their teams for this competition and 'hothouse' individuals. In the typically British way none of this was done here. Interestingly national media was disinterested in their triumph perhaps it did not fit in with the stereotype so many are keen to create of our schools and our young people. These students are worthy successors to the strong tradition of Science within the school- look out for them in the future.

The school is both grateful and honoured by the substantial bequest George Foley has given to the Hardyens Trust Fund. Those who were fortunate enough to meet this remarkable man will remember him with great affection. His energy and clarity when over ninety was quite remarkable. I know the Trustees will put his wonderful bequest to very good use.

As ever the school remembered the Fallen in November and was pleased to welcome many friends. We estimate there were 2500 people at the ceremony. The London Dinner was a smaller affair but the opportunity to tour Lords was wonderful and my personal thanks to Godfrey Lancashire for organising this. Suddenly a number of my Management team are keen to attend the next London Dinner at Lords; not least Mr Richard Cain who played there for his school against Downside. He scored fifty and has the bat and scorecard to prove it.

The Annual Dinner in Dorchester is not quite blessed with such a prestigious location but it is a very pleasant evening. I hope to see many of you there on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Dr I E Melvin

## **STOP PRESS**

**Major Bernard KIRBY** Colin Lucas writes:

Again it is my sad task to record the passing of another solid stalwart of the school. Bernard was at the school in the 1930s the period leading up to World War 2. He was a fine cricketer particularly as a medium fast bowler representing the school first eleven on many occasions. With the rattling of sabres across the channel Bernard chose a military career and was selected for officer training at R.M.A.Sandhurst. He achieved the rank of Major and on his retirement from Military service returned to Dorchester with his wife Marjorie and family.

He then took up the office of school bursar at Hardyes' and successively became Secretary Chairman & Correspondent for the Club. He remained a strong supporter of the Club until his death at the age of 87at Wolfeton Manor. He was also a strong supporter of The Royal British Legion and was responsible for the distribution of Poppies in the area for many years.

The Dorchester YMCA and the Scouting movement also had the benefit of his influence and experience, becoming a Vice President of The YMCA and local commissioner for the Scout Movement. The Club was represented at his funeral by Colin Lucas & Peter Lewendon and sincere condolences were sent to his family.

✂.....

**ANNUAL DINNER - SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2007**

Since the Centenary Dinner the booking of tables for parties from the same school years has been 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 17th March 2007

cost £ 15.00 per person

Please forward to The Treasurer, Colin Lucas, 4, Fir Tree Close, Dorchester DT1 2PY  
**Enclose a stamped addressed envelope**

***DON'T FORGET - WIVES AND PARTNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !***