

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

Newsletter

Spring 2008 : Issue 105

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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

THE OLD HARDYEANS REMEMBER PETER LEWENDON

see report on page 2



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THE OLD HARDYEANS REMEMBER PETER LEWENDON From Press Officer Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

Peter Lewendon was one of those, who when the Old Hardyans were at a low ebb of their activities in the early 1970s, put much effort into revitalising the association into one of the most active old school societies in Dorset. As organiser of the monthly luncheon every last Thursday of the month at Dorchester Conservative Club, Peter was an important part of the Old Hardyans' activities. Colleagues and friends stood in silence at last week's lunch to remember an old friend and mentor who rarely missed the monthly lunch, despite failing health and reduced mobility.

So many Old Hardyans and other friends attended Peter Lewendon's interment at Winterborne Monkton church on Saturday 1st March 2008 that about 60 had to stand outside the church. Funeral director and Old Hardyean David Grassby organised a sound relay system so those outside could follow the service.

Colin Lucas, current treasurer and long-time officer of the Old Hardyans, spoke one of the moving tributes to his old schoolmaster and friend. First, he outlined Peter's war service as an officer of the first Parachute Regiment. In 1948, following teacher training, Oxford-born Peter Lewendon was appointed to the staff of Dorchester Grammar School, later to become Hardy's School, as junior geography master under Harold Mann. He taught there for an incredible 36 years.

"He was no mean rugby second row forward and as well as teaching geography, took on added responsibilities for sport at the school," spoke Colin Lucas in his tribute. "It did not take him long to earn the respect of his charges. Soon Peter was appointed Housemaster at South Walks House, where he met Jill, who became matron and soon they were married. What a formidable team, both loved and respected by generations of boarders entrusted to their loving care."

Peter Lewendon did much for the community of Dorchester, as a charter member and past president of the Lions Club and as president of Dorchester Rugby Club.

"Although he retired from teaching at Hardy's School in 1984 and they moved to Winterborne Monkton, his keen interest in former students and rugby never diminished. His contribution and influence in sporting development was a significant factor throughout his life. In more recent times it was always a pleasure to see his smiling face at Old Hardyans' functions. Peter had an amazing memory of school-related events and individuals. His devotion to the Old Hardyans association was total, despite increasing physical limitations," continued Colin Lucas in his fulsome tribute at Peter Lewendon's funeral service. "Soldier, sportsman, mentor, servant of the community and treasurer of this church at Winterborne Monkton, Peter gave so much. He lived respected and died regretted."

Peter leaves a widow Jill, son Kerry and daughter Lizzie. Old Hardyans stood in silent tribute to Peter Lewendon before their annual dinner on Saturday 15 March at the Sixth Form Centre of Thomas Hardy School.

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS:

Last Thursday of the month, except December, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Please contact Colin LUCAS if you intend to come (Tel: 01305 265446)
NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £15 per head. ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE !!

2008 ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs

For both Club and Charitable Association were held on Saturday 15th March 2008 The Press Officer's report on the Dinner follows, the AGM minutes can be found later in this issue.

ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH, The Club vs The School

Traditionally takes place early in July. Please contact Tony FOOT for further details Tel 01305-250137

LONDON DINNER

Traditionally 2nd Tuesday in November. The Venue is still to be arranged. Please contact Colin LUCAS for further information. Members on email will receive an update. A booking form will appear in the next issue.

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

CANADIAN OLD GRAMMARIAN SPEAKS TO OLD HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER - DR. IAIN MELVIN PRESENTED WITH SILVER SALVER - "RUMOURS OF MY LEAVING HAVE BEEN MUCH EXAGGERATED!"

With local author Colin Churchill just out of hospital following a minor stroke, but unable to fulfil his role as guest speaker, Old Hardyens' annual dinner organiser Colin Lucas had to think quickly. Fortunately, his brother-in-law Rev. Phillip Hewett was visiting England for a month and staying with him! Coincidentally, like Colin Churchill, Rev. Hewett had been at Hardy's School partly during wartime- from 1936 to 1943.

The Old Hardyens annual dinner began with a minute's silence in memory of the late Peter Lewendon. "The Old Hardyens meant an awful lot to Peter," club president Professor Griffiths told diners, "it was a sad moment when he passed away, but we warmly welcome his widow Jill and daughter Lizzie tonight."

After dinner, Professor Hugh Griffiths presented an engraved silver salver to Dr. Iain Melvin OBE, Headmaster of Thomas Hardy School, in appreciation of his 20 successful years at the school and intended as a retirement gift from the Old Hardyens. "Like Mark Twain, rumours of my leaving have been much exaggerated," responded Dr. Melvin to much laughter, "in fact I have been asked to stay on for one more year, as the Governors have been unable to appoint a successor as headmaster." For Dr. Melvin, the past year had been dominated by the OFSTED inspection. "This is an exceptional school," wrote the government inspectors, "one of the best schools in the country." There was no higher praise he said, pointing to the balance between tradition and modernity as being crucial. "I particularly want to thank the Old Hardyens for their constant support and commitment to the school."

President Hugh Griffiths then announced one of the new scholarships being given by the Hardyens Club Charitable Trust would be known as the "Dr. Melvin bursary." Another would be called the "Major General John Stephenson bursary," in recognition of General Stephenson's idea of launching the Trust five years ago. He was delighted the Old Hardyens Club was going from strength to strength and thanked Godfrey Lancashire for organising the superb London Dinner at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Rev. Phillip Hewett spent four of the six war years at Dorchester Grammar School in Culliford Road, which later became Hardy's School. Born at Tincleton, he was one of only 350 pupils, but was aware of the long traditions of the school. The sixteenth century oak screen - reputedly taken from a Spanish Armada galleon at Weymouth- was one link with the South Street school founded by Thomas Hardy in 1569. The school motto was "*labores varii, unus amor*" "many tasks, one love." Our one love should be England," suggested Rev. Hewett, whose arrival at the school in 1936 coincided with the national feeling that war was inevitable. The government were producing gasmasks, in anticipation of the Germans dropping chemical bombs. He recalled that some Grammar School boys helped assemble the gas masks in a disused wing of Dorchester Prison! One early task was to dig trenches at the northern boundary of the playing fields. In 1940, during the Battle of Britain, German planes did appear above the school, although it was never bombed. In the summer holidays, young Phillip Hewett worked at nearby Warmwell Aerodrome - an exciting life for a schoolboy. He recounted many amusing anecdotes from the war years and of the masters - joined by the first female staff in wartime. The school Air Training Corps had been valuable experience for RAF training in Canada in 1943, where he stayed once the war was over. Today, he lives in Vancouver, on the Pacific coast and became a senior minister for the Unitarian Church, which he served for 35 years. His sister Brenda married Colin Lucas, longtime officer and premier organiser of the Old Hardyens.

Past President Gordon Crocker proposed the traditional toast to absent friends.

In the modern Sixth Form Centre of Thomas Hardy School and served by sixthformers, the annual Old Hardyens dinner was again a great success. Beginning with asparagus soup, followed by braised beef in red wine sauce and the traditional raspberry & sherry trifle- as always.

The annual general meeting of the Hardyens Club took place earlier in the day with President Professor Hugh

Griffiths in the chair. "It is a great honour to hold this office. I am pleased to be so involved in Thomas Hardy School's Science College project and have received many letters from students, who really value the support."

Members thanked chairman Bob Rensch, who took over the membership secretary's role part way through the year and who has worked very hard to get the records in order. He reported a current membership of 1,243 Old Hardyans. It was agreed to increase the annual membership from £2 to £5. The suggestion was made that the school governors should include at least two Old Hardyans, including the President.



Left to right:
Headmaster Dr. Iain Melvin OBE, Old Hardyans President Professor Hugh Griffiths,
guest speaker Rev. Phillip Hewett,
Colin Lucas.
Photograph by Michel Hooper-Immins.

Further information from
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OLD HARDYEANS ARE EVERYWHERE

Fifty years ago, in September 1958, a number of 11 year olds joined Wollaston House and later went through to the Upper School in Culliford Road. Among the alumni are our esteemed Newsletter Editor and broadcaster Peter Foster - and Michel Hooper-Immins, journalist and PR guru of the Old Hardyans.

A chance note in a recent Old Hardyans Newsletter about Robi das Gupta reminded Michel that Robi had indeed been in his and Peter Foster's year. A few telephone conversations and emails later, Michel and his wife Joan made the trip to the lovely picture-postcard village of Dunster in Somerset to meet Robi and his partner Margaret.

They run the historic Castle Coffee House and although it was 43 years since Robi and Michel last met, there was an immediate affinity. Over a delicious cream tea, there was much talk about life at Hardy's four and more decades ago - the time rolled back as the conversation flowed. It's true both had put on a tiny bit of weight and their hair was more silver than black, but it was a wonderful reunion. Joan and Michel have promised to go back to Dunster soon.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Michael Bone's address has changed to 7 Dorchester Hill, Milborne St Andrew.
His e-mail address is g3voo@btinternet.com. He is happy for his Club letter to be e-mailed.

Thank you.

Victoria Bone

YOU WRITE

Andrew Galloway andrewgalloway@btconnect.com

Thanks for the newsletter. This is the first I have received and I very much enjoyed reading about the achievements

of the school and the seeming constant interaction between the Old Boys.

I have made several attempts over the years to keep in touch with old school colleagues and the Old Hardyans. However, mainly due to travels and pressures of business, my attempts have not been consistent and therefore unsuccessful. So it was very pleasing that the Newsletter is filled with such information and well written contributions. Please convey a special thanks to Peter and Heather for the excellent work done on producing such a fine publication.

I intend to attend the Annual Dinner on 15th March and will be returning my reservation form in due course. I would also like to receive information about the London Dinner when it is available.

(In case you are trying to place me, I left Hardy's from the Lower Sixth almost at the end of the 1976/7 academic year.)

Keep up the good work.

Andy Galloway
andy@argalloway.co.uk

Yet another of the Lost Legion found!

Matias Landshoff lactola@terra.com.br

I am absolutely delighted to be hearing from you and in such a friendly way because I had long, long ago had to give up any hope of further contact or revival of my lifetime subscription to the Newsletter. The stoppage was also years before I indeed changed the E-mail address, so my only thought was that I had to turn a page on my memorable years at Dorchester, '41-'45 and indeed by now I do not have even a single contact left amongst the few good chums of that long-ago past, partly probably precisely because addresses were no longer available from Newsletter perusals, nor news items on known names. Quite a sad fact. If you want to insert a news item one day, it could read:

Landshoff, Matias - heading into ripe old age but still busy brokering dairy product import/export in Brazil, sending his address as : Av.Higienopolis 529, 11th floor, 01238-000 S.Paulo, Brazil.

Always glad to meet any Durnovarian who might appear in this part of the world.

Best regards and thanks,

M.Landshoff,

tel. +5511 3666-3811
fax 3667-7199
mobile 9633-1444
Sometimes absent in Uruguay.

Major R S (Bob) Rowland, Hawthorns, 23 St Michael's Walk, Eye, Peterborough, PE5 7XG Tel 01733-223054

I was intrigued to see the photo on the front page of Issue 103 of the Newsletter, but have been unable to follow this up until now for health reasons. My brother Roger and I were at South Walks House at that time and I was able to recognise a few faces. Quite coincidentally I recently discovered a photograph of those of us at South Walks in June 1949, a copy of which is enclosed. I realised that one difficulty I had was that I could not remember the names of those in the picture, and it was pointless sending it to you without at least some information. Roger, fourth from the left in the back row and now aged seventy three and living in a care home in Canada, has a quite excellent memory. I sent him a copy and he was able to recall many of those whose names I had forgotten. Sadly, first names have not all been easy to remember.

I am enclosing details as I have them together with any other information which has come to mind. If you feel able to use any of this in a future Issue, or there is any 'follow-up' interest, I would be happy to be involved, subject to the fact that I am disabled and a bit limited to 'phone and 'steam typewriter' keyboard. We have a daughter who lives near Sturminster Newton and we are taken south on visits to see that branch of the family now and then.

Very Best wishes
Bob Rowland

[Editor: the South Walks June 1949 picture and associated comments will appear in the next issue]

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We had quite a good response to the appeal for confirmation of letters in the January, but this still left 108 members for whom we still had no confirmation that Newsletters were being received. If newsletters are sent to the wrong address we are obviously wasting money. Individual letters were sent out during April, to all of these members. Any members who do not reply to these letters very shortly, will not be sent further Newsletters until we hear from them.

Letters were also sent to some of those whose emails had failed and who were therefore not receiving their Newsletters. Obviously we have been unable to contact those for whom we did not have a postal address. The response to these letters was good and we have made a useful reduction in the number of the 'Lost Legion'.

Information also was received about members who had passed away in the last few years, included in Obituaries below

OBITUARIES

Frank Anthony (Tony) Barber (1953-60)

From Nigel Newbery (nigeandann@tiscali.co.uk)

At long last I have gathered the facts to enable me to put together some notes for the Newsletter about Tony. The text has been edited by his widow, Alison, so she is quite happy for them to be published.

Tony Barber, always known as 'Ali' amongst his school-friends, was born in 1942 and spent his early years in Mansfield. By 1953 his family were living in Dorchester where in early September he and around seventy others presented themselves at Wollaston House. Tony proved to be an able pupil and keen sportsman. Originally part of the all-conquering Hodges House sides of 1958 he subsequently joined Treves House when he became a 'boarder', in South Walks House, following his parents' move away from the area.

As well as being a fast bowler with a whippy action on the cricket field, he was also a marauding wing forward on the rugby pitch where he captained the First XV in 1959/60. But it was on the athletics track that he showed an exceptional talent, particularly in distances from 440 yards to one mile, at which distance he represented the school at the All England Schools Athletic Championships. On Finals day, his duals with Roger Taunton-Rigby were eagerly awaited. The Athletics Programme from 6th June 1959 reveals the records Tony held.

1957	440 yards Intermediate	57.9 seconds
	880 yards Intermediate	2 mins. 13.4 seconds
1958	440 yards Senior	53.0 seconds

He joined the naval section of the C.C.F. and went on to become Senior Cadet. In the summer of 1960, along with Ian Birrell for the Army section and Dickie Duckett for the R.A.F. section, he represented the school at the C.C.F. Centenary Parade at Buckingham Palace. Always imbued with an air of authority he became Head Boy in his final year.

He arrived at Dartmouth as a Naval Scholar in 1960 where he rapidly made his mark, becoming the Senior Sub-Lieutenant in his third year.

His original intention had been to join the Fleet Air Arm but fitting his tall frame into a Sea Venom proved to be difficult. An incident involving the accidental discharge of a six-barreled pom-pom, when he was a midshipman on H.M.S. Ark Royal, at a target aircraft did nothing to endear him to the flying wing of the Service.

From Dartmouth he joined a Minesweeper in Malta but then decided that his future lay underwater. After initial training he saw service in several diesel submarines, with a break in 1972/73 as a Training Officer at the Submarine School. He then went on to pass the Submarine Officers' Qualifying Course (known in the RN as the Perisher as so many fail it), before being promoted to Lieutenant Commander and given command of HMS Olympus.

He was then appointed to a shore job, as Staff Officer Operations at Faslane Naval Base, leaving in 1976 to take up command of the nuclear submarine, HMS Warspite, overseeing her refit after a serious fire. He was then sent back to sea as First Lieutenant of HMS Dreadnought.

In 1980 - 83 he was transferred to the Naval Intelligence Division at the Ministry of Defence which involved an appointment in Gibraltar, and from where he left the Navy.

Subsequently he first worked for Marconi (Underwater) based in Portsmouth, selling submarine torpedoes to foreign navies and then running a division of the company in Australia from 1987-1989.

He went on to work for GEC Marconi Communications Systems, selling Air Traffic Control systems to countries like Indonesia before moving to GEC Marconi (Projects) Ltd, which involved a move to Brunei in 1996, where he helped win a large contract to build three Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Sultan of Brunei.

On his return home, he continued to fly regularly to South East Asia and it was on his way back from one of those trips, in 2001, that he picked up a virus from which he very nearly died and which forced his early retirement. Recovery was a three year battle but sadly, shortly afterwards, the cancer was diagnosed which caused his untimely death earlier this year. These two illnesses he fought with the tenacity he had shown on the playing fields of Hardyes. He leaves a widow, Alison, whom he met at Faslane in 1978, four children and two grandchildren.

Naval colleagues recall his quite obvious professional talents and the ease with which he handled people whether they were fellow officers or students at Submarine School. Sailors in particular found him an inspiration with an unshakeable loyalty to his subordinates. He found fun and humour in many things and as a raconteur his repertoire ranged from outrageous one-liners to long and involved stories told with self-deprecating humour. On one occasion in Lisbon, mistaking the C-in-C for the local wine salesman, he demanded a damned good deal on the VINO VERDHI. On another, a couple of years later, he chose to dispense some particularly pertinent, down to earth, home grown advice to his Commanding Officer on the advisability or otherwise of marrying a WRNS Officer. He did this in his traditionally irreverent manner having totally failed to spot that his boss had recently made just such a commitment – but what caused his friends so much amusement was that it was a commitment he was to make himself a couple of years later to Alison, a Third Officer WRNS!

His friendship and good humour will be missed by all of us at our annual reunions.

Mr. Tom W.O Carter (1933-41) died early in 2006 - from the Membership Secretary.

We had two different addresses, both in Yeovil for him. I wrote to the address we had on the web site as well as the one on our local list and this was obviously passed on to his last residence - Latimer Lodge Residential Home in Yeovil who notified us by phone.

Mr Stanley C Harris

Of 46 Lorne Road, Dorchester passed away on 26 March 2008, informed by Ms. Audrey Gaston.

Mr J.G Hodder (1930-40)

Died 6th April 2008. We were notified by his son/daughter.

John Maurice Keeping Dorchester Grammar School 1931- 37 - From Colin Lucas

John was again one of those extraordinary characters who lived through the veins of the business life of Dorchester and apart from his active service with the Royal Air Force never had the need to leave Dorchester. As a Chartered Accountant he progressed through the Business of Edwards & Edwards and was made a partner. Life was not all work and no play he was a keen sportsman and in his younger days played cricket of which he was a great supporter. His influence led to the formation of the Edwards & Keeping cricket side who were very active during the 50s, 60s & 70s.

He was a past President, Chairman and Treasurer of our Hardyeans Club. He served with distinction as a Governor of the School and spent several years as Chairman of the Governing Body. There can be no doubt that his heart and soul was always for the good of the School and Dorchester. He will be sadly missed.

William H Pitfield_(1932-37)

Died in June 2005 aged 93.

Douglas Read (1955-1960)

It is with much sadness that I report the death of my father Douglas Read on Sunday 4th May 2008 at the Dorset County Hospital at the age of 63.

Many people in Dorchester knew him through a variety of ways. These included accountancy at Edwards and Edwards, Edwards and Keeping, J.E. Turner & Co as an employee followed by his partnerships in Frampton, Read and Smith, Frampton, Read and Woodruff and finally Read Woodruff.

He was also well known for his sporting connections. These began with football with the YMCA in Dorchester but his cricket connections are most significant. At the time of his passing he held the roles of President of both Dorchester and Puddletown Cricket Clubs, President of the Evening League and President of Dorset Disabled Cricket. He also acted as Treasurer for Dorset County Cricket Club. Unfortunately his own playing days were cut short by Multiple Sclerosis but he gained enormous pleasure in his continued involvement with the game and its players (past and present).

Dad was passionate about the area in which he lived and the people who lived there (particularly if they were involved in cricket). He was proud to have lived in the town since he was a very young boy and was pleased that both my brother Adam and I also attended Hardye's School.

Amongst the sadness of his death, it has been a huge consolation to his family to have received a literally overwhelming number of messages of support and sympathy. This has been via the telephone and cards but also by people by simply stopping us in the street to say how much he and the work he undertook for a number of good causes will be missed.

I would therefore like to conclude by passing on my thanks to all who knew my father and have spoken so fondly of their experiences of working or playing alongside him.

Gordon Read (1985-1990)

Colin LUCAS remembers Doug Read

A practicing Accountant who worked at Edwards and Keeping when he left school, always very keen on sport particularly Football and Cricket. Doug too became a principal Partner in Read Woodruff Accountants. I remember him particularly in his younger days when his sporting prowess came to the notice of the Dorchester YMCA for, whom he played soccer. But his first love was undoubtedly cricket and I am sure that a Past president of the YMCA. Walter Lancashire would have had a great influence on him and been proud to have been associated with his education. My YMCA contemporary Brian Copp said in his tribute .Despite Doug's own physical setbacks in later life he could always be relied upon in striving to improve and Dorchester's restoration to the Senior Division of Dorset cricket gave him great pleasure. He will always be remembered as a fine sportsman and fine example to us all.

Mr T.W Woodward (Tom)

Years at Dorchester Grammar School not known exactly - died August 2006 aged 91.

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

As I write this report the Hardyeans Bursaries for 2008 are being awarded. The school continues to be enormously grateful for the work of the Hardyeans who organise and support this remarkable level of generosity. With the cost of sending young people to university constantly rising the significant sums of money that these bursaries provide are crucial to helping them and their families. Many who apply are carers or deal with stressful situations within their families, at the same time they are excellent students; these bursaries are a wonderful way to support them.

The Hardyeans Dinner was the usual mix of bonhomie, memory and Colin Lucas. The latter's recitation of the medical dictionary was of the usual standard and it is always interesting to watch the students present trying to work out exactly what is happening. At the same time I know they enjoy the event a great deal and this year the President of the Student Union, Emily Wakeford, was especially effective in selling raffle tickets. The school knows

that this is a young lady who will go far.

From a personal point of view I was presented with a silver tray to make my twenty years of service as the Head of the school. I was greatly touched by this and must offer my apologies that due to circumstances beyond my control it was not a presentation that also marked my departure from the school – another year beckons but I do promise that in 2009 I will be departing. I hope those who contributed to the gift will not be disappointed if I admit that the naming of one of the Hardyens bursaries as the Melvin bursary was of equal if not greater importance to me. I was also honoured to be mentioned in the same breath as John Stephenson whose name was also linked to a bursary. I shall never be in better company.

I am also hoping to see John and his dear wife at the forthcoming centenary dinner of the CCF which will be taking place at Lulworth in July. Many of you may have read of the latest 'bright idea' to come out of government to develop Combined Cadet Corps in as many schools as possible. It is a real tribute to the school and present and past teachers that we can boast of one hundred years of service to the British armed forces. In that time the school has provided young men (and no doubt young women in the future) who have reached the highest rank as well as those who have served in other crucial capacities. I look forward to the event and meeting many such people. I am grateful to Mr Skinner for organising this event. He has done much to develop the CCF and I would now characterise it as one of the strongest elements of the school.

Finally, we are about to embark upon six weeks of examinations, we are quietly confident of good results this year but hope we have avoided complacency. At the same time the school continues its myriad activities with students recently returning from China and soon to embark upon trips to Iceland, Kenya and Honduras. The school has also just won the Faraday competition for physicists and is now the proud possessor of two(!) very impressive busts of the scientist. It has been another good year but in the end the results will be the proof of the pudding as we strive to maintain our position at the top of the examination tree.

Dr I E Melvin

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Hardyans Club Charitable Association held 15th March 2008
at the VIth Form Centre, The Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester**

Present C.G. Crocker, H Griffiths, C.W. Lucas, S. Gould, J.A. Stephenson, Mrs E.M. Keats, Mrs J. Salt, D.C. Lacey, P. Powell, A.R. Rensch
President Hugh Griffiths in the chair

Apologies

I.B. Brown, J.J. Pearson, G.W. Lancashire.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 17th March 2007 having previously been circulated were proposed for adoption by C. Gordon Crocker and seconded by Mrs E.M. Keats and agreed nem con and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising.

There were none.

Treasurer's Report.

Stephen Gould presented his first report on the affairs of the Association having succeeded Leigh Meyers as Treasurer and audited by Paul Beer of Kennedy Legg. The report was proposed for adoption by Mrs J Salt and seconded by D.C. Lacey and agreed nem.con. With grateful thanks to the Treasurer and Auditor.

Chairman's Report.

In the absence of the chairman the secretary gave a resume of the year's activities pointing out the recommendation on the future enhancement of the awards as funds permitted.

Report to the Charity Commissioners..

This would be dealt with by the Treasurer.

Election of Officers.

It was proposed by Mrs E.M. Keats and seconded by D.C. Lacey that the Officers be returned en bloc. Agreed nem.con.

ELection of Trustees.

It was proposed by J.A. Stephenson and seconded by A.R. Rensch that the Trustees be re-appointed en bloc. Agreed nem con.

Recommendations.

It was proposed by C.W. Lucas that a bursary be named The General J.A Stephenson Bursary as a tribute for founding the Charity during his Presidency This was seconded by C.G. Crocker Agreed nem con.

It was proposed by C.W. Lucas that a second bursary be named The Dr. Iain E. Melvin Bursary in recognition of his twenty years as Headteacher and the support given to The Club This was seconded by C.G. Crocker and agreed nem con.

A.O.B

After a lively discussion it was agreed that

- (a) Paul Beer by appointed as Auditor.
- (b) That Clarification be sought from the Charity Commission regarding the appointment of Trustees and Officers.

Future meetings.

The date of the Selection Meeting. usually held in May would have to be confirmed by the School

The remaining dates are:

Monday 29th September 2008, Monday 26th January 2009,
Annual Meeting Saturday 21st March 2009

Minutes of the Hardyens' Club Annual General Meeting on Saturday 15 March 2008 at 6.00 pm in the School 6th Form Centre.

Members Present: Hugh Griffiths (President), Colin Lucas, Bob Rench, John Stephenson, Gordon Crocker, Michel Hooper-Immins, Tony Day, Peter Powell, Peter and Heather Foster

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from John Pearson, Alf Barrett, Norman Baker, and David Lacey
2. **Tribute to Peter Lewendon** – the President expressed the great sadness of all members of the club who remembered Peter so affectionately. His passing was a tremendous loss to the Hardyens' Club. Peter had been one of its most stalwart and much loved members, and his association with the school and the club had spanned so many decades. He will be sorely missed. The members present listened to the recording of the tribute paid, on the club's behalf, to Peter at his funeral service, by Colin Lucas. The tribute and the manner in which it was given by Colin was excellent.
3. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 17 March 2007** – these were approved.

President's remarks – the President remarked upon the advances that had been made by Bob Rench in respect of the updating of the membership records. The club was now in a healthy position in terms of numbers and Bob had made significant headway in respect of email circulations.

Hugh praised the efforts of Bob Rench and Colin Lucas, who was continuing to act as treasurer. He hoped that a new treasurer would be able to be found in the fullness of time, but was most grateful for Colin continuing to shoulder this task for the present.

4. **Chairman's Report** – Bob Rench informed members of the recent passing of Simon Hume (a student from 1960-63), and Tony Barber (1953-60)

The total club membership is now 1243 with 380 being associate members from last years leavers. Bob gave a breakdown of the full membership. Some feedback had been received from persons with whom we had previously lost contact and to whom we had re-written, and Bob was ardently pursuing this. He proposed that we send 127 of these a carefully worded letter giving them an opportunity to respond, and he would draft a letter for the secretary to circulate. If we do not hear from these persons, they will be categorised as another section of our 'lost legion', and will receive no further newsletters until we hear from them

Bob also gave an update regarding sport, the monthly luncheons and the London dinner. He thanked Colin for carrying on acting as treasurer, the secretary and Jenny Osborne for excellent work they had done for the club and Michel Hooper-Immins for his helpful work as the press officer. Lastly, thanks must also go to Bob's wife Helen who is most supportive as ever and puts a lot of effort into preparing the annual dinner's raffle.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Colin Lucas circulated his accounts for the year and reported that the club continued to be in a healthy state. The accounts were approved by the meeting as being in excellent order. The increase of subscription was discussed, and it was agreed that this would be raised to £5 per annum. It was also agreed, having regard to the potential increasing cost respecting the London Dinner, an alternative venue might be considered and Gordon Crocker agreed to look into the prospect of the Royal Overseas League HQ
6. **Election of Officers and Council Members** – after discussion, it was moved and agreed that the officers and council members would be re-elected en bloc.

Discussion was also had regarding the representation of the club upon the school's Governing Body. The secretary confirmed that Pat Pollard, a council member, was a governor of the school, and indicated that he would speak to the chairman regarding additional representation of the club.

7. **Charitable Association** – Colin Lucas updated the members respecting the meetings of the association which had taken place prior to the AGM. The Charitable Association continues to provide excellent support for deserving students of the school. The selection process works very well, and the Charitable Association Trustees are most diligent in this regard. Colin Lucas reminded the members of the boost there had been to the Charitable Association funds from bequests, notably that latterly from George Foley.

The Association advocated the creation of two new bursaries – the General John Stephenson and the Dr Iain Melvin bursaries. There are sufficient funds for these, and the club was in full agreement.

8. **Date of the next AGM** – 14 March 2009 (**Date of next Council meeting** – 19 May 2008)