

# ***The Hardyans' Club***

**TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

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

***Newsletter* Spring 2012 : Issue 117**

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

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**"TONY BLAIR HAD NO SENSE OF HISTORY"**

## **LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER TELLS OLD HARDYEANS**

"A second chamber of Parliament is really important- replacing it by a completely elected body would not work- but the House of Lords does need reform," Rt. Rev. Michael Perham MA Hon. DLitt, Lord Bishop of Gloucester, told the Old Hardyans' Annual Reunion Dinner at The Thomas Hardye School.

"We take a great risk by taking our history too lightly," continued the Lord Bishop, "Tony Blair had no sense of history- he woke up one morning and abolished the office of Lord Chancellor, which had existed for over a thousand years. He had little sense of where we are from as a nation."

Born in Dorchester, Michael Perham is among only 26 Church of England archbishops and bishops who sit in the House of Lords- one of the Lords Spiritual. He was introduced by Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins, saying: "The Bishops in the House of Lords have been raising their voices lately on social issues. I applaud independent voices and believe the revising chamber of the House of Lords is vital in an increasingly narrow political world. The principles of



Christianity are also good models for life and too easily forgotten in modern society. So I commend Michael Perham for bringing some much-needed independent and Christian thought into our legislature."

The President congratulated the 40th. Lord Bishop of Gloucester on becoming the first Old Hardyean to be a member of the House of Lords. "He was at Hardye's School a year behind me, so we were at school together 53 years ago- from 1959 to 1964." The Lord Bishop revealed he occasionally came to Dorset, to Cerne Abbas, as he is the Bishop Protector of the Anglican Franciscan Order.

The Lord Bishop spoke of his time in Dorset at Hardye's - both his grandfathers were Dorchester men. "I was not an academic, but spent all my time creatively starting things- I started a new magazine,

founded The Phillipians - discussing theology and philosophy- and the Red Herring Club, where we would lead masters into talking about something other than the subject of the lesson! I had a wonderful time at Hardye's, specially the with the Combined Cadet Force, marching round playing soldiers. It is nice to encounter old acquaintances and to see a wide age range of Old Hardyans here tonight."

"Many people ask if we are becoming a secular society," concluded the Lord Bishop, "but that's not what the majority of people want. I'm working hard to ordain women as bishops."

Thomas Hardye School Head Teacher Michael Foley thanked the Old Hardyans for such a warm welcome to Dorset and applauded the wonderful tradition of the Annual Reunion Dinner. "You bring past and present together. I'm very proud of the students here and the school is in fantastic health, we have 2316 students and a £11.5million budget. Coming to the Thomas Hardye School is a source of great pride to students. I believe the key to success is high aspirations- resilience brings success."

Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins introduced Michael Foley as only the second Head Teacher of the Thomas Hardye School, welcoming Teresa Foley to the first of many Old Hardyean occasions. "Michael took over in September and has already made a huge contribution to the continued success of our school," began the President.

"The Old Hardyans congratulate the Governors on making such a superb appointment- I am absolutely confident Michael Foley will take this great school to new heights. He has made a great start and the Old Hardyans wish him many happy years here. We old boys pledge our continued support to our School."

Later in the dinner there was mention of the proposed school archive. Michel Hooper-Immins said Peter Foster has promised to help, "His house in Dorchester is crammed with all manner of articles Hardyean. I often think of Peter and I sat in the Library at Hardy's School by the oak screen. This living piece of history connects all three schools, having come from the *Santa Maria*- part of the Spanish Armada, captured and brought into Weymouth. How nice it would be if, as part of the archive project, it could be brought down from the high wall of the theatre where few people see or appreciate it, despite my late friend Clinton Grassby's brass plaque describing it."

In his wide-ranging address, the President said it had been another very good year for the Old Hardyans, with around 1200 members, mostly in the UK, but some all over the world. "Old Hardyans are everywhere!" he joked.

There were congratulations to John Pearson on the "meteoric rise" of the Hardyans Club Charitable Trust. "No-one would have thought the Trust would help so many students through university when it started 12 years ago." Finally he observed: "This is Michael's night- three of us- Michael Perham, Michael Foley and Michel Hooper-Immins!"

Following the dinner, the President expressed his public thanks to five Officers and two ladies who were vital in keeping the club so successful. "Chairman Colin Lucas is ever the powerhouse of the Old Hardyans. He makes this Reunion Dinner what it is, with his quips and is a brilliant Master of Ceremonies."

"Treasurer Alan Brown is still the new boy on our committee, very good at looking after our money and has taken the bookings and payments for tonight- not an easy job!"



"Our membership records used to be a bad joke, but Membership Secretary Bob Rench has by sheer persistence found many lost members and we now can have full confidence in the membership roll. Helen too is most helpful, helping with the raffle today and filling the Newsletter envelopes every quarter."

"Peter and Heather Foster do marvellous work with our Newsletter, packed with news of Old Hardyans all over the world, a much read and invaluable publication to all of us."

"Terry Stone is thousands of miles away in St. Kitts in the West Indies, but undertakes the vital role of Webmaster from afar. We are currently looking at a completely new website and Alan Brown has offered to assist, but we are grateful to Terry for looking after our window on the world."

Following the dinner, Rt. Rev. Michael Perham MA Hon. DLitt wrote to the President. "*Thank you*

*very much indeed for welcoming me to The Old Hardyans' Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday. It was really good to meet you again, to renew a lot of acquaintances and to meet new people too, including your excellent new Head Teacher. I was really grateful for the opportunity, particularly to you for issuing the invitation. It was a thoroughly happy evening, a good trip down memory lane, but also a real encouragement to realise how much the school is flourishing today. Thank you for making all that possible. I had a good journey back to Gloucester, was home by one o'clock and up bright and early to be in the BBC Radio Gloucestershire studio at eight in the morning! With Every Good Wish and Blessing.*

:

*Rt. Rev. Michael Perham, Lord Bishop of Gloucester [left,] Michel Hooper-Immins, President of the Old Hardyans [centre] and Michael Foley [right,] Head Teacher of The Thomas Hardy School. Both Photographs by Peter Foster.*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

### **MONTHLY LUNCHEONS.**

Now at the King's Arms Hotel, last Thursday of the month. Enquiries to Chairman Colin Lucas at 01305 265446

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS of the Club and the Charitable Association were held** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Minutes appear on pages 7-10 See also the report on the **ANNUAL DINNER** on the front page *et seq*

**CRICKET MATCH : Club v The School** is scheduled for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012, from 1pm, at the School, contact Tony FOOT (01305 812210) for any further details and to take part.

**LONDON DINNER** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the Royal Over-seas League Club St James St, SW1, 6.30 for 7pm, see booking form at end of this newsletter

### **Hardyeans' Club Information**

#### ***Hardyeans' Club Newsletter***

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*Hardyeans' Club Website :* [www.hardyeansclub.com](http://www.hardyeansclub.com)

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*Also have a look at the school website: <http://www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk>*

**Editorial:** At this Olympic time it may be interesting to recall that in 1948 one of the many torch-bearers was our own Alfred Barrett, whose 90th birthday celebrations we commemorated in issue 114. Alf recalls running with the torch for a couple of miles across north Dorset and still has the torch in his possession.

### **Club News From the Press Officer**

## **ARISE SIR ROGER GALE MP- KNIGHTED BY THE QUEEN, WEARING THE OLD HARDYEANS TIE**

**The Old Hardyeans congratulate Sir Roger Gale MP on being knighted- wearing his Old Hardyeans tie.**

**Educated at Hardye's from 1955 and 1962, having been born in Poole, Sir Roger became a pirate disc jockey on Radio Caroline, before being elected to Parliament as MP for Thanet North 28 years ago.**

In November 2011, he hosted the Old Hardyeans' annual London Dinner- "a splendid meal in the splendid surroundings of the Palace of Westminster," observed Old Hardyeans President Michel Hooper-Immins, addressing 53 Old Hardyeans and their wives in the palatial Dining Room of the House of Commons.

He said Roger Gale had posted many pictures on his website, but none included the club's distinctive blue and gold tie. The President went on to present Roger Gale with an Old Hardyeans tie, as thanks for his hospitality at the House of Commons.

We were not to know then that the new knight would wear that Old Hardyeans' tie at his investiture at Buckingham Palace in March 2012. "When I was first elected as an MP in 1983, my former Housemaster J.O. [Jo] Roberts from Heathcote House, asked me to wear my Old Hardyeans tie for the State Opening of Parliament," says Sir Roger Gale. "I did so and on Wednesday, I wore the updated version- presented to me by Michel Hooper-Immins- for my investiture at Buckingham Palace. I think that Jo Roberts would secretly have been rather pleased to know 'the tie' had made it to Buck House!"

"The investiture was a truly awe-inspiring occasion," continues Sir Roger Gale, "but the staff of the Royal Household really do 'go the 'extra mile' to make sure that all of the recipients of honours- and their families- are relaxed and able to enjoy the sense of occasion. Her Majesty asked me how long I had been a Member of Parliament and when I

replied 'nearly 29 years,' I could not help thinking that this year her own public service will have spanned more than twice that amount of time."

"We are very proud that Sir Roger wore his treasured Old Hardyans tie at his investiture," comments Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins, "which will have been seen and noted by The Queen as he was dubbed a knight. We congratulate him on this well deserved accolade. It is splendid that he remembered his schooldays by wearing the Hardyans Club tie. We had thought Sir Roger had become the first Old Hardyean to be knighted, but he is in fact the second. We believe Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Wrisberg KBE, President in 1980, was the first Old Hardyean to be knighted."

Writing to the new knight in early January 2012, President Michel Hooper-Immins had said: "On behalf of Old Hardyans everywhere, I congratulate you on being knighted in the New Year's Honours. Richly deserved for 28 years service to the House of Commons, I know you have achieved a great deal for the people of East Kent over almost three decades. However, your education in Dorchester, at Hardy's School- three years ahead of me- will have been a fine foundation to life and we all have benefited from the superb teaching at Hardy's."

Thank you again for making Old Hardyans and their wives so welcome on our recent visit to the House of Commons. Everyone in the party enjoyed the splendid dinner in splendid surroundings, then the visit to the crypt later. On our third visit to the House of Commons, your hospitality and kindness were much appreciated. I hope we will see you wearing the Old Hardyans tie, with which you were presented, on many future occasions!"

*Photograph: Sir Roger Gale MP wearing the Old Hardyean's distinctive tie and Lady Gale stand in the courtyard of Buckingham Palace following his investiture.*



## **OLD HARDYEANS PLANT A TREE IN DORCHESTER BOROUGH GARDENS TO COMMEMORATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

**The Old Hardyans planted a red cascade tree in the Dorchester Borough Gardens on the morning of Tuesday 20 March, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. The Queen.**

"The Queen indicated that organisations may like to plant a tree to commemorate her splendid sixty years as our Sovereign," says Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins. "In admiration for such a long & distinguished record of service to the country and to improve the environment of our county town, the Old Hardyans resolved to plant a suitable tree, with the help and co-operation of Dorchester Town Council. Our association was founded in 1905 as the Old Grammarians, so The Queen has reigned for 60 of our 107 years of existence, a wonderful record."

The President observed that The Queen was addressing both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall at that very moment and recalled that Old Hardyans had met in that historic location in November, before the London Dinner at the House of Commons Dining Room.



It was planted by Michel Hooper-Immins, President of the Old Hardyans, in the northern section of Dorchester Borough Gardens, which the Town Council has been replanting over the past few years with an autumn/winter theme. The specimen chosen was a *Euonymus europaea* "red cascade," common name- spindle tree.

*Old Hardyans President Michel Hooper-Immins [right] plants the Diamond Jubilee commemorative tree in Dorchester Borough Gardens. Left to right are: Chairman Colin Lucas, Joan Hooper-Immins, Brenda Lucas, Heather Foster and Newsletter Editor Peter Foster.*

## **Changes of Address**

**Colin Churchill** (1939/44).

Has moved from Dorchester and his new address is: 4 Royal Crescent, Winchester, Hants SO22 5GR. (March 2012)

\* \* \* \* \*

**OBITUARIES** *Sadly we have been notified in the last few months that some Old Hardyans have passed away, Thanks to all contributors for the information.*

**Michael BURDLE (1942-2012)**

Thanks to Nigel Newbery for passing on this notification from Chris NOTHER

**From:** Nigel Newbery [mailto:nigelandann@blueyonder.co.uk]

Sadly I have to report the passing of Michael Burdle who was diagnosed with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma last year and died this week. [February 2012]

This winter he returned to Britain from his home in Italy for treatment and was cared for by his loving god daughter Katy at her home near Milton Keynes. Katy says he remained positive, enjoying listening to his opera music until, finally, as he became weaker he slipped away.

Michael achieved a great deal in his life. After leaving Hardyes, he did an art course at the Poole School of Art at Poole College, moved on to the Bournemouth College of Art and then on to college in London where he studied theatre art and costume. He worked on costume design in small theatres in London but then joined the BBC. The programmes he worked on were many and various from children's drama to major productions. The list includes episodes of 'Doctor Who' and 'Dad's Army' but also major drama productions such as 'Cider with Rosy' and 'The Borgias'. During his career he received several BAFTA nominations and a BAFTA award.

When Michael retired he moved to Italy where he spent several years. He was hoping to return to Britain permanently to be closer to his friends when his illness caught up with him.

Michael was a very gentle and modest person with an outstanding talent - he will be much missed.

**Vincent GALE**

Mrs Nicki Mott informed us in May that her father, Vincent Gale, Highdale Farm, Highdale Avenue, Clevedon, Somerset BS21 7LX has passed away, and she would be grateful if we could update our records accordingly, and remove Vincent from the mailing lists etc.

**AJ(John) RIGGS** died 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012

The club were advised by John RIGGS widow Maureen.

Her husband John was at the School from 1941-47. He lived at 68 Carisbrook, Southill, Weymouth, DT4 9SH.

***As Always, the Club extends condolences to the relatives and friends of the above- mentioned.***

\* \* \* \* \*

**You Write** *Thanks to all contributors*

**From:** David Downton [mailto:daviddownton@talktalk.net]

Hello,

Just a snippet of information which you might include in the next edition of The Old Hardyean newsletter if you are short of material.

I was in Covent Garden a few weeks ago and after the frenzy of shopping and becoming tired of crowds I spotted a church just outside the main market.

There was a small gate open which allowed entrance to the rear of this church.

It was a haven of peace with flower beds and lots of benches for people to sit on.

Although it was a cold day the sun was shining and there was just one unoccupied bench, which looked brand new.

My friend and I walked quickly over to this bench which was bathed in sunshine and sat wearily down. I noticed that there was a brass plaque on the back of the bench and to my delight it was dedicated to the late Geoffrey Hutchings. As a childhood friend of Geoffrey and in rugby and athletic teams with him when we were at Hardye's and afterwards in Dorchester it seemed a strange coincidence that of all the places in London that I could have rested my weary bones it was on his seat.

The bench had been dedicated by his Family and friends and when I went into the church I learned that it was the actors' church of St Pauls.

I then spent some time looking at the other seats that were dedicated to so many illustrious members of the Acting profession too numerous to mention.

It was an accidental pilgrimage but I'm so glad that fate brought me there.

**From Mike FERGUSON** [fergumike@gmail.com](mailto:fergumike@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Some old school photos

Hello, my name is Mike Ferguson, and I was at Hardye's from 62 to 68. I thought you might be interested in the attached photos of the cross-country team (1966 and 1967), of which I was captain, and a newspaper article with me in a mile race. I was one of the top Dorset county cross-country champions 'back in the day', and once got as far as representing Dorset in the English Schools Championships.



I don't know if you keep an archive of photos of old boys, but send these to you in case. I have also copied them to Graham Allen for his website, which I came across last week. *[Please see Graham Allen's website for the other two items from Mike Ferguson, <http://oldhardyeans.webs.com>]*

I went on to work with Rolls-Royce in Bristol, subsequently relocating for the company to Washington DC in 1980. After a long career with Rolls-Royce, ending up as Corporate Vice President for the company's US Navy business, I have retired and we now live in Naples, Florida.

Hope this is of interest!

regards

Mike Ferguson

From John HAWTHORNE [spjhb@btinternet.com](mailto:spjhb@btinternet.com)

Dear Members,

Please watch your email for a letter from me in the next few days. I am hoping that one or more of you may have a contact who would like to help some 45,000 children of West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland who over the next 25 years could be as deprived of opportunity to experience proper, safe athletics as have 45,000 children of Dorset since 1988.

Best wishes,  
John Hawthorne.

From Lionel TARASSENKO : [lionel@robots.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lionel@robots.ox.ac.uk) [mailto:lionel@robots.ox.ac.uk]

I was very pleased to read about Roger Gale's knighthood in this issue of the Newsletter.

You may like to know that I was made a CBE for services to engineering in the same Honours list.

Best wishes,

Lionel Tarassenko (Hardye's 1970-5)

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Prof. Lionel Tarassenko CBE FREng  
Professor of Electrical Engineering  
Director, Institute of Biomedical Engineering  
Old Road Campus Research Building (off Roosevelt Drive)  
University of Oxford, Oxford, OX3 7DQ  
Phone: +44 1865 617674, Fax: +44 1865 617701

*Many congratulations from the Club to Prof. Tarassenko for his award!*

#### **READERS' FORUM**

**Colin Foot**(colinfoot@googlemail.com) and **Ken Stephens**(ken\_stephens\_1947@yahoo.co.uk) have been trying for some time to tie up loose ends on contemporaries who started at Hardye's via Wollaston House in 1958. They are still currently having difficulty finding **Bernie' Godden**, **'Dave' Smith**(possibly from Wyke Regis), **NS ('Ian') Pearce** and **(?)Mclvor**, and would be grateful for any leads

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### **HARDYEANS' CLUB THE DORCHESTER THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL**

#### **Minutes of the Hardyans' Club Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.00 pm in the School 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre.**

**Members Present:** Colin Lucas, Michel Hooper-Immins, Alan Brown, Peter Foster, Heather Foster, Godfrey Lancashire, John Pearson, Tony Foot, Chris Slade, Bob Rench and Tony Day

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Gordon Crocker, John Stephenson, Pat Pollard
- 2. The minutes** of the last Annual General Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were formally approved
- 3. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising other than items on the Agenda
- 4. Reports:**

**President's report:** The President mentioned the Echo picture of the Club's new Knight, Roger Gale, wearing his Old Hardyans' tie when knighted, and commented on the change to the menu for the annual dinner. He thanked the Officers for their endeavours during the past year.

#### **Chairman's report:**

- The Chairman thanked all members for their kind support during a period of ill health. He expressed particular thanks to Peter and Heather for their excellent work respecting the newsletters.
- The new monthly luncheon venue is the King's Arms Hotel.
- £349 had been received for last year's leavers for Association Membership.

#### **Charitable Association Chairman's Report:**

Last year, 2011, saw seven former Thomas Hardye School students benefiting from bursaries worth £750 each. This number should increase to 9 in the current year. Thank you for the donations passed to the association from your Treasurer. This and a most generous donation last year increased our portfolio from a little over £83,000 to about £154,000 at the end of 2011. This is a huge boost to our charitable purpose.

Michael Foley, the new Head Teacher, has affirmed his complete and enthusiastic support of the aims of the Hardyans Club Charitable Association and we are grateful to him and the school for continued use of facilities for our purposes.

Last July marked the retirement of Dr Iain Melvin who encouraged the Association's purpose from its beginning and Tony and Julia Moore whose willing assistance in developing the interview process and determining the candidates for interview, from our Association's inception, should not be underestimated. The Association is grateful to the Council and President for inviting them all to be honorary members of the Hardyans' Club.

Finally the Club and Association should strive to continue to seek funds to increase our investment portfolio for the benefit of future financially disadvantaged students seeking College and university education.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer's report was circulated and accepted without question.

**Membership Secretary's report:**

At last year's AGM I reported having a problem receiving notification of failures of emails when they were sent out to members. Fortunately Terry Stone has helped me sort that problem out. As promised last year, I sent out a note with the May postal newsletters to try and ensure that we were not sending out letters unnecessarily. The initial response to 148 letters was not good, but after making many phone calls I have only 12 that I have not heard from. A few of those we heard about have passed away and more have now changed to email. If I do not hear from the remaining 12 before May this year, I shall add these to our lost legion and stop sending letters. Last year I also said that we would have to prune our membership somewhat. There were 133 members that had been part of the lost legion for over 3 years (115 postal & 18 email). These have been removed from the membership list but I have kept them on a separate database.

**The membership summary**

**Total 1089** assuming 348 associate members.

**Full members 741**

**595** are receiving newsletters by email

This does not include the lost legion which at present numbers **19**

**124** are receiving newsletters by post (this includes the **12** I have not managed to get hold of since last May)

**3** members have elected to read the newsletter on the website.

In the past year we have been joined by 11 new members

**Tony Betts** (55-62) living in Lewes, East Sussex

**Roger Birch** (54-62) living in Mill Bay, British Columbia

**Michael Bates** (57-63) living in Santa Rosa, California

**Terry White** (52-56) living in Bideford, Devon

**Brian Cake** (54-59) living in St. Johns, Florida

**Simon Maycock** (77-82) living in Aargau, Switzerland

**Marcus Leyland** (88-92) living in the U.K.

**Simon Best** (88-93) living in Rocklands, Norfolk

**Danny Roberts** (91-96) living in Haifa, Israel (his email has already failed)

**Daniel Panton-King** (1997-2002) living in Exeter, Devon

**Kevin Kibbey** (59-64) living in Montreal, Quebec

We also welcomed 3 honorary members, **Dr. Iain Melvin** and **Tony and Julia Moore**.

Unfortunately since last year we have been notified that the following 6 members have passed away

**John Fisher** (34-42)

**Canon Brian Barnes** (35-40)

**Peter Barrett** (57-62)

**Major P.Weller** (41-45)

**A.E. Miller** (33-39)

**Robert Bowditch** (25-30)

**Harold Keeping** (35-40)

Thank you to all members who have kept me updated with their details. Thank you especially to those members who have helped me recover some of our lost legion. Please don't stop looking.

## 5 Election of Officers

The present officers were formally re-elected en-bloc:

Chairman	Colin Lucas
Treasurer	Alan Brown
Secretary	Tony Day
Sports Officer	Tony Foot
Membership Secretary	Bob Rench
Press Officer	Michel Hooper-Immins
Newsletter Editors	Peter & Heather Foster.

The following Council Members were also re-elected:

John Pearson  
John Stephenson  
Alf Barratt  
Gordon Crocker  
Godfrey Lancashire

The President continues ex-officio

**Website:** Terry Stone had agreed to continue and this will be with the assistance of Alan Brown. Alan had some thoughts respecting reviewing of the site and would liaise accordingly with Terry.

**6 Any other Business:** Peter spoke about his plans for categorising and cataloguing the Club's archive material and has spoken to the Headteacher who was in full support. This will be pursued.

**8 Date of Next AGM:** Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
(Next Council Meetings: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013)

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## The Hardyans Club Charitable Association.

Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at The School V1th Form Centre Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

### 1.Present.

J.J.Pearson , Colin Lucas, D.Lacey, H.E.G.Dowell, Mrs M. Keats  
Mrs J. Salt, G.Lancashire, M.Hooper-Immins, A.Day, D.Lacey

### 2.Apologies,

I.B.Brown, S.J. Gould, M/Gen J.A Stephenson,  
C Gordon Crocker, Mrs P. Pollard.

### 3.Welcome

The President Michel Hooper-Immins welcomed Officers, Trustees and members and spoke of the wonderful work accomplished by the Charity since its formation at the beginning of the millennium as the brain child of Major General John Stephenson. At least 19 students had been beneficiaries and the Charity was now well established.

### 4 Minutes.

The minutes of the previous AGM held 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 having previously been circulated with the May newsletter of that year to all members, were moved for adoption by Mrs J.Salt and seconded by D.Lacey Agreed nem con

### 5.Matters arising.

There were none

### 6. Treasurer's report.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary distributed copies of the Accounts as prepared by the auditors and were found to be a very satisfactory state of affairs. The Secretary read a report from the Treasurer Stephen Gould to that effect. Their adoption proposed by J.Pearson and seconded by H.Dowell and were agreed nem con. Subject to minor alteration on page 10 final paragraph should read gains and not losses

### 7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman J.J. Pearson reported that at a time when the fiscal difficulties of the country and increasingly worrying times for individual personal finances, our task of helping some students progress to further education is even more relevant. Last year, 2011, saw seven former Thomas Hardy School students benefiting from the bursaries worth £750.00 each. This number should increase to nine in the current year.

A most generous donation last year increased our portfolio from a little over £83,000 to about £154,000 at the end of 2011. This is huge progress.

Last year also saw the appointment of a new Headteacher, Mr Michael Foley, who has affirmed his complete and

enthusiastic support of the aims of the Hardyens' Club Charitable Association and we are grateful to him and the School for continued use of facilities for our purposes.

Last July marked the retirement of Dr Iain Melvin who encouraged the Association's purpose from the beginning and Tony and Julia Moore whose willing assistance in developing the interview process and determining the candidates for interview, from our Association's inception, should not be under-estimated. The President has invited them all to be honorary members of the Hardyens' Club in gratitude to them.

This year we are refining the candidate choice and interview processes with the new Head of VIth form Richard Nicholls and I am sure that this partnership will be as productive as before.

Finally the Club and Association should strive to continue to seek funds and legacies to increase our investment portfolio for the benefit of future financially disadvantaged students seeking College and University education. A good year for us.

#### **8. Report to The Charity Commissioners**

It was agreed that the Treasurer would complete the return as in previous years

#### **9. Election of Officers**

The following Officers were all re-elected en bloc proposed by Mrs J.Salt, seconded by D.Lacey. Agreed nem con  
Chairman J.J.Pearson Secretary C.W.Lucas Treasurer S.Gould Investment Advisor I.B.Brown.

#### **10.Election of Trustees.**

The following Trustees were elected en bloc Proposed by J.Pearson, seconded C.W.Lucas.  
H.E. Dowell, Mrs. EM.Keats, D.Lacey, Mrs P. Pollard, Mrs J. Salt.  
Ex Officio M. Hooper-Immins

#### **11. Appointment of Auditors.**

It was proposed by J.Pearson and seconded by C.W.Lucas that Kennedy Legg be re-appointed to continue as Auditors. Agreed nem con.

Fund Value as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

Income fund £3,473

Endowment Fund £.150,664

Total Funds £154,137

Donations to the fund can be made at anytime.

Legacies can be arranged.

#### **12. Future Meetings**

The dates of future meetings would be in May, September, January and March subject to agreement by Council.

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## **TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2012**

**THE OLD HARDYEANS LONDON DINNER  
AT THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE,  
OVER-SEAS HOUSE, ST. JAMES' STREET,  
LONDON SW1A 1LR,  
at 6.30pm for 7pm.  
[Carriages 10.30pm]**

**Wives and partners welcome**

**Lounge suits or smart casual.**

**Purchase wine on the night - aperitifs and other drinks also available.**

**Book by sending your cheque [payable to The Hardyens Club]**

**to Treasurer Alan Brown at 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 3JD.**

**Telephone 01202 535034 or email: [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com)**

**Menu**  
**Cream of wild mushroom and truffle oil**  
**Tournedos of Scotch beef**  
**in red wine and shallot sauce**  
**with roast garlic potatoes**  
**or Asparagus & baby leek parcel with Hollandaise sauce**  
**[Vegetarian alternative must be ordered on booking]**  
**Meringue with fruits of the forest and cream**  
**Coffee and chocolates**  
**COST £45.00**

**NUMBERS LIMITED - BOOKINGS CLOSE ON 31 AUGUST**

Accommodation at the Royal Over-seas League may be available. Contact the Reservations Department at the ROSL directly to enquire about availability. Email: [reservations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rosl.org.uk) and state you are attending 13 November dinner. They will then advise of availability and rates.

The Old Hardyens tie, costing £10, is an essential, smart and iconic addition to the wardrobe of all Old Hardyens, based on the traditional blue, gold and red stripes of the old school - with the addition of the centenary crest.

Alan Brown is selling these, you will need one for the London Dinner.  
 Add £10 to your dinner payment to receive an Old Hardyens tie.

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**BOOKING FORM**

**Please print out this form and return to the Treasurer (address below)**

Name.....  
 Home address.....  
 .....  
 Dinner £45.00 No's required.....  
 Vegetarian Option required ?.....  
 E-mail address for confirmation.....

Please make cheques payable to The Hardyens Club, and send to Alan Brown, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD

If you wish to pay by Internet Bank Transfer, the bank Sort Code is 30-92-69, Account No. 00403528, Account Name "The Hardyens Club". Please e-mail Alan Brown at [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com) if you pay by this method.

**IMPORTANT.** The closing date for payment is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012. Requests received after this date will not be successful.

**Centenary Club Ties.** If you require one please add £10 to your payment.

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## The Headteacher's Page

As I write this piece the exam season is in full swing. The Lower Sixth (Year 12 in modern parlance) have almost completed their AS exams and will return to school after half-term to begin their final year; the Upper Sixth (Year 13) and Year 11 will go on study leave at the end of May, although Year 11 have already completed the majority of their exams. As the years have gone by the exam programme has been pushed earlier and earlier into the summer meaning that most students aged 16-18 spend almost two terms sitting examinations!

The spurious debate about whether exams have got harder or easier continues and is unlikely to be resolved - a bit like the argument that says the 1968 Manchester United team would or would not beat the current one! However, what is beyond dispute is that this is the most tested generation. Most youngsters will have done tests at 7 and 11 alongside modular exams, coursework and controlled assignments before they ever reach the exam hall in their final year. Like many of you, I did my 11+, O levels at the end of the 'Fifth Year' and A levels at the end of the Sixth Form but nothing in-between. However, some things never change — the exams are on when the weather is at its best and when you really want to be watching Wimbledon or the cricket!

We anticipate another excellent set of results and I look forward to providing you with news of that in the next newsletter. In the meantime, my very best wishes to all Old Hardyans for a long and sultry summer.

*Mike Foley*