

# ***The Hardyans' Club***

## **TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

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

***Life Vice-Presidents: Donald Culver, John Stephenson, Gordon Crocker, John Pearson, Hugh Griffiths, Michel Hooper-Immins***

## ***Newsletter Spring 2015 : Issue 126***

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## **Tony Day for President**

Your Editor is delighted to report that Tony Day has been elected as the next Hardyans Club President. Tony takes over from your Editor, in March 2016. Tony is the Clerk to the Governors of the Thomas Hardy School and has many connections with the school, past and present. Your Editor recalls Tony at Wollaston House in 1958. He was a year above me and in Pope House, I was in Lock House. He had a long and successful career in the police force and has done and continues to do much good work in the local community. This includes life-long service with the Boys Brigade and being an accomplished side drummer on parades in Dorchester with the Dorchester Carnival band who provide both informal and formal appearances on such diverse occasions such as the Dorchester Carnival and Remembrance Sunday. Congratulations Tony !

## **THE GREEN SCHOOL WAS "A SORT OF CIVILISED ST. TRINIANS," RECALLS GUEST SPEAKER, AT THE**

### **OLD HARDYEANS' 110TH ANNIVERSARY**

"A sort of civilised St. Trinians," was how guest speaker Rev. Vicky Thurtell described the Dorchester Grammar School for Girls- widely known as the Green School from the colour of their uniforms- including their underclothing! The Vicar of St Peters, Dorchester, who became Canon Precentor at Exeter Cathedral in late April, made history as the Old Hardyans' first female guest speaker in their 110 year history, at the Annual Reunion Dinner.

Although Hardye's [boys] school was not far away across Dorchester, there was a concerted effort to keep the girls and boys apart. "The boys travelled by train from Weymouth - but we Weymouth girls caught a special Bere Regis bus for the trip across the Ridgeway to Dorchester," Rev. Thurtell told the Old Hardyans. "Teachers repeatedly warned us about not catching the train - being much concerned the lights may go out in Bincombe tunnel! I don't know what they thought we might be up to," laughed Rev. Thurtell. She became Head Girl at the Green School. "Both of my children received a very good education at Thomas Hardy School and I welcome the warm links that exist between the parish church and the school," concluded Rev. Thurtell.

"I do hope the links will continue and I am going to miss you all in Dorchester. It is a great privilege to be asked to speak at the Old Hardyans' Annual Reunion Dinner, and I am delighted to have been the first woman speaker in 110 years, just a few weeks since Rev. Libby Lane became the first female Bishop!"



*Dr. Tim Ennion [left,] an Assistant Head Teacher at Thomas Hardy School, looks on as Old Hardyans President Peter Foster [right,] welcomes guest speaker Rev. Vicky Thurtell [centre]*

*Photograph by Michel Hooper-Immins.*

In his presidential address, Peter Foster thoughtfully drew an interesting timeline between the founding of the Old Grammarians in 1905 and the present day Hardyens Club. Looking at the 1910 photograph, with Thomas Hardy OM and Sir Frederick Treves GCVO at the head of the table, the President recalled that all the early Old Grammarians' dinners had been in the Casterbridge Room at the King's Arms Hotel. "Everybody is wearing white tie and tails - there would have been much thumping of the table and shouts of 'hear, hear'. Today we are back at the King's Arms, happily back to our roots." 1932 had been a landmark year, with three Headmasters of Dorchester Grammar School present as guests on Old Boys' Day. In 1955, R. W. Hill retired as Headmaster and A. N. Hamilton took over. He remarked at that year's dinner that an old boys club is a typically British institution. Coming up-to-date, Peter Foster mused "it has taken 110 years for us to welcome a lady guest speaker, but the Old Hardyens continues to provide opportunities to keep friendships, not only made at Hardy's School, but at the other two Dorchester secondary schools." He announced that Tony Day will become President in 2016.

Thomas Hardy School Head Teacher Michael Foley was unable to be present, due to a family commitment, but Assistant Head Teacher Dr. Tim Ennion spoke of being inspected by OFSTED the previous week. Later in April, the OFSTED verdict was revealed as "outstanding." A geographer, he had joined Thomas Hardy School in 2000 as a newly qualified teacher and having left in 2008, has rejoined the staff as an Assistant Head Teacher. "Collaboration with business is high on our agenda at the school," he told the Old Hardyens, recounting how he had led a group of students touring a large Swiss pharmaceutical firm. "Although 95% of our students learn a foreign language," he continued, "there is no doubt the international language of business is English- which makes us exceedingly fortunate in the UK."

The Annual Reunion Dinner was attended by 62 people, predominately Old Hardyens, but including some from the Green School, the Dorchester Secondary Modern School and the modern Thomas Hardy School. This annual reunion now includes former pupils of all secondary schools in the county town.

"The Annual Reunion Dinner is always a most enjoyable occasion and we thank the King's Arms Hotel for serving such an excellent dinner," comments Old Hardyens Secretary Michel Hooper-Immins. "There are some fit and active Old Grammarians in their 80s, who joined the school before and during World War II. For example, Past President Gordon Crocker joined Dorchester Grammar School in 1938. It is fascinating to see how these elder statesmen of the Old Hardyens interact with the young sixth-formers who attend from Thomas Hardy School, who of course represent the future of the Hardyens Club."

### **Presidential address by Peter Foster**

*Time – duration, continued existence, progress of this viewed as affecting persons or things.* That is how the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* describes the word. A fine photograph shows Sir Frederick Treves, a man whose professional actions determined the course of history, and Thomas Hardy, as guests of honour at what is thought to be the 1910 Old Grammarians' dinner, held here in the King's Arms, upstairs in the Casterbridge Room. This picture is a lasting memorial of the early days of the Club. It was, judging by the photograph, a very formal occasion. White tie and tails was the order of the day. No doubt, there would have been much thumping of the table, accompanied by cries of 'Hear, Hear' from the assembled company, in response to points made in the various speeches. The atmosphere would have been very much that of a gentleman's club, such as you would find in London. Gentlemen of the more mature age range, no doubt former boys of some of the great public schools of the land, sons of the landed gentry, sitting in deep leather armchairs engrossed in the *Times* crossword or the racing pages of the *Sporting Life*, puffing at their cigars, sipping their gins, or whisky, served to them at a very sedate pace by elderly waiters, an example of time standing still, the sort of scene that Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett could portray so well. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* describes a club as:- *an association of persons united by some common interest.*

Let's move the hands of our time clock forward. 1932. Old Boys day at Dorchester Grammar School. Three generations of head masters are photographed for posterity. Revd H.N. Kingdon, 1883 – 1898; H.A.Francis, 1907 – 1927; and R.W.Hill, 1927 – 1955. On again to 1955, when the

youngest of them in that picture, R.W.Hill, retires and Anthony Norris Hamilton takes over.

In an extract of his forward to an *Old Hardyans Club* booklet, marking the occasion, Anthony Hamilton writes this:-

*An old boy's club is a particularly British institution which we schoolmasters take for granted. If pressed to explain why it exists, and what it hopes to achieve, the majority of us would be hard put to it to find a very convincing answer.*

So, moving our time clock forward, again, 60 years, to the present, the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, why does the Hardyans' Club exist?

Recently, when reviewing the papers on *BBC Radio Solent's Breakfast in Dorset* programme, I made sure that presenter Steve Harris included the *Dorset Echo's* preview of this evening's event. Much attention was paid to the fact that it has taken 110 years before the club welcomed a lady speaker to its annual dinner. To quote Steve Harris 'About time too'. Time is the dictator of eras in history. 50 years ago, in 1965, Wren's great Mother Church of the Commonwealth resounded to the words 'Time like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away', as the coffin of Sir Winston Churchill was born down the nave of St. Paul's Cathedral. Many regarded this moment in history as the end of an era.

Time moves on. This is my last address to you as Club President. Next year I hand on the Presidential baton to our President Elect. The President Elect is in this room with us, so who is my successor? [ *brief pause as I scan round before indicating who it is !* ] Ladies and gentlemen, will you welcome as the Hardyans' Club President Elect for the term 2016 to 2019, inclusive, Tony Day. [APPLAUSE]

Finally, let's return to that question I posed earlier in this address, why does the Hardyans' Club exist? I ask you to ponder over these thoughts. The club's existence provides the opportunity to continue friendships made whilst at school. It provides the opportunity to reflect on how one's schooldays relate to the present. It provides a permanent link of friendship and goodwill with the present school. It creates links of friendship with former students of the Dorchester Secondary Modern School that became Castlefield School, the Dorchester Grammar School for Girls, the Green School, as it was always known. It is lovely to have representatives of these splendid Dorchester schools with us here this evening. Indeed, our guest speaker is a former Head Girl of the Green School. A certain fact relating to the Hardyans' Club's present and ongoing existence, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is the valuable job of work that the Club's Charitable Trust performs, providing financial support for Thomas Hardy School students embarking on their time at university.

Do the 400+ young people, our future adults, leaving the Thomas Hardy School each year, want to be part of this organisation created 110 years ago? Do we and they need a Club?

As time carries us on into the future, I very much hope that the answer to both these questions is yes.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Toast is The School

\* \* \* \* \*

### **From Godfrey Lancashire**

Our Chairman writes - Year 10 Mock Job Interviews

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all those who responded so quickly to my recent letter and request for help. As a result our panel of interviewers is full and we have others on the waiting list for future similar exercises. I am also grateful for the many messages of support for this very worthwhile venture. I am quite certain that this can only strengthen the bonds between School and our Club.

My very best wishes

Godfrey

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

At the King's Arms Hotel, last Thursday of the month. Enquiries to President, Peter Foster, or Alan Brown, Treasurer, 01202 535034 There is no need to book, just turn up about 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm. A small car park is available behind the hotel for the use of patrons (Entrance through the arch from High East Street). The Hotel's bar menu is available and choices can be made on the day. The next lunches are on Thursdays 29<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June. All welcome.

### ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH – School v The Club from **Tony FOOT**

The Cricket match will take place this term, probably on Wednesday 1st July (date to be finalised). Any Hardyean wishing to play this year is asked to contact Tony on [tfoot@savills.com](mailto:tfoot@savills.com) or tel 07812516345.

### Hardyeans' Club Information

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

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For those of you who use Facebook, Alan Brown has set up the following page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyeans/> and it would be good to have some contributions!

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

### Obituaries

As detailed in the Membership Secretary's report, the following have passed away recently

**Stephen Warner** (1969-76) who lived in Broadstone, Poole.

**F.J. Thomas** (1938-45) who lived near Caernarfon

**M.W.J. Meaden** (1935-39) who lived in Looe, Cornwall.

*[The Club extends sincere condolences to relatives and friends of the above]*

### Membership Secretary Report from Bob Rensch

The Total number of Full members in the Club is 734 (as at May 2015)

Of these 624 receive their correspondence via email and 84 by post.

The remaining 26 are members of our Lost Legion (23 email & 3 postal)

**Since the Last newsletter we have been joined by 5 new members:**

**Mike Lidgley** (1967-71) a life member who had somehow never got on to the database.

**Michael Betts** (1948-55) from Peebles, in the Scottish Borders, who has rejoined after 10 years

**Michael Stanton** (1955-58) who lives in Bath

**Tony Jacobs** (1952-56 at DSM) who lives in Dorchester

**Rev Canon Vicky Thurtell** (at The Green School) our first Lady speaker at the Annual Dinner, who will at the end of May take up her post at Exeter Cathedral.

Welcome to them all!

**Thank you** to 9 members who have now agreed to receive their post by email

**Alan King** (1954-59), **Rob Stanley** (1959-66), **Donald Culver** (1943-51), **Tim Blagrove** (1959-66), **Martyn Cartwright** (1951-57), **William B Fox** (1943-50), **Michael Lamden** (1943-50) and **Colin Allsopp** (1940-46)

**In the last newsletter** I mentioned that I may have been given a lead in trying to recover **Eric Shakeshaft** (1985-90) from the Lost Legion. I have since had a reply from Eric who is at present residing in Oslo, Norway. Welcome back Eric and thank you to Ken Stephens.

**I must also report** that 2 members have been added to our 'Lost Legion'.

**Brett Davenport** (1979-84) email failed Oct 2014 & Jan 2015, no postal address available.

**A. Stevens** (1941-45) from Dorchester - post returned

**Thank you** also to those members who have kindly sent donations to help cover the cost of postage.

**Sadly** we have received notification of 3 members who have passed away

**Stephen Warner** (1969-76) who lived in Broadstone, Poole.

**F.J. Thomas** (1938-45) who lived near Caernarfon

**M.W.J. Meaden** (1935-39) who lived in Looe, Cornwall.

**Nothing has been heard from** the following 16 members of the email lost legion for at least 3 years.

Surface mail to them has been returned or we have had no reply. It is intended to remove them from the Club database but their details will be held elsewhere.

**Mark S. Allington** (1979-83) from Dorchester.

**Adrian Clark-Morgan** (1967-72) from the London area

**Roy Craddock** (1941-45) from Aylesbury, Bucks.

**Mark S Foster** (1985-90) from Southampton, Hants

**Timothy Haskins** (1987-90) from Dorchester.

**Miss Natalia Krutova** (1992-2004) from Riga, Latvia

**Roy MacDonald** (1966-73) from Ipswich, Suffolk.

**Neil A.T. Marsh** (1943-52) from Banbury, Oxon.

**D.W. Pitman** (1961-67) from Coleford, Glos.

**Danny J Roberts** (1991-96) from Haifa, Israel

**James E R Smith** (1977-84) from Chicago USA

**Pete Worrall** (1973-79) from Redditch, Worcs.

**D. Lewis** email address [damlewis@aol.com](mailto:damlewis@aol.com) no other details known.

**Ian McDellis** email address [ianmcdellis@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmcdellis@hotmail.com) no other details known

**Matthew Taylor** email address [matt\\_taylor@computacentre.com](mailto:matt_taylor@computacentre.com) no other details known.

Two other long standing members of the 'Lost Legion' who are still paying their subscriptions are:

**Frederick (Vinnie) Dean** (1945-54) from Weybridge and

**Elizabeth Harrall** (1994-2000) from Milborne St. Andrew nr Blandford.

If you can help us find any members of our 'Lost Legion' I should be very grateful.

Please ensure that you let me know if any of your personal details change, otherwise you may well become a member of the Lost Legion! At the last mailing 7 members' emailed letters were returned because they had changed their email address.

## You Write

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW??**

**Robert Anthony HAYES** (1960-68) asked for an update from his contemporaries in the last newsletter and replies have been forwarded from **Paul BAKER** who also mentioned **Dave BUCKLAND**, and from **Brian BUTLER** who was in the year below Robert at South Walks and is a cousin of **Richard PRIDDLE**. Brian would also like to hear from any of his classmates.

Both Paul and Brian now live in Devon.

### **Robert COLLINS got back in touch with the Membership Secretary**

One of the members whose emails failed in October and January, has responded to a letter sent early in February, together with his new email address.

Rob Collins (1955-63) is a semi-retired farmer living in Cornwall, after a life of professional engineering and tutoring on many subjects. He is just about to gain a fourth grandchild.

Rob's brother Michael COLLINS(1950-57) whose passing was reported in the last newsletter, read engineering at St. Peter's College, Oxford and became Professor of engineering, latterly at Brunel and won many prizes. When he died last September, Michael was working on a definitive biography of Lord Kelvin a week before he succumbed to cancer. The biography is to be published posthumously.



Rob has recently been in touch with David Johnston and Dick Luther and of course his cousin Roger Wyatt (1953-60) who read economics and history at Fitzwilliam , Cambridge.

**Roy COLLINS** contacted Club Secretary Michel Hooper Immins and sent a photo (ca 1944) of South Walks boarders, on the back of which are signatures of contemporaries



Names decipherable include those of:

B Clarke, HG Cutler,  
CU Stewart, G Squibb,  
A Barriball, D Burden,  
B Bass, D Clark, PV  
Gregory, John Turner,  
M Frampton, I Guppy  
P Titterington, MJ  
Vaux

#### **David James McDONOUGH 1970-77**

I am an ex-Hardyean having been there from 1970 till 1977. I would like to get in touch with ex Hardyean's pupils from that time.

I had a massive stroke four years ago and am now in a wheelchair and would like to be in contact by phone, letter, or email with anyone who would like to get in touch.

I now live in Seaton, East Devon.

*Hopefully by now David has been put in touch with some of his contemporaries through the membership secretary but if anyone knows of those who are not members of the club please get in contact through the editor so details can be passed on.*

Also forwarded by the membership secretary was a letter from **George WELCH** (1948-53) who lives in Kent George has been going through his collection of newsletters:-

I regularly receive and enjoy the newsletters and have a considerable number filed away, the earliest dated 1958, but only from 1992 with any reliability. Inevitably I find myself reading old news and have just noted that in 1991 a London Dinner was again splendidly arranged and presented by Godfrey Lancashire to whom we are all most grateful. I regret to have to admit that I did not attend, but became a regular a few years later when I retired and I do miss them. I attended what was pessimistically termed the last London Dinner and sincerely hope that Colin Lucas was right when he told me that he felt sure it would be repeated in a few years. That was the last occasion on which we met in the Wrench Room!

In the same file I also found a booklet entitled Old Hardyceans. Among the articles is one about the London Branch of the Old Hardyceans Club. David Leggatt arranged the first annual dinner at Pinoli's in November 1930 and it was an annual event until 1937. Restarted in 1949, it kept going until 1953. The booklet appears to have been produced soon after RW Hill's retirement in 1955 the year in which I lashed out 10/6d and joined the club.

Another article is titled the Oxford branch of the Old Hardyceans club. It thrived in my time there and I wonder whether Hardyceans now in Oxford ever consider reforming the branch. I was pleased to note that there is once again a Hardyean in Exeter College, which as you may know has just celebrated 700 years. The 1962 edition of the Old Hardyean shows that the Oxford Branch had become the Oxford Area. A decline in numbers at the university from a peak of 20 in about 1954 caused the joint secretaries to write that they were not sure 'that we can legitimately claim to have an Oxford area'. I have little doubt that this is one measure of the influence of RW Hill.

Another find in the file is a letter from Stan Walton who as many will remember taught physics. I visited the old school in Barnes Way sometime about 1990-91, at first unsuccessfully. I went there on a Saturday, but a subsequent visit was more useful. I learned that Stan was still alive and living in Broadmayne. I wrote to him and a prompt reply to my letter told me that he started teaching at Hardyes in April 1944 and that his son was a little ahead of me (one year). He enclosed a selection of cuttings from local papers about the reorganisation of education in Dorchester, letters from irate and anxious parents and 'Four hundred Manor Park residents of Dorchester are demanding that planners throw out the controversial scheme of developing the 21 acre Hardyes's School site.' 300 houses were mentioned. I wonder how many were constructed. One is occupied by Peter Forsey who was in the same year as I was.

This evening I am meeting alumni from Exeter College and expect to see a couple of Hardyans, Michael Budd and David Culver, and possibly others.

I occasionally visit Somerset and make a point of meeting Hans Wells Furby. If I happen to be in the vicinity on the appropriate day of the month I will consider coming to Dorchester for one of the monthly lunches. It does have an appeal. Best wishes to Club members who may remember me.

**ARCHIVE NEWS: Chris RODWAY** has just presented the Editor with a selection of paperwork relating to the Heathcotians Club up to the 1960s. We will be delving into this for future newsletter material.

**Andrew SCREEN** has kindly donated to the School a set of the 1569-1969 quatercentenary glasses which belonged to his late father Hubert SCREEN whose death was reported in the last newsletter. They are now in the Headteacher's study.

### From The Treasurer

There has been some response to my piece in the last edition about Membership Fees. A few 'defaulters' have changed their Standing Orders, some long-standing Life Members have now said they will pay annually, and some of those who receive the Newsletter by post have sent a donation to cover costs!

Thanks to all these,

Alan Brown

## From the Headteacher

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After several years of waiting the Ofsted inspectors finally arrived at the end of March. We are delighted with the outcome - outstanding in every category - but equally pleased with the narrative which captures something of the spirit of the school as a welcoming, inclusive environment that does well by all its students regardless of ability or background. The full report is available on the school website.

I am also delighted to report that the new sports centre has opened. It has virtually been re-built and is unrecognisable from the previous building. It takes our sports facilities on to a new level not only for the school but also for the local community. It will give us the opportunity to offer new sports such as fencing which is not generally available in state schools.

The examination season is already upon us. Around 450 Year 11 students will be sitting their GCSE's and 800 sixth formers will be sitting A Level examinations so you probably get some sense of the complexity of the operation. The actual exam room has changed little from the time you and I sat our examinations but the pressure to perform is probably greater. These students have been tested more, and in a broader range of subjects, than the generations before them. We wish them well.

I was sorry to miss the Old Hardyans dinner in March but I am very encouraged by the growing links with the school. For example, several of you have offered to take part in mock interviews later this term. Thank you - it is always a pleasure to welcome back Old Hardyans to the school.

Michael Foley  
Headteacher