

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

President: **Gordon CROCKER**

Chairman: **A. R. (Bob) RENCH**

Hon Secretary: **Colin LUCAS** (tel. 01305 265446)

Hon Membership Secretary: **Peter POWELL**, 3 Dumgate St., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1J P (tel. 01305 264420)

Hon. Treasurer: **Lt. Cdr. Ken PEARCE (RN retd.)**

Newsletter

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

EVENTS DIARY

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Last Thursday of each month, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Wessex Royale Hotel, High West Street, Dorchester. Details from Peter LEWENDON, 1, Cobs Place, New Street, Puddletown, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8SF (Tel:01305-848679)

LONDON DINNER: Tuesday 3rd. November 1998. For details and booking form see the end of this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Wednesday 16th. December 1998, 12.30pm for 1pm, at the Wessex Royale Hotel, High West Street, Dorchester. Details from Peter LEWENDON as above.

1999 AGM & ANNUAL DINNER: Saturday 20th. March 1999, 6.30pm. Details to follow in subsequent Newsletters.

CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. PETERS, DORCHESTER: Sunday 21st. March 1999 i.e the Sunday following the AGM & Dinner, again, details to follow in subsequent Newsletters.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Christopher G. BARRETT to Poplar End, 11 Hawthorn Way, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7JZ (Tel: 01483-839641).

Richard (Dick) BROOKS to 82, Beaumont Avenue, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4TP (Tel: 01727-868665.

Revd. Canon Peter BUGG, BA, 66, Windmill St., Brill, Aylesbury, Bucks HP18 9TG (Tel/Fax 01844-238204).

H.P. HOLLOWAY to Purbeck House, Victoria Close, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP20E2.

R.C. (Bob) HOWELL, to 534, Harrington Rd., Pemaquid, ME 04558, USA.

Cdr. Ian JEFFREY, RN, to NATO Defence College BFPO 8.

Revd. David H. LEE to 16, Anchor Drive, Apt. A 102, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3N 3G1 (Tel: [902]-479 1629).

Neil MATHEWS (1969-75) to Wye Villa, 3, Athelstan Rd., Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1NE.

Richard UMBERS to Moor Close cottage, Ampney St. Peter, Cirencester, Glos GL7 5SJ (Tel: 01285-850572).

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The [rules](#) of your Club recommended by your Council were agreed unanimously at the AGM on 21st. March 1998: they are reproduced elsewhere on this Web site. Membership is now open to ladies as well as gentlemen, a one-year associate membership scheme has been introduced to encourage school-leavers to join, subscription for new members is by Direct Debit Mandate and the word "Old" has been dropped from the Club title. The aims of the Club remain unchanged. Following comments made at the AGM, your council is to re-examine the composition of a quorum at club meetings, the implications of the Club having charitable status and opening membership to School Staff and Governors. It was also felt that members who were not at the AGM should have the opportunity to comment on the rules; those who wish to do so should please address their letters to me c/o the Editor.

The Millenium appeal for the CCF closed after the Annual Dinner on 21st. March. It has raised £2,506 which is a wonderful response; my grateful thanks to all members who gave so generously. These donations will enable the CCF to buy all the musical instruments needed by their Band; we have also bought a splendid silver cup to be inscribed "The Old Hardyens' Club, Best Junior CCF Cadet" which will be presented annually, and for the first time at the School Presentation Evening on 9th. July. All this is particularly appropriate as the Corps celebrates the 90th. Anniversary of its formation in 1908.

Over 700 copies of every Newsletter are sent to members worldwide. Because all subscriptions paid before 21st. March were for Life Memberships, there is no method of recording members' change of address or indeed of knowing if the member is still alive! Furthermore, life membership subscriptions take no account of inflation, particularly in postage, which is the reason why the Club is losing up to £400 annually. Your Council is certain that this is due to the postage of many Newsletters to members who have either changed address without notifying the Club, or who have died. To stem this waste of Club resources, would you please complete [the simple proforma](#) at the end of this Newsletter (To be repeated in the next Edition) and **return it to the Secretary**. I emphasise that this applies only to members who joined BEFORE 21st. March; all new Members pay by annual Direct Debit Mandate, which should overcome all of these problems. [Please see details on this web site].

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, your Chairman has given an account of our Annual Dinner on 21st. March, where for the first time we welcomed wives of members and ten sixth-form students among our guests. It marked the opening of a new era in the long history of our Club which now welcomes ladies as well as gentlemen as members. Please do all you can to make them doubly welcome by attending Club functions (especially Annual Dinners), by contributing to our Newsletter and by encouraging other former students to join the Club. A membership application form is included in this Newsletter, please do your best to recruit a new member to our Club.

OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES

The AGM has been described in detail by our President and it remains for me to thank the Committee for their help and commitment in adjusting to our new format.

A new venue, the Thomas Hardy Hall, Weymouth Avenue, was chosen for the AGM and Dinner. Finally, 71 members, wives and guests sat down to dinner. There was ample room for many more. *dig dig!!*

Our Speakers were in good form, and our Guest Speaker, **Capt. John PEARSON**, gave a good, interesting account of the life of former Old Boy and universally acknowledged artist **Tom ROBERTS**.

With our new team we must now set about the tasks ahead and I am sure that we shall achieve our President's target of increased membership.

Colin LUCAS, Chairman.

REUNION IN DORCHESTER

Richard CUMMINS, is organising a reunion evening in Dorchester on Saturday 17th. October 1998, 7.30pm onwards at the Colliton Club, by County Hall, Dorchester. The idea is for those who became 18 in 1965, i.e. Hardyes' era 1958-65, to attend with their partners, thus creating an interesting representation of the various Dorchester schools.

PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD ON 01494-817301, for further details. Early application would be appreciated, to ascertain provisional numbers.

THE EDITOR REGRETS

That certain items held over from the previous issue have had to be deferred again due to pressure of space.

OBITUARY

Geoffrey PIKE (1923-29)

Allan R. PIKE (1921-28) contacted your Editor concerning our coverage of the above entry in our Obituary section in Issue 74. Your Editor offers his sincere apologies to Allan for omitting the following:-

Firstly, that Geoffrey PIKE was Allan's brother; secondly, the date of the Daily Telegraph obituary was Saturday 15th. November 1997; thirdly, that Geoffrey PIKE won the DSC as mentioned in the Telegraph obituary.

EDITORS NOTE

A copy of the Daily Telegraph obituary for Geoffrey PIKE is on the Hardyens' Club Newsletter file, for anyone who wishes to read it. We should all be proud of Geoffrey who did so much in the course of peace. It is hoped that a copy will be lodged in the Thomas Hardy School museum of memorabilia for the current generation to see.

DR. IAIN MELVIN, HEADTEACHER, THE THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL, WRITES:

Once again I am indebted to your editor for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to the Newsletter.

At a time of change for the old students of the schools that have contributed to the tradition that the Thomas Hardy School intends to uphold, I am pleased to give further insight into the work and activities of the school. We are busily preparing for the Upper Sixth reception with members of the Club to offer our departing students the opportunity to join, initially as Associate Members, and then as full members. The school is pleased and proud to host the event and to offer all our leaving students a year's membership paid for through school funds. There can be no doubt that after the successful Dinner in the Hardy Hall, attended by ten members of the Sixth form, this new event will begin the process of the developing and sustaining of the Club.

I am sure all members will be pleased to know the school goes from strength to strength. We are firmly in the midst of examination preparation at present, with over five hundred students about to embark upon public examination. The logistics of such an undertaking are significant, but we are fortunate in having so many large spaces available for the students. The inevitable pressure has not stopped the school being involved in other work and activities.

We have four students with offers for Cambridge this year, three of whom are girls. They were treated to a very useful and detailed talk by one of last year's students, Graham Rennison, presently at St. Johns Cambridge, recently. He spoke of encounters with Bill Gates and Stephen Hawking and certainly whetted the appetites of this year's students. You may be aware that the school and indeed the Hardyans' are now on the "web". I am sure you will find this an interesting insight into the school and your comments would be welcomed if you would care to e-mail the school. Our address is:

admin@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk

Many students who are travelling the world at present as part of their 'gap year' choose to keep in touch by this method, although the more traditional methods of vellum and quill pen are just as acceptable. I have been pleased to receive communications from many students, a number from times long gone, who have found our web site and been in contact. It is wonderful to hear from them and I guarantee you a response. Recent communications have been from Kuala Lumpur, Australia, and Oundle. Easter is always a busy time for school trips and this year we had an annual exchange with Kansas City Missouri, a trip to Berlin and our French Exchange.

Inevitably the school maintains its high profile in the Arts and has been fortunate in welcoming poets, performance artists and musicians into the school as part of the Dorchester Festival. We will be able to welcome even more practitioners into the school after our new Performing Arts Centre is completed in September 1998 as part of our building plans.

Our own Chapel Choir, who have something of a national reputation are planning their tour of France for this summer. The highlights of this will be their singing of High Mass in Notre Dame on August 1st. - further details are available from the school.

I very much look forward to making Hardyans? aware of the activities that are taking place in the school and perhaps mentioning some specific individuals in the future. I can assure you they will vary from Mr. Pike who visited us a few weeks ago, eighty seven years of age, remembering Thomas Hardy and Mr. Francis and those students who are about to embark upon the school Hockey Tour to Canada. It is wonderful that all of these people are part of the community of the Thomas Hardy School.

OBITUARY

Your Editor was advised in January 1998 by Leslie D. Frisby of the death of **E.W. (Eddie) DOREY**, of Halls Farm, Osmington. Leslie enclosed a news report of the funeral at Osmington, describing Eddie as one of the leading figures in the county's farming community, and one of the village's best-known and best-loved characters. Born in 1917, his education was curtailed by the death of his mother (his father had been killed in the Great War) and he left Hardyes' in 1933 to work on his uncle's farm near Dorchester. During World War II he and his wife Pearl took the tenancy of a farm at Warmwell, supplying milk and eggs to the nearby RAF station. By 1974 they had moved to their own farm at Osmington, where Eddie played a full part in the affairs of the village and was a valued member of the Parish Council. He also served as Chairman of the Dorset Branch of the NFU and gave many years of service to organising the Dorchester Show as Ground Chairman, Chairman and finally President of the Dorchester Agricultural Society.

YOU WRITE

From **A.J. MacTAVISH, M.A. (Cantab)**, Headmaster John Hampton Grammar School, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1SZ (Tel:01494-529589/522393 Fax:01494-447714 e-mail: jhgs@jhampdengs.demon.co.uk)

As head of English from 1970-76 and, more significantly in this context O.C. Army Section CCF, I shall be interested to hear from any readers who are among that amazing group who discovered and explored Blacknor Cave system on Portland. Is it still visited? Has a decent survey been produced? Reading through files from the heady days of our first entry, I have a strange recurrence of that lunatic urge to return to its depths before my joints get too stiff. Is there anyone with a Dorset caving connection who could arrange a reunion?

From **Andy BLAGROVE**, 47 Forge lane, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield B74 3BE (Tel: 0121-353-0832)

who would like to "...find the current whereabouts of **Derek GALLOP** (1962-69, Heathcote)....or perhaps his brother Richard.....would be pleased to have news of any of my contemporaries (1962-69)."

The Editor apologises for not giving the full version of Andy's letter, due to lack of space in this issue, also **Richard BROOKS**, whose address appears on page one, likewise **Bob HOWELL**. Your letters will have further coverage, hopefully in the next issue. Thanks also to **Richard UMBERS** for writing about your house move and addition to the family.

RETURNED NEWSLETTER

B. (Barry) ROSS MacKENZIE, "moved over 3 years ago" from 38, Brownlow St., Weymouth, Dorset.

FOR MEMBERS WHO PAID LIFE SUBS BEFORE 21st. MARCH 1988

Please [submit the form](#) provided on this Web Site with your up to date details.