

# ***The Hardyans' Club***

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

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

President: **Maj. General John STEPHENSON**

Chairman: **Colin LUCAS** (tel. 01305 265446)

Hon Secretary and Hon Membership Secretary: **Peter POWELL** (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: PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE:** Last Thursday of each month, 12-30pm for 1 pm at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Details from **Peter LEWENDON**, Higher Folly Farm Cottage, Crewkerne., Somerset TA18 8PN (Tel 01460-73927)

**DORCHESTER REUNION: 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. Hardy's era 1958-65, to attend vwith their partners, thus creating an interesting representation of the various Dorchester schools. PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD ON 01494 - 81730, for further details. Early application would be appreciated, to ascertain provisional numbers.

**LONDON DINNER:** Tuesday 3rd November 1998. For details and Booking Form, please see end of this Newsletter.

**ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:** Wednesday 11th. November 1998, at 10.30am, at the School gates, Queens Avenue.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** Wednesday 16th December 1998,12.30pm for 1.00pm, at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Price £½11 per head. Further details from **Peter LEWENDON**, as above.

**1999 AGM & ANNUAL DINNER:** Saturday 20th March 1999, 6.30pm. Details to follow in next Newsletter.

**CHURCH SERVICE at ST PETERS, DORCHESTER:** Sunday 21st March 1999: i.e. the Sunday following AGM & Dinner, again, details to follow in the next Newsletter. [Please also see the 1998 AGM minutes in this issue.]

## OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES

The response to our pleas requesting up-to-date information and donations to assist vwith postage, has been tremendous. We can now certainly pay postage into the next Millennium. It may not be possible to reply to everyone personally but please accept that the Council are extremely grateful for all your contributions.

The day has now arrived when we have received our first application for membership from a young lady, **Emma MITCHELL**, a special welcome to her and indeed to all New Members whose applications are now being processed. It is most encouraging to know that our efforts to increase and rejuvenate our membership are now meeting with success.

The Council also welcomes to its ranks **John PEARSON** who has agreed to serve on the Council as the replacement for **Allan GODDARD**. We owe a debt of gratitude to Allan for his special contributions to Council Meetings and indeed to determining formulæ for the folding of the Newsletters for distribution. Thank you, Allan, your cryptic comments will be sadly missed.

Please note the venue for monthly luncheons has changed to the Dorchester Conservative Club, South Walks Dorchester, last Thursday of each month except December when special arrangements take place. LONDON DINNER 3rd November 1998. Please make your reservation vwith **Hugh GRIFFITHS**, A.S.A.P. I had the pleasure of meeting vwith Hugh on his recent excursion to Dorset's County Town.

Colin LUCAS, Chairman

## OBITUARIES

## JO ROBERTS

As this issue goes to press news comes via the Dorset Evening Echo of the death, on 16th September 1998, of John Owen ROBERTS, in his 86th year. On behalf of the Club we extend sincere condolences to Gwen, Stephen and Gillian. Donations may be made to either Joseph Weld Hospice or The MRI Scanner Appeal, via Grassby Funeral, Service, 16, Princes St., Dorchester. Hopefully the next edition of the Newsletter will feature a full obituary to JO who joined the School in 1951, taking charge of Heathcote Boarding House with his wife Gwen. Latterly he was of course Editor of the OH Newsletter and until fairly recently was a regular attendee at the monthly Club Luncheons. In the meantime if readers have any memories of JO they would like to share please do write to the Editor. [The Editors wife Heather has her own albeit brief memories of JO, when he taught her and another girl Latin, at St. Genevieve's Convent School, in 1967 or thereabouts, for a term.]

## Stan VIRGIN. (1933-?)

Stan's nephew, **John STEVENS (1969-76)** writes from Bristol saying: I wonder if any of the older members will remember my uncle who attended the Dorchester Grammar School, as it then was, in the mid 1930s; he passed sadly away at the end of May. Long before I myself became a Hardyean, Uncle Stan had filled me with interest in the school. He had particularly fond memories of his chemistry lessons with **Mr Cole**. Among other masters were **Bertie CRUSE** and **Mr WHITTAKER**. His best friend at school was **Dick WIGMORE**. After the War Uncle Stan returned to Dorchester and to his trade as a baker, working firstly in the family firm of Virgin's in High East Street, and later at Bishop's in Culliford Road. On retiring from his final job at Dorset County Hospital, he moved to Cornwall with his wife Dorothy and spent a most happy retirement there.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Removed at members request

## YOU WRITE

From **Norman BAKER, Greenback, Winterborne Stickland, Blandford Forum, DT11 ONB Tel: 01258 880575**, Norman writes that he was privileged to be Tutor to Middle School Tutor Group 5B, 1975-78, in Room 5 of the old school building in Barnes Close, alas now demolished for housing development. In June 1988 I was able to arrange a reunion for many of the 'old boys' of that Group, ten years on. On 27th June 1998 thirteen 'old boys' met for a twenty-year reunion lunch at the Hambro Arms, Milton Abbas, together with my wife Caryl and myself, four of their wives or partners and two other 'old boy' friends from Tutor Groups 5K and 5P. Two others **Eddie BECKMANN** and **Jonathan EASTERBROOKE** were unable to attend at the last minute.

A report and picture appeared in the Blackmore Vale Magazine. Shown in the photograph are **David PRICE(5P)**, **Neil DAVIES**, **Peter BROOKS(5K)**, **Keir LEWIS**, **Julian STRAW**, **Jan FELL**, **Richard GILES**, **Tony SPENCE**, **Andrew PIPE**, **Robert LOW**, **Alan LAMBERT**, **Nick MASSEY**, **David PICKARD**, **Manley HOPKINSON** and **Ian WHITFIELD**.

The following correspondents wrote in connection with the request in the last Newsletter for confirmation of address:

From **Brian BUTLER (1962-69), Harbour Lights, Horns Cross, Bideford, Devon EX39 5DW (01237 451627)** (Contemporary of **Andy BLAGROVE**). After leaving school I attended Seale Hayne Agricultural College for 4 years and came out of that with some useful qualifications. I then had 4 years of practical farming in Devon, before moving to Norfolk as a Farm Management Consultant with the MMB. In 1984 I returned to Devon, firstly as a farm manager and now in my current role as an NFU group secretary. That job involves acting as a point of contact and help for farmers and their problems, as well as providing services for them, the main one being insurance. The job is self-employed and very varied but currently suffering from the dramatic down turn in farming income. In amongst that I got married and have a family of three children. My hobbies include gardening, DIY, and obtaining a lottery grant of £740,000 for our community hall. My other hobby which has dropped by the wayside for the last two years was caving and that is another reason for being, motivated to write. **Andy MacTAVISH**, who I re-member from CCF Camps, mentions Portland caves. **Bob CHURCHER**, **Paul BARTLETT** and myself (plus others who I am not, sure of, but possibly **Chris BILES** and **Chris STEARN**) spent many hours underground on Portland. If Blacknor Cave was the one which had to be abseiled to down the Western cliffs then I remember it as being very painful on the kneecaps! My favourite cave was Boudoir Rifi in the railway cutting, and I am game for a revisit. Regards to anyone who can remember me, especially the **LEWENDON** family, as I was an inmate of South Walks.

From **Michel HOOPER-IMMINS (1958-65), 33B Nevanthon Rd, Western Park, Leicester LE3 6DR**. I noted your appeal in the Summer Newsletter to confirm Membership and am delighted to confirm that I am still alive and well! I wonder if you had considered buying a rubber stamp saying "if undelivered return to....". This would be a good means of finding out if you were sending to any incorrect addresses. I rather liked the name Old Hardyans' Club, that is after all, what we are! I'm sure you have thought carefully about it, and I always read the excellent Newsletter with great interest, edited by my old classmate **Peter FOSTER**. I am looking forward to the reunion of the class of '58 in October and to meeting people I have not seen for 33 years! It is interesting that while in Dorchester last month, I wandered down Durgate St. for the first time in years and noted that Wollaston House was still there, without its walls. My successful mission was to find the stockist of loose tea who had taken over from Parsons, [Michel also enclosed a copy of his article Memories of Hardy's School, published in the Dorset Year Book recently]

From **Professor Edmund T. ROLLS, (1956-63), 11, Carey Close, Five Mile Drive, Oxford OX2 8HX (Tel 01865-271348 work, 01865-558162 home)** The occasion of writing to confirm my address for the Newsletter provides me with an opportunity to raise what may be an interesting issue about what used to be a (closed?) scholarship from Hardy's School Dorchester to The Queen's College, Oxford. I may have been the last holder of this scholarship, 1967-69, when I was a graduate student at The Queen's College. I wonder what has happened to this scholarship, and to others at other colleges at Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere with the changes that have taken place at Hardy's School. I believe the funds were donated by Thomas Hardy, OM, but do not know whether they were held by Hardy's School, or (more likely) by The Queen's College, which administered the funds, provided that candidates from Hardy's went to The Queen's College. It may be that these funds have been reallocated within The Queen's College for general scholarship and prize use, but it would be interesting to know whether the new Thomas Hardy School has any knowledge of the link that there used to be between Hardy's School and The Queens College. As it may not, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Headmaster of the Thomas Hardy School.

From **Chris SLADE, (1959-?) 13, Church Rd, Maiden Newton, Dorset. DT2 OAB** Having taken part for my second year in the annual van leper (Wipers or Ypres) 100km march around the battlefields of Flanders I thought I should tell Old Hardyans how pleased I was to see a small

contingent from Hardye's CCF taking part....The highlight of the occasion is the parade of all the military contingents from several countries to the Menin Gate War Memorial which bears the names of the thousands of our dead whose bodies were never found. At the wreath-laying ceremony before the civic dignitaries the wreath from Hardye's was in distinguished company The Town Band sounded the Last Post and paid Great Britain the signal compliment of playing our National Anthem before their own. Sqn. Ldr. **Peter WOOD** was pleased that once again Hardye's gained a cup for being the largest foreign school contingent....If any other Old Hardyeans wishes to go, I can thoroughly recommend it. Peter Wood will have the details. It is held the weekend after Ascension Day....healthy exercise, good company, sober reminders of what happens when politics are taken to extremes and the emotional moments at the ceremonies. The Town usually lays on some entertainment. There is also Belgian beer. One Old Hardyean who attends annually is **Mike BAGGS** whose fund of stories takes one's mind off the feet and whose military connections ensure those walking with him enjoy three times as many tea breaks as the rest.

#### **RETURNED NEWSLETTER**

( - ) **JESTY, late (!!)** of **86, Iris Court, Nursery Rd., Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2AS**. The Editor received a note from the present occupant of this address advising that Mr. Jesty was no longer resident, and probably had moved away some 20 years ago !!! Definitely Legion of the Lost unless anyone knows any different!

#### **ONLY FOR MEMBERS WHO PAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP SUBS BEFORE 21ST MARCH 1998**

If you have not already done so, to ensure we have your latest correct address, would you please complete and submit [this proforma](#). It is emphasised that no new subscriptions are required, but if you would like to make a VOLUNTARY contribution towards increased postage, it would be most welcome.

#### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD HARDYEANS' CLUB, HELD ON SATURDAY 21st. MARCH 1998 AT 6.30pm AT THE HARDY HALL, DORCHESTER**

There were approximately 24 members present.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Tony Day, who would arrive later, and Clinton Grassby.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd March 1997.

These were proposed by Ron Meyers, seconded by Ken Pearce and agreed by members present

3. Matters Arising - These would be dealt with in the course of the Agenda.
4. Secretary's Report.

In the absence of a Secretary, Colin Lucas reported that a joint Working Party with the School had been formed to look at the aims and objectives of the Club - members from the Council were Bob Rench, Clinton Grassby, John Stephenson and Colin Lucas. The proposals to be put to the meeting would be discussed later.

He reported that the monthly luncheons were not well enough attended - numbers vary from about four to ten, but he would prefer to see about twelve. The time is from 1.00pm to about 2.30pm.

John Stephenson proposed a vote of thanks to Colin Lucas for his hard work as Chairman. This was carried unanimously.

5. Treasures Report.

John Joy presented the Accounts. Some Treasury Stock had matured and this had been re-invested in the same. Last year's Dinner had made a profit. The balance in the account for the Millennium Fund would be mentioned later by John Stephenson.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Gordon Crocker, seconded by Donald Culver and carried by members present.

John Joy has been Treasurer for at least ten years and had now decided to step down, but he will remain a member of the Council. A vote of thanks was proposed by John Stephenson, which was carried unanimously. He was then presented with a School Plaque.

6. Newsletter Editor.

In the absence of Peter Foster, Colin Lucas reported that Peter wished to step down from the Council although he and Heather would continue to edit and produce the newsletter. Gratitude was expressed for his work as the Newsletter is greatly valued by members. A vote of thanks was proposed and carried unanimously.

7. Election of Secretary.

Peter Powell has recently been acting as Membership Secretary and has now agreed to be Secretary and Membership Secretary. This was proposed by Colin Lucas, seconded by Gordon Crocker and carried unanimously.

8. Election of Treasurer

Ken Pearce has agreed to be the Treasurer. This was proposed by John Joy, seconded by Bob Rench and carried unanimously.

9. Proposed changes to the Club Rules.

John Stephenson said that there were three imperatives for change; 1) co-education 2) no new members, and 3) the Club was losing money steadily, mainly because of the cost of posting newsletters. He felt that the Current fee of £4.00 for life is not enough. It was proposed that current members will not have to pay more; the next two newsletters will include a tear-off slip to be returned to obtain the names of current members; they will also be asked for voluntary contributions.

The views of the Sixth Form are being sought via two members of the Sixth Form who are members of the Working Party. They have been invited to the Dinner as well as the Head Teacher and the staff representative, Andrew Gillett. Four Working Party meetings have been held this year.

The proposed Rules were attached to the Agenda. Some rules are new, but the aims have not changed.

The proposed changes are:-

(i) Ladies leaving school are to be admitted to the Club and encouraged to attend social events with a partner.

(ii) Leavers do not have time for activities, so for the first year they will become Associate Members and will not need to pay - the School will pay for this. After one year they will be sent a reminder to join, the fee to be £1½2 per year, which will include newsletters, etc.

(iii) The "Old" will be dropped from the title, and it will become "The Hardyens' Club"- Young people do not like the "Old".

Some minor changes to the Council will come up as an Agenda item - Election of Council Members.

Comments from the floor were invited by John Stephenson; this was proposed by John Stephenson and seconded by Colin Lucas.

Donald Culver was dismayed that the general membership was not invited to comment - only those with Dinner tickets have been told about the proposals. John Stephenson said that originally a letter had been sent to all members. Donald Culver then proposed that tonight's proposals should go to a referendum and John Stephenson replied that the next Newsletter would include a notice and then ask for comments for the next AGM.

In reply to a question, John Stephenson confirmed that Associate Members will have voting rights.

John Stephenson mentioned that there were two monuments to Old Hardyens' in St Peter's Church in Dorchester and the Rector is asking for funds for doing them up.

John Stephenson agreed to look into the possibility, before the next AGM, of the Club becoming a registered charity, and the implications for paying tax. Also queried was the fact that, out of a possible fifteen members on the Council, only five were required for a quorum, who could all be unelected members.

Colin Lucas reported that the Working Party had last met in January, so that the proposals could be put to the Council before the AGM. He proposed the change to the Rules, as numbered (i) to (iii) above, and this was carried unanimously.

#### 10. Election of Council Members

The membership list for the Council had been drawn up before the inclusion of ladies had been voted on; consequently none were included. Mark Legg will be one of the Sixth Form members. The election of the Council was proposed by Donald Culver, seconded by Bernard Kirby and carried unanimously

#### 11. Any Other Business

John Stephenson was pleased that £2,500 had been collected for the Millennium Appeal. The Cup for presentation to the best young cadet was on display tonight. The winner would also be presented with a small cup to keep (not on display). The Cup will be engraved "Best Junior CCF Cadet" and "Old Hardyens' Club" (this is because the money raised is from the "Old Hardyens' Club" and not the "Hardyens' Club". The Cup cost about £400 and a glockenspiel, sidedrums and a base drum had already been bought. The second tranche would include three sidedrums and a sash for the drum major. The Corps was very grateful for the support. The Appeal was still open during the evening for further contributions, but would close at midnight.

Colin Lucas invited members and friends to attend the Morning Service, at Stinsford Church the following day (Sunday 22nd March) at 11.15am, to be followed by coffee and biscuits.

New membership forms are now available - anyone who knows former pupils who are not members should encourage them to join. Club Cards will be issued. A list of social events for