

The Hardyens' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

President: Maj. General John STEPHENSON

Chairman: Bob RENCH

Hon Secretary: Colin LUCAS (tel. 01305 265446)

Hon Membership Secretary: Peter POWELL (tel. 01305 264420)

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

Newsletter

Autumn 1999 : Issue 79 *Published January, May and September

Editor: Peter FOSTER.

Editorial Address: Holmecroft, 12, South Court Ave., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2BX (tel. 01305 262121)

Design, Typing and Preparation: Heather FOSTER.

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

EVENTS DIARY

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Last Thursday of the month, 12.30pm for 1pm at Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. It helps if you let **Peter LEWENDON** know if you intend to come; he can be contacted at Higher Folly Farm Cottage, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8PN (Tel 01460 73927). BY THE WAY, CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE HARDYEANS' CLUB MEMBERSHIP CARD, WE ARE FUNCTIONAL IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST (!), this month's Luncheon being known as the "**(Ron) MEYERS Special**"

THOMAS HARDYE MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATION, Sunday 17th October 1999, at St. Peter's Church, Dorchester. For further details, including starting time, please contact Colin LUCAS.

1999 LONDON DINNER Organized once again by Prof. Hugh GRIFFITHS, this year's London Dinner will be on Tuesday 2nd November.

Please see the [Booking Form](#) at the end of this issue of the Newsletter.

1999 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY Thursday 11th November 1999, assemble at 10.30am at the School Memorial Gates, Queens Avenue.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 16th December 1999, 12.30pm for 1.00pm, at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Price £11 approx per head. Further details from **Peter LEWENDON**, as above. N.B. THE SEATING WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 50, SO, EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISABLE.

REUNION 1987-1992 Richard COVE has been in contact with the Club President to the effect that he would like to organize a reunion for students who were at the School from 1987-1992, Provisional date is 27th. December 1999. Address to contact Richard for more details is 1, Herringston Rd. Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2BS. Tel No. 07775 800726. Richard sends best wishes to all who knew him. He has been working as a junior doctor in Bath, but goes to Newcastle to train as a surgeon in August.

2000 AGM & ANNUAL DINNER NOT TO BE MISSED! Saturday 18th March 2000, AGM starts 6.00pm, Dinner follows 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Thomas Hardy Hall, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester. The Speaker will be **SIMON WINCHESTER**. Please may we have a good turn out of the 1955 - 1962 brigade!

CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S, DORCHESTER Sunday 19th March 2000 i.e the Sunday following the AGM & Dinner, at 10:30am (Communion Service)

THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL MILLENNIUM DAY will be held Saturday 1st July 2000. Further details to follow.

THE PETER LEWENDON COLUMN - CRICKET

Peter writes that at the game with the School played on Wednesday 30th June 1999 the Hardyans registered their first victory for some years. The Hardyans' side was **Tony FOOT (Capt), Lee AMES, Tim SLAGROVE, Tim BOWDEN, Simon JOSLIN, Daniel LOCK, Gary MASON, John OLD, Justin PINDER, Nick SLOCOMBE** and **David TROTTER**. Peter may well have more details about the match for the next newsletter.

THE SECRETARY WRITES

To Members Old and New

The 26th May was, in my opinion a significant day in the history of this Club. It was Sixth Form Leavers Day, with barbeque and activities involving all who attended. Your Chairman and Committee seized upon the opportunity and organized a membership drive. The success of this venture was most beneficial to The Club in that 77 new members were enlisted. This must be a record for members joining in one day. Perhaps next year we can strive to reach 100. The names of those new members have been entered in the [Membership Database](#) and now may I address a few remarks to them personally.

Firstly the Club offers you a warm welcome, as a recent leaver or a former student of the former schools which constituted the Thomas Hardy School. You now have Associate Membership for one year, and this has been paid for by the Thomas Hardy School. This entitles you to receive 3 Newsletters and join in the events arranged by the Club. Please see your Membership Card for regular and Annual *events*. NB the Monthly Luncheon Club NOW meets at the Dorchester Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester.

The Council welcomes new ideas to strengthen and update so if you feel you have a contribution to make please write to the Secretary or E-mail him at secretary@hardyeansclub.com.

Please advise us of any changes of your personal records so that postage is not wasted. Either do this by post to the secretary or use the [form](#) on this website. If at the end of your first year *you wish* to become a Full Member you will be asked to complete a [Bankers Order](#) form (if this has not already been done) for the annual membership subscription of £12.00

Colin LUCAS, Secretary

COMMUNICATION

We are a worldwide Organization and we are moving out of the realms of what has up to now been Snail Mail. We can now communicate internationally by E-mail, website etc, but this can only be done if your E-mail address and ours is available. It could well be that in the very near future these very Newsletters could be available via these mediums thanks to **Terry STONE** in Panama who has arranged the following website address (URL) to be used by the club:

<http://www.hardyeansclub.com/>

It is there now, it is for the use of all members. Terry would be delighted to hear from members, of ways of improving and suggestions as to content. He can be contacted on E-mail at:

webmaster@hardyeansclub.com.

Several E-mail communications were received before we got the message. These have now been attended to. **Prof. Ian CARR, MD, JD**, Chicago, wrote earlier this year, seeking information about the School. I remember him well, good long-jumper!

Your E-mail address could put you in touch with friends of yesteryear. Please help by submitting your E-mail address by filling out the update [form](#) or E-mail your details direct to Terry who will put them on the Membership Database.

SPECIALLY FOR MEMBERS JOINING FROM 1998

"There's many a slip twixt cup and lip" and one such occasion has arisen in regard to your application for membership of the Hardyans Club. If you joined in 1998 you will not have received any of the three newsletters issued during this period. In order to rectify the situation your membership is automatically extended for one year from now, the current newsletter is attached together with the membership card. We apologise for the technical error (human) in transferring your details to the computer but trust that all is now in order. If it is your intention to continue your membership next year it may be necessary for a fresh [standing order](#) to be completed to be effective from September 2000. If your details have or are about to change [please advise](#) us so that our records can be updated.

Colin LUCAS, Secretary

Listings of new [Members](#) can be found later in this issue as can more information on the website, etc in You Write from **Terry STONE**

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Dr. J A (Tony) HAKES writes that he will be leaving Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in September 1999 and will be moving to Toronto, Canada in about June 2000. He can be contacted in the UK at the following address: Cedar Point, Sea Walls Road, Sneyd park, Bristol BS9 1PH, from November this year until April or May next.

Tony R. FORD Tony and Judith Ford have moved from Jeddah to Villa Aloni, Phinikarion Rd., Phinikaria 4530, Limasol, Cyprus. (From May 1999).

Terry STONE (1955 - 1963) Apartado 659, Panama 9A, Panama (see also you write).

OBITUARIES

Michael James BAGGS (1952-1959) The Editor is very much indebted to Hardyean **Chris SLADE** for the obituary to **Mike BAGGS**.

Major (Rtd.) Michael James Baggs T.D.1941-1999. With many others of his friends and former colleagues I attended Mike's funeral service at Poole Crematorium on 5th August. Such was his popularity that there were about three times as many people as there were seats. It was a good send off with a strong military presence from the T.A.

Mike started at Hardy's in 1952 along with another new boy from the sticks, **Phil DRAKE** with whom he became friends and many years later colleagues with the County Council. Mike was a Civil Engineer by profession and a soldier by inclination so he joined the T.A., and spent time with them in many parts of the world, including Hong Kong and at one stage wore a blue beret with the U.N. in Cyprus. When he passed retirement age for the Infantry he transferred to the Engineers to extend his service. Although officially retired he still maintained close contact with the Army.

For the past three years I have spent a few days with Mike on the annual van leper (Ypres) 100km walk. His constant flow of chatter, badinage and jokes made the miles pass by easily and took the mind off the feet. His contacts with various Army units also ensured we got twice as many stops at tea wagons as anybody else. This year in May we were sharing a hut with others, including Major **Dick BUTT** whom readers may remember.

At some stage we did discuss mortality - it seemed natural among so many cemeteries. Mike knew he was unlikely to make old bones as his father and brother had died at 62. At that stage he showed no signs of illness and was fitter than most people there. He was full of plans to make the best use of his remaining (as he thought) years. He was working on the Swanage Railway and was enjoying using Victorian techniques and environments and was also undertaking landscape enhancement work, hedging and ditching in the Purbecks.

It was a shock when he went into hospital for investigations only to find he had cancer. He had a very positive outlook and expected with surgery and chemotherapy to get back to normal within a few months. Alas it was not to be and in a few short weeks he was gone,

Hugh Martin Ironside BAX (Staff 1957-1969). We were very sorry to learn from Hugh's sister Gloria and from **Geoff RYALL** of the death, at the age of 76, in July, of our former Head of English. Whether in the classroom, umpiring on the cricket field or directing one of the superb Hardy's drama productions he played a very full and active part in school life. Research into the archives of *The Dumovarian* 1970 reveals the following extracts from School Notes:-

'MR. BAX was moving on to Dover College to take over the Headship of the English Department MR. BAX had been with us since 1957, and we were entitled to look upon him as a fixture - and we were happy to do so. But it must have been a very acute prescience that enticed this cricket lover away from us to the county which, in the very first weeks of his residence, carried off the County Championship for the first time in over half a century. The school's debt to MR. BAX is a very great one. He had directed the English Department for thirteen years, reserving perhaps his most conspicuous examination results for his very last term with us. From time to time he had discharged with efficiency the many responsibilities which always seem to attach themselves to the senior English post - the administration of the library, the Editorship of *The Dumovarian* and the production of the School plays. Under his direction the School's fine record in Dramatics was enhanced not only by the excellence of his presentations, but also by his careful choice and wide variety of plays, ranging from Shakespeare, and Ben Jonson's "Every Man in his Humour", and "The Rivals", to the more recent drama of "The Prisoner", "Becket" and Bolt's "A Man for All Seasons". The 1966 production of "Othello" gained a very favourable write up in *The Times*. The BAX era at Heathcote began two years after he had taken the Cricket First XI in hand. These two new responsibilities became so closely intermarried that in what seemed to be next to no time Heathcote was taking on and beating the rest of the School at both cricket and hockey. It must have been a matter of some satisfaction to Mr. BAX that **Andrew SIMS**, his last Head of House, who started with him at Heathcote in 1963 should have ended his school career as Captain of both Cricket and Hockey First XI's.

In her letter to Collin LUCAS Gloria mentioned Hugh's happy reunion, in Scotland with former Hardyean Michael BEALE in 1998.

Prof. Peter GARLAND, CBE, FRSE, Flat 4, 24, Onslow Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 3AL. (Tel/Fax: 0171-5814864) or: Hope Cottage, Sunnyway, Bosham, West Sussex P018 8HO (Tel:01243-576131) E-mail: pbgarland@aol.com. (Mobile Tel: 07971416565) writes to say he much enjoyed making contact with the Hardyans' Club at the Dinner at University College last autumn, unfortunately I shall miss the next London Dinner through being in North America at the time. It might be of interest to some of the older members if I provided an update on my activities in the newsletter. Here is a list, the order of which has no particular significance:

Family - 40th Wedding anniversary last April, 3 children, grown up with their own families (4 grandchildren to date).

Work - Retired on 65th birthday, in January this year as Chief Executive of the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London. Continuing as non-Executive Chairman of Cambridge Antibody Technology Ltd, a biotechnology company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Back to laboratory based research at the Institute of Cancer Research as a "visiting fellow".

Play - Still sailing and windsurfing (Chichester Harbour) and skiing (anywhere it's good). Acquired a new boat on the day of retirement, a small cruising yacht that on a reasonable day (and night) could make it from Bosham (Chichester Harbour) to Weymouth. Theatre, arts (London & Chichester).

Honours - Made a Fellow of University College London in May this year. Made CBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours List June 1999, for Services to Cancer Research and Biotechnology.

Appreciation - For the playing fields, classrooms, staff and pupils of Hardy's in the period 1944-51. They did much to set me up for an enjoyable career and an appreciation of many activities. And my parents for sending me to Hardy's, or Dorchester Grammar School as it was when I first entered.....

Peter closes by saying he hopes to be able to get to more Hardy's functions than in the past. His mother lives in Weymouth so he has no excuse - but he'll drive, not sail.

Terry STONE (1955 - 1963) Apartado 659, Panama 9A, Panama writes to say that the Hardyans' Club Website is up and running in its "first try form" and can be found on the Internet at <http://www.hardyansclub.com/>. It now needs to be developed into an asset for all members of the Club who can access the World Wide Web over the Internet. Hopefully they will all get enjoyment from reading about the Club and School on the net.

While putting the site together I thought how wonderful technology is, the basic material for the site originated from the Club in the United Kingdom, it came to me here in Panama by very conventional means, namely the mail, was scanned and edited for publishing on the web and now resides on a Web Server in Virginia in the United States, the world is surely getting smaller by the minute!

Now we need to improve the process so that the material can be transmitted electronically from the Club to me by E-mail in the form of word processor files. This will mean that Newsletters can be on the Web in a matter days from when you release them. Furthermore, it will be much easier, scanning technology for reading the printed word has a long way to go before it will be perfect! In the meantime I would like to put Newsletters Number 76 and 77 in the back numbers slot, don't worry if you have only the hard copies, please mail them to me and I will scan them and put them on the Web. [They are now there in the [backnumbers](#)].

I have set up E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

- president@hardyeansclub.com
- chairman@hardyeansclub.com
- secretary@hardyeansclub.com
- membership@hardyeansclub.com
- treasurer@hardyeansclub.com
- editor@hardyeansclub.com
- thomashardyeschool@hardyeansclub.com
- headteacher@hardyeansclub.com

Most of these addresses are forwarded to Tony Day, Clerk to the Governors who has kindly agreed to pass any mail on to Colin Lucas for distribution. The Membership address is forwarded to Peter Foster, the Headteacher address to Dr. Melvin and the school address to the school itself.

I have some ideas of where to go from here, I want to put a [who's where](#) data base of all the members on the Internet with their contact details [This is now done and slowly being populated with members data] and would like to start an historical photo gallery. Perhaps you have some interesting old pictures that we could get scanned in the UK (I imagine the Thomas Hardy School could do this) so I can put them on the Web.

I have set up a trial [mailing list](#) for those who would like to get the newsletter by E-mail. It is simple to sign up on the Website for this feature. If a couple of hundred of us were to receive the Newsletter this way there would be a huge saving in postage costs to the Club! [Please sign up now if you would like to participate].

The site is here now, it is for the use of all members, so I am looking for suggestions on how to improve it, what content they would like to see included and generally anything that will make it better. Perhaps you could put something in the next Newsletter about the Web Site and ask readers to forward any comments or suggestions to me by E-mail at:

webmaster@hardyeansclub.com

All communications will be gratefully received; I need everyone's help to make it better!