

# ***The Hardyens' 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 Durngate 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

A REMINDER THAT WIVES & PARTNERS ARE MOST WELCOME AT SOCIAL EVENTS!

**MONTHLY LUNCHEONS** Last Thursday of the month, except December, 12.30pm for 1pm at the 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) NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £12.15 per head.

**CLUB v SCHOOL CRICKET MATCH** See later in this edition.

**LONDON DINNER** will be on 7th November 2000 PLEASE SEE BOOKING FORM AT END

**2000 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY** Friday 10th November 2000, assemble at 10.30am at the School Memorial Gates, Queens Avenue.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** 21st December 2000, 12.30pm for 1.00pm, at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Price £12.10 approx per head. Further details from **Peter LEWENDON**, as above. THE SEATING WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 50, SO, EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISABLE.

**2001 AGM & ANNUAL DINNER NOT TO BE MISSED:** Saturday 17th March 2001, AGM starts 6.00pm., Dinner follows 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Thomas Hardy Hall, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester. The Speaker will be **PETER ALFRED BARRETT** (1966-69)

Sunday 18th March 2001 **CHURCH SERVICE** at **ST PETERS, DORCHESTER** i.e. Sunday following AGM & Dinner, at 10.30am (Communion Service).

[www.hardyeansclub.com](http://www.hardyeansclub.com)

A REMINDER!! Particularly, but not exclusively to overseas members!

The Website has been set up by Terry STONE in Panama and has been publicised in previous issues. Issues from no. 76 onwards are accessible as back numbers, and there is other information about the Club and School to be found as well. It can be found on the Internet, at [www.hardyeansclub.com](http://www.hardyeansclub.com) Terry asks readers .... to forward any comments or suggestions by E-mail to: [webmaster@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:webmaster@hardyeansclub.com)

Many Thanks to those members, who have already advised they can access the website, and therefore can be taken off the Newsletter mailing list. It really does help save the Club money in postage if you let the Secretary know at [secretary@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:secretary@hardyeansclub.com)

Terry has set up E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

[president@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:president@hardyeansclub.com)  
[chairman@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:chairman@hardyeansclub.com)  
[secretary@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:secretary@hardyeansclub.com)  
[membership@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:membership@hardyeansclub.com)  
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[headteacher@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:headteacher@hardyeansclub.com)  
[thomashardyeschool@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:thomashardyeschool@hardyeansclub.com)

## ERRATUM

**Donald CULVER** did not attend the 2000 AGM and all references in the report printed in the last Newsletter relate to **David CULVER!**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Gordon CROCKER** writes: It is indeed a great honour to be elected President of the Hardyans Club and to take over the office from a friend of long-standing. Your immediate Past President, John Stephenson, and I have been friends for over 65 years, it sounds a long time but old friendships will always stand the test of time. I have taken over my term of office at a time when the Club has an important role to play in the future of the School and John and the dedicated committee of Hardyans have set a pattern for the future, bringing the Club into the new millennium. Firstly our grateful thanks are due to John personally for presenting to the newly elected President of the Club a magnificent Jewel of Office, which will last for another 100 years. Secondly his leadership in establishing a Hardyans' Club Charitable Trust is a challenge that I will take on board during my Presidency and thirdly it is now firmly established that the ladies will form an important role in the future of the Club and our social activities. I make no promises for any change in the immediate future - it is prudent to build upon what has been established and ensure that, at all times, we never become complacent. I was very impressed with the Re-dedication of the Thomas Hardy Memorial In St Peter's Church in early July - the reading St. Matthew chapter 7 vs 24-27 was particularly relevant. May the School and the Club continue to grow and prosper on its firm foundation and may friendship established in one's school life continue to bring Hardyans together in the short, medium and long term in their lives and careers.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

**CRICKET MATCH: CLUB v SCHOOL** Rain caused play to be abandoned. However, we were giving a good account of ourselves, despite rumours to the contrary. Thanks to all who supported the event.

**NEW MEMBERS** 91 members enlisted at the sixth form leaver barbeque - we are getting there! PLEASE SEE ALSO A REVISED MEMBERSHIP RECORDS - UPDATE FORM, LATER IN THIS ISSUE! We are indebted to the Headteacher, Dr Melvin, for information on the GCSE and Advanced Level GCE results.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS \*\* see also YOU WRITE

**Alan R J ATTRYDE** to British Embassy, Washington DC, BFPO 2 (Normal UK postage to this address) or email address is: [atryde@hotmail.com](mailto:atryde@hotmail.com) (see also YOU WRITE)

**Philip BLACKLER** (, -1989) to 44 Dorretta St., Shailer Park, Brisbane, Queensland 4128, Australia or email at: [blackler@start.com.au](mailto:blackler@start.com.au) (see also YOU WRITE)

**Hugh B. MEYERS** (1958-84) to 4, Stinsford House, Stinsford, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8PT (Tel. No. as before)

## OBITUARIES

On behalf of the Club, condolences are extended to the family of Handel Stefan KARDAS, (1963-70) aged 48 reported in the Dorset Evening Echo in August. Your Editor was particularly sad to read of Handel's death, as contact had been made with him a while ago regarding the railway group which we organise in Dorchester. We had hoped to have Handel, who was on the editorial team of Railway World magazine, as a guest speaker at one of our meetings, but it was not to be. The funeral took place in Bridport and donations in memory were invited for Cancer Care Dorset

## YOU WRITE

**Alan ATTRYDE** via email <[attryde@hotmail.com](mailto:attryde@hotmail.com)> writes After 2 years in London, my wife and I were fortunate to be in Rio de Janeiro for 4 months from December 1999 to March 2000 where I went to assist the Consulate-General in dealing with the World Cup Football Tournament (Manchester United) and then stayed on for a few extra months to stand in while one of my colleagues was on home leave. Brazil certainly is a large and beautiful country and we enjoyed being there immensely. The Brazilians are so friendly. We experienced Copacabana Beach for New Year 2000 (along with 2.5 million others) and then Carnival and the samba in the streets. Quite an event! Anyway, we are on the move again. On 27th July we leave for Washington DC for 4 years where I will be First Secretary (Trade Promotion) in the British Embassy. We are very much looking forward to this assignment. [new address as above] Any old friends are always welcome in Washington DC and if any old school chums want to drop a line it will be nice to hear from you

**Philip BLACKLER** (-1989) via email <[blackler@start.com.au](mailto:blackler@start.com.au)> writes: ...now working for Queensland Cement Limited in the role of Purchasing Manager. Wife Thea [nee WRIGHT] is now lecturing at Queensland University of Technology and starting a PhD in Design there later this year

**David CULVER**, via e-mail <[david.culver@virgin.net](mailto:david.culver@virgin.net)> writes: I was saddened to read **Hans WELLS-FURBY's** obituary of **John DUTOI** (1945-54) [see Newsletter 81]. Although he was my exact contemporary, John and I moved in entirely different circles, apart from a memorable three days in 1953, when he and I traveled together to Oxford to take an entrance exam. The weather was appalling and I was literally scared stiff, but John seemed totally relaxed and assured; I knew then (as Hans has reported) that he was a gifted actor, and I now suspect that this may have been a typically convincing piece of acting. We both got in, but never renewed our friendship, which I rather regretted at the time and regret all the more now he has gone.

**A R (Tony) FORD** (1960-62) emails from Cyprus at <[toeknee4d@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:toeknee4d@yahoo.co.uk)> I have just received issue 81 as it is sent to Cyprus. Thank goodness for www! Now I can access wherever. Do hope this reaches you before your deadline runs out because I want to come clean!! I am not J T FORD, I've received every communication addressed to JT so have assumed that this is a typo. Whatever the situation, I hope there hasn't been a J T FORD waiting patiently for his newsletter for the last 10 years! For the record I am A R (Tony) FORD, 1960-62. Ask **Peter LEWENDON** (God bless him, how does he keep so active?), if he remembers a very small 1961 1st XV front row, and second row and back row. I was the loose head prop. One of us in the front row went on to play for England, but it wasn't me! Mother still lives in Dorchester and the family of cousins (two of whom went to Hardye's) live in Dorset as well. Met up with **Alan KENWAY** and **Kevin MILNER** about 14 years ago but that's the sum total of reunions so far. It was good to read that Alan was at the AGM. Will keep this short as the deadline has now passed. I write this from the heat of Cyprus whilst taking vacation. Good to be able to communicate with you. If any member of the old boys visits Kuwait or visits/lives in Cyprus please make contact. Work still keeps me in the Middle East after almost 20 years and I will be in Kuwait for the foreseeable future while Judith establishes base camp in Cyprus. We have had a home here for 2 years, it stands on a patch of mud and rock that we have had for 6 years.

**John UNCLES** (- 1955) of 78, High Green, Easton, Wells, Somerset BA5 1EG (tel:01749-870158) writes that he is in contact with **P. J. Saville**, a contemporary with whom he hopes to meet up later in the year. John goes on to say.. In case anyone still remembers me, a few words regarding my career may be of interest.. I left Hardye's in late 1955 at the age of 16 and moved with my mother and father to Bristol. More by accident than design I started work as a junior clerk in the City Council's Housing Department in April 1956 and finding that I enjoyed administrative work I pursued various local government examinations and 'qualified' in 1962, having obtained the then Diploma in Municipal Administration. Virtually all study in those days was on an 'in your own time' basis with fairly minimal financial support. Also in 1962 I transferred to the Town Clerk's Department and trained as a committee clerk. Later I spent three years in the City Planning Department and began to pursue a qualification in town planning. The upheaval of local government reorganisation in 1973/74 however provided an opportunity to return to the Town Clerk's Department as Chief Administrative Officer. In 1981 was appointed to the post of Lord Mayor's Secretary and City Swordbearer and remained in that capacity until I was fortunate enough to be able to take early retirement on favourable terms some ten years later. The period in the Lord Mayor's Office was fascinating and involved a great deal of ceremonial as well as foreign travel. To hold the office of City Swordbearer was a great honour as it is undisputedly the oldest local government job in Bristol, having been created in 1373. The 'uniform' on ceremonial occasions was C17 court dress with a squirrel fur hat - The latter caused much leg-pulling as did the requirement to wear court shoes and silk stockings! Upon retirement I decided to pursue the degree which I missed out on leaving school and obtained a BA at the University of the West of England in 1998. In addition to continuing with some local government work (at parish council level) I teach literacy and numeracy to adults and find time to pursue my lifelong passion for railways mainly working as a volunteer on the East Somerset Railway [You must come and see us on the Swanage Railway sometime, John, you'd be made most welcome!.. Editor]

A somewhat unusual request has come the Secretary's way from a lady researching her family history. If anyone can help please correspond with her direct. **Mrs. T. LOVELOCK** writes I am researching my Family History and I am hoping you can help me with some information regarding my mother's cousin who was a pupil of The Thomas Handy School (sic). His name was **John Wynford PORTER** and he was born 13th September 1942. I would assume he became a pupil around 1955. All I know of him is he was very talented musically and he went on to become the Queen's Organist at Windsor Castle. Sadly he passed away in 1985. I have so far been unable to trace any other relatives of him. I would be very grateful for any information that would tell me something about him, or anything that might help me find other relatives. From **Mrs. T Lovelock**, 13, Daniell Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2BZ

## UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT!

The Editor received a Change of Address notification from "**Nigel, Jane, Samuel & Lisa, and the cats**", who moved to Filkins, Shefe Rd, West Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6EQ, in April. However - No Surname!! Please write again and we'll do it properly next time!

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

As I watch one of those quite remarkable autumn storms steam in from Portland onto the school site, it is comforting to think back to the balmy days of August - although it rained then too! Those days brought our examination results and another impressive set of achievements for our students.

At Advanced Level GCE our points score increased, largely through the even better performance of our boys. In The Financial Times Top 1000 Schools we were placed 598, surpassing many famous and indeed selective schools. In fact 362 comprehensive schools were in the list and we were 62nd in that group, placing us well in the top 20% in the country. Thomas Hardy was the only non-selective school in Dorset to figure in 1000. As usual many of our students gained places at exceptional universities, with seven entering Oxford or Cambridge. These students (4 boys, 3 girls) are studying a very wide variety of subjects: Mathematics (2), Law, History, Modern Languages, Medicine and Engineering. One of these students also gained an organ scholarship.

After the controversy in the summer concerning Laura Spence it was gratifying to achieve this level of entry. It must be admitted however that many of our best students now actively choose not to pursue Oxbridge preferring specific courses at certain other exceptional Universities.

The summer also brings news of degree success, once again the good habits instilled at school seem to bring achievements in higher education. [Graham Rennison's](#) Double First in Mathematics at Cambridge this year was an undoubted highlight.

At GCSE the school gained a 5A\*-C score of 68% (a reduction of 2% on 1999 - 6 students) once again this was the best in the county; we have great hopes for the future of these students.

As usual in school at this time there is an enormous amount of activity - the sixth form extension will soon be completed, Phase III of building work is scheduled for next year and we have an extension to our technology block.

I must pay, tribute to the Clerk to the Governors, Tony Day, for his work and support of all these projects.

As I think back to the summer I also recall the service at the newly refurbished St Peter's Church to commemorate the death of Thomas Hardy. We were as ever given a warm welcome by the Rector who gave a fascinating history of the church, this was followed by an insight into Hardy (one of the faceless men of his time) and his support of education in Dorset. The Chapel Choir sang superbly and the occasion was a fitting tribute to the benefactor of the school - a man whose influence we still feel and appreciate.

I hope to see many of you at the London Dinner this year and I would like to thank so many Hardy years for their sterling support of the present Appeal; rather like Hardy its influence will be felt many years into the future.

Dr I E Melvin

## ADVANCED LEVEL GCE RESULTS

Once again the school performed exceptionally well in these examinations.

The overall pass rate of 96% was 7% above the national average.

67% of the results were A-C.

20% were A grades.

22 Subjects gained 120% pass rates.

13 Candidates gained 3 A Grades or better.

7 Students have places at Oxford or Cambridge.

The results this year maintained the standard set last year although as Governors will note we did level out somewhat in terms of grades with not so many A grades. The positive side of this is that our overall point score (the key indicator) increased from 21.1 in 1999 to 21.6. This means that our students averaged just under 2 B and 1 C grade (22 points).

As so often we baulked the national trend with our boys results improving; Governors will note a slight decline in the girls' results although with these numbers one or two students influence the overall percentages.

In terms of subjects it was disappointing that English A grades were once again reduced after last year, needless to say this is being investigated. The results in one Chemistry group did not fully meet expectations but those students who needed support in talking to their chosen Universities were helped and successfully placed usually within 24 hours. Many subjects performed very well and I would especially note Mathematics.

Bearing in mind the publicity concerning Oxford and Cambridge and comprehensive schools we were very pleased by our seven successes. Mention of them here is not to devalue the achievements of all our students but to indicate that a school of this type, given the students, can be successful with the best Universities. I would seriously doubt that there is another comprehensive in the country who can match this achievement.

Another very good year.

## A Level Grade Results 2000

<b>Total</b>	95	117	116	105	34	15	5	487
<b>Female</b>	52	73	75	65	21	7	4	297
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Male</b>	43	44	41	40	13	8	1	190

<b>%</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	19.5	24.0	23.8	21.6	7.0	3:1	1.0	100.0
<b>Female</b>	17.5	24.6	25.3	21.9	7.1	2.4	1.3	100.0
<b>Male</b>	22.6	23.2	21.6	21.1	6.8	4.2	0.5	100.0

<b>Summary %</b>	<b>A's</b>	<b>A-C</b>	<b>A-E</b>
<b>All</b>	19.5	67.4	95.9
<b>Female</b>	17.5	67.3	96.3
<b>Male</b>	22.6	67.4	95.3

### A Level Grade Results 1999

<b>%</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	28.1	20.0	22.1	15.4	10.8	3.4	0.2	100.0
<b>Female</b>	29.4	22.9	25.9	13.4	7.5	1.0	0.0	100.0
<b>Male</b>	27.0	17.2	18.6	17.2	14.0	5.6	0.5	100.0

Summary %	A's	A-C	A-E
All	28.1	70.2	96.4
Female	29.4	78.1	99.0
Male	27.0	62.8	94.0

## GCSE Results

It is indicative of the expectations that the school now has, that our A\*-C pass rate of 68% was something of a disappointment. As far as I am aware it is the best in the county but with our performance last year of 70% it was disappointing to see a slight decline, although these 2% reflects six students.

In realistic terms this was another very good year and bearing in mind there were more boys than girls in the year (16) compared to last year's equal numbers the result was perhaps as impressive.

The key indicators are:

Average Points Score: 50.4

A\* - C: 68%

5 A\* - C : 67%

Girls: 69.3

Boys: 65.5

9 A\* - C :40.5%

5 A\* - G :120%

9 A\* - G:120% (we are particularly pleased with this result)

Governors in making comparisons with the results last year will see that the slight decline in results in Technology and Science were the reasons why we experienced an overall reduction in A\* - C grades.

In opposition to this is our increase in 9 A\* - C particularly with boys (reflecting our A Level performance) our small gender gap ( a decrease on last year) and most importantly the fact that our average point score of 50.4 remained the same - this final figure is the key indicator of overall performance.

Eight students gained at least 9 A\* or A grades and 20% of the overall grades were A or A\*.

One student was in the top 20 for Business Studies and Economics GCSE in the UK.

Results in Art (excellent) Biology, Chemistry and Physics were all above 90% and no subject gained less than a 55% A\* - C pass rate. Subjects that deserve particular praise are English (reflecting excellent KS3 results this year) and French. In the latter, 25% of students gained A or A\* and they improved on their very good results of 1999.

## GCSE 2000 Results

GRADES A\*-C's

		Excluding Short	Including Short		1999	1998	1997
%	ALL	68.0	67.0		70.4	64.0	56.5
	FEMALE	72.1	70.9		75.5	70.8	60.0
	MALE	64.3	64.2		65.8	54.4	53.3

**GRADES A\*-G's**

		Excluding Short	Including Short		1999	1998	1997
%	ALL	99.5	99.5		99.5	99.0	98.7
	FEMALE	99.4	99.5		99.4	99.3	98.6
	MALE	99.5	99.6		99.8	98.5	98.8

**GRADES A\*+A's**

		Excluding Short	Including Short		1999	1998	1997
%	ALL	20.4	20.0		23.6	18.1	12.3
	FEMALE	23.5	23.2		27.6	21.1	14.5
	MALE	17.5	17.4		18.2	14.5	10.3

**AVERAGE POINT SCORE FOR ALL EXAMS TAKEN**

		Excluding Short	Including Short		1999	1998	1997
	ALL	5.1	5.1		5.3	5.0	4.6
	FEMALE	5.3	5.2		5.5	5.2	4.7
	MALE	5.0	5.0		5.1	4.6	4.5

**AVERAGE TOTAL POINT SCORE PER STUDENT**

		Excluding Short	Including Short		1999	1998	1997
	ALL	46.7	50.4		50.5	45.2	41.0
	FEMALE	48.6	52.6		53.0	47.7	42.6
	MALE	45.1	48.3		48.1	41.6	39.6

**STUDENTS YEAR 11**

5+ A\*-C GRADES

			1999	1998	1997
%	ALL	67.3	70.8	61.7	53.0
	FEMALE	69.3	73.6	68.6	56.0
	MALE	65.5	67.9	53.2	51.0

9+ A\*-C GRADES

			1999	1998	1997
%	ALL	40.5	37.5	33.0	
	MALE	46.4	47.2	43.2	
	FEMALE	35.1	27.6	20.8	

## LATE EXTRA!

Change of address received from Philip J SWINDELLS, now at 10, Birchmead, Gamlingay, Sandy, Beds. SG19 3ND (Tel: 01767-654136) email <[philip@clophill.u-net.com](mailto:philip@clophill.u-net.com)>. Philip has recently retired as Rector of Clophill. Any Hardyean contemporaries will be welcome to visit if in the area.

## MEMBERSHIP RECORDS - UPDATE

In some cases we do not have complete records on file, especially e-mail, fax and telephone details. It would be a great help if members could complete the following form and mail it to the Secretary at 4, Fir Tree Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY or Fax it to the Secretary at 01305 251159 or just submit it, that will automatically E-mail the details to the Secretary at [secretary@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:secretary@hardyeansclub.com)

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Fax	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input type="text"/>
Years at School from	<input type="text"/> until <input type="text"/>
I would like to receive the newsletter by post <input type="radio"/> by E-mail <input checked="" type="radio"/>	

Please note that unfortunately the planned fax delivery of the newsletter cannot be made available.

**LONDON DINNER 7th.NOVEMBER 2000**

Hugh GRIFFITHS has made arrangements for the London Dinner on 7th November 2000 to be held at:

University College  
London  
Gower Street  
London WC1 E 6BT

Time 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Dress Lounge Suits

Tickets £½30.00 per head, including wine

Transport from Dorchester can be arranged. Please contact [Colin LUCAS](#) in good time.

Telephone: (Home) 01305 265446; (Office) 01305  
265449.

[secretary@hardyeansclub.com](mailto:secretary@hardyeansclub.com)

If writing to Colin, the address is:

4, Fir Tree Close,  
Poundbury,  
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY

Hugh organises an excellent event and we hope it will grow. PLEASE REMEMBER that ladies are MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND.

### LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM

Please complete the form and mail to Hugh along with your cheque.

Prof. H. Griffiths  
5a Fellows Road  
Hampstead  
London NW3 3LR

Telephone: (Home) 0171 483 0667 (Office) 0171 380 7310

Please send me ..... ticket(s) for the Hardyans' London Dinner on 7th. November 2000, for which I enclose £½ ..... by cheque, payable to H. D. Griffiths (£½30.00 per head)

Please help Hugh by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.

