

# *The Hardyans' Club*

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

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

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## *Newsletter*

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

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**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 £15 per head. ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE !!

**ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE** took place on Monday 11th November 2002, 10.20am, at the School Gates, please see report from Colin LUCAS

**LONDON DINNER** took place on 12th November 2002 Please see report from Colin LUCAS in this Newsletter

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** took place on Thursday 19th December 2002, at the Conservative Club, South Walks. Please see report in the Press Officer's column

2003 ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs for both Club and Charitable Association: Saturday 15th March 2003, at NEW VENUE, Sunninghill Preparatory School, South Walks, Dorchester. Minutes of the previous AGM were published in the Newsletter for Spring 2002, Issue 87. For further details and Booking Form for Dinner please see end of this Newsletter

FROM THE SECRETARY

Colin LUCAS reports:-

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE 11th November 2002

This annual service was again held at the School Memorial Gates before the whole school assembled. The CCF paraded along Queens Avenue together with their band. The parade was under the command of F/Lt Stoicek and the Band was under the direction of Capt B Hunt. Again the School was blessed with almost perfect weather and there was a good representative gathering of former Students. As is usual the roll of all those fallen was read by Senior Students of the School and the Last Post and Reveille was sounded by a student. This year there were seven wreaths laid at the Gates, led by Major General J A STEPHENSON, CB, OBE. A very moving ceremony.

LONDON DINNER 2002

Our thanks are again due to Hugh GRIFFITHS for organising the London Dinner at UCL. A small party from Dorchester (Colin Lucas, Peter Lewendon & Alf Barrett) travelled by car, as did Tony Day. The two cars met up on the A40M leading into Paddington and arrived at UCL in good time.

Mystery ensued as it had been previously agreed that Tony Day and the Headteacher Dr Iain Melvin would travel together. Tony Day was alone! The story gradually unfolded that Dr Melvin had to go to Nottingham and hoped to travel on to London by rail. Unfortunately the frailties of rail travel manifested themselves and at the outset it appeared that the Headteacher was lost somewhere between Nottingham and London.

The Dinner commenced with the assembled gathering and was greatly enhanced by the very pleasant company of Sheila Stephenson, Jeanette Culver and Sylvia Welch. A total of 20 persons with two first time attendees Richard Mardon and Douglas Fry. George Foley was also in attendance, being a regular supporter and one of our most senior members.

The gathering was pleasantly surprised by the sudden appearance of Dr Iain Melvin, not too late to feast but late enough to have the most perfect of excuses !!

Hugh welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continued support.

John Stephenson spoke with gratitude for the arrangements again made by Hugh and also of the support of the Ladies who had supported the event. The Charitable Association, whilst income was slowing down, did manage to support an additional student this year. It was difficult to forecast what interest returns would be likely in the

future, but the Club would continue to fund the Trust and supportive events would continue.

Dr Melvin spoke of the recent achievement of the School being elevated to Science Status and was appreciative of the support given by the Club. Whilst the Student population at the School was still increasing and further buildings being completed academic standards were being maintained, a tribute to Staff and Students.

The return journey was almost uneventful but road works contributed to involuntary diversions and contact between the two vehicles travelling back to Dorchester could not be maintained, however both returned unscathed and in fair time, a good night had by all.

LIST OF THOSE ATTENDING:(in no particular order) Colin LUCAS, Alfred BARRETT, George WELCH, Sylvia WELCH, John STEPHENSON, Sheila STEPHENSON, Hugh GRIFFITHS, Peter GARLAND, Douglas FRY, Tony DAY, Richard MARDON, Peter LEWENDON, John FARWELL, Tony HOLLAND, Iain MELVIN, David CULVER, Jeanette CULVER, Robin WALLACE, George FOLEY.

#### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

C. Gordon CROCKER writes:-

There is no doubt that nothing can be achieved without enthusiasm, and this quality coupled with skill and good organisation was featured in the concert organised by Kirsty BARRY, Head of Music, Thomas Hardy School, on September 21st 2002. Her efforts and those of her students past and present together with the support of a number of members of the Hardyens' Club, led by Capt John Pearson RN, Colin LUCAS, Peter POWELL and a team of wives and friends of the Club enabled us to raise a sum of money circa £1000 towards the Charitable Association Fund. This was indeed a splendid effort. Many of the talented students travelled long distances to Dorchester and we were delighted to meet many of them in St Mary's Church Hall after the event, when we were pleased to provide light refreshments and a glass of wine at the end of the very successful evening. Our grateful thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of this event.

Another success was our Annual Dinner held after the AGM in March 2002. We had the great pleasure of having Barry BUCKLAND(1959-66) to address us on his work as vice-president of Bioprocess Research and Development, Merck Research Laboratories of USA, yet another example of a student of the School who has made a major achievement in the world of scientific advancement. Don't forget to make a note to support our next Annual Dinner in March 2003. We are mindful that support for the Hardyens' Charitable Association Fund has fallen behind our projection for the last year and we are facing the difficulties experienced by many other charitable trusts and associations nationwide. We have agreed to fund two students from the School commencing September 2001 and 2002 and we have adequate resources to meet these commitments for the agreed period but we are having discussions with the Headteacher concerning future policy which must be commensurate with our ability to raise further funding. We are currently exploring other avenues and will keep members fully in the picture on progress of the enquiries. The Trustees are determined to find the resources to make a further award in 2003.

I was not able to attend the London Dinner again this year due to the fact that our daughter who lives with her family in Australia was insistent on giving Anne and me a party for our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We combined this visit in November 2002 with a visit to the little church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we were married some 50 years ago - in addition to a very pleasant meeting with the Bishop of Malaysia, my old colleagues from Government Service days provided a limousine and driver and excellent entertainment including a visit to the new Twin Towers Concert Hall in Kuala Lumpur and a chance to visit many of our old haunts of the old 'Colonial Days'. If Professor Hugh GRIFFITHS will continue to arrange these enjoyable London Dinners, Anne and I will look forward to attending this year.

Finally our grateful thanks to Peter LEWENDON and our Secretary Colin LUCAS for arranging the monthly luncheons at the Conservative Club, Dorchester (last Thursday of each month)- these are excellent value - and for our Christmas Luncheon we had a good gathering of 60 members and guests. I met a number of old friends I had not seen for a number of years and I am sure we all appreciate the chance of renewed friendships.

A very healthy, happy and successful year to you all.

#### YOU WRITE

Martin SCOTT emartinscott@yahoo.com writes in January 2003 to Colin Lucas

Hope all is well with the Old Hardyans... Just had some excitement down in Tahiti. The Wind Song was burnt out 1st December during a cruise. We managed to save all passengers and crew and she is now lying at Papeete awaiting her fate. We are of course in a pretty decent hotel for the moment and would expect final results mid-January.

Dr J. A. A. (Tony) HAKES 1946-54 4 Brynhurst Court, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2K1, Canada who wrote in December 2002 to Peter Powell, Membership Secretary.

...I lived in Saudi Arabia for a couple of years until Sept 1999, but came to the Annual Dinner at Dorchester in March of 2000 when I was doing a locum consultant anaesthetist job in Cheltenham for 5 months. At that time I think it was Colin Lucas I was talking to, and I was going to give him my e-mail address when I returned to my permanent address in Canada, which is the one above. I believe the newsletter is now distributed, as far as possible, by e-mail to save expense, and I have been remiss in not sending you mine, so here is my contact information in addition to the above address. Telephone: 416-932-0681 Fax: 416-932-0052 e-mail: [jill.tony.hakes@sympatico.ca](mailto:jill.tony.hakes@sympatico.ca)

I was at the school from 1946-54, and qualified in Medicine at Bristol University in 1959. I trained in anaesthesia in the UK but emigrated to Canada in January 1970 because of a shortage of consultant posts in the NHS. Apart from my 2 years in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, I and my family have lived here ever since. I would be obliged if I could be added to the mailing list again, and also could you let me know if any Old Hardyans

are living in Toronto or Southern Ontario. If anyone is visiting or travelling in this part of the world, I would be pleased to hear from them.

with very best wishes for the New Year - *Tony Hakes*

Roland OLIVER (1933-39) 5, Barton Drive, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6NW wrote in September 2002 about the late 295395 Lieutenant N.W.(Nick) BARRASS, Royal Artillery, "F" Troop, No 4 Commando

..I refer to your Newsletter, issue 88 for Autumn 2002, concerning the obituary notice of Robert BARRASS, DFC, who was a Master at Hardye's School, formerly a Head Boy of Gateshead Grammar School.

The above named (Nick) was a member of "F" Troop, No 4 Commando, 1st Special Service Brigade, and joined us in Normandy replacing an officer killed in action on D-Day between the bridges over the Caen Canal (Pegasus Bridge) and River Orne. Lieutenant Barrass' home address was in Gateshead.

During early September 1944, No 4 Commando returned to England, but returned to the Continent in October to join the 4th Special Service Brigade in training for the assault on Walcheren Island, Holland, to help open up the Port of Antwerp. "F" Troop became known as "3" Troop, and was in training at Coq-Sur-Mer, (Den Hann), Belgium.

On 1 November 1944, the 4th Special Service Brigade attacked Walcheren Island, No 4 Commando being responsible for the successful assault on the Port of Flushing. Unfortunately Lieutenant Barrass was killed by an enemy sniper near the Statue of Ruyter, in Flushing, the same day.

The coincidence of surnames and Gateshead prompted me to have a chat with Colin LUCAS, Honorary Secretary, whom I again saw the following day at the Hardyens' Club luncheon on 27 September last. Colin informed me that his enquiries had established Robert BARRASS and Nick BARRASS were brothers.

I am indebted to Colin for his interest and very quick response to my query. Many Thanks Colin, for a job well done. Today we live in a small world due to air travel, television, etcetera; I much appreciate the Club's Newsletter, which on this occasion brought back good and bad memories.

Lieutenant BARRASS' grave is located in the British War Graves Cemetery, Bergen-op-Zoom. I enclose a photograph of his tombstone, which I took on 1 November 1984.

Lieutenant BARRASS was a fearless and very good soldier, who was well liked within "F" and "3" Troops, an accolade to be proud of from his Officers and Men.

#### Mini Reunion 1958-1965 (approx)

A pleasant luncheon at the Spa Hotel, Radipole, Weymouth, was enjoyed on 12th October 2002 by Peter and Heather FOSTER, Michel and Joan HOOPER-IMMINS, Jonathan PULLEN, and David and Elizabeth STOCKMAN. David and his wife were down in Dorset on holiday from London and made contact with Jonathan. It's always nice to renew contacts and this was a very convivial event. [Editor]

## FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

### THE OAK SCREEN STORY

All Old Hardyans view the oak screen with great fondness. Of uncertain age, it was saved from the Hardye School Library in Culliford Road, before demolition. Before that, it had been part of the old Dorchester Grammar School in South Street. Now high above the theatre stage at Thomas Hardye School, it is thought to have been originally from of a Spanish galleon, washed-up on the Dorset coast from the defeated Armada.

Although we know the history, no visitor to Thomas Hardye School- and certainly not most of today's scholars- know what it is. The Hardyans Club have decided to put a plaque at eye level under the screen, to note its reputed origin and the unique distinction of having been part of all three Schools. Old Hardyman Clinton Grassby has generously offered to donate an inscribed plaque and there will be a ceremonial unveiling at a future date.

#### From The Dorset Echo's "By The Way" column

11 November 2002. Jack Westlake, Past President of the Old Hardyans, tells me the Armoury and Cricket Pavilion, the last remaining outbuilding of Hardye's School on South Court Avenue, has been demolished. It is particularly poignant to note this on Remembrance Day, where the entire School would turn out [in any weather] to honour those who gave their lives in war. The new Thomas Hardye School do still honour that tradition, but I sometimes feel I should be laying a wreath at the old Hardye's School, a splendid building with extensive playing fields, now inevitably covered by housing.

23 December 2002. The Old Hardyans' Christmas Lunch is always a happy reunion at the Dorchester Conservative Club. No politics involved, they just do a splendid meal on every occasion. "Old wine we have to drink, old friends we have to trust," Club President Gordon Crocker told 64 Old Hardyans, saying how nice it was to receive Christmas cards from old and valued friends. "A note on a card keeps us in touch." He is right of course and those few words on a card once a year, reconnects us to so many pals of long standing. There's another champion benefit of Christmas.

Michel Hooper-Immings met David Comeley, an old classmate, at the Society of Dorset Men's splendid Annual Dinner in November. Now a Bournemouth solicitor specialising in property litigation, David hopes to attend the Hardyans Club Annual Dinner at Dorchester in March. His father was for many years, the noted jeweller in Trinity Street.

The 2003 Dorset Year Book includes an interesting two-page article on the Hardyans Club, illustrated by pictures of the Memorial Gates at the old and new Schools. "Founded only the year after the Society of Dorset Men, the Hardyans Club is in splendid heart and continues to attract new Members. The only qualification is to have studied or taught at Hardye's School, its predecessor the Dorchester Grammar School, or the modern Thomas Hardye School."

"I still speak of Old Hardyans," writes Michel Hooper-Immins, "but in more modern times the cry 'we're not all old' has stirred an official change of name to the Hardyans Club. The highlight of the Hardyans' year is the Annual Dinner every March. In 2002, it was held at the Thomas Hardy Hall in Dorchester. Club President Gordon Crocker reported that membership had increased to 870, thanks to a number of articles in the Dorset Echo and one in the Dorset Year Book."

The 2003 Dorset Year Book is available, £5.00 from all good bookshops.

### E-Mail Newsletter Distribution

Webmaster Terry Stone keeps doing excellent work for the Hardyans Club, from his home on the other side of the world, in St. Kitts. He maintains the Club's website [www.hardyansclub.com](http://www.hardyansclub.com) and on publication, emails 214 Newsletters to Members all over the world. Using modern technology to the full, this Newsletter flies by email from Club Secretary Colin Lucas in Dorchester to St. Kitts, thence to Club Members all over the world.

The number of members receiving the Newsletter by e-mail is growing. However some email addresses are out of date or incorrect, as their email Newsletters bounce back as undeliverable. The latest list of this "Lost Legion" are as follows:

ab.hulse@virgin.net  
andydaw@hotmail.com  
ashley.watts@prime.net.sa  
barry.buckland@merck.com  
d.mccrirk@btinternet.com  
emmamitchell@pearsonedcma.com  
h.cutler@btinternet.com  
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jtovell@ntworld.com  
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simont@dimensionm.com  
tentwelveventy@yahoo.co.uk  
therealbobhayes@netscapeonline.co.uk  
tonyDIY@aol.com

Should you recognise any address on this list, please email Webmaster Terry Stone at [webmaster@hardyansclub.com](mailto:webmaster@hardyansclub.com) and provide him with the correct email address, so that the electronic distribution list can be updated. If you change your email address at any time, please let the Webmaster know, to ensure you continue to receive your electronic copy of the Newsletter.

Other Members may prefer to receive their Newsletters by email. If so, please contact the Webmaster, so that you can be added to the electronic distribution list. This helps

the Hardyans Club by decreasing the postage bill involved in sending out your Newsletter by snail mail.

The Hardyans Club records their grateful thanks to Terry Stone for his considerable help and technical assistance, not only with the Club's website, but with e-distributing this Newsletter.

#### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

DR I E Melvin

After the success of the summer term, culminating in the examination results and our designation as a Science College, the autumn was something of an anti-climax. Inevitably such success and the expectations it brings are a cause of pressure and the popularity of the school only serves to increase this. It is however far preferable to the situation that some schools find themselves in and whenever one feels inclined to bemoan the pressure on places it is worth considering the situation if students did not want to come to the school.

Our next set of new buildings opened on time but our elation was somewhat reduced by a severe flood in early December which caused approximately £100,000 of damage to the new Design Area. This facility had been open for one week. I am pleased to report that Insurance Companies and others, not least the Clerk to the Governing Body, worked hard to speed our claim through and that by the end of January we should be back to normal.

Other areas have not suffered in the same way, (despite our normal weather conditions) and the school is enjoying its excellent facilities and already preparing for the next building which will house Languages. This will be built on a green field area so disruption will be minimal. We do however also intend to complete a full refurbishment of the Mathematics Area and that will be more problematic.

The first meeting of the Science College Management Board took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January. We were very pleased to welcome Professor Hugh Griffiths from UCL as a member of the Board and he was kind enough to bring the Chief Executive of Save British Science, Dr Peter Corgreave, with him.

Professor Griffiths is a stalwart supporter of the school (as well as hosting the very agreeable London Dinner) and his involvement along with the other members of the Board is greatly valued. Already our Science College status has brought extra staffing, equipment and a 'state of the art' refurbishment of four laboratories.

It would be false to perceive the school as now dominated by Science but certainly the impetus it has given us and its influence upon all other areas both in terms of finance and resources is significant.

At the same time our exceptional Music, Physical Education and Drama continues with large numbers of students participating in many events both as part of the curriculum and as extra curricular activities. These are as diverse as Dance, a Play concerning

Don Quixote, written by Steven Fraser, drama workshops, trips to Paris, Florida, Spain and regular visits to the theatre.

I think it would not be unreasonable to single out the quality of music at the school. The Chapel Choir is of course performing at the highest level with performances at St.Paul's and numerous other Cathedrals and prestigious venues. There are also concerts of the highest quality, most notably the Hardyean Concert last September.

Many of you will know that we have a strong musical link with Imperial College. Their Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Richard Dickins, will be performing ' A Child of Our Time' by Tippett in St Mary's Church on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (7.30pm). This is a multi-media event with a great deal of support and assistance from the community. The performance is in memory of Ben Vincent a student of the school who died in tragic circumstances only weeks after taking his place to read History at Pembroke College Cambridge. Ben was one of our brightest young men and his loss is a grievous one.

### ANNUAL DINNER 2003

The Annual General Meeting of The Hardyans' Club Charitable Association will take place at 5.30pm at the Sunninghill Preparatory School, South Walks, Dorchester.(formerly St Genevieve's Convent). In the school Dining Room. Vehicular access via Culliford Rd North entrance although South Walks entrance may be available. Ample parking in the Charles St. car park about 100 yds away.

To be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Hardyans' Club at 6.15pm.

This will then be followed by the Annual Dinner as in previous years. PLEASE NOTE, YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, although a limited Bar will be available. We have been assured that the Dinner will be very much improved on previous years, at this new venue, although there will be a restriction on numbers - maximum 100 - although this figure has not been surpassed in recent years. Please book early to be certain of a place. The Speaker this year will be W.J.UNCLES (John), former Swordbearer and Mayor's Secretary for Bristol. He was a pupil at the School mid 1950s. The cost of the Dinner has been retained at £17.50

*On; Saturday 15th March 2003*  
*At: Sunninghill Preparatory School, Dorchester*  
*Dress: Lounge Suits*  
*Time: Following the A.G.M. which is at 6.15pm*  
*Cost: £17.50 per person*

*TO: COLIN LUCAS, 4,Fir Tree Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY*  
*Telephone:(01305-265446)*

Please send.....ticket(s) for the 2003 Annual Dinner in the enclosed s.a.e.

Name(s).....

Years at School.....

Address.....

.....

I enclose £.....(£17.50 per head)

Cheques payable to "Hardyeans Club"

Special Dietary Requirements.....

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A NOTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE E-MAIL EDITION

From The Webmaster

After almost four years on the World Wide Web our Web Hosting Service has unfortunately gone out of business so it has been necessary to move to a new hosting service. The change has been made and the web site is up and running. At this moment the Membership Database is not functioning correctly and I am working with the hosting service to get this up and running as quickly as possible. Also there have been some teething problems with the club officials e-mail addresses which are quickly being sorted out. Hopefully all will be back to normal in the next few days.