

# *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 Durngate St., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JP (Tel 01305 264420)

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

Hon Press Officer: Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

*News letter*

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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 739271)

NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £15 per head, ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE!!

**2003 ANNUAL-DINNER and AGMS** for both Club and Charitable Association were held on Saturday 15th March 2003, Please see the Minutes of both later in this issue.

**CRICKET MATCH v The School** is set for Wednesday 9th July 2003. Also on this day the unveiling of the Oak Screen with plaque donated by Clinton GRASSBY will take place.

**ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE** Tuesday 11th November 2003. 10.20am, at the School Gates.

**LONDON DINNER Tuesday 18th November 2003** please see Booking Form at end of this Newsletter

## **FROM THE SECRETARY COLIN LUCAS**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Hardyans Club, President Gordon CROCKER referred to the successful Concert held In St Mary's Church, by past and present students, which had raised nearly £1000 for the Club's Charity. The Headteacher, Dr Iain MELVIN revealed that the School would soon become one of the prestigious first training schools In the UK helping to train new teachers as well as achieving Science College status - "I think it is absolutely essential that despite the constant need to achieve targets, the Thomas Hardy School is somewhere students can be happy?"

John UNCLES, who left the School in 1956, was the Guest Speaker and gave a very interesting and humorous insight into the Ancient Office of City Swordbearer and Lord Mayor's Secretary in the City of Bristol where he had previously been the Office Holder for ten years.

For the Annual Dinner this year there was a departure from the accustomed venue and the Dinner and AGMs were held at the former residence of the Pope family In South Walks, Dorchester (ex-St Genevieve's Convent), now the home of Sunninghill Preparatory School.

The official reports of the Annual General Meetings of both the Club and the Charitable Association appear elsewhere in this edition. The Headteacher said the School would always welcome the Club to hold their Annual meeting and Dinner at the School.

The Toastmaster Colin LUCAS, In his inimitable style, conducted the evening proceedings and agreed to place the kind offer of the Headteacher before the next Council Meeting. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all.

### **CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

Stephen J BACON (1978-82) advises he has moved to 5, Dark Lane, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AP

### **OBITUARY - Lt. Col Alan C KEN WAY (1954-61) died 4th March 2003.**

The following members have written in with their tributes, and on behalf of the Club we extend sincere sympathy to his family.

**Robin FLETCHER (1954-61)** writes:

Alan KENWAY died on 4th March aged 60 leaving a wife and family. Alan and I were contemporaries, Joining Hardy's in 1954. We were also more or less contemporaries at Sandhurst, Alan joining a term after me, but a different college. On commissioning he joined the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment. We met up in Northern Ireland at a hairy time in 1973, when his regiment was taking over from mine. Alan had a successful attachment to the SAS and went on to command his regiment. A fine career.

Alan, as a Dorchester lad with Church connections, used to hire the Church Hall for so-called Form Parties - I think it was Upper Fifth or Lower Sixth. Much fun was had by those attending, which included boarders and many pretty girls. The Church Fathers were, I think, in the dark as to the real purpose of the hiring, and thought it was for Bible Reading Classes, or some similar good purpose. Alan married a beautiful local girl, Sue Frampton. I am sure all who knew Alan or Sue would wish to send her their deepest sympathy.

**Kevin MILNER (1954-61)** writes:

"Alan (1954-1961) was my best friend of well over 50 years standing having gone through school together. We sat next to each other (Schoolmasters tidy alphabetical order I). Alan was always athletic but in the early years he was of slight build even skinny hence one of his nicknames was 'Scraggy

His grandparents brought him up as his parents had separated. His grandmother was a strict, formal and God-fearing lady. His grandfather was an ex- Dorset Yeoman who had taken part in the last British Army cavalry charge against the Turks at Omdurman in 1917or1918. He lived

next to the army camps of the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, and of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Soldiering was in his blood.

Alan climbed the ropes while I contemplated gravity. He was the expert Bunsen burner 'blower-downer' while I made the explosives which were required on our expeditions. A half-ounce of amatol was best for bringing a few trout to the surface. This became more formalised in the CCF. Alan eventually headed up the Army section while I headed the Naval section. Academics were not Alan's favorite. First XV rugby and X country were more important. He missed out on some exams hence at the age 18 He joined up as a private soldier, passed the necessary exams and went to RMA Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment

He spent 33 years in the army, nine of these in the SAS. He saw active service in various countries and served in Belize, Malta, Cyprus, Norway, Germany, Oman, Bulford, Canterbury, Hereford, Northern Ireland several times. Dhofar, and others which remain forever secret. He passed the Camberley Staff College course and commanded the first battalion of his Regiment

He married a Dorchester Green School girl, Susan Frampton, in 1966, and had two sons Jeremy and Julian. They all survive him with grandson Max.

His post army life was not to his liking as found it hard to settle but he made the most of it. He did a post graduate diploma in Estate Management and lead teams of young special need folk building bridges, paths, stiles and riverbanks in and around the county of Wiltshire. His Regimental Quick March was "The Farmers Boy" which he sang with great gusto. It was the exit anthem at his funeral service in Great.Downton on 12th March 2003. He is buried in the Tidworth Military cemetery with "his comrades".

Alan was brave, honest, loyal, kind, considerate, generous, loving and humorous.

He was a great Old Hardyean, a tribute to the School.

I will miss him. RIP."

### **FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

We are now deep into the examination season, although the testing of students seems to be an eternal process in these days of SATS, GCSE, AS and A Level. I recall the very experienced Headteacher who remarked that no matter how often you weigh a pig it will not become any heavier; I often feel we weigh our young people far too often.

It is indicative of the situation that we confront that only five weeks ago we finally received the A Level results for 2002. This delay however should not detract from the results themselves, which were remarkable for a school that welcomes all abilities into its sixth form.

Thomas Hardy students were the best in Dorset and in the top 50 nationally, 100 points above the Dorset average and 51 above their nearest local rival. This achievement was even more striking when one considers that students here scored better results than Bryanston, St. Antony's Leweston, Claysmore and Milton Abbey.

There have been many highlights this term, not least the announcement that the school has been nominated as a Training School. This means that we have been given the capacity to train teachers 'in - house' (the closest parallel would be a Teaching Hospital) through a variety of pathways. There are 160 of these schools in the country.

We are also waiting to hear whether the school has been successful in its quest to be identified as a 'Leading Edge' School. Such schools are identified as leading the field in certain educational developments and are considered able to assist other schools in moving forwards. We expect to hear in early June so please look in the national press for details. We are quietly confident.

Of course the Science College is now well embedded in the school and is beginning to have a significant influence upon resources, equipment and I believe standards. We are grateful to all Hardyeans who have supported this key development.

The Trustees of the Hardyean Charitable Association met on 8<sup>th</sup> May to select their candidate for their annual award. The selection procedure is gradually being refined and I feel this year was certainly a very successful event with the Trustees being confronted by a number of suitable and well-prepared candidates. It is unfortunate that only one student can receive this support but I am pleased to report that the choice this year was certainly the correct one.

I am very grateful to the Trustees and those Hardyeans who have contributed to the Trust for their support and hard work.

Finally, examination results and other matters may be transient but the school's oak screen continues. It is now located in a resplendent position above the stage in the school theatre. The school is grateful to Mr. Clinton Grassby for donating a plaque which states:

This oak screen of uncertain age was formerly at Hardye's School Library at Culliford Road. Prior to that it had been part of the old Dorchester Grammar School in South Street. It is reputed to have been part of a Spanish galleon, washed up on the Dorset coast from the defeated Armada. The screen has the unique distinction of being part of all three schools.

It remains to be seen how many more schools it will inhabit.

Dr I E Melvin

**FROM THE PRESS OFFICER, Michael HOOPER-IMMINS**

**From the Dorset Echo's Clubs news page 2 April 2003**

Old Hardyeans were joined by seven sixth formers from Thomas Hardye School at the annual dinner of the Hardyeans Club at Sunninghill School in Dorchester. President Gordon Crocker revealed there are now 850 members of the Hardyeans Club, some spread worldwide. "The club is constantly putting people in touch with one another" he told Members, and we continue to watch the progress of the Thomas Hardye School with great interest. The school continues to grow in stature under its present leadership." President Gordon Crocker paid tribute to Peter Lewendon, who organises the monthly lunch on the last Thursday of the month at Dorchester Conservative Club. Old Hardyeans are always welcome.

Headmaster Dr Iain Melvin thanked the Hardyeans Club for their constant support of the School and revealed Thomas Hardye School would shortly become one of the prestigious first training schools in the UK- helping to train new teachers. "I think it is absolutely essential that despite the constant need to achieve targets, Thomas Hardye School is somewhere students can be happy" said Dr Melvin. Deputy Head Julie Taylor also attended.

Bill Uncles of Wells, who left Hardye's School in 1955, was the guest speaker. He spoke of his career as Lord Mayor's Secretary and Swordbearer at Bristol City Council. Edward III granted a charter to Bristol in 1373, conferring the rare honour of a sword being carried before the Lord Mayor on ceremonial occasions. Carrying the sword is the oldest civic office in the City and Bill Uncles revealed it involves wearing a cap made of squirrelfur and knee breeches with ladies tights! The traditional toasts to The Queen, the School, and the Club and absent friends were announced by Toastmaster Colin Lucas in his inimitable style.

Earlier at the Annual General Meeting, Hardyeans Club President Gordon Crocker paid tribute to the work of the Club's officers. "Without our Secretary Colin Lucas, this organisation could not function the successful way it does," said the President.

An oak screen of uncertain age, reputed to have come from a ship of the Spanish Armada, washed up on the Dorset coast, is now displayed in the theatre at Thomas Hardy School. It has been successively at the old Dorchester Grammar School in South Street, then at Hardy's

School in Culliford Road. A plaque donated by Clinton Grassby, explaining its reputed origin, has now been placed by the historic screen. It will be unveiled by Club President Gordon Crocker in July.

Bob Rench was re-elected Chairman, with Colin Lucas as Secretary and Ken Pearce as Treasurer. The Club Committee includes Alf Barrett, Tony Day, Clinton Grassby, Michel Hooper-Immins, John Pearson, Pat Pollard, Peter Powell and Jack Westlake. Dorchester surveyor Tony Foot replaces long-serving Sports Organiser Peter Lewendon on the Committee. Thanks were expressed to Peter and Heather Foster, for their work editing the popular club newsletter.

The Hardyans Club Charitable Trust was set-up in August 2000 by Old Hardyans to provide bursaries to disadvantaged students of Thomas Hardy School entering university. Two awards had been made in 2002. At the Annual General Meeting, Chairman Gordon Crocker referred to the successful concert last September in St. Mary's Church, Dorchester, by past and present members of the school, which had raised £900 for the Trust.

The Annual General Meeting re-elected Gordon Crocker as Chairman of Trustees. Colin Lucas and Lee Meyers FCA continue as Secretary and Treasurer of the Trust. Solicitor Nigel Digby resigned as a Trustee and was replaced by David Lacey, a retired French master at Hardy's School. Other Trustees are Ian Brown, John Pearson, June Salt and Major General John Stephenson CB.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003 OF THE HARDYANS' CLUB CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.**

Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held 15th March 2003 at Sunningbill Preparatory School South Walks Dorchester.

#### **1. Present.**

N. Baker, C. Gordon-Crocker, David Culver, G. Foley, C. W. Lucas  
Mrs. J. Salt, J. A. Stephenson, M. Hooper-Immins, K.N.Pearce

#### **2. Apologies.**

I. Brown, D. Lacey, M. L. Meyers, J. J. Pearson, Terry Stone.

#### **3. Chairman's welcome and Annual Report**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and whilst there were successes during the year, in view of the economic climate funds were not readily coming forward. The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with Richard Addis seeking help and guidance in raising further finance. He suggested that we apply to local library records in order to locate local trusts which may be able to assist us in our aims.

The Concert that was organised in September was a great success and perhaps this may be repeated in the not too distant future. Special thanks were accorded to Kirsty Barry and her staff; the students past & present, to John Pearson and his committee and the Members Ladies who prepared the buffet for the after concert get together which was also very successful]. In total approximately £1000 was raised.

We must continue to seek further sources to increase our investment if we are to continue

making awards without constantly requesting members to dip into their own pockets he concluded.

#### **4. Minutes of the Second AGM held 16th March 2002.**

These having been previously circulated were moved for adoption by J. A. Stephenson and seconded by Mrs. J. Salt and approved nem. con.

#### **5. Presentation of Accounts to 31st December 2002.**

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary read a prepared statement (Appendix 1). In proposing the adoption of the report. General Stephenson said how fortunate we were in having the support of a firm of Dorchester based Accountants Edwards & Keeping, together with Leigh Meyers and staff our financial affairs were kept in first class order. Their adoption was seconded by Colin Lucas. Approved nem. con.

#### **6. Wills & Legacies.**

The Secretary said he would continue to bring to the attention of Members details via the regular Newsletters.

#### **7. Publicity.**

Michel Hooper-Immins said that he would prepare an article for publication in an effort to boost support for our funds. He said that the plaque had now been competed by Clinton Grassby and perhaps a suitable opportunity would arise when a small unveiling ceremony could be arranged and more publicity could be obtained. Good publicity always needed a story and here was another opportunity we should not miss. If another concert was to be considered he suggested that perhaps it should have a less Classical content and more Jazz or popular type of music, this of course would have to have full agreement with the Musical Director. But all tastes ought to be catered for. The meeting was also informed that a meeting was to take place in the near future at the School to try and explore the possibilities of explaining to the sixth for students and parents the availability of our award scheme.

#### **8. Report to the Charity Commission.**

It was agreed that as in previous years the Annual Report would be left to the Treasurer & Secretary to complete.

#### **9. Election of Trustees.**

The Chairman spoke in glowing terms of the help and support given by Nigel Digby both in preparing and giving Legal help when requested. He had been a stalwart Trustee. Due to ill health he had decided not to continue as a Trustee but would of course always help should the need arise. A nomination had been received in the name of David Lacey a former Head of Languages at the School who would be admirably qualified to serve as a Trustee. This was proposed by Colin Lucas and Seconded by General Stephenson. And agreed by the Members present. The remaining Trustees having indicated their willingness to continue were re-elected. nem.con. Trustees Mrs. J. Salt, I. Brown, D. Lacey, J. J. Pearson, Major General J.A.Stephenson, C.Gordon Crocker, C. W. Lucas, M. L. Meyers

#### **10. Election of Officers.**

The Chairman, C. Gordon Crocker, The Treasurer M. L. Meyers and Secretary Colin W. Lucas having all indicated the willingness to continue were reelected nem.con.

## **11. Any other Business.**

David Culver enquired if there were any of the old Charities for the benefit of Students still in existence. He was informed that most of the former charities had now been taken over by the County Council, who were best disposed to deal with them, and as a result some had been merged. We had made application to the administration but were unsuccessful. It was suggested that it was not possible for one Trust to make funds available for another Trust. But it was thought that if both Trusts had the same object then it would be possible.

The Secretary brought to the notice of the Meeting the fact that Gift Aid forms, because of the wording had to be represented every year if further payments were made by the same donor. N. Baker said he would let the Secretary have a revised wording to cover this.

## **12. Dates of Future Meetings.**

Tuesday 10.00am 6th May 2003 at the School Conference Room, Applicant Selection  
Monday 29 Sept 2003 4.30pm  
Monday 26th January 2004. AGM 6.00 PM 20th March 2004.

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003 OF THE HARDYEANS' CLUB.**

**THE DORCHESTER THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL  
QUEEN'S A VENUE  
DORCHESTER  
DT1 2ET**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at Sunninghill School, Dorchester

There were about twenty members present.

Apologies for absence were received from, John Pearson, Jack Westlake, Alf Barrett and Bernard Kirby.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 March 2002 were agreed and unanimously adopted.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Presidents Remarks**

The President, Gordon Cracker, welcomed everyone to the meeting He reported that the Council meets regularly and that the Club held its first meeting in 1905 with the Unchanged principle of "keeping in touch with your friends". Membership is currently 850, and the Newsletter is a focal point, keeping members in touch with each other and the School.

The concert held last September was very successful and raised about £900 for the - - Charitable Association. He thanked Mrs. Kirsty Barry, Head of Music at the School, for organising the program, and many others who had helped with the organisation, also all those who took part, especially past students who traveled to Dorchester at their own expense.

Awards to students of £500 each were made in 2001 and 2002 with a third due in 2003 Other means of raising funds are currently being looked into. David Lacey has

replaced Nigel Digby as a Trustee who has retired due to ill health. Leigh Myers of Edwards & Keeping continues to produce the annual accounts for the Trust ‘.

Other events include regular monthly luncheons organised by Peter Lewendon (the Christmas luncheon was attended by 60 members and guests) and the London Dinner organised by Hugh Grifiiths.

The School continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr Melvin

#### **4. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman, Bob Rench. Thanked members for coming to the meeting. He said that numbers attending this evening were down for various reasons. Membership is slowly rising and the number of members receiving the Newsletter electronically is also rising.

He thanked Peter Lewendon for organising the annual Cricket Match against the School, The Hardyans notched up their third win in a row. No skittles match was held this year.

The monthly luncheons are doing well, particularly the Christmas one and the Gourmet Lunches, also the London Dinner.

Elizabethan Oak Screen — a plaque has now been installed and paid for by Clinton Grassby.

There was a full turnout on Armistice Day and members were made very welcome with drinks after the ceremony. Finally, he thanked his wife for once again organising the raffle for the Dinner.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer, Ken Pearce, went through the accounts and reported that subscriptions are down from last year while Newsletter production costs have gone up. There has been an excess of expenditure over income for the last three years. He invited questions from those present. Colin Lucas said that he and the Head Master have agreed a price of £120 per Newsletter (up to eight pages) for printing, but postage costs will be going up again shortly. He then thanked Ken Pearce for his hard work The Chairman verified the bank statement.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Colin Lucas, seconded by John Stephenson and carried unanimously.

#### **6. Election of Officers and Council Members**

Peter Lewendon has said he would like to stand down from the Council and his resignation has been accepted reluctantly. Colin Lucas paid tribute to his hard work for the School and Club over a number of years. He then proposed that Tony Foot should replace him as Sports Officer. A vote of thanks was given to Peter Lewendon.

Apart from the above, there were no other nominations for Council membership. The election of the officers and Council members, as follows, was carried unanimously:

Bob Rench (Chairman), Colin Lucas (Secretary), Ken Pearce (Treasurer), Michel Hooper-Immins, Alf Barrett, Tony Day, Clinton Grassby, Peter Powell, John Pearson, Pat Pollard, Jack Westlake and Tony Foot

#### **7. Any Other Business**

Michel Hooper-Immins mentioned that the Bishop of Dover, Stephen Vernier, is an old boy of the School and suggested him as a possible speaker for the Dinner for the future,

but he was told that the speaker needs to be a member of the Club.

He went on to thank Peter and Heather Foster for production of the Newsletter and reminded members of the Service at 10.30 am at St Peter's Church the next day. Peter Foster suggested, with regard to Stephen Venner, that the President write to him inviting him to be a member.

Michel Hooper-Immins reported that the plaque for the Oak Screen had been made and installed by Clinton Grassby and it was suggested that it be unveiled by the President, possibly in July.

#### **8. The meeting closed at 7.15 PM.**

#### **LONDON DINNER - TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2003**

Hugh GRIFFITHS has made arrangements for the London Dinner on 18th November 2003 to be held at: -

University College London  
Gower Street  
London  
WC1E 6BT

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Dress: Lounge Suits

Tickets: £30.00 per head, including wine

Transport from Dorchester can be arranged. Please contact Colin LUCAS in good time. Telephone: (Home) 01305 265448. 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 A1TEND.

#### **LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM**

To: Prof. H. Griffiths  
53 Fellows Road  
Hampstead  
London, NW3 3LR.

Telephone Office 020 7679 7310  
Home 020 7483 0667

Please send...ticket(s) for the Hardyens' London Dinner on 18th November 2003, for which I enclose £... by cheque, payable to H. D. Griffiths (£30.00 per head)

**Please help Hugh by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.**