

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

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Newsletter

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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 will take place on Tuesday 11th November 2003, 10.20am, at the School Gates. Also the unveiling of the Oak Screen plaque will take place in the School theatre after the service.

LONDON DINNER takes place on Tuesday 18th November 2003. Please see booking form later in this Newsletter, please note new address for Prof Hugh Griffiths.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON takes place on Thursday 18th December 2003, at the Conservative Club, South Walks,

12.30pm for 1pm, please contact Peter LEWENDON asap to reserve your seat and confirm price, approx £12 a head.

2004 ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs for both Club and Charitable Association: Saturday 20th March 2004, at the School, Queens Avenue. Minutes of the previous AGM were published in the last Newsletter, Issue 90. Professor Hugh GRIFFITHS will be the Guest Speaker at the Dinner. Please make a note in your diaries. Booking Form for the Annual Dinner will be in the next newsletter.

Is this a record?

Bernard WATTS reports that three generations of the WATTS family are currently members - Bernard, Ashley and Ashley's daughter Klaren.

That'll Teach 'em!

Former students of A.J. MacTavish will (hopefully) have been entertained by the recent Channel 4 series in which a band of GCSE students were sent back to the fifties for a dose of GCEs, CCF and a short-back-and-sides (for the boys anyway!). Retired Headmaster of John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe, Andrew McTavish played the part of the Headmaster, complete with mortarboard, and it was interesting to see how the time-warp victims got on without their mobile phones and other accoutrements of 21st century life for the duration of the exercise. Some found it a very salutary experience, some even enjoyed it a bit after a while.

YOU WRITE

Major General John STEPHENSON writes about his contemporary Bob MENZIES who lives in Zimbabwe

"Bob was at school with me in World War 2. Just before we left school in 1947, a number of us including Bob agreed to meet again at the Dorchester War Memorial at 11am on 1st January 2000. After some correspondence, we honoured that agreement and our reunion was covered in the Echo. Having gained a good degree, Bob emigrated to the then Southern Rhodesia as a teacher. Subsequently he transferred to the Colonial Civil Service and rose to a high position. Later he had to leave this post when senior posts were "Africanised". He has since held a number of business appointments in Zimbabwe, including Chairman of the Zimbabwe Export Board. He is still working although I don't know his present appointment. I enclose extracts from a letter I recently received from Bob which gives some idea of the very difficult times in Zimbabwe."

.....Following upon that let me describe some of the aspects of our troubled existence. We live on a comfortable acre plot large enough to encompass a tennis court (which we do not use) and other lawns and garden. It is walled with electric gates,

(seven foot) controlled from the house and personal remote controls. The trick is to press the control about fifty metres from the gate so that as you arrive you can drive straight in and press the closure button. (Gate hijackings occur about three to four times a week.) The whole house is alarmed including the garages. There is radio control on the alarm which when activated results in a telephone call in under thirty seconds, and if necessary a security group of four men will be on site within ten minutes. This of course is a private organization. We also have another private organization patrolling the streets in the vicinity between 6.p.m. and 6.a.m. We also have a beloved Rhodesian Ridgeback, eighty pounds of him who sleeps in our bedroom.

Economically the country is in ruins with the enterprising wide boy making a fortune selling in the informal sector - (must not call it black market) at prices varying at between twice and three times the controlled maximum. Let me list it for you:

Bread

The controlled price bread is only available to long queues which wait for up to six hours outside the bakeries. Other bread is three times the price and sold in fancy loaves to avoid price control.

Meat

Is very scarce - beef and chicken is also sold at exorbitant rates and described in fancy names to avoid detection. We rarely have good Zimbabwe beef on the table

Milk

Fresh milk has been unavailable for several months, if you are lucky you can find a form of long life milk at twice the cost, but supplies are limited

Cooking Oil

Unobtainable for many months except in twenty five litre containers

Flour

Not seen for many weeks

Sugar

Not seen for many weeks - unless you go and talk very nicely to the Supermarket manager round the back of the premises

Maize Meal

This is the staple food of the African. If he is lucky he can find it at a price three times the controlled figure - he has to eat rice which seems to be readily available on the market.

Cigarettes

Vastly expensive and for a time only obtainable from supermarkets on a favoured customer basis - manufacturers unable to source foreign currency to buy the necessary paper etc.

One could go on and on until you become very bored.- and the final shortage is of course fuel - and you need fuel to get to work and go shopping. A queue of twenty cars is "short" a queue of over a kilometre is long, and in Bulawayo a long queue is a week: Cars are simply left in the road. Outside my office I overlook a fuel queue which forms on the smell of petrol or diesel. The road is capable of taking four lanes of traffic plus slanted parking on both sides. It is normally reduced to one single lane to take traffic in both directions, the remainder being filled with the queue four cars across. The reason is that there is no foreign currency to buy fuel.

There is no foreign currency to be had except on the "parallel market" and you trade there at your peril but it has to be done. Current rate of exchange is Zim \$ 2 200 to the £ if you can find it and manage to do the deal without detection. such a rate pushes up the cost of everything with an imported element. Inflation is at 208% year on end. My savings are therefore dwindling fast but I am so very fortunate to still be in employment. However, as in all such situations wage increases always lag behind. My firm reviews salaries every four months, last review 01.02.03 - increase fifty per cent across the board!

John is sure that Bob would like to hear from old school friends. There is no address given, so perhaps contact John Stephenson in the first instance.(at "Collingwood" 27, Trafalgar Way, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 6ET)

OBITUARIES

Ronald "Jos" DEAN died 13th April 2003. The Club's condolences are extended to his family.

The late David E PIKE (1918-2003)

David PIKE, the last of the Pike brothers, died recently. His son Anthony has written at some length about his late father's life, from early days in Dorchester, wartime experiences, and career in accountancy. These memories will feature in the next newsletter.

Stephen Gould writes about his contemporary, Bob KING, who died earlier this year

BOB KING, F.R.I.C.S.

Bob's death just before Easter brought sadness to all who knew him - especially to his many friends in Dorset. Always the leader - the motivator - the ideas man - the happy

guy - the believer that life was for living!! Bob worked hard and played hard. Sport was his icon: a team man through and through.

At Hardyes he was in the school Rugby and Cricket teams; he did well at athletics too except for cross-country treks; these he scorned, seldom running the first course and often popping into Wyndrush - the family home in Clarence Road - for a cuppa, or something stronger! Later in life he took to golf becoming a mean performer with a handicap of 2. Perhaps mainly to please Max, his father, he became a successful motorcycle trials rider once collecting three awards in a single trial - the Novice Cup, Intermediate Class Winner and Second Class Award in the Experts' Category! Bob didn't mess about, he was incorrigible - always looking for a challenge; seldom in vain.

Articled to the late Cecil Hunt at the High West Street Estate Agency, Bob qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1974 and in 1987 became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. He held appointments at St. Albans, Richmond-on-Thames and Welwyn Garden City where he became Assistant Director, Estate Management, to Welwyn & Hatfield District Council.

Tragedy struck in 1996 - in the form of meningitis, which left him paralysed, and virtually a cripple. Still indefatigable, he made the most of life - parlous though it was and never asked the question "Why me?"

The one thing, perhaps, in which Bob made a slow start was in finding the right girl to marry! But in 1989 - the year in which his mother Peggy died - Bob married Joyce. With Joyce's children Jo and Adam he enjoyed life to the full - indeed Joyce often declared that the first ten years of their being together were the happiest of her life. But then fate struck and the succeeding seven years became a family nightmare.

Bob King loved Dorset and was proud of becoming a Vice President of the Society of Dorset Men

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS - UPDATE

In some cases we do not have complete records on file, especially e-mail 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 E-mail the details to the Secretary at secretary@hardyeansclub.com

First Name.....

Surname.....

Telephone.....

Address.....

E-Mail.....

Years at School from - until

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

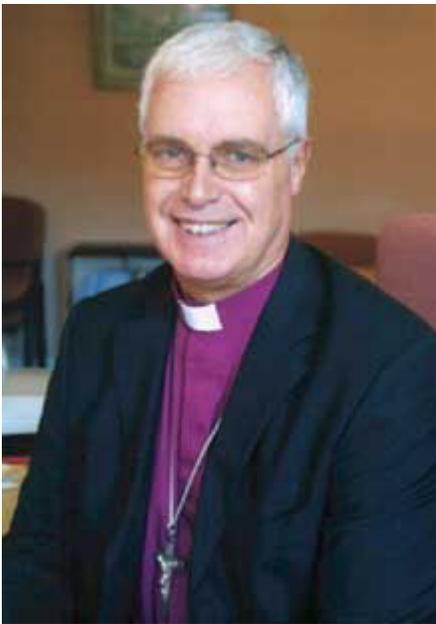
OAK SCREEN PLAQUE

At the President's suggestion, the Hardyens Club council decided to delay unveiling the plaque by the oak screen in the School Theatre until after the Remembrance Service on 11 November. President Gordon Crocker will perform the inauguration. The plaque has been generously donated by Old Hardyean Clinton Grassby.

This oak screen, of uncertain age, was formerly at Hardy'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 originally part of a Spanish Galleon, washed-up on the Dorset coast from the defeated Armada. The screen has the unique distinction of having been part of all three schools.

Unveiled by Gordon Crocker, President of the Hardyens Club 2003 and donated by Clinton Grassby.

RT. REV. STEPHEN VENNER- A DISTINGUISHED OLD HARDYEAN



Born in Cambridgeshire, Stephen Venner attended Hardy's from 1956 to 1961. He later gained an English degree at Birmingham, going on to read Theology at St. Stephens in Oxford. Ordained in 1968, Stephen Venner became the popular Vicar of Holy Trinity, by Weymouth's Town Bridge, from 1982 to 1984 and later Rural Dean of Weymouth. A meteoric career pattern followed, becoming Bishop of Middleton [part of Manchester] and then the prestigious appointment as Bishop of Dover in 1999.

"As the Archbishop of Canterbury is based in London, from where he leads the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, he has asked me to act as Diocesan Bishop on his behalf, day by day," explains Stephen, who has very fond memories of his years in South Dorset. "It was a huge pleasure and privilege to be alongside Dr. Williams during much of his Enthronement Service and to have the

opportunity of leading a prayer for him and his ministry. Over 2,500 people crowded into the Cathedral and I was able to offer him a warm welcome on behalf of the Diocese of Canterbury."

"It was a fantastic week, as you can imagine." Remembering watching Archbishop Carey's Enthronement on television in his Weymouth vicarage, "I had absolutely no idea how things would have moved on by 2003. God has a great sense of humour!" Old Hardyens are everywhere and the influence of the School has played a great part in all our lives. Stephen Venner has been invited to be the guest speaker at the Centenary Dinner of the Hardyens Club in March 2005.

From the Sports pages of the Dorset Echo

RICHARD COLE AND DAN BELT WIN AGAINST THE OLD HARDYEANS

Thomas Hardy School reversed the fortunes of previous years and beat the Old Hardyans by seven wickets in the annual cricket fixture at the school. The Old Hardyans had won three years running.

In nigh perfect conditions under a cloudless sky, the old boys batted first and cautiously amassed 12 runs, before losing opener Ian Sibley for five in the seventh over. Opener Rob Waite appeared to be in good form, although No. 3 Joe Morris was despatched to the pavilion for a duck, caught by Steve Clifford off Richard Cole's bowling. Rob Waite was then joined by Tom Cotterill and together progressed the score to 60 for 4 at 14 overs. The match changed with the introduction of Harry Lehal to the School's attack. He and Richard Cole proceeded to destroy the Hardyans' middle batting order.

Fortunately Dave Trotter was in run-chasing mood and with opener Rob Waite still at the wicket, consolidated the innings. Harry Lehal finally bowled Rob Waite for 39. With only four overs to go, Dave Trotter [24] was run out by a slick piece of fielding. Nick Joslin cracked a good boundary through the covers, before being caught by Steve Clifford off James King for five. The innings closed at 133 all out, with Ashley Cannon run out in the final over.

Resuming after tea and chasing 134 to win, it soon became apparent that the School intended to make a game of it. They progressed through the first seven overs without loss, until Steve Clifford was caught by Simon Joslin off Dave Trotter for 13, with the score at 25. Ed Wilsdon joined opener Harry Lehal at the crease and proceeded to double their score without further loss. With the score at 52 in the 17th. over, Nick Joslin bowled Ed Wilsdon, his second wicket. Ian Sibley then comprehensively bowled opener Harry Lehal with the score on 54.

At 78 for 3 after 21 overs, the match was delicately poised. However, Richard Cole [20 not out] and Dan Belt [45 not out] carried their bats and without further loss won the match for the School by seven wickets in the 29th. over.

Former teacher Peter Lewendon has organised these matches every July for many years, but was unable to be present this year due to ill health, although he sent greetings to the teams. In turn, the players sent their sincere good

wishes to him. Dorchester surveyor Tony Foot has taken over as the Hardyans Club's Sports Officer, this year as non-playing Captain, due to a knee injury. .

Old Hardyans XI 133 all out: Ian Sibley, Rob Waite, Joe Morris, Tom Cotterill, Gus Strip, Harry Dike, Simon Joslin, Dave Trotter, Nick Joslin, Ashley Cannon and Frank Dike.

Thomas Hardy School XI 134 for 3: Harry Lehal, Steve Clifford, Ed Wilsdon, Richard Cole, Dan Belt, Peter Moxham. Fergus Guppy, Sam Buckland, Stuart Harding, James King and Sam Graham.

Umpires: Colin Lucas & Geraint Hughes. Scorer: Tony Foot.



Pic. The Old Hardyens XI [to the right of the scoreboard] and the Thomas Hardye School XI [left.] Photograph by Michel Hooper-Immins.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It seems that examinations are constantly with us these days. Only a few months after reporting the final A Level results, after the debacle of last year, the results for 2003 are published.

I am pleased to report that the school maintained its progress and position. It is always unwise to believe tables and statistics but Hardyens may be interested to know that our results placed us nationally as the 90th and 59th Comprehensive School respectively in terms of GCSE and A level results. As ever I must stress that we are a 'real' comprehensive school taking students of all abilities, unlike many of the schools above us in the tables. I hope you will agree with me that this is a very impressive result.

Please be assured that we will not be satisfied with these results and I fully expect us to improve upon our performance once again next year.

The other matter that always seems to be with us is new building. As I write preparations are in hand for the beginning of our new Languages Building which will be built at a cost of £2m. This will house Modern Languages and English and have an atrium at its centre for computer equipment. The plans indicate a very impressive building, which will very much reflect the architecture and style of the Duchy of Cornwall development at Poundbury. A new pitched roof has been built onto the Science block and further facilities have been provided linked to our Science College status.

Writing of Poundbury reminds me that I was invited to a reception hosted by the Prince of Wales for the most successful secondary schools in the country. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but one of my colleagues, Rebecca Dodman, went in my place and had a most enjoyable if very wet day. The Prince's comment to her was that he knows the

school well and why were we always building! The answer to his question is of course very simple; our success means increasing numbers and there is a certain irony that as the Prince's development grows so do we.

Some of you will blanch at the fact that we have 2020 students in the school but our size does not seem to put off interested parents from visiting us on a very regular basis. Ironically it makes our classes smaller because of the finances we have at our disposal and it does not effect results. The school was once again top of the league for GCSE and A Level in Dorset - in our case perhaps big is beautiful?

I hope Hardyans will be able to join us for the forthcoming Remembrance Ceremony on 11th November. Always a moving and impressive ceremony it will be attended by over 2200 people this year. Other events this term include the CCF Biennial Inspection by Air Commodore P J Whalley and the Hardyans London Dinner. I look forward to both with great anticipation.

Finally, often in these reports I mention the wind blowing and the rain lashing in from the west. I am pleased to report that as I write we are enjoying the same indian summer as everyone else – it has made the beginning of term a pleasant and surprisingly dry experience.

Dr I E Melvin

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 265446. 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

To : Prof. H. Griffiths, 34 Rochester Square, London, NW1 9RZ

Telephone: (Home) 020 7267 4009 (Office) 020 7679 7310

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.