

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

Newsletter

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Editor : Peter FOSTER.

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

Design, Typing and Preparation : Heather FOSTER

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

visit the website at: www.hardyansclub.com

E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

president@hardyansclub.com

membership@hardyansclub.com

editor@hardyansclub.com

chairman@hardyansclub.com

treasurer@hardyansclub.com

headteacher@hardyansclub.com

secretary@hardyansclub.com

thomashardyeschool@hardyansclub.com

EVENTS DIARY *EVENTS!*

A REMINDER THAT WIVES & PARTNERS ARE MOST WELCOME AT SOCIAL

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 Tuesday 11th November 2003, 10.20am, at the School Gates. See *from the Press Officer* for a report on this and more about the Oak Screen.

LONDON DINNER Please see report by Colin LUCAS report later in this Newsletter.

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 Newsletter Issue 90. Professor Hugh GRIFFITHS will be the Guest Speaker at the Dinner. Booking Form for the Annual Dinner at the end of this newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARDYEAN'S CLUB AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HARDYEAN'S CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

In writing this note in our first Newsletter for 2004, I should like to extend to you all a Happy and successful year with a particular vote of thanks for the support and hard work of all members of our committee, the Trustees, the Head Teacher Dr. Melvin and his staff and all members of the club who have helped us achieve a good year in 2003.

One of the most encouraging aspects of my term in office as your President has been the close relationship with the school and to a degree this has been brought about by the Charitable Association and the objectives to provide support for a deserving student(s) who due to their individual circumstances need that extra financial support to achieve his or her objectives to proceed to University or Higher Education.

During the past three years we have made two individual grants of £500.00 per annum and one grant of £250.00 to two successful candidates for a period of 3 years. The capital in the Trust Fund amounts to circa £30,000, but from our experience the need is such that we would like, with your support, to be in a position to make two or even three more grants available. This will mean that we will need to raise a further £25,000/£30,000.

The method of selection is straight forward. The Head Teacher Dr. Melvin and his senior staff select from their knowledge and circumstances of the student a list of suitable candidates (there were five in 2003) the candidates are interviewed by the Trustees who are provided with C.V.'s and details of their academic achievements and a decision is made and confirmed subject to the candidate achieving the results of his or her summer examinations. In many cases our support will influence the decision on whether the student will proceed to University or Higher Education.

We are appealing to the generosity of past students and old boys who have not yet made a contribution to do so. There is no doubt that we have all derived benefit from our education at the school and my own experience is a typical example. In 1952 I wanted to change my career from that of a Mining Engineer to the Colonial Civil Service in Malaya. I wrote to and received (by return) a reference from my Headmaster, the late R.W. ("Monty") Hill, which stood me in such good stead that I entered my Government Department at a very much higher level than expected and began a most interesting and challenging career for which I personally owe a great debt of gratitude to the school.

From the interviews we, the Trustees, have carried out we can confirm that there is a genuine need for financial assistance in certain cases and I am taking this opportunity to seek your support. Whilst we are actively pursuing other channels of funding, we feel fully justified in appealing to past students of the school for their support to enable us to help the present generation to achieve their objectives.

An application form is attached, please complete the form and return it together with your cheque or bankers order form to the Hon. Treasurer, c/o The Clerk to the Governors, Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester, DT1 2ET. If you are a tax paying individual and would like the Charity to be able to reclaim the tax on your donation (effectively increasing the amount by 28%) please tick the appropriate box. If you are a Limited Company and would like to make a donation under Gift Aid, please gross up your net donation by the basic rate of tax, otherwise deductible (currently 22%) and tick the appropriate box.

Yours sincerely Gordon Crocker

OBITUARY

The late David E PIKE (1918-2003)

As promised in the last Newsletter, David's son Anthony has written from his home on Hayling Island about his late father's life, from early days in Dorchester, wartime experiences, and career in accountancy:

David E. PIKE was born on 22nd December 1918 to Charles and Ellen Pike, the fifth of six brothers. The family moved to Dorchester after the Great War, residing in Savernake House, High West Street. My father's recollections of that time include a meeting between his father and Thomas Hardy on High West St as a young boy. Both Hardy and my grandfather were architects (of different generations, of course).

After completing his schooling at Hardye's School he decided he wanted to become a Chartered Accountant. Unfortunately a 'minor annoyance' as he put it, in the form of the Second World War intervened which delayed his articles by nearly seven years. During the war he was posted to the Royal Artillery and was sent with the BEF to France early in 1940. He was successfully evacuated from Dunkirk and returned to England exhausted but unscathed. He was sent for officer training in East Anglia and then sent to Egypt and Libya under the 8th Army. His stint in North Africa culminated with the battle of El Alamein in October 1942. Shortly afterwards he had to return home after contracting a very severe form of jaundice which nearly killed him. After recovering he rejoined the Army group which had now been sent to Italy. He participated in the landings at Salerno in 1943 and was involved in the bitter fighting around Monte Cassino in the spring of 1944. He finished the war with the rank of Captain and his final posting was to Palestine, where he was assisting the British Government prior to the establishment of the State of Israel. It was apparently very dangerous work!

After the war he resumed his articles, joining Deloitte (Chartered Accountants) and marrying my mother, Betty Victoria Barkworth in 1949. They had one son (me!). In the early 1950's he joined Liberty & Co in Regent St, London, as an assistant accountant. Over the years he rose through the company ranks to Secretary, Financial Director, Deputy Chairman and eventually in 1981 to Chairman. He was the first non-member of the Liberty family to hold the post. He retired in 1984, continuing as a non-executive director for a couple of years thereafter.

In the same year (1984) my parents bought a house on Hayling Island, Hampshire (where my mother had family connections) and lived happily here until my mother's death in May 1995. Among my father's interests were art, music, golf, travel and being a consummate walker. He was the last of the six Pike brothers, Allan Robert dying in September 2001.

YOU WRITE

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

From Tony Ford tony@nrec.com.kw

Stephen Gould's eulogy for Bob King struck a sad chord with me. Bob and I were close friends during my time at Hardyes both in and out of school. I met his parents Max and Peggy in 1985 on a return trip to England although sadly I missed Bob.

Everything that Stephen wrote about Bob was so typical of him and his love for life. I have so many happy memories of our time together.

He was secretary and hooker of the 1st XV in 60 and 61 with Brian Keen and myself in the front row. Peter Lewendon may recall that we must have been the smallest front row in school history. Never to be underrated for his size, Bob took everything that was thrown at him by the usually larger front row opposition and never complained. As Stephen wrote, a real team man and totally reliable.

Bob was a great giver and this is how I would like to remember him. Unselfish to the end, I'm sure, even in the difficult years of ill health.

A credit to his family, Hardyes and Dorset.

FROM THE SECRETARY, COLIN LUCAS

LONDON DINNER 2003

The group from Dorchester was reduced to three (Colin Lucas, John Pearson & Alfred Barrett) owing to the indisposition of Peter Lewendon. Travelling conditions were good and the journey completed in about three hours.

On our arrival at UCL Gower Street security appeared to be more strict than on previous visits and our admittance to entry was questioned by no less than three uniformed officers, either Police or Security Officials. After giving satisfactory details of our visit entry was granted and we were able to park the car in our accustomed area.

On entry into the Main Building we were soon made aware of the reason for such tight security. It was of course the same day as the arrival of President of The United States in London and UCL was one of the assembly points of the Peace Demonstrators! ! We had then to wait until 7.00pm before the Bar area became available. The wait was worthwhile. More dining Members then joined us, together with our Host Hugh Griffiths.

The Menu

Crab mayonnaise with new potato dauphine and a mango and pepper vinaigrette.

Lamb noisettes with a fine ratatouille and an orange honey sauce

Macaire potatoes, yellow squash, broccoli florets and baby carrots.

Grilled peaches with mascarpone.

Coffee

In total we were 18 including our President Gordon Crocker and Headteacher Iain Melvin. As ever we were well wined and dined. The Toast to The School was proposed by Hugh taking the opportunity to congratulate The School on the achievement of Science status.

In replying Dr. Melvin spoke in appreciative terms of the support received from The Club and the close co-operation now prevailing. The excellent standards at the School were being maintained and as recently as the previous week the stone engraved plaque, presented by Clinton Grassby, giving details of the Jacobean Oak Screen had been ceremoniously unveiled.

The President spoke of the disappointment of the poor returns of the interest rates on the Investment Fund and suggested that alternative fundraising schemes should be explored to maintain our programme of Student Funding. The Secretary spoke of the increased costs involved in producing and despatching of the Newsletter and urged that wherever possible email should be used at every opportunity to reduce the costs. The Headteacher agreed to help in this direction with the photocopying.

Those attending George & Sylvia Welch, John & Sheila Stephenson, Gordon & Anne Crocker, Roger Allard, Alfred Barrett, Graeme Brown, Tony Day, George Foley, Douglas Fry, Hugh Griffiths, Tony Holland, Colin Lucas, Iain Melvin, John Pearson, Hugh Owen Reece.

ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM 20TH MARCH 2004

Will be held at the School. Guest Speaker: Professor Hugh Griffiths.

AGM of Hardyans Club Charitable Association 5.00pm and AGM of The Hardyans Club 6.00pm followed by Dinner 7.30pm for 8pm. Cost £10 per head.

Please book early and state dietary requirements **BOOKING FORM AT END OF NEWSLETTER**

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER, MICHEL HOOPER-IMMINS

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Every Remembrance Day, all 2,050 students and 215 staff parade in front of the Thomas Hardy School memorial gates to honour those scholars who gave their lives in war.



It is a respectful tradition inherited from the old Hardy's School, where we too trooped out in all weathers every 11 November at 11 am. I remember once it was snowing, but we still went out to honour the old boys whose names are on the memorial tablets.

Bugler Mark Machin sounded the last post and reveille, as the entire assembly stood in complete silence and these mainly young people who, like me, mercifully know nothing of war, honoured those who made the greatest sacrifice.

Headmaster Iain Melvin was much impressed by his students' conduct and what a credit they are to a fine school. Later I joined other Old Hardyans for a cup of tea. OH President Gordon Crocker, now living in Exmouth and who had been a wartime pupil, talked about the remarkable oak screen that has stood in all three schools, starting at Dorchester Grammar School.

Gordon has discovered that the *San Salvador* was brought into Weymouth in August 1588 from the Spanish armada and that a schoolmaster is recorded as having taken an oak screen and a chest to the grammar school, then in Dorchester's South Street.

Now preserved in the Thomas Hardy School theatre, it is a reminder of a much earlier war in which old boys of the Tudor school would have been involved.



Left to right: David Lacey, Gordon Crocker, John Pearson, Norman Baker, Clinton Grassby, Colin Lucas, John Stephenson, Peter Woods, Peter Lewendon, Tony Day, Norman Brown, Alf Barrett.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Regular readers of my contribution to the Newsletter must become a little bored if not cynical of my constant reporting of achievements by the school.

It is perhaps the sad reality of education today that we are bombarded with statistics and league tables and these are the key criteria upon which we are judged.

It is therefore with apologies(!) that I report that after the publication of the league tables on January 15th the school was first in all the Dorset tables for maintained schools – Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level – and first by some margin. We also exceeded the results of a number of independent schools.

The Government introduced yet another measure this year, the 'Value Added' league table, which is meant to be a fairer indication of the progress of students in a school. Very simply the table measures the progress students have made during their time in the school and their achievement from the age of 14 (Key Stage 3) to GCSE at the age of 16. Obviously this is a more reliable indicator of how much 'education' a school adds to a student.

The Thomas Hardy School was 24th in the national league table. Please take a moment to look at this if you have the opportunity. Not only was the school 24th but in terms of our achievement at Key Stage 3 (which is very high) compared to Key Stage 4, only three schools in the country did better.

This is a wonderful achievement and resulted in a personal letter from the Secretary of State for Education, who obviously took time out from persuading MP's about the merits of Top-Up Fees, and congratulations for all concerned.

I am also pleased to report we have nine students with places at Oxford or Cambridge this year. The best in Dorset and quite remarkable for an all-ability school.

Such results inevitably sustain the popularity of the school and the new Languages Building, which is an indication of that popularity, is beginning to rise out of the ground. Weather permitting we should be using it by the end of May.

Such progress is an indication of a determination to develop and compete with those around us. I make no apology for stating that The Thomas Hardy School is now known nationally for its achievements. The reasons for this are the very hard work of my colleagues and the quality of our students. It is also linked to a tradition that the school sustains, a tradition of excellence and achievement. It is linked to Remembrance Day, the Hardyens determination to help less fortunate students and a maintained connection with the school. It is vital that today's students see the success so many past students have achieved and know they can emulate this.

One of the key traditions is the annual Hardyens Dinner in Dorchester on Saturday March 20th. This year for the first time it will be taking place in the school, which has the advantage of making it a very reasonable price but also giving many of you the opportunity to see our facilities and resources. I would personally like to invite you to the Dinner. Further details and contacts can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter and I do hope you will feel inclined to join your contemporaries and some of our present students on that evening.

Dr I E Melvin

ANNUAL DINNER - SATURDAY 20th MARCH 2004

Will be held at :

The Sixth Form Centre
The Thomas Hardy School
Queen's Avenue
Dorchester

Time : 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Dress: Lounge Suits

Tickets: £10.00 per head, *including sherry reception.*

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a limited bar, but you are welcome to bring your own wine.

The Menu will include Roast Beef and Apple Cake.

Plenty of parking available at the Coburg Road entrance to the School, follow signs to the 'Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre'. The Sixth Form Centre is roughly adjacent to the Leisure Centre.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER that partners are MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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

Please send.....ticket(s) for the 2004 Annual Dinner in the enclosed s.a.e.

Name(s)..... Years at School.....

.....
.....
.....

I enclose £.....(£10.00 per head)
Cheques payable to "Hardyans Club"

Special Dietary Requirements:-

THE HARDYEANS CLUB CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

BANKER'S ORDER/GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete the form (in capitals) and return it to :- Hon Treasurer, c/o Clerk to the Governors, Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester DT1 2ET

Title..... Full Name(s)*.....

(*for Partnerships ticking the Gift Aid declaration box, please enter names of all Partners. Attach a separate piece of paper if necessary)

Address.....

Post Code..... Date.....

Gift Aid Declaration - (Please tick the box if you are a taxpayer or Limited Company):-

INDIVIDUALS - I wish the Hardyans Club Charitable Association (Charity No 1082237) to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 6 April 2002 and until I notify you otherwise

LIMITED COMPANIES - I wish my donation to be treated as a donation under Gift Aid and have grossed up the net amount by Basic Rate Tax

Single Donation - I enclose a donation of £.....

Regular Donation - Banker's Order

To: The Manager.....Bank plc/Building Society

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Account No..... Branch Sort Code.....

Reference (if required).....

Please pay to the Hardyans Club Charitable Trust the sum of £.....starting on the.....day

of.....20.....and at monthly/quarterly/annual* intervals until further notice.

(*delete as required)

Signature of Donor.....

(Information for Bank : please pay Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 1 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UG (Sort Code 30-92-69) to the credit of the Hardyans Club Charitable Association (Registered Charity No 1082237) Account No 00761599).

Notes

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying The Hardyans Club Charitable Association
2. You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Hardyans Club Charitable Association reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give)
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (See Note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return.
5. Please notify The Hardyans Club Charitable Association if you change your name or address.
6. Your name and personal details will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Thank you for your donation which will greatly assist former students of the School in their further education