

The Hardyens' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

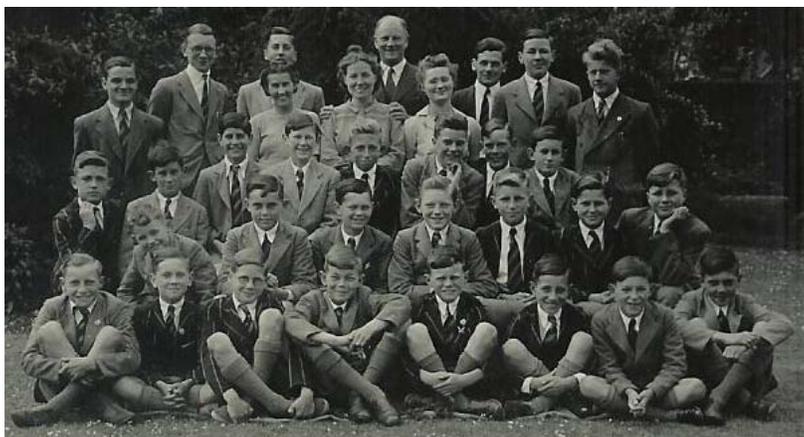
Newsletter

Autumn 2007 : Issue 103

Published Winter, Spring and Autumn

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

Southfield 1947 : see You Write



For recent news of achievements by students at the present school, the Dorset Echo has reports of the July 2007 Prizegiving. If you have internet access, the online archive link is:

<http://archive.dorsetecho.co.uk/2007/7/4/127050.htm>

Also have a look at the school website:

<http://www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk/>

Hardyens' Club Information

President Hugh GRIFFITHS

Chairman A R (Bob) RENCH

Hon Secretary Tony DAY (tel 01305 266095)

Hon Membership Secretary Peter POWELL, 3
Durngate St., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JP (tel 01305
264420)

Hon Treasurer (Acting) Colin LUCAS

Hon Press Officer Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

Hardyens' Club Website

Visit the website at: www.hardyensclub.com

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Hardyens' Club Newsletter

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Copy deadline for Issue 104 15th December 2007

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LONDON DINNER : Tuesday 13th November at Lords. Booking form page 7.... *TIME RUNNING OUT !*

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Thursday 20th December 2007 at the Conservative Club, South Walks, 12.30 for 1pm. £12 per head. Wives and Partners welcome as always. Peter Lewendon advises that you may book in advance, with your remittance to him, by cheque made payable to the Dorchester Conservative Club. Seating limited to 60

ARMISTICE DAY: will be observed Friday 9th November, 10.30am at the School Gates, Queens Avenue.

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 !!
The next Gourmet Lunch is on Thursday 25 October. when the menu will be: Cream of asparagus soup; Fillet of Dover Sole Ostendoise : Gammon with egg and pineapple; Raspberry Pavlova : Cheeseboard and Port

ADVANCE NOTICE - 2008 ANNUAL DINNER and AGM's: for both Club and Charitable Association are due to be held on Saturday 15th March 2008, beginning at 5.30pm, at the Sixth Form Centre, Thomas Hardy School (Coburg Road entrance).

SOUTHFIELD HOUSE REUNION

Chris Etherington, John Saville and Godfrey Lancashire are arranging a reunion dinner of Southfielders on 9th July 2008 at the King's Arms Hotel Dorchester. The cost is £50.00 per head, to include a multitude of goodies. There will be a full day of activity, including a tour of the 'new' Thomas Hardy School. This is an **all male** occasion.

28 former inmates have already been contacted and have indicated their interest. Contact has been made using details held by the Old Hardyans Club, others by networking or by pure detective work. However, there will be many who do not belong to the club but do keep up with gossip through the website – if you are one of those (or if you know of any others) and would like to join us, please contact Chris by email at cretherington@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

Editor: Following correspondence in the previous newsletter concerning a reunion of ex-Southfield pupils organised by Chris Etherington and John Savile, the front page picture of 1947 inmates of Southfield was forwarded by John MATHEWS (Southfield House 1944-51) john@vistawix.fsnet.co.uk
John "Jammy" Mathews is third from the right in the front row!

OBITUARIES forwarded by Colin Lucas

Too late for the last Newsletter we learned of the passing of one of our young lady members, **Mary K.WATMORE**, nee Keats. She attended the School during the transitional period 1988-93. She trained as a Nursery Nurse at Weymouth College and took a B.A. degree in Early Years Education at the University of Chichester 2002.

It was discovered in 2000 that she had a brain tumour and she had two operations and chemotherapy.. She married Chris Watmore in 2004. She was the daughter of Mrs E.M. Keats, a Trustee of our Charity Association. Our condolences were sent.

I also am saddened to report the passing of **Tony (Slim) HEWITT**. Characters like Tony are indeed rare. He came to the School during the war years, having been born in London. He was a good sportsman, running & rugby in particular. Did service with the Royal Tank Regiment and was a regular on the Nijmegen march. He always had the ability to tell a good

tale and to reminisce with his army and school friends, A more 'hail fellow and well met' you could not wish to meet. He had a smile on his face and a tale to tell. My privilege was knowing him. God Bless, Tony. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Sonia and daughter Louise.

And via Secretary, Tony Day

R. K. WOOD attended Dorchester Grammar School from 1924 – 1931. His death was advised by his son via email in [June](#).

As always, the Club extends sincere condolences to family and friends of the above

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Alan and Diana King advise they have moved (May 2007) from Torquay to 6 Brockhurst Park, Marldon, Paignton, Devon TQ3 1LB. No email address.

YOU WRITE

Chris ETHERINGTON <cretherington@tiscali.co.uk>

Thanks for passing on my last plea for Southfielders – it produced a mass of emails from well-remembered OBs many of whom were not Southfielders or even boarders, however it was interesting to make contact with long forgotten names.

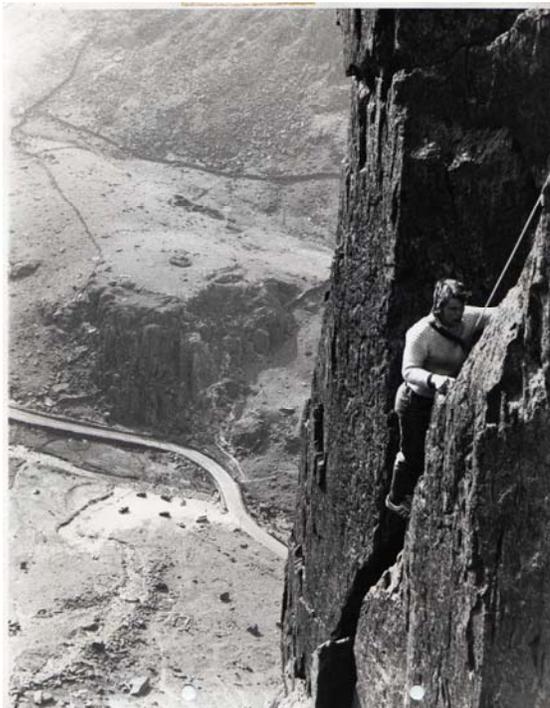
We are now up to about 28 genuine Southfielders but there are a great number still not accounted for. Could you please circulate the following text on the OH website or by whatever means you think appropriate.

Best wishes
Chris

From Andrew MacTavish <ajmactavish@tiscali.co.uk>

Many thanks for the Newsletter. Before I forget, I attach a photo which may interest you. I took it at a CCF Adventurous Training Camp in Snowdonia in April 1974 (I think). It is of a climber on Flying Buttress in the Idwal Valley. The date shows, as the climber is not wearing a helmet - they became compulsory a few years later. He is looking rather thoughtful as I had led the climb, brought him up to that point, then tied the rope off so that I could move round and take the photo. His position was not comfortable.

Andrew MacTavish
Erstwhile Captain, Hardye's School CCF



PS Oh yes, I nearly forgot. The climber's name is Hugh Griffiths. I wonder what became of him.

From Nigel NEWBERY - REUNION CLASSES OF 1952, 1953 and 1954

On 12th May forty-four old friends met at Dorchester Rugby Club (22 from 1952, 16 from 1953 and 6 from 1954) along with thirty wives. Many had travelled a long way to be there, some staying overnight in the town including those who had flown in from America, Germany and Cyprus. Many of us had not met up since we left around 1959/1960 and after demolishing a splendid buffet we spent a delightful afternoon meeting wives, catching up on lives and careers and of course reminiscing. Amongst many stories there were tales of boys blowing down gas pipes to put out Bunsen burners in the Physics Lab, cabinets being propped open in the Chemistry Lab to ensure unspeakable smells escaped, latrines at

Army camps (don't ask!) and identification of those boys who gathered for a crafty cigarette behind the rifle range.

Two wore their old school caps and at least one old school tie was proudly worn. A 1959 Athletics Day programme was

of great interest to old track rivals Tony Barber and Roger Taunton-Rigby who were meeting for the first time in nearly 50 years. Some brought along memorabilia and old photographs, many of which are now on Graham Allen's website which can be found at: <http://tinyurl.co./32e4or> This site is well worth a visit as, apart from scores of photographs, it now includes a six minute film, taken at the school in the late 1940's, which features teachers 'Steamboat' Steemson, 'Ticker' Cole and 'Duchess' Hill.



Around four o'clock it was time to break up the party but many old friendships had been renewed and we resolved to do it all again next year on **Saturday 10th May 2008 at Dorchester Rugby Club.**

First Photo, 1952 Back Row – Denis Howe, Bryan Stanley, Roger Newton, Eric Church, Paul Handley, Frank Bowering, Mike Snelling, Nick Hibbard, Andrew Nickell, Roger Dawe, Geoff Standring, Rodney Middle, George Vincent, Jimmy Robertson. **Front Row** – Ron Cave, Mike Thomas, Richard Cole, Roger Taunton-Rigby, Richard Loveys, Bob Rench. **Missing from photo** – Dave Moxom, Derek Pride, Stuart Turner



Second Photo, 1953 & 1954 Back Row – John Pearson, Jack Crewe, Tom Worthington, John Hunt, Tony Barber, Alan Damen, Roger Newton, Geoff Hunter, John Sonley, Richard Sams, Geoff Standring, Robin Miller, Mick Humphrey, Chris Nother, Mike James. **Front Row** – Geoff Moffatt, Tony Williams, Nigel Newbery, Nick Prideaux, Peter Lewendon. **Missing from photo** - Tony Evans, Malcolm Freeth, Ian Taylor, Pat Bell, Tony Davis, Tony Ford

From Michael STABLER mike.j.stabler@btinternet.com

I was at Dorchester Grammar School, as it then was, under Ralph Hill, between 1945 and 1953. I will not bore you with a fairly chequered start to my working life but in due course, as a mature student of 31 obtained a joint honours degree at Southampton University in Economics, Statistics and Sociology and subsequently became a lecturer at The University of Reading in the Economics Department, retiring in 1997. I am still actively engaged with academic life as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in what is now The Business School at the same university.

I am married, my wife being an MA graduate of St Andrews. I have two daughters who followed both parents in gaining honours degrees at Edinburgh and Nottingham respectively.

I was reminded very much of my days at the school when a member of my family, who still lives in South Dorset, sent me a cutting of photographs containing many of my contemporaries.

I hope that this email will allow you to include me in the list of ex pupils to whom you send news of the school and Old Hardyeans.

Yours sincerely
Mike Stabler

From Judith WARDLAW

I have recently been appointed as Industry Partnership Development Manager at The Thomas Hardy School following a career combining scientific research for the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Dorset with science in society outreach and schools/student liaison roles.

My association with Thomas Hardy School dates back to the year in which the Dorchester upper schools joined forces and my eldest of my three children arrived at Portocabin city; they all benefited from an excellent education! Over the intervening years, many incredible changes have taken place and I had the pleasure of working with many students and teachers from this school on various productive scientific initiatives whilst at CEH. This post offers me a great opportunity and challenge to build on existing partnerships and to develop new ones designed to enhance the Science College. I intend to forge links between Thomas Hardy (and its many partner schools and colleges) and "industry" - not exclusively manufacturing and commercial, but including ngos, charities, research organisations, government departments, academia etc - to develop curricular, extra-curricular and cross-curricular opportunities. There are many advantageous schemes available to schools which may provide opportunities for joint ventures with scientific organisations and their ambassadors e.g. Royal Society Partnerships, Greenpower Car Challenge; offers of mentoring and personal help will also be appreciated.

To help me to achieve a range of goals, I would be very pleased to hear from any Governor, Trustee or Hardyean who might be a representative of an organisation which has a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths focus or who knows of anyone who might enjoy contributing their time and expertise to the school. All offers of information, ideas or help will be considered carefully; events, projects or opportunities will evolve and you may hear from me sooner or later as developments take place! As the school is now breaking up for the summer holiday, I am sending this out at a time when I will not be able to reply immediately to any offer that you might make but I will do so in due course and will be pleased to hear from you at any time over the coming year!

Judith Wardlaw

From Simon WINCHESTER

I seem to have fallen out of touch. I would like both to join the Club and begin to bring things up to date. Very basically, I live in America (a farm in the Berkshire hills of western Massachusetts and a flat on West 17th Street in Manhattan) and I write books. My publisher maintains a website for me www.simonwinchester.com I have recently married, for the third time, to Setsuko Sato, a producer at National Public Radio. Last year I received an OBE. If there's anything more you would like to know, please do drop me a line.

With best wishes,
Simon Winchester (Heathcote House, Hardy's, 1955-1962)

CRICKET MATCH - CLUB v THE SCHOOL from Colin LUCAS

For the first time, that I can recall, the annual cricket match Club versus the School was abandoned at tea due to the inclement weather prevailing at that time. It was not our decision but that of the groundsman who had to consider other matches to be played later that week. However the match was commenced. The Club batted first and a very solid start was made by the openers Lee Ames (21) & Peter Moxom (27) against some good and spirited bowling by the School. Lee Ames was first to be dismissed LBW to G Stickland, having seen off the opening attack of Mitchem and King. Peter Moxom followed being caught deep in the field after hooking a good delivery from Kellaway.

Richards & Bennett added 15 or so runs when a sharp shower halted the proceedings, and tea was taken. After tea more rain!!! It must be said that the general opinion was that this was the best school side the club had opposed in recent years, the fielding was certainly the best by far for many years. The talent of the 'Old Boys' was well contained and perhaps the rain did the Club side a good turn. It was discovered later that the school side was the team going to the West Indies in October.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Hardyean's may have already heard that I will be leaving the school at the end of this academic year. After twenty years I believe that both I and the school are ready for a new challenge. I am quite sure that Hardyean's will play a part in the next phase of development and success.

There is a substantial period of time before my departure and I trust there will be an opportunity to say goodbye to those who have been so instrumental in connecting the Club to the school and offering both remarkable and consistent support. In the meantime life and the school goes on.

Results this year were as good as ever and our GCSE and A Level results were 28th and 48th respectively in The Guardian league table of Comprehensive Schools.

At A Level these were our best results ever with an A – C pass rate of 77.1%, 4.3% above the national average. Once again Mathematics led the way with 50 A grades. This is a remarkable result and certainly bucks the trend in terms of national expectations and outcomes. Similar levels of quality were achieved in Electronics, Physics, Chemistry and English.

Our 5A* - C GCSE pass rate was 79%, a decline of 2% from 2006. There were 140 A*/A grades in Mathematics and similar numbers in History and English Literature. Our drop of 2% is no cause for alarm and looking into the crystal ball I am reasonably confident in predicting a figure of 83%+ next year which would be a very pleasing outcome.

Students in both the sixth form and Year 11 figured in the top 5 results in the country. Two female students gained top five marks in Politics and eighteen students in Year 11 gained similar accolades in English, Mathematics or Religious Education. For the first time a group of student undertook French GCSE a year early – a high ability group – six of them achieved the top mark in the UK – hence my optimism regarding our results next year.

A satisfactory if not spectacular (in our terms) set of results. Well above national averages of course, but we will do much better this year.

The new year has started well, the new sports hall and resources centre are about to open, both would grace any institution and we look forward to the new swimming pool. We have 2350 students – a record – and a positive view of the future.

As ever I thank you for your support and interest in the school.

Dr I E Melvin

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

THE OLD HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2008

PROPOSED MENU

Rich Game Soup
Braised beef in red wine sauce with button mushrooms
Served with green beans, garden peas, carrots and creamed mashed potato
Sherry Trifle
Tea or coffee

LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

LONDON DINNER 13th November 2007 At LORDS.

Godfrey Lancashire has made a provisional booking at **Lords Cricket Ground** . Numbers are restricted to 48. Transport will leave Dorchester at 3pm. Please book ***NOW*** so as not to be disappointed. Anticipated cost £50.00 per person. Extras include a guided tour of the Museum etc, depending on numbers and timing. Dinner will be 7 for 7.30pm. Please intimate your requirements.

Name.....

Tour (extra)..... Dinner Only £50.00.....Transport required.....

Please forward booking form and cheque to:

Colin Lucas, Treasurer
4 Fir Tree Close
Dorchester
DT1 2 PY

Phone no for further details:01305 265446
Please enclose stamped addressed envelope