

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

Newsletter

Winter 2010 : Issue 110

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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

EMINENT DNA SCIENTIST NAMED AS OLD HARDYEANS GUEST SPEAKER

DNA scientist Dr. Terry Brown is to be the guest speaker at the Old Hardyans annual dinner on Saturday 20 March, held again this year at Thomas Hardye School's Sixth Form Centre in Dorchester. Terry Brown BSc PhD FSA became Professor of Bimolecular Archaeology at the University of Manchester in 2000- the study of DNA from archaeological specimens such as bones. Born at Charminster, near Dorchester, he today lives at Glossop, on the edge of the Derbyshire Peak District. Elder brother Alan is also an Old Hardyean, a retired schoolmaster living in Bournemouth, at Hardye's School from 1957 to 1964.

Leaving Hardye's School in 1971, Terry Brown read microbiology at Queen Elizabeth College in London and then undertook his PhD at University College, London. Terry married Swansea-born Keri and they moved to New York for three years, undertaking research on plant biochemistry. He joined Manchester University in 1981 and has been there ever since - previously not having been north of Watford! Keri Brown is an archaeologist and it was through her that Terry became interested in archaeological DNA. For the last 20 years they've worked together - Keri doing the laboratory work and Terry applying for the money to finance the research all over the world. He has written a number of undergraduate textbooks.

"I became interested in ancient DNA and became one of the first scientists internationally to carry out DNA extractions on bones and preserved plant remains," remembers Terry. "This work has required close collaboration with archaeologists in Manchester and elsewhere, leading to my current interests in the origins of agriculture, genetic profiling of archaeological skeletons and the evolution of disease."

Terry Brown passed the eleven-plus a year early and so was ten years old when he arrived at Hardye's in 1964 as the smallest boy in the school! "I spent a lot of time trying to get into the cricket first XI, but only ever played one game for the seconds, which we won. I avoided getting into the cross-country team, as I was quite good at jogging along- the story of my life! On games afternoon, I had to slow down on the run home from Pigswill Hill to avoid being in the top ten and being 'invited' to do cross-country again on Saturday afternoon."

Terry's best memories are of the school's go-karting club, which he enjoyed for five or six years after school at Wollaston House and then on Saturdays at the Clay Pigeon. "I was never a great academic, starting in 2B and never challenging for promotion to the A stream. I did come top in Latin in 3B and this meant I was initially not allowed to do biology when we moved up to the Main School - you had to do one or the other - biology was thought to be for dunderheads. My father complained and won the day. I became fascinated with the natural world when I was very young and always wanted to do biology research. John 'Prickles' Hawthorne was a huge influence in helping me fulfil my academic ambitions."

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REMEMBRANCE THEN AND NOW

by Michel Hooper-Immins

Every year the Old Hardyans are invited at 11am on Remembrance Day to join in the Act of Remembrance in front of the memorial gates at Thomas Hardye School. About 20 of us stand in a privileged position to the right of the gates and are invited to tea afterwards by the Headmaster.

From about 10.45am, silent lines of students and teachers file out to take their places outside the gates. The Army and Air Force CCF contingent marches up Queens Avenue to face the school. It never fails to impress me that some 2,200 students fall silent in respect to those Old Hardyans who died in their country's service. Four students read the names of the old boys and bugler Rob Oakley sounds the last post. Tony Moore, Head of the Sixth Form, reads the Kohima Declaration and Headmaster Dr Iain Melvin OBE thanks the students for their respect.

As students start to file back into the School, the gates and stone pillars remind them of the purpose of the Act of Remembrance- "to the glory of God and in memory of the boys of the School who gave their lives in war to preserve our heritage," as it says on one pillar.

Every year, my mind drifts back to my days at Hardye's School, 51 years ago. We too paid tribute every year on 11 November, although we were much smaller in numbers - around 750 in my day. I arrived at the senior school in 1960 and that November, participated in only the fourth Act of Remembrance since the gates were dedicated in 1957. In 1960 it snowed during the tribute, the only time in my five years at the senior school.

Fifty years ago, World War II was fresh in many minds. My late father had landed on Sword Beach on D-Day plus One in 1944 and all parents would have vivid memories of wartime. We are lucky, we have never had to go to war and that is certainly our good fortune.

Today's Thomas Hardye School students are briefed on the Act of Remembrance. Like me they have not been called on to join the services, although modern conflicts in far-off places may one day change that.

The handsome memorial gates outside Thomas Hardye School had been moved from Hardye's School in Culliford Road. They had originally been dedicated on 15 July 1957. Each pillar has the historic crest of the School and a wyvern, carved by Ken Batty, art master during my years at Hardye's.

With the oak screen and the memorial boards, the gates and pillars are the timeless links between the old and the new schools. We Old Hardyens are the living link, supporting Thomas Hardye School which has continued as a centre of learning excellence under Dr. Iain Melvin, who I am delighted is to stay on to guide the fortunes of "our" school. OFSTED inspectors will be searching their dictionaries for yet more superlatives for some years to come.



Left to right: Dr. Iain Melvin OBE [Headmaster,] Tony Moore [Head of Sixth Form,] Jenny Stuart-Smith, Milo Blass-Laker, Douglas Mair, Agnetta Bodine.

To the far right is Old Hardyens Past President Captain John Pearson, about to lay the Hardyens Club wreath.

Below: Emma Ruminski films for the BBC evening news as the parade falls silent at the last post.



Hardyans' Club Information

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From the AGM - Alan BROWN

Hardyans' Club Newsletter

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Also have a look at the school website: <http://www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk/>

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Last Thursday of the month, except December, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. Please contact Colin LUCAS if you intend to come (Tel: 01305 265446)

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

LONDON DINNER : took place at Twickenham on **6th November 2009**. Please see report from Colin LUCAS

ANNUAL DINNER & AGM for the Club and Charitable Association : 20th March 2010 at the School 6th Form Centre 6.30pm start (Charitable Assn AGM), 7.00pm (Club AGM) Please see booking form and Dinner menu later in this edition

CLASS OF '58 NEWS

Twelve Old Hardyans, who all started at Hardy's School in 1958, met for their annual reunion at the Nothe Tavern in Weymouth at the beginning of December. The event was organised by Colin Smith, seated centre.



From Colin LUCAS Annual London Dinner.

The 2009 London Dinner selected as its venue RFU Headquarters Twickenham. We anticipated that perhaps 60 members would take advantage of this important venue, however only 32 members responded and so for the first time a loss was made on the event. That is not to say that the event was not enjoyed by those who had attended. It was an excellent evenings entertainment, with talks and illustrations of the world of Rugby Union Football. Phillip Hewett recalled being at Oxford University with a former President of The Rugby Football Union. Members also recalled the regular visits made by the school to watch Varsity matches and important Internationals and what today we would call Premier team games. Strictly amateur ,of course.!!

Sadly it was noted that the Headteacher and Mrs Melvin had not joined the group. After waiting a while the President agreed with the Officials that the tour should be divided into two groups in order to complete the tours prior to Dinner. The tours took about three quarters of an hour and pre dinner drinks had been arranged in the ante room of The President's Suite.

The menu was superb the starter was a Sea Bass fish cake on wilted spinach and a choron sauce, followed by Fillet of beef with artichoke and truffle compote, buttered asparagus and a rich red wine glaze. The dessert of Brioche bread and butter pudding with prune and Armagnac ice cream. This menu was only excelled by the attentive service of the waiting staff who dispensed wine as appropriate. We were of course on our best behaviour.

It was only at the conclusion of the event that mobile phones were switched on and Godfrey Lancashire had received a pleading message from the Headteacher with a photograph standing alongside the mini bus from Dorchester in the Stadium car park.

The message read 'I am here'. Concise but meaningful. !! It was then revealed that as soon as the group had started the tours security took over. Mobile phones were switched off, external doors locked and security staff dismissed to other duties. Our apologies and sympathy go out to Iain and Jan for this oversight, of which we were totally unaware until after our return to Dorchester. We did however register a complaint to the Stadium Authorities in the hope that an apology and explanation would be forthcoming. However apart from the aforementioned, a first class visit was recorded by all those attending with grateful thanks to our Secretary Tony for driving the Mini Bus

Christmas Lunch. 34 members met at the Conservative Club for the Annual Festive lunch. Although several changes have taken place at the Conservative Club, the newly appointed catering staff did not let us down and served a delicious festive lunch with all the trimmings. It was an opportune time for Alan Brown to demonstrate his fiscal skills in taking charge of arrangements and seeing that the fare was suitably paid for. Alan will be taking over from Colin as Treasurer at the AGM in March. The Conservative Club will continue to be the venue for our Monthly lunches.

News. The next Newsletter (Spring Edition) will be heralding the appointment of the new Club President. Michel Hooper-Immins. I feel I must say a few words of grateful thanks to our out-going President, Hugh Griffiths, who has given us stalwart leadership and support during his 3 year term of office and not only to the Club but also to The School which he regularly visits. All this on top of his work at University College London and his many years of arranging the London Dinner. Michel our President elect is well known in Dorset since his return from the Midlands. He is the Secretary of the Weymouth & Portland Chamber of Commerce, Publicity Officer for The Society of Dorset Men, Public Relations Officer for our Club and has worked tremendously hard to advertise our commitment to the School and the Community. He was recently appointed to The Dorchester County Hospital Governing Board. We look forward to seeing him at the helm of our Club for the next 3 years. The support he and his wife Joan have given to the Club is much appreciated. The Annual General Meetings of the Hardyans Club and the Hardyans Club Charitable Association will take place at the School immediately preceding the Annual Dinner on 20th March 2010.

Members are reminded that legacies are a very valuable way of supporting the aims of the Hardyans' Charitable Association.

You Write Thanks to Chairman & Membership Secretary Bob Rench and Secretary Tony Day for forwarding some of these

Howard (Greg) GREGORY (1959-63) 24 Bedford Road South, Poole, Dorset BH12 4PR Tel: 01202 744406
I read with great interest the letter from Colin Norman, (Issue 109) " Old Masters". Mention of Mr Bert Cruse, triggered fond memories. I left school in 1963; due to effects of family illness I underachieved and left with nothing. I then embarked on a working career in horticulture. Progressing reasonably well, I was able to effect a career-change in the early 80's, into what is somewhat grandly called Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, and off I went to teacher training and other related courses, which culminated in me becoming a teacher in post-16's Special Needs Education. But first, Mr Cruse. He was a born teacher, loved his subject and communicated the love of his subject and of learning, hence his enormous popularity. His dodge, quite simply, was to teach you without you really realising it - until he had !

(contd)

I have a particularly vivid memory of the entire class on their feet singing in French at the top of our voices, whilst Mr Maestro Cruse stood in the middle, singing with us, and banging the floor with his walking stick to keep time. Occasionally a red face would appear around the door to voice indignation, but it did no good. We carried right on. I've forgotten the songs, but thanks to him I can still make out in French. He was a master of observation and of timing. He went at your pace and gently brought you up to his.

Back to teacher training. After the basic introductory stuff and basic theory, we were invited to think of our own schooldays, and of best and worse teachers we'd experienced; then to analyse both. Top of my list - Mr Cruse ! Who by which time had sprouted wings and a halo. To this day I model myself on him. I have worked with students of all types, of very mixed abilities. I expanded my studies to take in those with dyslexia, ADHD, dyspraxia. Nearly all of them have one thing in common - they don't want to be there. You have to get them through their bad memories of previous education, of teachers whose attitude has caused damage. The "Cruse approach" works. Sir, when I finally arrive in the Eternal Staff Room in the sky, I'll have several pints waiting for you.

And the worst one ? Also an Hardyean who shall remain nameless. He knows my opinion of him - I told him years ago. His method was simple, cast pearls of wisdom at the feet of swine, and humiliate those who didn't understand. They're still out there. You'll find many of their victims in Horticultural Therapy projects.

Close second to Mr Cruse was Maths teacher Mr Sanders. He was a sandy-haired, cheerful man whose basic tools of trade was a piece of chalk with a piece of string attached, thus the affectionate name "Sandy String". His other weapon of war was a large wooden hollow triangle. Thus equipped he would as if by magic, produce on that blackboard (we could call it that in those pre-PC days!) the most wonderful diagrams which would de-mystify geometric problems instantly. He could produce capable Maths students out of the hat with an accomplished skill which would have pleased Paul Daniels. (Who needs a computer ?)

And who could forget the woodwork teacher, everyone's uncle, Mr "Jake" Westlake ("by the way, look") ? I can still saw my fingers half off if I really try, but Mr Westlake did his best ! Not his fault I'm a left-handed idiot.

Those three between them served me well in my career, such as it was. Nowadays I've taken early retirement to be a carer. I'm still volunteering forty-two years on in various things, and chasing steam locomotives over most of the UK. My best wishes to all

Greg GREGORY

[Editor:- re your attached note, Greg, it's possible we may have met on one of the specials from Wareham or Weymouth to Waterloo and back a few years ago. Heather and I were assisting the on-train staff with stewarding duties, and we can be found regularly on the Swanage Railway doing volunteer platform duty]

Bob RENCH, Membership Secretary, forwarded the following from **Philip Mackie** who got married recently and is in the process of moving from Melksham to Potterne Wick nr Devizes.



With best wishes

Philip

Philip Mackie

Media & Publications Manager

Aster Group

Tel: 01380 735317 (direct)

Attached is a photo taken on my wedding day on 22nd August, from left to right are: Mike Budden, Steve Franklin, Philip Mackie and Nick McKnight. All Old Hardyens who left between 1975 and 1977. I'd not seen Mike in about 25 years. Steve who is a Padre in the Army I have seen on a fairly regular basis over the years and I am Godfather to Nick's son William. Alistair Rigger – my oldest friend from Sunninghill Prep days and Hardy's – was also at the wedding but had to leave early. It was unfortunate that Al wasn't around for the photo.

I noticed Hugh Griffiths on the front page of the web site. Hugh and his brothers also went to Sunninghill and Hardy's.

From the web site I couldn't see how to reach Peter Foster by email so perhaps you would be so kind as to forward the photo and details on to him?

*The following article appeared on the Dorset Echo's website in September 2009 and was forwarded by **Simon Frampton** to Press Officer Michel Hooper-Immins*

Knight honours stalwart Sibley

John SIBLEY has been recognised by former England batsman Nick Knight for outstanding services to grassroots cricket.

Sibley, who has worked with Dorset squads as well as both district and club sides, was presented with a coaching certificate at the recent ODI between England and Australia at the Brit Oval.

The ECB's 'Reward and Recognition Scheme' is acknowledging more than 100 coaches from across the country as part of their Coach Education Programme.

Sibley was chosen for his ability to get players of all ages and capabilities to respond to him, as well as his popularity among players.

His illustrious record culminated in his under -13 team reaching the national ECB finals, while his unassuming technique allows players to thrive without feeling intimidated.

Sibley said: "The help from the ECB and Sky Sports over the last couple of years has been fantastic. They have hugely helped the development of the cricket in Dorset and the surrounding district."

The programme aims to attract and train coaches at all levels of the game in England and Wales, from schools cricket to the international arena. Since the beginning of Sky's sponsorship in 2006, nearly 13,000 coaches have gone through the scheme – more than double the original target and for every professional cricketer in England and Wales, there are now over 60 grassroots coaches.

Bob MENZIES has written via John Stephenson about a successful if traumatic removal from Zimbabwe to Australia

BORROWDALE (Zimbabwe) to BUNBURY(Western Australia): AN AUTUMNAL ODYSSEY.

After our return from a visit to Western Australia during 2007/8 we pondered upon warm invitations and encouragement to migrate to that country. Finally in early 2009 we decided that our closing years should be spent there rather than struggle with the exigencies of an existence in an already ruined country sliding yet further into disarray and disrepute. So in March 2009 we finally sold our house in Borrowdale. It was a momentous decision in the unhappy circumstance of a 25% fall in house prices over the preceding six months. However there were some circumstances which were favourable - a lawyer friend who handled the conveyancing, an agent he recommended who we found trustworthy, and an easing in currency restrictions

Then two months to vacate our home where we had lived for well over a quarter of a century. It was a disastrous, traumatic, not to say devastating experience. The slick, efficient, and ever charming performance of the auctioneers who arranged the sale of the contents of the house concealed the reality of the process we had to endure. We had fallen amongst predators who each in their own way sought to pick the body of our goods and chattels to satisfy their greedy appetites for personal gain. In summary the auction realized something less than 2% of replacement value.

During this agonizing process we relied greatly upon the comfort and real assistance from our family - ever present support from Lyn and Graham in Borrowdale, and latterly Kenny, and remotely from Duncan, and Lynette, Hilton and Cathy in Dalyellup (suburb of Bunbury in W.A.)

We left Zimbabwe on June 5th. arriving in Perth on 6th to be met by Duncan, Lynette and David, now grown taller but as cheerful and welcoming as ever. After a rather unsatisfactory journey with South African Airways it was a relief to see their smiling faces, and to be driven southwards through the countryside to their new home some 180 kms away in Dalyellup to be met by Cathy and her two delightful little boys.

At that point in the story we were very tired, very stressed from our experiences in departing from Zimbabwe and in need of a period of recuperation. Indeed it was our good fortune to be so well looked after by our children for the next two or three months. Nevertheless we could not extend that recuperation beyond a reasonable limit and so we started to look around for accommodation.

We had put our names down at one old age complex when we were here in 2007 but a follow up visit indicated that there would be little chance of a vacancy within the foreseeable future. So we cast about and by chance we were incredibly lucky to secure accommodation in another complex where we are now - Elanora Villas.

We are now in occupation of a small one bedroom "Unit" (Bedroom, bathroom with shower only, lounge cum dining room, and a small well designed kitchen, plus a little verandah which we have adapted into the "study") Cost wise the terms are favourable. It is within 500 metres of the sea where I can walk along the beach as far as I want. Shops are not too far away and bus services are available. (I have deemed it unsuitable to secure an Aussie driving licence for the short time ahead before my eyesight proves too much of a liability and it would not be wise for Jean to drive here owing to eye problems)

We enlisted the services of an Immigration Agent and with his good help and advice we have been issued with a "Bridging Visa". To explain - we travelled to Australia on an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority issued to persons wishing to holiday in Australia.) Once here we applied for a Permanent Residence Permit for "Aged Parents". That application has

been received_and deemed satisfactory to the point that in due course it will be formally considered. The "Bridging Visa" will cover us indefinitely until a Permanent Residence permit is issued. This is expected to take anything from eight to ten years!!!! !

A major disappointment is that the national social welfare organization for medical cover (" Medicare") has withdrawn our coverage and so we have had to join a private organization, which is an unforeseen expense.

We have joined the Bunbury Bridge Club - a very friendly organization - and played in our first Western Australia Championships. The speed of play was right up to and almost beyond our capacity but we did not come last in the lists so far posted on the boards!

We opened a banking account when we were here in 2007 and so we were able to extend our use of that facility on our return. We have found the services offered very helpful and the staff ever ready to oblige where they can. What a change from the incompetent and devious service we had grown used to in Zimbabwe!

So taken all in all, we have, with the one exception, been very fortunate in making a start to our new life in Western Australia. Cardinal to this happy situation is the support we have received from family firstly at the general level of encouragement and advice from the very beginning even when we were investigating possibilities during our stay in Geraldton (2007) but more specifically in subsequent instances of individual acts of direct help in one circumstance after another. We are so very well blessed in our children.

We have been discreetly welcomed into our new community at Elanora Villas as the new and charming young couple who have taken up occupation of No.46 !!!!! We now have to make a success of our new home, details of which are :

Unit 46. Elanora Villas, 37, Hastie Street, Bunbury. Post Code 6230, Western Australia,

Telephone 0897912181 email bobajan@bigpond.com

Bob and Jean 15.09.09.

From: Frank SOUTHERINGTON <frank@southerington.com>

Subject: 'W. G. Morris, October-December 1957'

Richard Cousins wrote to ask about W.G. Morris, who was invented in 1957. I suppose that, in a way, I am his father, together with several others: the late Geoff (Egbert) Moore, the late (Rev) Martin Garner, Dick Cleall, Graham Stansfield, and several others, I think, whose names I am embarrassed not to recall. We discovered that headmaster A.N. Hamilton was not good with names, and decided to offer him a distinguished non-existent student. I set things in motion by calling the Head to tell him that "young Walter" would be returning to school after his successful operation. When Mr Hamilton supposed that Walter

would be off-games I replied that No, he had been encouraged to resume his cross-country running. When I said that I was sure the Head would remember how much Walter loved running, Mr. Hamilton replied, "Oh Yes, I remember his fine finishes." We knew that we had a winner. We managed to plant an "official" student record in the school secretary's office, and in the next month or two Morris did very well in cross-country events, all faithfully reported at morning assemblies, and managed a few academic distinctions as well. Some of the teachers had their suspicions, and we overheard one attempting to convince his colleagues in the staff room that there was a plot to convince them that Morris did NOT exist. We also had a "plant" in the staff room who knew that Morris was a fake but helped us maintain the fiction. I am almost ashamed that I cannot remember now who he was. Another, my house-master at Heathcote, J.O. Roberts, later told me, on the morning I left school in December, that he had noticed that Morris was good at the subjects I preferred, and that his handwriting was very like mine too. Most of the school was convinced that W.G. Morris existed, but I doubt if JO Roberts was ever fooled by much.

On the last morning of term, December 1957, footsteps led up to the belfry, where an effigy was hanging. They came down again, to disappear into a drain, beside which was a complete school uniform, each piece identified with Morris's name-tags. I recall some of us clinging precariously to drainpipes during the night in alarm as Dick Cleall roared into the playground in his flashy sports car. Our best climber was Martin Garner, and Cleall, I think, actually fell, though only slightly damaging his arm. The rest of us were quite scared as we climbed and painted, but enjoyed ourselves anyway. The local radio news and the Dorset Evening Echo did carry reports during the next couple of days, the Echo on its front page.

Mr Hamilton eventually discovered who was responsible -- one of our "gang" leaked-- and wrote to me. We gladly paid the cleanup expenses, and I had a gracious note from him suggesting that we "let the dead bury the dead."

We weren't responsible for the car on the roof that Richard Cousins asked about, but we did know that a few years earlier some sixth-formers had dismantled a teacher's car and re-assembled it on the flat roof of the Armoury. Maybe they were our inspiration? We were pleased with ourselves, of course, but we were also pleased with the headmaster's generous response. The hoax began because we were all loyal to the recently retired R. W. Hill, and did not much like his successor. But Mr Hamilton came out of it very well.

Frank Southerington , 1949-57, now 71 in Staunton , Virginia,

Brigadier Michael TURNER writes:

I joined the School in 1945 and left in 1953 but my family had a long connection with DGS and Hardye's. My father was not at DGS, but moved to Dorchester in about 1930, to be nearer my mother's family. My mother's brother, Kenneth Frere, was at the school before the Second World War, subsequently going into the RAF via University in Aberdeen: he is still in touch with the School. So is Bob Howell, now living in the USA, who was married to my mother's youngest sister, Jan.

My brother, John, went to DGS in about 1942 and left in 1947. We served together in the Army for over 30 years and he was active in the Hardyans' Club until his death a few years ago.

I returned to Dorchester to marry my late wife Heather, who was a contemporary at the DCSG, the Green School. Her father, Douglas Napper, was born in 1904, was educated at DGS so must have been at the South Street school from about 1915 to about 1921. He was a prominent businessman in Dorchester and was Mayor from 1954 to 1955.

I came to the Junior School at DGS from the village school in Charminster, starting at Wollaston House in "Fanny" Hill's class: she was the Headmaster's sister and I remember her with gratitude as someone who gave me a real interest in both English Grammar and Literature both of which have been of great value in adult life. Later I became a boarder and was one of the first intake to Heathcote House, under JO Roberts. I recall being taught by "Ticker" Cole, Bertie Cruse, "Steamboat" Steamson and John Hale. I also recall Dunc Lidbury and a Biology master called Antonio Guissepi, who left us in unfortunate circumstances. The Junior School art mistress was Stella ? and in the Senior School it was Ken Batty; I have them to thank for a life time of amateur painting. I was also taught English in the Upper School by "Jimmy" Whittaker: my wife and I kept in touch with several Green School girls, including Jennifer Trehella, Jenny Sleeman (whose father was Manager of the Midland Bank) and Jimmy Whittaker's daughter Anne and I still see all three. I recently met up with both Roddy Munday, who joined the School with me, and Noel Tomes, who was a year or so behind, but I wonder what happened to Ernest Goss, who was another founder member of Heathcote and went off to join the Metropolitan Police ?

I am now living in Winchester.

Change of Address

Alison and Godfrey LANCASHIRE are now in their new home at Arrowdawn, Parsons Lane, Askerswell, Dorchester, DT2 9EL Tel: 01308-485688 and are looking forward to catching up and returning to Dorset.

Best wishes
Godfrey

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ANNUAL DINNER 2010 DETAILS & BOOKING FORM

SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2010
THE HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER
AT THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE,
THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL, COBURG ROAD,
DORCHESTER. DT1 2HT
At 7.30pm for 8pm

Guest speaker: Dr Terry Brown
An eminent DNA scientist
at Hardy's School 1964 to 1971

Menu

Asparagus Soup

*Braised beef in red wine sauce with button mushrooms
served with green beans, garden peas, carrots and creamed mashed potato
[Vegetarian option: Mushroom Stroganoff]*

Peach and Sherry trifle

Tea or coffee and mints

COST ONLY £16.00

**Wives, partners, and friends welcome. Lounge suits or smart casual.
Bring your own wine or any other beverage, glasses will be provided.
Please bring a raffle prize to help our funds.**

**Book by sending your cheque [payable to *The Hardyans Club*] to
Treasurer Colin Lucas at 4 Fir Tree Close, Dorchester DT1 2PY.
Telephone 01305 265446 or email colin.lucas1@virgin.net**

**The Old Hardyans Tie, costing £10 is an essential, smart and iconic addition to the
wardrobe of all Old Hardyans, based on the traditional blue, gold and red stripes of
the old school, with the edition of the centenary crest. Colin Lucas is selling
these, you will need one for the Annual Dinner.**

Add £10 to your dinner cheque to receive an Old Hardyans tie

Name.....

Dinner £16.00...No's required..... Table of 4/6 required ?.....Years at School.....

Vegetarian Option required ?.....

From the Headteacher

After the vicissitudes of the recent snow and the sometimes slight over-reaction of certain individuals to one centimetre of the white stuff the school is now perhaps calmer than when it was part of the 'frozen Britain' experience. As an unreconstructed northerner I am still bemused by the reaction to winter in the south of England.

Leaving aside one speedy closure of the school for half a day we have been able to provide a full programme. It is now an unfortunate fact of life that examinations are a monthly rather than annual event and the cold did make some of the examination rooms rather brisk. Nevertheless students got on with the job and we were not placed in the unfortunate position of young people missing examinations.

It is league table time and the final rankings were published in mid – January, I am pleased to report that our August view of the results was confirmed. The school was first in the maintained school figures for GCSE (for the 7th year) in Dorset and indeed the south west and 27% and 22% above England and Dorset respectively for 5A* - C incl. English and Mathematics.

The exceptional level of achievement at GCSE was, remarkably, outshone by our 'A' Level results. Here our average point score/student was 674.8, the best in Dorset even when one includes Sherborne and Bryanston schools. Obviously this figure was well above both Dorset and England averages and it is worth reflecting upon the number of students we entered (405) compared to our rivals, none of whom exceeded 190.

Inevitably those results are ancient history and we are already looking towards this June and the next challenge. It will be difficult to emulate these achievements but the school has nine students with places at Oxford or Cambridge and students with offers from LSE, Imperial, Durham, UCL and a host of other prestigious universities. It is vital at this time that we ensure all students apply to institutions that reflect their aspirations and abilities, especially as the purse strings begin to tighten with the universities seeming to be the first victims. Interestingly our International Baccalaureate students are now receiving very good offers and the course is beginning to really establish a place in the school.

Otherwise events and happenings are as ever; the remembrance service was as poignant and impressive as ever, we are moving forwards towards the construction of a new swimming pool after a campaign that was ably supported by Hardyeans and the school is heavily involved in supporting the appeal on behalf of Haiti.

In these brief articles I can only provide a snapshot of the remarkable variety of activities and achievements of our school. I would recommend that if you have a moment you might care to visit www.thomas-hardye.sch.uk to gain a full and I hope enjoyable insight into the work of the school. It is a thoroughly entertaining website.

Dr I E Melvin