

# The Hardyens' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

*Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset*

## Newsletter Winter 2011 : Issue 113

Published Winter, Spring and Autumn

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

The Editor Writes:-

In the pleasant surroundings of University College last November, I was most interested to meet up with George Welch at the London Dinner. He reminded me of the school's connections with Oxford University and in particular the Hardyens/Grammarians Oxford Dinner. George has an idea of reviving this tradition. Please see his letter in the *You Write* section. It was interesting to hear some of George's school memories, RW Hill being the Headmaster at the time. Your editor was most amused at the story that George related - RW Hill informed George that 'he'd got him into Exeter - 'Why am I going to Exeter ?' thinks George. RW Hill: 'No Welch, Exeter College, Oxford!' Later that week, I was impressed with the service of remembrance at the school gates, despite the fact that the students *en masse* were not able to attend because of the extremely inclement weather. The sounding of Last Post and Reveille and the reading of the Roll of Honour by the young people was most moving and impeccably done. The Christmas Luncheon was a most enjoyable occasion - good to have Dr Melvin with us. His link with the school continues as he joins us in the Hardyens Club.

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The scene at the  
School Gates on  
Armistice Day 2010

Picture forwarded by  
Club President,  
Michel  
Hooper-Immins

### **OLD HARDYEANS TIE AGAIN IN STOCK**

The Old Hardyens' handsome blue, gold and red tie is an essential accessory. The new stock is now in the possession of our Treasurer Alan Brown, who will be pleased to sell you one. The cost is only £10.

Send your cheque, payable to *The Hardyens Club*, to Alan Brown at 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 3JD. Telephone 01202 535034 or email: [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com)

## Hardyeans' Club Information

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*Hardyeans' Club Website :* [www.hardyeansclub.com](http://www.hardyeansclub.com)

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

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**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 !!

**ANNUAL DINNER & AGM for the Club and Charitable Association :** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at the School 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre 6.30pm start (Charitable Assn AGM), 7.00pm (Club AGM) Please see booking form and Dinner menu later in this edition

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Members are reminded that legacies are a very valuable way of supporting the aims of the Hardyeans' Charitable Association.  
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### **News of another " Class of " reunion planned for 11<sup>th</sup> February this year**

Spotted by your Editor in the Dorset Echo of Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Plans are being made by **Steven GOULD** and **Melvin CROSS** for a reunion , in the Lounge Bar of Dorchester Town

Football Club from 7pm, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February, of former students who started at Wollaston House in the September 1956

- July 1957 school year. More information from Melvin Cross, Tel: 01305 848365

## **You Write**

Membership Secretary Bob Rench forwarded some of the following

### **Tim BLAGROVE (Heathcote 1959-66)**

I have still my full time job with the Avon & Somerset Police based in Yeovil. Like all civil servants and private workers, the end of this year will determine many futures.

I have recently remarried in Edinburgh, have 2 grandsons, a house move and passed my motorcycle test. I feel as busy now as I was when I started work in the National Provincial Bank in October 1966.

I am disappointed with Somerset C.C. ' So close yet so far' in their 3 finals/championships. My hope lies with my soccer team over in Brighton – as I write they are good for promotion.

Best wishes

Tim.

*Tim is moving the few miles from Yeovil to Haselbury Plucknett on 11 December.*

## You Write continued

**Martyn HARGRAVES** [gmandmrah@gmail.com](mailto:gmandmrah@gmail.com)

Thank you for the latest newsletter. I have a new email address and I will be grateful if you can use this for future mailings.  
[gmandmrah@gmail.com](mailto:gmandmrah@gmail.com)

Best wishes,  
Martyn Hargraves

**Ian JEFFREY** [<mailto:ian.Jeffrey@pandora.be>]

We're on the move homewards after 16 years in Italy and Belgium - sorry if we're still messing up your address books. This [ian.jeffrey@pandora.be](mailto:ian.jeffrey@pandora.be) e-mail address will no longer work after our departure from our Lokaertlaan 43, Tervuren, Belgium address on 22nd October. Our new address from 12 November will be: Tanglewood, Strawberry Lane, Up Somborne, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6QZ and the current e-mail addresses will be: [ianjacksonjeffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:ianjacksonjeffrey@hotmail.com) and [mauraejeffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:mauraejeffrey@hotmail.com).

If you're interested in holidays in Tuscany, look us up on the Toscana Rustica website under the name of "L'Antico Uliveto".  
Ian and Maura

**Bill JOHNSTON** (1950-1957) [<mailto:thevideoman@talk21.com>]

Although I had heard of their demise, I was naturally saddened to read about the deaths of Geoff Hutchings and Chris Etherington, two of my contemporaries at Hardyes in the 1950s.

Geoff Hutchings and I were born on the same day in Dorchester Hospital and were in the same classes at Dorchester Primary School for Boys and Hardyes — although it was still Dorchester Grammar School when we first went into Wollaston House with 'The Duchess' as our form teacher.

It was Geoff who got me my first detention. Miss Hill was very proud of the fact that no one in 2A ever had a detention — but I did; and all because in one of her lessons Geoff bet me I couldn't write The Lord's Prayer on the back of a normal postage stamp. He won: I was caught halfway through.

My wife and I went to Singapore in 1963 to teach in schools for servicemen's children (staying there for six years and another six in what used to be called BAOR, where I won my first headship). While in Singapore the Nottingham Playhouse came out to put on three plays and amongst the cast was Geoff. We took him out for a meal and enjoyed reminiscing about the good old days.

The last time I saw him was backstage at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford. After the performance in which he starred we went around to the stage door to say hello; he appeared in only a pair of Y-fronts!



I have attached two rather grainy pictures from one of the CCF camps, at Bourley in 1955. This was the one where we were treated to a demonstration of an A-bomb attack: from ringside seats on an embankment we watched as a plane 'dropped' a bomb near a long line of soldiers. They all fell over, displaying the other side of their bodies, which were red and raw. Perhaps this gave Geoff the taste for makeup before he took part in a number of Hardyes' productions. The pictures show us larking about in between tasks. Geoff acts as quartermaster, doling out plates for one of our Bourley meals — remember the three huge vats ordering us to "Wash", "Rinse" and "Sterilise"? — ably assisted by Dick Cleall.

In the other picture Chris Etherington, who always looked as if he would become an officer, is saluting Kingman as he receives (or hands over) some sacred object. Dick Cleall is there once again, to add weight to the occasion, and a number of other contemporaries whose names escape me for the moment take part in the ceremony. I hope you are able to find space in the next newsletter to reproduce these pictures: they'll stir a lot of memories from the Class of '57 who had such a great education and time at the school.

Best wishes.  
Bill Johnston



**Roland MASON** [mailto:Rolanddawemason@aol.com]

Just a thank you to those involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter. I always read it with great pleasure - even though I do not know many of the contributors. It is good to know that the school is thriving. Congratulations to our Hellespont swimmer and hello to Terry Parsons.  
Roland Mason [1943-51]

**George WELCH** Greystones, Church Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8DT Tel: 01474 704568

It is pleasing to read in the newsletter of the success of Hardyans at gaining places at Oxford University. Whilst numbers seem to be much greater than those of 20 or so years ago, I am reminded occasionally of the fact that, in the 1950s, Hardyans were present in Oxford in sufficient numbers to have their own club, complete with an annual dinner in Exeter College, to which the headmaster, Mr R. W. Hill and one or two other members of staff were invited. I have no idea when the club ceased to exist, but I still have a few photographs, a menu or two and a club tie as evidence. The seventh annual dinner was held in 1958.

This history and the success of the Hardyans London dinner makes me wonder whether a lunch or dinner in Exeter College, Oxford, primarily, but not necessarily exclusively, for Oxford graduates and their invited guests would be of interest to Hardyans. As for other Club functions, ladies would be welcomed. I have, in recent years, organised two lunches in Exeter College and, based on that experience, believe that the options would be lunch or dinner. I have found that the College has been less occupied with conferences and so on towards the end of September. The weather then is usually still reasonable. If dinner were chosen, there would probably be the option of staying overnight in College, with breakfast (not cheap.)

If you are interested in the possibility of attending a lunch or dinner in Exeter College, Oxford, probably in September 2011, please communicate before the deadline for the next newsletter, giving as much of the requested information as you can.

Which is preferred? Lunch or dinner?

Would you attend either, according to which is more popular by first choice?

Week day or Saturday?

How many persons?

The format would probably be a drinks reception in the Fellows garden or the Rector's Lodging and garden followed by lunch or dinner in Hall or (if numbers are small) in the Rector's Lodging or in another College room. An overnight stay in College is possible. Please note that parking a car in Oxford is difficult.

At this stage, I am attempting to discover whether this idea is worth pursuing, if there appears to be sufficient interest, I hope to be able to provide details and a booking form in the next newsletter. Any suggestions which are relevant will be welcomed.

The newsletter reminds me that I have not seen a report of the death of **Bob Garrett**. I was informed of this fact, a few years ago, by his wife, having sent a Christmas card. Bob was a close friend for the few years that we were at school together, I did not arrive until 1948, when I joined Walter Lancashire's fourth form and I discovered that Bob lived at Lower Waterston (where his father ran a small farm) and was church organist at Piddlehinton. I lived in Piddletrenthide. Bob did not excel at school, but was very practical. He spent much of his spare time at a garage in Puddletown and it was no surprise that, when he left school in 1950, he joined motor engineers whose premises were at the Southern end of Trinity Street. The name escapes me. [*Tilleys possibly, Editor*]

I lost touch with Bob until a few years ago when he suddenly made contact. He had, quite fortuitously, met Peter Lewenden who passed on my address and we met after one of the Club Christmas lunches at the Wessex hotel. Bob had established a small business performing electrical testing and seemed both happy and successful. Retirement was close at hand. Then he told me that he was ill, and we were not to meet again.

I realise that this all sounds a little imprecise; nevertheless there may be those who remember Bob and would appreciate a brief note of his passing.

I was pleased to read the letter from **Philip Swindells** in the last newsletter. He will undoubtedly remember the Oxford Club and the annual dinners there, I send my congratulations on his marriage.

Yours sincerely,

George M. Welch

### **Membership News**

Since the last newsletter we have three new full members :-

Michael Hollywood (43-48) living in Worthing, West Sussex  
David Lewis (80-85) living in Gladesville, New South Wales  
Danny Roberts (91-96) living in Haifa, Israel

We have one registered Associate member :-

Jessica Dendura (2005-10). Hopefully she may join us as a full member next year.

We have been notified of the deaths of 5 members :-

Ian K Bryant (30-36) who lived in Sydling nr. Dorchester  
Chris D. Beling (68-73) who lived in Hong Kong and was visiting his brother Jeremy also a member of our Club in England.  
Chris Etherington (52-56) who was living in Beaminster  
Dennis Norcombe (41-45) who lived in Dorchester and was a regular attendee of our monthly luncheons  
Robert C White (43-50) who lived in Weymouth

We have 2 new Honorary Members :-

Dr. Ian Melvin who has just retired as head teacher after 22 years and Mrs Betty Bryant, a former teacher and widow of the late Ian Bryant

Best regards  
*Bob Rench,*  
*Membership Secretary*

MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR NEW DIARY

**SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2011**

**THE HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER  
AT THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE,  
THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL, COBURG ROAD, DORCHESTER.  
DT1 2HT**

at 7.30pm for 8pm.

**Guest speaker: Mr. Peter Grundy  
Who taught at Hardye's School 1968 to 1971**

**Wives and partners welcome**

Menu

**Cream of Mushroom Soup**

**Roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce  
served with green beans, garden peas, cauliflower cheese and  
creamed mashed potato**

***[A Vegetarian option will be available]***

**Strawberry and Sherry trifle**

**Tea or coffee and mints**

**COST ONLY £16.00, SAME AS LAST YEAR**

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 Alan Brown at 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 3JD. Telephone 01202 535034 or email: [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com)**

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 addition of the centenary crest. Alan is selling these, you will need one for the Annual Dinner.

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

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**ANNUAL DINNER 2011 BOOKING FORM**

Name.....

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

Vegetarian Option required ?.....

*PLEASE REMEMBER that ladies are MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND.*