# The Hardyeans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

### Newsletter Spring 2013: Issue 120

Published Winter, Spring and Autumn
Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor

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#### **Club News From the PRESS OFFICER**

"Becoming President of the Hardyeans is the greatest honour of my life," Peter Foster told the Annual Reunion Dinner at Thomas Hardye School. He was earlier installed with the President's ribbon by Michel Hooper-Immins, who revealed they had been friends for 55 years- having both joined Hardye's School in 1958. "That we have kept in touch for over half a century since Wollaston House is entirely due to the Hardyeans," said retiring President Michel Hooper-Immins. "Peter Foster is erudite and energetic, committed and methodical," he continued, "he and his wife Heather do an outstanding job with our club Newsletter, which they are going to continue. I know Peter will make a superb President of the Hardyeans and I congratulate him wholeheartedly." Members rose to acclaim the new President.



Retired NHS and Dorset County Council clerical officer Peter Foster has spent nearly all his life in Dorchester and besides his work with the old boys of Hardve's School, has been an enthusiastic volunteer with the Dorset County Hospital radio station Ridgeway Radio for 47 years currently the Vice Chairman and with the Swanage Railway, where he is the Station Master at Harmans Cross. He and Dorchester girl Heather have been married for 37 years. In his first address to the Hardyeans at their Annual Reunion Dinner, he spoke of having not aspired to any great educational achievements at Hardye's School, but had made his way forward through life with the benefit of a good, rounded education at a site of outstanding educational excellence. His late mother paid his first subscription to the Hardyeans Club in 1964, the year he left school.

The late Harry Dawe, Headmaster of Dorchester Secondary Modern School, had been a member of the assessment panel which decided Peter would be admitted to Hardye's and coincidentally, the new Thomas Hardye School was built on the site of the old Secondary Modern. The new President's guests were Jim Davis and Angie Skiller, both former 1950s pupils at the Secondary Modern.

Michael Foley, Head Teacher of the modern Thomas Hardye School assured Old Hardyeans that the school remains in excellent health, many students were going on to brilliant careers and the new sports centre has opened. "I enjoy working day in and day out with young people," continued Michael Foley, "but the new challenge for the school is to maintain the record of excellence, yet find a million pounds of cuts by 2015." A joint bid for a new vocational school at Kingston Maurward is currently being considered. "We value the past and our heritage, although there are very few remnants from the old school. Remembrance Day is the best time to make the connection with the past," concluded the Head Teacher. "We look to the future and cherish the past, soon we will start to build the archive with Peter Foster's help."

Born in Poole, guest speaker Sir Roger Gale studied at Hardye's from 1955 to 1962 and has been MP for Thanet North for 30 years. Last year, he was knighted by The Queen for political services and proudly wore his Hardyeans' tie at Buckingham Palace.

Sir Roger began by praising the excellent concept of Grammar Schools, "I am in favour of selective education, we have a lot of good Grammar Schools in Kent and as long as I live, I want to bring them back all over the country, the biggest opportunity of social opportunity."

Only the second Hardyean to be knighted, Sir Roger Gale MP spoke warmly of his schooldays, "I am proud of the people at Hardye's who enabled me to do what I've done in my life The trick is to find what you enjoy doing in life and then get paid for it!" He was 13 when the Russians invaded Hungary. "I led a sale at Heathcote House to raise cash for the refugees, my first political experience."

Jo Roberts, his Housemaster at Heathcote House, was instrumental in encouraging Roger's passion for the theatre. A hut in the grounds was turned into a theatre. "At age 14, I built a stage from old railway sleepers and scrounged some blackout curtains," Sir Roger related, "this led to an audition at the Guildhall School of Drama, a career in broadcasting and as a disc jockey. None of this would have happened, but for Jo Roberts agreeing to my converting that hut into a theatre. That stage was the start of my political career, that's what I owe to Hardye's School."



Head Teacher Michael Foley, new President Peter Foster and Sir Roger Gale MP

The Annual Reunion Dinner, held in the Sixth Form Centre at the Thomas Hardye School, was attended by 68 Hardyeans and their wives. Chairman Colin Lucas was Master of Ceremonies and announced the traditional series of toasts to past Headmasters, beginning with "Monty" Hill in the 1930s. Immediate Past President Michel Hooper-Immins proposed the toast to absent friends, regretting that 92-year old Alf Barrett was unwell.

At the Annual General Meeting preceding the dinner, the work of the Hardyeans Club Charitable Trust was much praised and Chairman John Pearson reported that nine needy students of Thomas Hardye School had been awarded annual bursaries of £750 each in the preceding year.

Godfrey Lancashire, son of former Hardye's School teacher Walter Lancashire, became Vice Chairman and retiring President Michel Hooper-Immins became Secretary. Chairman Colin Lucas, Treasurer Alan Brown, Membership Secretary Bob Rench and other Officers were all re-elected. Membership has now reached 1,096 throughout the world.

It was agreed that all living Past Presidents would in future be known as Life Vice Presidents as thanks for the excellent work they had undertaken for the Hardyeans Club.

The eight are: Alf Barrett [1985 to 1988,] David Culver [1988 to 1991,] Colin Lucas [1994 to 1997,] Major General John Stephenson CB [1997 to 2000,] Captain John Pearson RN [2004 to 2007,] Professor Hugh Griffiths [2007 to 2010] and Michel Hooper-Immins [2010 to 2013.]

Pictures Heather Foster and Michel Hooper-Immins

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

#### **MONTHLY LUNCHEONS...**

At the King's Arms Hotel, last Thursday of the month. Enquiries to Chairman Colin Lucas at 01305 265446 or Alan Brown, Treasurer, 01202 535034

There is no need to book, just turn up about 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm. A small car park is available behind the hotel for the use of patrons (Entrance from High East Street). The Hotel's bar menu is available and choices can be made on the day. The next lunches are on Thursdays 30 May, 27 June, 25 July and 29 August. Come along and talk to fellow alumni of Hardye's School.

<u>Annual Cricket Match</u>: Club v The School is being organised by Tony Foot (01305 812210). Contact him for any further details. Probable date **3rd July**. We hope for better weather this time! Other sporting events being considered are Shooting and Golf.

#### **Hardyeans' Club Information**

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Copy deadline for Issue 121 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013

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ViceChairman Godfrey LANCASHIRE

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

#### CHAIRMAN Colin LUCAS

At the time of going to press Colin LUCAS had for health and other reasons decided to resign as Chairman. Further news on this will no doubt appear on the website.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

**OBITUARIES**, Thanks to all contributors for the information.

#### WILLIS David Raphael de Laval, 79 years of Donyatt, Somerset.

From Don Culver: Contemporaries will be sorry to hear of the death at the age of 79 of David R. de L. WILLIS (c .44-52). David was a quiet, self-effacing character, with artistic bent and engaging personality. His father, A. R. de L. Willis, was a teacher at the Grammar School, nominally of Divinity, but, especially for the Sixth Form, a kind of moral philosophy. His discussion group, which included girls from the Green School, was often a place of vigorous debate and a haven for teenagers in the deadly Sunday evenings of those times. A First World War veteran, he won a blue for high-jumping at Cambridge, where he was a friend of Harold ("Chariots of Fire") Abrahams. Abrahams visited the School on at least one occasion, when he presented the cups on Sports Day. Both father and son deserve kindly and grateful remembrance.

From Don CULVER (43-51), Past President

As Always, the Club extends condolences to the relatives and friends of the above- mentioned.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

You Write Thanks to all contributors

#### From our Treasurer Alan BROWN:

I don't know if you have some across this on Friends Reunited:

http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk/hardyes-school/b/24cb8ac9-e3cb-47c0-b550-285ce7894d1b

Some interesting bits of film amongst other things. I think Dave Knapman put some of it on.

Alan

Roger CAVES has written with an enquiry. If any members can help please get in touch through the Editor:

#### Teachers Haselgrove and Walton, Maiden Castle Road

I am not an Old Hardyean, although my brother Dennis was at Hardye's around 1969/70, but I do have an interest in Messrs Haselgrove and Walton who were masters at the school in the 40s/50s. I live in an art deco house in Maiden Castle Road in Dorchester and both of these people also lived here in the past, Mr Hazelgrove about 1937 to 1944 and Mr Walton about 1944 to 1980. I am commencing the history of this house (it is listed) and would appreciate any information or recollections that your members may have.

Thank you Roger Caves

**John FARWELL** has sent in this picture of a reunion in 2011 in Weymouth and included a resume of the group members' history at school and in later life. Much of this material will form part of an archive being amassed at the current Thomas Hardye School, for the benefit of students now and in the future.



Tony Berwick (1957-1959)-Martin Horton (1956-1963)-John Coltart (1955-1962)-John Habberley (1957-1960)-John Farwell (1955-1963)-Sean Luther (1957-1963)

Absent from this photograph are 2 others from our group. Jeremy Sampson (1955-1962) and Dick Luther (Sean's older brother; 1957-1961).

#### Overview

All of the group went on to further education, most with formal qualifications, by various routes
All have had successful to very successful careers: all found a niche which gave high levels of work satisfaction
All but John C had hiccups along the way or dealt with significant setbacks or challenges and most of us went through
major changes in career activity even though some remained in the same professional orbit
2 moved into career areas (computing) that were essentially new industry options

#### General features applicable for our schooldays

In the societal context of the mid-fifties to mid-sixties a number of elements might be noteworthy. Firstly there was no real question about employment after schooling. Jobs were available and concerns revolved around their quality not lack. It would have been true for all of us that when we entered secondary education there was still the prospect of National Service. Although NS was stopped in 1960, so none of us got close to it, moving into some further education or training was a way to defer/avoid it and was a component of future plans discussed at the time. Secondly, there was virtually no careers advice or counselling offered in school in a formal context. At some point (I guess about 1959) all our year (? plus others) were taken to Olympia by train to a national Careers Exhibition but little else emerged. Apart from end of year reports and the occasional individual interaction there was no contact between teachers and parents. Thirdly, Hardye's, presumably in part due to the background of those who were boarders, had more interest in opportunities in the Armed Services than other local schools and entrants to Dartmouth. Sandhurst or Cranwell seemed to be lauded over those who gained University places. Fourthly, leaving after Upper Vth did not seem to be part of a planned process unless it was in specific persual of further training for a specific job. Despite being selected via the 11+, those who did not go on to the A level stage (? about 2/3 at the time) did not seem significantly advantaged compared to those who left the Secondary Moderns at the same age, indeed the latter may have been seen more favourably in the context of, for example, apprenticeships in engineering as they might have better exposure to practical subjects such as metalwork or technical drawing. Lastly it was unusual at the time to change career so once established on a path it could well be expected to last you a lifetime - like it or not!

#### **Our Group of friends**

Apart from those mentioned a small number of other Hardyeans were attached to the group around this period. Only 1 continued through to post school days. His name was Ed (E.E) Betts (1955-1962). He went on to Bristol College of Science and Technology gaining a Chemistry degree. He joined a commercial organization in the NW and we lost touch.

John Lachlan (lain) MCFADYEN, (Hardyes 1971-1978.) asks the following question –

Do you keep any contact details on file for Mr Tommy McLelland, teacher at the school in the mid-70s? (Maybe McClelland). If so, I should be grateful if you would put me in touch.

I have just returned to the UK after 33 years travelling overseas. I hope to attend some Hardyeans meetings in the near future.

Best regards,

Iain McFadyen

[Editor: Anyone able to provide information please get in touch]

#### Michael VLASTO, OBE

John Pearson has sent in the following Citation for the Honorary Award of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Silver Medal

After 10 years as a deck officer with P&O, Michael Vlasto joined the RNLI in 1975 and over his time in the Institution, and particularly since becoming Operations Director in 1997, he has become an increasingly well-respected, influential and charismatic leader of the RNLI's coastal operations.

Michael's achievements in the RNLI have been outstanding. He has inspired and implemented many of the more innovative - and sometimes courageous - steps that the Institution has taken in recent years. Amongst much else, these include establishing the RNLI's sea safety organisation and MOB Guardian; the introduction of lifeboats on the Thames and moving to a 25 knot all-weather lifeboat fleet; the introduction of beach lifeguarding and its subsequent rapid roll-out around the coast; flood rescue; and the need for a bespoke RNLI College and competency-based training for lifeboat crew.

During the course of his career, as Michael will happily attest, he has seen all-weather lifeboats progress from 8 knots to 16 knots and now to 25 knots, and one of his great achievements has been the ability to keep up with the accelerating pace of technology, focusing innovation on the needs of the lifeboat crews, and the work that they undertake.

Around the coast, Michael is respected and welcomed without reservation. Many of the steps that he has taken have been potentially unpopular with crews and lifeguards, but the universal regard in which they hold him, coupled with his remarkable ability to connect with almost anyone, have allowed him quietly and progressively to bring the doubters round and achieve a consistent record of success.

Michael's influence, though, extends well beyond the RNLI. As Chairman of the National Water Safety Forum, the UKSAR Maritime and Aviation Consultative Committee, and the International Maritime Rescue Federation, he has been a prime mover in fostering cooperation and innovation among water rescue authorities around the world - work that has undoubtedly raised the profile of maritime SAR within the IMO.

The result of Michael's unparalleled dedication to lifesaving - giving his time, emotion and commitment to the RNLI for nearly 40 years - is that he leaves behind an organisation which has grown massively in confidence and reach; which enjoys an unparalleled reputation for successful operations; and which has found a secure place in the public affection. He also leaves behind the 6,000 men and women who crew and operate the RNLI's lifeboat stations, and about 1,000 lifeguards, feeling well-supported, well-equipped and highly confident in their abilities - all as a direct result of his stewardship.

There are very few people who could have achieved such a consistent record of unbroken success. It is of course impossible to quantify how many lives Michael has had some responsibility for saving, but without his selflessness, his tireless quest for perfection, his long journeys round the coast and his irrepressible, contagious enthusiasm, a great many more people would have died at sea over the last 40 years. In all, Michael Vlasto has probably been more influential in the development of the RNLI, and its ongoing success, than any other individual in the Institution's 189 year history

It is for this reason – his extraordinary, generous, effective and intensely human contribution to saving lives at sea – that the Trustees of the RNLI have decided to make an Honorary Award of the Institution's Silver Medal to Michael Vlasto. (from) Admiral The Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL, RNLI Chairman, 23 January 2013

#### Congratulations to Michael from the Club!

#### Mastermind Contestant - Rob WHITE (1964-72) robwhite54@hotmail.com

Sadly, Rob White got no further than the semi-finals of Mastermind. However, congratulations to him on getting that far. Let's see if any other members can do better

#### The Hardyeans Club

#### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2013 AT 7.30PM IN THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE. THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL. DORCHESTER.

Present: Michel Hooper-Immins [President] in the chair, Peter Foster [President Elect,] Colin Lucas [Chairman,] Godfrey Lancashire [Vice Chairman Elect,] Alan Brown [Treasurer,] Bob Rench [Membership Secretary,] Heather Foster [Newsletter Co-Editor,] Tony Foot [Sports Officer] and about 40 members.

Apologies: Tony Day [Secretary,] Terry Stone [Webmaster.]

#### 1. Welcome by the President

Michel Hooper-Immins welcomed all Old Hardyeans present and outlined the three innovations agreed by the Council for that evening - holding the AGM in the Dining Room before all members present at the Annual Reunion Dinner. The Hardyeans Club Charitable Trust AGM would likewise be convened. The third innovation would be to install the new President in front of all present at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

2. Minutes of the last AGM on 17 March 2012
The Minutes, as published in the Summer 2012 Newsletter, were approved as a true and accurate record. No matters arising.

#### 3. President's review

At the conclusion of his three year term as President, Michel Hopper-Immins thanked Old Hardveans for their support and encouragement, particularly his wife Joan who always supports whatever he does. Michel spoke of Rt. Rev. Michael Perham, Lord Bishop of Gloucester, who had promised at speak at the dinner while he was in office and that visit had taken place last year. Michael is the first Old Hardyean to be a member of the House of Lords.

The planting of a tree in the Borough Gardens to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee led to the President writing to The Queen to tell her about it. He was delighted to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace, from The Queen's Private Secretary, thanking the Old Hardyeans for their good wishes and sending warm greetings. The lunches on the last Thursday of the month, had become established at the King's Arms Hotel, an excellent venue. The President said members were always delighted to join Thomas Hardye School's Act of Remembrance every November, a tangible link between the old and new schools spanning over 50 years. The watchwords of Michel's presidency had been "Old Hardyeans are everywhere" and so it has proved, with Hardye's School alumni prominent in every walk of life.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

The President said Chairman Colin Lucas had not been well, but nevertheless continued to be the engine room of the club. The Chairman spoke of the final London Dinner as having been a very happy occasion and hoped it might soon be revived.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

Alan Brown presented the annual accounts, showing income of £4459.88 against expenditure of £2734.95, a surplus on the year of £1724.93. He reported total assets as totalling £2945.94. £350 had recently been donated to the Charitable Trust. The report was adopted unanimously and the President expressed thanks to the Treasurer for his good work during the year.

#### 6. Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Secretary Bob Rench reported the "Lost Legion" has increased a little since last year. After a year's trying, he finally gave up sending newsletters to nine members who were receiving them by post, but who he had not managed to get hold of, either by phone or by letter. Several members have decided to receive their newsletters by email. Thanks to them. Membership totals 1096 members, including 360 Associate members. Of 736 full members, 602 are receiving newsletters by email. This does not include the "Lost Legion" which at present numbers 17, 104 are receiving newsletters by post. This does not include the postal "Lost Legion," which numbers 10. Three members have elected to read the Newsletter on the website.

In the past year, there were six new members:- Andrew Batchelor (1994-2000;) Paul Hunting (1998-2000;) Michael W. Hansen (1986-1991;) Peter G. Skew (1964-72;) Iain P. Lynch (1970-1976) and Kurt Parry (1977-1984.) We have also sadly learnt of the deaths of ten members:- John Riggs (1941-1947,) Vincent Gale (1941-1950,) Iain Mardon (1946-1952,) Squadron Leader Gordon Hickmore (1947-1952,) C. R. Barriball (1942-49,) W. S. Easton (1954-62,) Prof. John Dean (1935-1943,) Alan Gosling (1959-1966,) Thomas Hatcher (1934-1940) and Harry Powell (1942-44.) One other member resigned his membership. Bob thanked all members who kept him updated with their details. He thanked those members who have helped recover some of our "Lost Legion." Please don't stop looking!

The President commented how Bob Rench's excellent work had converted a vague list of members into a superbly accurate database, expressing the club's thanks for his hard work.

#### 7. Hardveans Club Charitable Association

The President observed that the Hardyeans Club Charitable Association is a Registered Charity governed by law. He said one of the conditions of a charity holding the sort of funds the HCCA does, is that the annual accounts should be scrutinised by the Trustees and approved by a reasonable number of members of the organisation. Michel Hooper-Immins said he had been honoured to be a Trustee during his three year term as President and had realised how much work was being done by HCCA Officers, notably John Pearson as Chairman, Colin Lucas as Secretary and Steven Gould as Treasurer.

[The minutes of the HCCA AGM will record the subsequent proceedings.]

#### 8. Election of Officers for 2013/14:

The President introduced the Council's recommendations for Club Officers in 2013/14. A new post of Vice Chairman had been created by the Council and another of School Liaison Officer. He paid tribute to Webmaster Terry Stone, who does wonderful work updating and maintaining the club website from his home in St. Kitts Nevis. The website was never so important in this modern world.

The following were elected unanimously by a show of hands.

President: Peter Foster Chairman: Colin Lucas

Vice Chairman: Godfrey Lancashire Secretary: Michel Hooper-Immins

Treasurer: Alan Brown

Membership Secretary: Bob Rench

Newsletter Editors: Peter & Heather Foster

Sports Officer: Tony Foot School Liaison Officer: Tony Day

Webmaster: Terry Stone

#### 9. Life Vice Presidents.

President Elect Peter Foster reminded members that all Past Presidents are ex-officio members of the Council. He proposed that all eight living Past Presidents should in future be known as Life Vice Presidents. The proposal was adopted unanimously by a show of hands.

#### 10. Any Other Business

President Elect Peter Foster noted Old Hardyean Rob White had recently appeared on Mastermind.

#### 11. Installation of Peter Foster as President

Michel Hooper-Immins revealed that he and Peter Foster had been friends for 55 years, having both joined Wollaston House in September 1958. That they had kept in touch for over half a century was due to the existence of the Old Hardyeans. In so-called retirement, Peter Foster had busied himself with many voluntary jobs, notably Dorset County Hospital's Ridgeway Radio station, where he and Heather do wonderful work to entertain and inform patients. Describing the new President as erudite and energetic, committed and methodical, Michel Hooper-Immins then invested Peter Foster with the President's ribbon and jewel of office. Peter Foster led a vote of thanks to Michel Hooper-Immins.

### The Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association

## Summary of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at the School on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm

This abbreviated AGM was held immediately before the start of the Annual Hardyeans' Dinner in one of the Sixth Form Rooms of the Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester and was a trial to see whether holding an AGM with a 'captured' audience would be a better format to those in the past where there had been only one or two members present in addition to a small number of trustees or Hardyeans' Council members. It was also seen as an opportune occasion to communicate personally what the Association actually stand for and does. It was held in conjunction with the AGM of the Hardyeans' Club under the direction of The President Mr Michel Hooper-Immins.

Trustees present: Mr John Pearson (Chairman), Mr Colin Lucas (Secretary), Mr David Lacey, Mr Michel Hooper-Immins (Co-opted), Mr Harry Dowell, Mrs Beryl Shuttleworth, plus a total of 67 members and wives of the Hardyeans' Club.

- 1. Apologies had been received from Mr Stephen Gould, Ian Brown, Pat Pollard
- **2.** Chairman's Report. The Chairman, John Pearson reported on a successful twelfth year when £6750 had been awarded to 9 successful candidates for bursaries which made a total of just under £40,000 awarded since the inception of the Charity. The total value of the investment fund now stands at £147,000. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Officers and Trustees for their endeavours and hoped that they would seek re-election.

- **3. Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer, Stephen Gould, had prepared copies of the Annual Accounts to most tables and copies of the Balance Sheets were made available to all the tables in the hall for the members' information and scrutiny. He recommended that the Accounts be adopted and a show of hands was deemed sufficient. He thanked Kennedy Legg for preparing the report and accounts in their usual professional manner and recommended that they be re-appointed for the following year. This was approved by a show of hands.
- **4. Election of Trustees.** Following the retirement of Mrs Maureen Keats, Mrs Beryl Shuttleworth was elected a trustee in her stead, together with the re-election of Mrs June Salt MBE, Mr David Lacey, Mr Harold Dowell, Mrs Pat Pollard, Peter Foster (co-opted being new President of the HC). Mr Ian Brown was nominated and accepted to continue to be the Investment Manager. A show of hands of those present re-affirmed this committee of trustees.
- **5. Election of Officers.** It was Proposed and Seconded that the Association Officers be re-elected and a show of hands of the Trustees confirmed the officers: John J Pearson as Chairman, Colin W Lucas as Secretary and Stephen J Gould as Treasurer.

The President closed the AGM offering the date of the next meeting as Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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#### From the Headteacher



It is difficult to believe that we are approaching the tail end of the school year and not just because of the inclement weather! Years 11, 12 and 13 have now gone on study leave and we are well into the exam season. At one time examinations did not begin until after the May half-term but in recent years the dates have crept earlier and earlier. It means that we lose almost a term of teaching at both A Level and GCSE. However, some things have not changed such as the rows of desks, the instructions 'to begin' and 'to put down your pens and stop writing' and the frenzy of last minute revision! We wish all our students well - particularly those who will be leaving us this summer. We are moving to a new college system from September and Old Hardyeans will be pleased to know that we have chosen four names that have a strong resonance with the past and the traditions of the original school. Trenchard, Napier, Henning and Stratford are the names of the original signatories who established the school alongside Thomas Hardye in 1569. The colleges will enable us to break the school down into smaller communities where students can have a greater sense of belonging and take on more responsibility. I am particularly keen for older students to mentor younger ones and to have more opportunities for leadership.

We were delighted to receive news over Easter that the bid to re-develop one of our sports halls had been successful. I am particularly grateful to Tony Day (Clerk to the Governors and Old Hardyean) for his contribution to the bid and his management of the project. The work will begin in June and should be completed in the summer of 2014. It adds to the magnificent sporting facilities which are the envy of most other schools in the country.

Best wishes for the summer

Michael Foley
Headteacher