

# ***The Hardyans' Club***

**TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

***Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset***

*Life Vice-Presidents: Donald Culver, John Stephenson, Gordon Crocker, John Pearson, Hugh Griffiths, Michel Hooper-Immins*

***Newsletter Winter 2014 : Issue 122***

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

## ***The President Writes:***

From his *Christmas Luncheon* address, looking back on 2013....

.....Of course, the major blow to the Club was the death, at the end of August, of our Chairman, Colin Lucas. The fact that St. Peter's Church was full to capacity for Colin's memorial service was a fitting tribute to him, not only as a person, but also to his devotion to the Hardyans Club, The Hardyans Club Charitable Trust, and to the many other organisations with which he was actively connected.

The activities of our Club continue, under the leadership of our new Chairman, Godfrey Lancashire, his connections with the school going back to 1958, when, like me, he joined Hardye's, at Wollaston House. Many remember Godfrey's father, Walter Lancashire, House Master of Southfields and all his tremendous contribution to the activities of our school. Back in March we welcomed Sir Roger Gale, MP, as our guest speaker, at the Annual Dinner and in July the annual Cricket Match between the school and the club took place, at the School, Heather and I being the only representatives from the Club, as spectators. Sadly, declining numbers attending the Hardyans Club monthly luncheons, at the King's Arms has resulted, on a number of occasions, of Heather and me being the only participants, resulting in the embarrassing situation of the restaurant manager removing the table that would have been used by other members attending. Let's hope the trend will be reversed.

On a positive note, The Hardyans Club Charitable Trust, has been busy in its important role of providing financial bursaries to THS students. At the May meeting of The Trust, your president much enjoyed meeting students and hearing of their aspirations for the future. There were some very positive young people who came before us.

On Monday November 11, because of the rain and damp weather, the decision was taken that the main body of students of the school should not attend the Remembrance Ceremony at the Memorial Gates. However, there was a good turn out from the Sixth Form, and the CCF gave a very good account of itself for the occasion. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Stella Jones, at the Ceremony. During the ceremony, images crossed my mind of the British Tommy, in the rain, in France, in the 14 – 18 War, and I recalled the comment someone made to me a few years ago that he disliked the use of umbrellas by members of the public attending, when it rained at Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Looking ahead, we look forward to welcoming, as Guest Speaker at the 2014 Annual Dinner, the Chairman of the THS Governors, Garry Batt, who is an auctioneer at Dukes, in Dorchester, guaranteed to be a very entertaining speaker. We are breaking new ground with the 2015 Annual Dinner, when we welcome the first female speaker, namely The Reverend Vicky Thurtell, Vicar of St. Peter's Dorchester, who was Head Girl of The Green School.

In conclusion, your President would like to put on record warmest thanks for all the hard work and devotion to the Club by the Club Council and the Trust, the tremendous support from the School, and for the ongoing response and support from our membership.

*Peter Foster*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### MONTHLY LUNCHEONS.

At the King's Arms Hotel, last Thursday of the month. Enquiries to President, Peter Foster, 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 through the arch 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<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February. Come along and talk to fellow alumni of Hardye's School.

**2014 ANNUAL DINNER / AGM** on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Thomas Hardye School, preceded by President's Reception from 7pm . Please note that bookings for the Annual Dinner must be with the Treasurer by **15<sup>th</sup> February 2014. It will NOT be possible to PAY ON THE DAY.** The venue this time is to be the main School Dining Room (not the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre). Booking form and proposed menu at end of this newsletter.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 10.30am :** Hardyeans' Annual Service of Eucharist, St Peter's, Dorchester.

### Hardyeans' Club Information

#### **Hardyeans' Club Newsletter**

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#### From the Press Officer

### THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE TRUNCATED BY RAIN, BUT GOES AHEAD

The Act of Remembrance in front of the Thomas Hardye School memorial gates in Queens Avenue, Dorchester, honouring those Old Grammarians and Old Hardyeans who gave their lives in armed conflict, went ahead at 11am on 11 November, despite steady rain. The tradition began in 1957 at Hardye's School and has continued at the modern Thomas Hardye School

Normally, over 2,000 students and 200 staff stand in front of the Memorial Gates, but in view of the weather, Head Teacher Michael Foley made the decision to truncate the numbers involved to the sixth form and representatives of all other years.

The names of all Old Hardyeans and Old Grammarians who fell in successive wars were read by four students- Imogen Carter, Max Luck, Aishlen Fields and Jack Purselove. Head Teacher Michael Foley led the minute's silence and the brief Act of Remembrance, culminating in the last post sounded by bugler Joe Brindley. Henry Love read the Kohima Declaration. *[cont'd p3]*



Above: Garry Batt, Chairman of the Governors of Thomas Hardye School [second left] and Peter Foster, President of the Club [third left] are among those laying wreaths at the Memorial Gates.

Left: Joe Brindley [right] prepares to sound the last post at the Act of Remembrance at the Thomas Hardye School Memorial Gates. Head Teacher Michael Foley is fourth left and Mayor of Dorchester Stella Jones is sixth left.



Photographs by Michel Hooper-Immins.

The corps of drums paraded in front of the School's Memorial Gates, with detachments from the Army and RAF Combined Cadet Force.

Among guests at the ceremony were the Mayor of Dorchester, Coun. Stella Jones and the Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Rev. Vicky Thurtell. President Peter Foster led 16 Old Hardyans, including the new Chairman Godfrey Lancashire, Secretary Michel Hooper-Immins and Treasurer Alan Brown.

Thomas Hardy School is thought to be the only school in the South and South West to maintain this respectful tradition, where students and staff stand silently in front of the Memorial Gates. It began when the stone pillars and iron gates were consecrated in 1957 at Hardy's School in Culliford Road. The Memorial Gates and pillars were rescued from the old school in 1995, before it was demolished and re-erected outside the new Thomas Hardy's School at the end of Queens Avenue, complete with the twin stone wyverns- the School's historic symbol- carved by the late Ken Batty, art master for many years. "This memorial to those whose names are inscribed on the Rolls of Honour was erected by the old boys, parents and Governors. Dedicated 18 July 1957." Inside the new School are two rolls of honour, one for Old Grammarians who fell in the Great War and the other honouring those in subsequent conflicts from 1939.

*Michel Hooper-Immins.*

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

The Total number of Full members in the Club is 739 (as at January 2014)

Of these 604 receive their correspondence via email and 102 by post.

The remaining 33 are members of our Lost Legion (22 email & 11 postal)

Since the Last newsletter we have been joined by 4 new members.

Manley Hopkinson	(1973-78) who lives in Lymington
Simon Hardman	(1967-74) who lives in East Clandon, Surrey
Roy Mackenzie	(1949-57) who lives in Wells, Somerset
Peter Hawkins	(1965-72) who lives in Broadmayne, Dorchester (A life member who got lost from the records!)

Welcome to them all.

Sadly we have received notification of 4 members who have passed away

David Raphael de Laval Willis (1943-51) from Donyatt in Somerset.

John Newman (1943-51) who lived in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Anderson John Acutt (1946-52) who lived in Queensland, Australia.

Anthony John Rogers (1941-49) who lived in Sheffield and passed away in July last year.

I must also report that 3 members have been added to our 'Lost Legion'.

D. M Sellgren (1980-85). Last known address in Shaftesbury (postal lost legion)

Owen J Davies (1967-73) Last known address in Yelverton Devon (email member)

Sean Gowans (1988-91) Last known address in Ilkeston, Derbyshire (email member)

If you can help us find these members I should be very grateful.

Please ensure that you let me know if any of your personal details change, otherwise you may well become a member of the Lost Legion!

### **A Message from the Treasurer**

There are two things I would like to draw to your attention.

Firstly, the cost of stationery, printing and postage of the Newsletter is rising all the time, and is reaching the point where this is not covered by membership subscriptions. Also a volunteer folds 103 newsletters and puts them into envelopes. If you currently receive the newsletter by post, but have an e-mail address, it would be very helpful if you would consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail. If you are prepared to opt for this please let me know and I will see that the change is made.

Secondly, as you will no doubt be aware, since Bob Rench became Membership Secretary he has done stalwart work in getting the Membership records in a much better order than they were when he took over. Now that the records are as up to date as can be achieved at this time, we would like to move on to the next step, which is to try and sort out the Membership Subscriptions.

A number of you hold Life Membership, but unfortunately at present we don't know just who! If, therefore, you do have such a membership, could you let me know and I will pass the information on to Bob.

At one time the Annual Membership stood at £2.00, paid by standing order, but a few years ago this was raised to £5.00 p.a. For some reason this information was not very well publicised and several members are still paying the old rate. I would be grateful if you could check with your Bank and if your standing order is still for £2.00 p.a. amend it to £5.00 p.a. It would be helpful if you could let me know when you have done this.

If for some reason you do not have a standing order set up, please let me know and I will forward you a suitable form. My contact details are at the end of this item.

Hopefully we will then be able to fully complete the re-organisation of our Membership Database.

Thank you.

Alan Brown  
[alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com)  
40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 3JD

### **YOU WRITE**

#### *More memories of the 1962 CCF camp from **Mark LOOSEMORE***

In response to Chris Slade and his slightly frivolous confession of underage alcohol abuse in the Luppitt Inn. I was also at the CCF camp from 21st to 29th July in that year and although I had the good sense to avoid the lure of the drinking establishments in the vicinity (at least I think I did). I do have a vague recollection that at the same time as the CCF camp there was a fun fair also in residence on the right hand side of the road as we walked from the camp to the town centre. I wonder whether Chris remembers this and in particular the two rather 'suspect' fairground attractions starring 'deshabille' ladies in various static poses as was the rule in those golden days of control by the Lord Chamberlain's office. I am not sure why this image has stayed with me for so many years...

Mark Loosemore

And Chris SLADE comments :

I thought the fun fair was on the left. I recall only one lady displaying tum and bits. She had a white shawl with black oak leaves (or maybe camels) printed on it. She seemed to be of mature years (older than us!) but I can't remember her face for some reason.

More excitingly there was a boxing ring in which (on payment) you could volunteer to do a round with a famous boxer! I didn't!

Regards,

Chris

#### **Neil MACDONALD says** 'Hello from Arizona'

Many thanks for sending the additional post of the Hardyans Club newsletter. I do get them sent to me from the "[webmaster@hardyansclub.com](mailto:webmaster@hardyansclub.com)". They seem to arrive with no difficulty so the system works for me.

My wife Nancy and I attended this past May's '52-53 lunch at the Dorchester RFC. This thanks to Nigel Newberry's excellent stewardship. Unfortunately we were unable to stay over in the Dorchester area to attend the Hardyans' May monthly luncheon at the Kings Arms.

In June of 2010 we moved from Seattle in the Pacific Northwest to Saddlebrooke just 17 miles north of Tucson in Arizona. We would welcome any Hardyans travelling through the United States to come stay with us for a few days. Southern Arizona is a delightful area to visit especially during any period except the months of June, July and August when the temperatures get high. We may be contacted through my email which is held on the Hardyans website. Details may be obtained via the Membership Secretary.

Neil Macdonald

Another offering from **Chris SLADE**

Having ascertained at the School's reception desk that they still have a library, I handed over a copy of Poems from the Oak Room, an anthology of some of the work/play of the Cattistock Poets who meet at the Fox & Hounds there. Four of the poems are mine! I signed it and added my dates at the School: 1959 - 1964. I know I'm far from being the only Old Hardyean who has got into print, so I'm passing on the suggestion to others who might like to leave a mark there.

Chris Slade

**A further tribute to Colin Lucas** from **Michael STABLER**

I have only just learned about Colin and wish to add to the tributes. When I joined the Old Hardyans, Colin was the first to welcome me and subsequently, after I started to attend the monthly lunches and AGM, Colin was always able to put one at ease and took a genuine interest in what one was doing. It saddened me to learn of his death and I send commiserations to his family. Unfortunately I was not able to maintain an acquaintance with Colin as I moved away from the district and it is now some years since I attended OH's meetings.

[We were contemporaries at the Colliton Street School and at the Barnes Way site when of course it was a Grammar School; I attended the school between 1945 and 1952 under the headship of R W Hill]

Michael J. Stabler

***Editor As at December 2013, the Fund set up in memory of Colin Lucas had received donations totalling over £11,000. The Club Council will be deciding what use should be made of these funds to form a lasting tribute.***

**OBITUARIES**

**Anderson John ACUTT(1946-52)**

A letter sent by Membership Secretary Bob Rench to John's last known address in Australia was returned 'Deceased', in November 2013

**John Newman 1934 – 2013** from Roger Newman

Sadly, I have to report that my Brother **John Newman** who attended Dorchester School from 1945 to 1952 – has passed away. He was a boarder at Southfield.

He died peacefully at his home near Johannesburg in South Africa on 17<sup>th</sup> June, having suffered a severe stroke in 2003 that had left him with paralysed limbs on his left side. He never complained about his misfortune.

After leaving school he graduated at Southampton University as a Bachelor of Science and took up his first appointment in the British Cameroons.

He enjoyed Africa so much that he decided to seek permanent employment there, firstly in South Africa and later in Rhodesia where he met his wife Barbara.

After many enjoyable years living with his family in Southern Rhodesia he decided it would be wise to sell up and move back to South Africa where he joined the South African branch of Cadbury Ltd as chief chemist.

He made the decision to leave Rhodesia after the Mugabe era began, because he could see that Mugabe's policies would eventually ruin the country.

Throughout the 10 years of his disablement, Barbara cared for him at their home in the Transvaal that is quite close to the homes of their own three children and nine grandchildren.

Roger Newman

**Anthony Rogers (1941-49)**

from Membership Secretary Bob Rench: I have received an email from Mrs Carmel Rogers advising Anthony Rogers (1941-49) passed away 26th July 2013.

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

Mike Tuck (1946-52) moved from Maiden Newton into Dorchester in November 2013

## ***THE HARDYEANS ANNUAL DINNER***

***School Dining Room***

***THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL, COBURG ROAD, DORCHESTER DT1 2HT***

### **Proposed Menu**

#### **Starter**

**Spiced Parsnip Soup Topped with Crispy Fried Onion**

**Main**  
**Slow Braised Beef in Red Wine Served with Creamy Mash Potato,**  
**Fine Green Beans and Carrots**  
**Or**  
**Vegetarian Option**  
**Somerset Brie & Beetroot Chutney Tart Served with Creamy Mash Potato,**  
**Green Beans and Carrots**  
**Pudding**  
**Summer pudding served with Cream**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014**

Preceded by President's Reception from 7pm

**NB CLOSING DATE for bookings & payment Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

***Cost £21 per head***

**Wives and partners welcome**  
**Lounge suits or smart casual.**  
**Bring your own wine or other beverage – glasses will be provided**  
**Raffle prizes to help our funds are welcome**

### **ANNUAL DINNER 2014 BOOKING FORM**

**Please print out this form and return to the Treasurer (address below) or email the details.**

Name.....

Home address.....

.....

Dinner @ **£21** No's required..... Table of 4/6 required? .....Years at School.....

Vegetarian Option required ?.....

Hardyeans' Club Tie required ?.....(Add £10 to your payment)

E-mail address for confirmation (and receipt if paying by cheque).....

Please make cheques payable to The Hardyeans Club, and send to Alan Brown, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD

If you wish to pay by Internet Bank Transfer, the bank Sort Code is 30-92-69, Account No. 00403528, Account Name "The Hardyeans Club". Please, if possible, quote your surname as a reference, and e-mail Alan Brown at [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com) to let him know when you have paid.

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Please ensure that your booking and payment are with Alan Brown by this date !**

The Hardyeans Club tie, costing £10, is an essential, smart and iconic addition to the wardrobe of all former Hardyeans and Grammarians, based on the traditional blue, gold and red stripes of the old school – with the addition of the centenary crest.

Alan Brown is selling these, you will need one for the Annual Dinner.

Add £10 to your dinner payment to receive a club tie.

**NB PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE – NO PAY ON THE DAY!**