

The Hardyens' 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

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In this issue

The President writes 1

Press Officer – page 2

You Write - pages 3 - 4

Obituaries - page 5-6

Message from the Treasurer p5

Membership Secretary's report p5

Head Teacher's page p7

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS by Peter Foster at the 2014 Annual Dinner

A distant relation of the author Thomas Hardy and Admiral Thomas Masterman Hardy, Thomas Hardy of Melcombe Regis and Frampton was a property owner who, we read, endowed the Dorchester 'free' school in 1579, ten years after its completion by the town. His monument is on the south wall of St. Peter's Church. The Tudor grammar school offered free education to boys of the town and neighbourhood, and flourished under the Puritan regime of Revd. John White. It survived the 18th century, though at times having very few scholars, and struggled through the first half of the nineteenth century, closing in 1879. It was substantially rebuilt and re-opened in 1883. Though he had, as a child, attended Isaac Last's rival establishment, in Durngate Street, Thomas Hardy, the author, laid one of the foundation stones for the school's new building on the Barnes Way site in 1927. The land had previously belonged to the Duchy of Cornwall, and the new building was formally opened in 1928 by the Duke of Cornwall, the then Prince of Wales. It was known as Dorchester Grammar School until 1951, when the name Hardye's School was adopted as a reminder of the sixteenth century founder and links to the Hardy family. 'Hardye's' had boarding houses, Heathcote, Southfield and South Walks until 1982. The Barnes Way site remained operative until 1992. The Memorial gates, dedicated in 1957, escaped demolition and were moved, here, to the new Thomas Hardye School. The Dorchester Grammar School for Girls, the Green School, as we knew it, was opened in around 1930, and the Dorchester Modern School some time after the 1944 Education Act. These schools formed the basis of the Thomas Hardye School.

The Green School became Castlefield School in 1980. Today's Thomas Hardye School is a merger of Hardye's and Castlefield in 1992, here, on the Castlefield site, formerly the site of the Dorchester Secondary Modern School. The decision was made to have a mixed comprehensive school.

80 years after the previous Prince of Wales opened the building at Barnes Way, HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall were here in 2008 to officially open the newly constructed library and sports hall. On 1 August 2011, The Thomas Hardye School officially gained academy status.

So, in proposing the toast of The Thomas Hardye School, I should like to combine the groups of Hardyens present this evening, who were pupils under the headmasterships of: -Ralph Hill 1927-55, Anthony Hamilton 1955-74, W M Thomas 1974-1982, P Close 1982-1988, Tony Moore 1991-1992, Iain Melvin 1988-2010, Mike Foley 2011-Present, together with my guests Andy and Sue Worth, representing the Dorchester Secondary Modern School, representatives of The Green School and Castlefield, we draw these strands of past and present together

COLIN LUCAS REMEMBERED AT OLD HARDYEANS' REUNION



Old Hardyans have raised £11,750 in memory of their late Chairman Colin Lucas, who passed away in August. Speaking at the Annual Reunion Dinner, new Chairman Godfrey Lancashire announced the money would be used in four different ways. He recalled that Colin played the tuba in the Durnovaria Silver Band and coincidentally, the Thomas Hardye School orchestra was in need of just such an instrument. A new tuba had been purchased and engraved with Colin Lucas' name. To the applause of Old Hardyans, Colin's widow Brenda presented the silver instrument to Head Teacher Michael Foley. "I know Colin would have been very pleased," Brenda told members.

The late Colin Lucas, Chairman of the Old Hardyans, at last year's Annual Reunion Dinner

A wooden memorial plaque will be installed within the Thomas Hardye School and the new Colin Lucas Cup will be presented to the winner of the annual cricket match between the Old Hardyans and the school XI. The residue of the Colin Lucas Memorial Fund, around £9,000, will enable the Hardyans Club Charitable Trust to institute a bursary in his name, to benefit needy students.

Around 70 Old Hardyans and their wives attended the Annual Reunion Dinner at the Thomas Hardye School and were welcomed by President Peter Foster, who outlined the long history of the original Hardye's School in South Street, endowed by Thomas Hardye of Frampton in 1569. He was no relation to the writer Thomas Hardy, nor of Captain Masterman Hardy, explained the President, but Thomas Hardy OM had laid the foundation stone of the new Hardye's School at Culliford Road in 1927. Peter Foster congratulated the modern Thomas Hardye School on attaining academy status.

Head Teacher Michael Foley spoke of increasing co-operation between the school and the Old Hardyans. He did not agree with the modern idea of recreating Grammar Schools- which Hardye's had been- "we take pupils from all kinds of backgrounds."



Brenda Lucas presents the silver tuba to Head Teacher Michael Foley for the Thomas Hardye School orchestra, in memory of her late husband Colin .



The President welcomes his guests to the Annual Reunion Dinner- [left to right:] Godfrey Lancashire [new Chairman of the Hardyans], Michael Foley [Head Teacher of Thomas Hardye School], Peter Foster [President of the Hardyans] and Garry Batt [Chairman of the Governors of Thomas Hardye School].

Guest speaker Garry Batt, Chairman of the Governors of Thomas Hardye School, wanted the Governors to become closer to the Hardyans. "Thomas Hardye School is in good heart, Governors are very focused and very active," he told the Annual Reunion Dinner. "We want to build a new performing arts centre - but we need a lot more money." Mr. Batt spoke about his varied life as an auctioneer at Dukes and some of the unusual pieces which had passed through his hands to sell.

Chairman Godfrey Lancashire announced that the Annual Reunion Dinner would be held at the King's Arms Hotel in Dorchester from next year, on Saturday 21 March 2015. It would mark the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Old Grammarians in 1905 and feature the first female guest speaker in 110 years - the Rev. Vicky Thurtell, Vicar of St.Peter's Church, Dorchester. Before dinner, in a new format, Hardyans Chairman Godfrey Lancashire and the Secretary of the Hardyans Club Charitable Trust, Captain John Pearson RN, summarised the year's activities of their respective clubs. The formal annual general meeting has been abolished. The raffle raised £220, thanks to the hard work of Helen and Bob Rench. Godfrey Lancashire was the Master of Ceremonies. Among the guests were 12 sixth formers from the modern school. *Photographs by Michel Hooper-Immins.*

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 26th June, 31st July. Come along and talk to fellow alumni of Hardye's School.

Sunday 27th May 2014, St Peter's, Dorchester, Choral Evensong with the Thomas Hardye School Chapel Choir
- All welcome!

CLUB v SCHOOL Cricket Match Provisional date is Wednesday 2nd July. Please contact Tony Foot for more details (01305 812210) if you'd like to take part. Club President and Mrs Foster enjoyed attending last year. It would be good to see a few more members present. Bring a folding chair !

Hardyeans' Club Information

Hardyeans' Club Newsletter

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

YOU WRITE

Graham ALLEN 1953-60

May I, through your excellent quarterly Newsletter, pass on my sincere thanks to all those old boys (in the sense of "former" rather than "ancient") of Dorchester Grammar School and Hardye's School who have submitted photographs and other related document copies for inclusion on my website. This website shows much memorabilia dating from the days when the School was located in Culliford Road, including items from the Junior School in Wollaston House.

Since I first created this website around 2000 (I don't recall the exact date), which started with a dozen or two photos from negatives I uncovered dating from the mid-fifties, I have received a steady stream of photos and other material from old boys who have found my website and have contributed material from their own archives. Consequently, there are now well over 700 images (even some movie clips) dating from the opening of the premises in 1927 up to its sad demise in 1997, and this number continues to grow steadily. The items which may be viewed include photos of sports events, the CCF, school staff, the buildings, the boarding houses, panoramic photos from several years, and of course numerous individuals from those times.

Although the majority of photos are from around my period at Hardye's (1953-60), there are many others from earlier and later periods. However, there is a shortage of memorabilia from the pre-war times, and from the 1960's onwards. May I encourage readers who may have material that they feel is relevant and would like to share with others, to get in touch. There are numerous links on the website enabling readers to email me.

I would also like to thank those who, over the years, have so kindly sent me emails expressing the pleasure they have received in browsing through the website. It's always nice to know that one's efforts are being enjoyed by others.

For those who have not yet visited the website, it may be found at: <http://oldhardyeans.webs.com/>

Graham Allen.

Alan (Algy) ATTRYDE 1958-65 (via Secretary, Michel Hooper-Immins)

I retired from the FCO in September 2011. Since working in Tehran, I was Deputy Head of Mission in Bucharest, Deputy Head of Mission and also Charge d'Affaires in Kathmandu and, finally, Director of Trade & Investment in Baghdad. The last post was quite hairy, living in my room in the Embassy and only going out of the Embassy with 3 armoured vehicles, 6 armed men and full body armour!!

Old habits die hard though and, after getting bored in 2012, I got a job in London in January 2013 as Secretary to the Royal Society for Asian Affairs and I am still working there. Look at our webpage - www.rsaa.org.uk

As a result of the job and the need really to be closer to London, I moved two weeks ago to Epsom in Surrey. I think that will also mean that I can take a shorter time in getting down to Dorchester - just over two hours.

Regards,
Alg.

Brian FREAKER (1932-42) writes from Somerset,

Another interesting issue of the newsletter, although there must be few O.G. of the 1932 entry(!), I also pick it up – anxious to see if any ‘old uns’ still potter on. I too was taught Physics by ‘Nutty’ Hazlegrove. It was whispered that Physics was not his prime subject, but obviously he put his subject very well – my last job was Head of Physics at Charterhouse (for 17 years!).

When he was newly married, put up to it, I suggest, by his new wife, some of us Sixth Form scientists were invited to tea. It was a delightful occasion which I still remember well. Staff lives were very private to the boys. This was heightened, possibly by the fact that ‘Ticker’s’ son was in the VIth – Edward Cole.

I went up to Oxford (The Queen’s College) with Alec Barlow and shared a room with him. We joined the OTC as it was then which served us well – Alec was given a permanent commission in the Navy and I did a four-year stint as S/Lt, RNVR. This was in two parts – I spent two years in Australia where we made desultory plans to repel the Japanese. I forbore to tell in my letters home how well we were fed.

I thoroughly agree with Brian Hulse in his comments on the Newsletter. I am not yet 90 (but it’s not all that far off!) and I look forward to it

Best wishes to all connected.

Brian Freake

Neil HORNE

Thank you for the gentle reminder regarding the Annual Dinner. I am not ignoring your invitation, but living in Alberta it becomes somewhat "difficult" to attend the various functions.

I enjoy reading the news concerning the Club as it is circulated and occasionally recognize names of people with whom I attended Hardye's.

I have lived in Alberta since 1959 and continued my career in the teaching field spending many years in school administration, finally retiring early in 1991.

Neil Horne (1944 - 1952)

Patrick KEMP 1949-57

Just wanted to let somebody on the OH network that my e-contact details have changed - as per this message- the old Tiscali one should be deleted. Would be grateful if you would also let the Sec know so that the records can be amended. Thank you.

Thanks also for the regular e-newsletter, I always enjoy looking through it - sorry to hear the sad news of Frank Southerington's death ; it brought back cheerful memories of some very rowdy celebrations of long gone New Years nights on Chesil Beach !

Regards to all
Paddy Kemp

Michael WARBY writes from Aylesbury, Bucks

Just read the Newsletter about Life Memberships.

I was at Hardye's from 1959 to 1966 and took up the Life Membership option, but I can't remember the year - probably 1966 or 1967 when I had only recently left after A Levels. I initially worked in the Midland Bank, starting in Dorchester, followed by a spell in the Beaminster and Bridport Branches, before joining the Prison Service and moving away from Dorchester.

Please pass on my regards to Peter Foster, plus thanks to him and Heather for production of the Newsletter. He and I were neighbours in Dorchester when I lived at 40? Garfield Avenue.

Reading CCF memories recounted in the Newsletter, I remember Mark LOOSEMORE as he lived nearly opposite me when we moved to 19 Garfield Avenue. His story stirred vague memories of going to the same camp and the fair, but I assume a year or so later than him. My recollection is the memory of the night 'raid' of shouting and banging on our hut by another CCF group, which ended up with broken glass being thrown into our sleeping area and the duty Corporal/6th Former cutting his feet when he got out of bed. (I could have only been aged 13ish).

Regards
Michael Warby (1959-66)

Membership Secretary's Report

The Total number of Full members in the Club is 742 (as at May 2014)
Of these 610 receive their correspondence via email and 96 by post.
The remaining 33 are members of our Lost Legion (22 email & 11 postal)

Since the Last newsletter we have been joined by 6 new members.

Robert R Hall (1948-52) who lives in Bridport (A lapsed member who decided to rejoin)
Michael S Rowland (1977-82) who lives in Weymouth
Paul Self (1968-75) who lives in Norwich
Janet Jackson (1951-1955) who lives in West Bexington, nr Dorchester
Brenda Lucas – (An Honorary Member)
Colin M Smith (2002-2007) who lives in Liverpool
Welcome to them all.

Welcome back to 3 of our Lost Legion

Owen J Davies (1967-73) who has contacted us since the last newsletter was published. Thank you to
Richard Wild.
Robin E.M. Carr (1967-74) who has moved from Edinburgh to West Linton
D.M. Sellgren (1980-85) who has moved from Shaftesbury to Reading

Thank you to 8 members who have now agreed to receive their post by email rather than surface mail.

Colin Legg (47-53), Howard Gregory (59-63), John Loving (65-72), Ian Litchfield (63-69), Ray V Fooks (43-50), Peter Old (53-58), Richard Cove (1987-94) and D.M Sellgren (1980-85)

Thank you also to those members who have notified the Treasurer that they are Life Members and to those who have updated their membership fees to £5.00 p.a.

Sadly we have received notification of 2 members who have passed away

Lt. Cdr Ken Pearce, who lived in Barton-on-Sea and was a long time Treasurer of the Club and former Clerk to the Governors.

Dr. Frank Southerington (49-57) who lived in Virginia USA [Please see contributed obituary later in this issue]

Unfortunately 2 other members have decided to resign from the Club.

Jerry Lanning & Terry Scragg

I must also report that 2 members have been added to our 'Lost Legion'.

Brian E. Hoare (1984-89), whose last known address was in Quorn, Leicestershire.
Peter R. Harris (1944-50), whose last known address was in Sydling St Nicholas, Dorchester.

If you can help us find any members of our 'Lost Legion' 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!

Bob Rench

A Message from the Treasurer

My thanks to all of you who responded to my note in the last Newsletter concerning Annual Membership Fees and Life Membership. Unfortunately there are still a number of members who have not responded. If you have changed your Standing Order from £2 p.a. to £5 p.a. but have not told me please do so. If you have overlooked this please do make the changes. In fact, it might prove to be financially rewarding to you, as there are a small number who are paying too much!

Alan Brown

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OBITUARIES

Lt Cdr Ken PEARCE

Ken Pearce who died on January 23rd 2014, was a former Clerk to the Governors of Hardye's School and also Treasurer of the Hardyens' Club until he moved to Barton - On - Sea in 2004.

He is remembered by members of the Club Council with appreciation, and particularly by Tony Day who writes:

I remember him well, of course, having succeeded him in the post of Clerk to the Governors and Clerk to the Thomas Hardye Foundation, a role which Ken performed for many years. He was very kind and helpful to me both in the transition period when I was understudying him and for a while after whilst I 'flew solo' as it were, with the myriad tasks that bedevilled me.

He had been a huge stalwart of Hardye' school from the time of the boarding houses and was very much involved in the administrative, protracted and sensitive role which led to the foundation of the current Thomas Hardye school, amalgamating the Hardye's and Castlefield schools upon our current site – a task of considerable magnitude. To me, he was an unfailingly kind and helpful man, one who commanded respect, and had a good sense of humour. In my view he was an efficient, effective and stalwart figure in the latter life of Hardye's School and in the infancy of the present Thomas Hardye School.

Ian PURSEGLOVE

Jonathan Pullen passed on details of the Obituary submitted to the Guardian on 16th April 2014 by Ian Purseglove's wife Alison. The full content can be read at <http://www.theguardian.com/music/2014/apr/16/ian-purseglove-obituary>

That he survived infancy following his birth in Weymouth in 1944 was attributed to the presence of American medics stationed there prior to D-Day. A severe form of haemophilia resulted in Ian becoming disabled by his teens. Nevertheless he became a renowned musician excelling on piano and organ, and composed concertos, chamber, instrumental and choral works including settings of poems by Thomas Hardy and William Barnes. He was also a teacher and examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Frank SOUTHERINGTON (1949 – 1957)

Submitted by Nigel Newbery



Frank Southerington was born on July 26th 1938 in Abbotsbury. He joined Hardyes School in 1949 and in 1951 became one of the first 'boarders' at the newly created Heathcote House. In addition to being an English scholar he was also a talented pianist who accompanied the School Choral Society. He and Paul Bowen produced a comprehensive selection of works for their regular concerts at the Corn Exchange in Dorchester. The programme for 7th March 1956 still exists and included works as diverse as Wagner's 'Tannhauser' to the Skye Boat Song and Waltzing Matilda. Interspersed were solos, including Frank's rendition of Grieg's Piano Concerto. He continued to enjoy his music throughout his life.



Whilst a perfectionist, he also had a lighter side. When pupils arrived at school on the last morning of term in December 1957, they were confronted with quite a spectacle. Painted footsteps led to an effigy hanging from the belfry and further prints came down again before disappearing into a drain. Alongside this was a complete school uniform with each piece identified as belonging to W.G. Morris. What many boys did not know was that this was the finale of a term-long hoax set up by Frank and a few friends. 'W.G.' was a fictitious pupil for whom the conspirators managed to plant an 'official' student record in the Secretary's office. His achievements (although actually non-existent) were regularly reported at morning assemblies, particularly his successes in cross-country running. At least one teacher had his suspicions particularly as 'W.G.' appeared to be good at the same subjects as Frank and their handwriting was very similar. However the master kept his counsel and the hoax was allowed to run its course. The local paper carried reports over a couple of days but the stunt was taken in good part by the Head and those involved willingly paid for the clean up. The following July a further incident took place when a cannon was removed from the Depot Barracks and placed outside the Daily Echo offices in South Street. Once again Frank was believed to be a prime mover behind this prank. (For press cuttings see the Recollections section of Graham Allen's site: <http://oldhardyeans.webs.com>)

From Hardye's Frank went to University College London to study for his Bachelor of Arts. One of his colleagues recalls that he lived in a bed-sit in Notting Hill, when it was a run-down slum area, and many Hardyeans used to visit him there and sleep on his floor. After London he went to Magdalene College Oxford where he received his DPhil working on Thomas Hardy. He also published two books through the Oxford University Press. He taught English Literature in Sweden and Finland and later went to the United States. At Chapel Hill in South Carolina he taught Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton and then, in 1968, he moved to Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. Here he was Professor of English and amongst other things was the first director of the MLitt / MFA programme in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in Performance. He became an avid actor and director and a translator of Ibsen and Strindberg. Many of his translations were performed and several published by the University of Virginia Press. He had completed a biography of Strindberg shortly before his death on 15th August 2013. Tributes poured in and a picture emerged of an unforgettable educator and theatre buff with a no-nonsense style who was full of kindness and humour.

He is survived by his wife Terry, sons Tom and Paul and daughters Anna, Jennifer and Margaret. He was an avid rose gardener and a pink Queen Elizabeth rose was planted on the campus in his memory. For those who knew him the only way to say goodbye was to celebrate his life with a big party at his home which hundreds attended.

The Club sends sincere condolences to family and friends of the above

From the Headteacher



We are incredibly fortunate to have some of the best sports facilities in the south-west. Alongside the extensive playing fields there are two sports halls, two dance studios, tennis courts, fitness rooms, a 3G pitch and access to a six lane indoor pool. It means that we can attract youngsters with a very high level of ability and I am delighted that Tara Chittenden (Year 11) has been selected for the England hockey squad, Caspar Bailey (Year 11) has been invited to join the south-west region rugby squad and Harry Wheeler (Year 9) has been called up to the Great Britain water polo squad. Look out for the names in the years ahead: the ambition is for a Thomas Hardy student to appear at Twickenham or in the Olympics!

Participation is also important and I have been equally delighted to see so many youngsters taking part in inter-College competitions which have happened for the first time this year. The college football competition was particularly popular not only with participants but with large numbers of spectators. We will continue to grow the number of different competitions next year not just in sport but in areas such as debating and drama.

The sports facilities are a source of real pride and they will be further enhanced next September when the refurbishment of the main sports hall will be completed after 12 months of extensive building work (phase VI). However, the facilities for the performing arts are not as impressive and we would like to do something about it! Our ambition is to build a hall for the performing arts which would concentrate on high quality musical performance but would also provide a space for drama, art and technology exhibitions, conferences, literary events and lectures. It would be an ideal venue to showcase the outstanding arts provision we have at Hardy's, but also a wonderful facility for the community and the town of Dorchester. A former student has already promised extensive support for the project but if there are any other Old Hardyans who feel they could be of help in any way please contact myself or Tony Day (Clerk to the Governors)

Finally, we are now into the exam season which seems to creep earlier and earlier into the school year. It is a feature of school life that has not changed much over the years and you will no doubt sympathise with the young people who have to revise and sit in large exam halls when they would much rather be out in the fine weather playing rounders or tennis or cricket!

Mike Foley

Headteacher