The Hardyeans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

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

Newsletter Autumn 2015: Issue 127

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Major General J A Stephenson CB OBE

We report the recent death of our former President on Sunday 24th May 2015 at Winchester Hospital. Major General John Aubrey Stephenson was born on the 15th May 1929. Educated at Dorchester Grammar School and then at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, commissioning in 1948. He led a distinguished military career spanning from 1948 (as a young officer with the Royal Artillery) to 1984 when he completed his career as the Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery. As well as his military career, he went on to become the Managing Director for Weapon Systems Ltd, and a

As well as his military career, he went on to become the Managing Director for Weapon Systems Ltd, and a Governor of Hardye's School Dorchester. He took on the presidency of the Hardyeans' Club in 1997 and founded the Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association in 2000. He was largely responsible for moving the Club from a rather inward-looking entity, to seek much closer liaison with the modern Dorchester Thomas Hardye School which the club still enjoys today, [writes John Pearson, Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association] He leaves his wife Sheila and daughter, Susan and two sons, Douglas and Peter.

The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service was held at 1400 hrs on Friday 19th June, at St Peter's Church, The High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire, and this was attended by 10 Hardyeans. [see also page 3]

The President's Tribute To JOHN STEPHENSON

At the reception following the funeral service for John Stephenson, Hardyeans' Club President Peter Foster gave the following tribute:-

'John was a great supporter of our school and club, being a pupil at the Dorchester Grammar School in the 1940s, and later, a President of our Club. I always enjoyed listening to his school memories. His cheerful and courteous manner, be it at a Club event such as the Annual Reunion and Dinner, the Christmas Luncheon, or at a Club Council meeting is what I shall always remember. His wise deliberations and observations at meetings were always welcomed and valued. His active support and involvement in the work of the Hardyeans' Club Charitable Trust, that provides bursaries to Thomas Hardye School Students going on to university, will always be remembered. It was John who generously donated the Hardyeans' Club Presidential Chain of Office. He donated it in memory of all those from the school who gave their lives for our freedom. When I had the honour of becoming Hardyeans' Club President, in 2013, John gave me much encouragement and support. For me and I know many others, it was a pleasure and privilege to know John.'

Peter Foster

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 29th October and 26th November. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thursday 17th December 2015, 12.30 for 1pm, again at the King's Arms ANNUAL DINNER 2016 Advance Notice! Saturday 19th March 2016, 7 for 7.30pm.

See further news and preliminary booking form on page 5 of this Newsletter.

ARMISTICE DAY 11th November 10.30am at the Memorial Gates, Queens Avenue

Hardyeans' Club Information

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For those of you who use Facebook, Alan Brown has set up the following page https://www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyeans/ and it would be good to have some contributions!

From the Chairman - Godfrey Lancashire

A panel of 16 Hardyeans helped the school by holding mock job interviews at the end of the summer term for all year 10 (450 students). Interviews were held over 2 days and each interviewer conducted up to 15 interviews each day. The standard of students and the quality of their personal statements was very high and we all learned a great deal from this initiative which we hope will be repeated on an annual basis. My thanks to all those who took part.

My thanks again to all those, and there were a considerable number of you, who responded so positively to the request from the Art and Photography Department for donations of any old 35mm cameras and equipment. This will make a huge difference to all students, particularly those who are at a financial disadvantage. The school is most grateful. [See also Headteacher's page]

Both initiatives do really help in a practical way and further strengthen the links between club and school. Godfrey (Chairman)

Membership Secretary Report from Bob RENCH

The Total number of Full members in the Club is 717 (as at September 2015) Of these 622 receive their correspondence via email and 82 by post. The remaining 26 are members of our Lost Legion (12 email & 1 postal)

Since the Last newsletter we have been joined by 1 new full member:

Duncan Ferguson (1970-77) who lives in Watford

We also have 10 Associate members whose details have been added to the database for the present year

Isabelle Baker, Victoria Blake, Alexander Buley, Alexander Cummins, Aaron Green, Ramsey Inkster, Matthew Sargent, Kaleb McDermid-McGinn, Oliver Sharpe & James White. We hope that at the end of their year as Associate members they may decide to join the Club as Full Members.

Thank you to 2 members who have now agreed to receive their post by email

Harry Dike (1959-64) and Andrew Stark (1969-74)

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Allan Stevens (1935-40) had been added to our Lost Legion, unfortunately he is not in a position to read the newsletters now, so he has been removed from our posting list. Our thanks and thoughts go to his son Roy for keeping us informed.

Also the last newsletter reported that Mark Foster (1985-90) who had been a member of our Lost Legion for more than 3 years and his details had been removed from the Club Database. A friend pointed this out to Mark and he is now back in touch and living in Cirencester. Welcome back Mark!

I must also report that 4 more members have been added to our 'Lost Legion'.

Emails to them have failed for some months now and no reply to letters posted earlier this year was received.

Steven B Tigwell (1983-86) was living in Dorchester

Robin W Armstrong (1975-82) was living in Chertsey, Surrey

Rev. Canon Derek Bugler (1934-43) was living in Brunswick, Maine USA

Gordon W Hutchinson (1932-42) was living in Fareham, Hants

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

Maj. Gen. John A. Stephenson (1939-45) from Stockbridge, Hants a life member of the Club **Matias Landshoff** (1941-45) from Sao Paulo. Brazil who was also a life member.

Derek (Stan) Burdle (1952-56) from Dibden Purlieu. Hants

Philip G. Jacobs (1952-58) from Poole

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! At the last mailing 7 members' emailed letters were returned because they had changed their email address.

OBITUARIES

Derek BURDLE

Sadly, I have to report the passing of Derek Burdle (affectionately known as Stan) on 29th May 2015. He had been in a care home for some time and suffered from senile dementia (? altzheimers disease). He was at one time married to my sister in law and between them they had 3 children and have several grand-children.

He was at Hardyes from about 1952 until 1960 and travelled up on the Weymouth train.

His brother Michael passed away 2-3 years ago.

Sincerely,

Patrick Bell.

Alan James COSTELLO Hardyes School 1951 – 1958

Died 29th June 2015. He was a well-known supporter of Weymouth Football Club ('The Terras') and a keen railway photographer and occasional contributor to the Newsletter.

Major General J A STEPHENSON CB OBE

Gordon Crocker writes of his life-long friend:

It is always a time of great sadness when one loses a friend, particularly a friend of long-standing. John and I first met when we were 5 years old at the Convent School, Cornwall Road, Dorchester. I cannot remember how long we were pupils there but I can remember meeting John again when I joined the Dorchester Grammar School in September 1939 at the age of 11+. One of our first tasks was the digging of air raid shelters within the perimeter of the school near the cycle park. These were used when the sirens sounded during school hours.

Within three years of joining the school we both joined the school OTC and it was in those early days that John decided he would make the Army his career. We were both keen on sports at school, in which John excelled. Likewise academically he was to be found in the 'A' form and usually at the top of the class! We progressed through the school and as expected John was accepted into the Military College at Sandhurst, where he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. I joined National Service straight from school and joined the Dorset Regiment, followed by Officer Training at Mons Officer Cadet Training School, Aldershot and the remainder of my service in BAOR. Post National Service I did a year's training at the Camborne School of Mines and joined a British Malayan mining company and after my engagement to Anne left for Malaya in November 1950. John was by this time serving in Malaya, fighting the communist terrorists. We had kept in touch and I received a letter from him shortly after my arrival in Malaya saying he was in hospital in Kuala Lumpur. I went to see him and he was suffering from foot problems caused by service in the jungle. Rest and good medical attention soon resolved this problem. He left Malaya shortly after on completion of his tour of duty.

In early 1952 Anne arrived in Malaya and we were married in Kuala Lumpur, with our reception hosted by another old friend and Old Boy of the Dorchester Grammar School, George Wheeler, and his wife Madeleine. George was Secretary of the Electricity Board in Malaya. Prior to getting married I had changed my job from a mining engineer working in a very high-risk, terrorist-controlled area, 'unfriendly' for a young wife, to a more congenial urban environment, as a senior officer of Customs – my fluency in the language (Malay) secured the appointment and I was fortunate in gaining very fast promotion to my own District after

one year. We next met up with John, now married to Sheila, in 1955, on leave in the UK. I served in Malaya for another four years by which time we had 3 children and the country had been granted independence. The Government offered good pensions for early retirement and in 1959 I retired. I had a contact with Lombard Banking and discovered they were proposing to set up a new branch in my home town of Dorchester. I applied for the post and opened the new branch in early 1960 and settled in the town

On our return to the UK we met up on a regular basis with John and Sheila, attending as many Old Boys functions as we could.

In 1982 John and Sheila visited Sheila's sister in New Zealand and we agreed to meet them in Singapore on their return, to visit our old 'haunts' in Malaya (now independent Malaysia). We visited the East Coast area where John had served in the army and a number of my old haunts in Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Penang and Alor Setar and we were well entertained wherever we went by my old colleagues, including a cruise around Penang Island in a Customs Launch, with a curry luncheon provided by the crew. In the year 2000 I followed John into the President's Chair of the Hardyeans' Club for 3 years. John has made many achievements in his life - his outstanding military career, his commitment to his church and the town in which he lived, his family and his loving care of Sheila following her illness. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Gordon Crocker

On behalf of the Club we extend sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of the above

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You Write

see also page 6 following Head Teacher's letter

Jonathan PULLEN (1958-65) looks back to the end of the Summer term 1965:-

About 50 years ago, I was sitting my 'A' levels in Latin, Greek and Ancient History and I have been pondering on the somewhat melancholy twilight to my school career. Classical set texts (i.e. from Homer, Herodotus and Virgil) are now rather fading from memory; not the authors themselves; I still possess a small classical library but I cannot locate the actual 'Ofod' board exam papers. We may have sat a 'Use of English' paper, as well - hardly surprising as most VI formers were potentially, if not actually, destined to be undergraduates. It was, in a way, an uncertain, indeed, an unsettling time. Harold Wilson had formed a Labour administration in the previous October after 13 years of Tory rule and a secure future of grammar schools, such as Hardve's, was being challenged. What I poignantly recall even now, moreover, was a stark feeling of depression and emptiness when I walked past the school's memorial gates for the last time as a schoolboy aged 17 (schoolboys or pupils back then, rather than students). There was a 'pen pushing' kind of ritual on my last full day; returning my few books and school property and requesting the appropriate masters to sign them off. Also, I believe, one's form master (Mr Peter Lewendon was i/c Mod ii as he had been for Mod i, the year before); even the Head Boy and I requested the signature, for good measure, of a bemused David Pinnell! I wandered up to an almost deserted library to find a genial Walter Lancashire sitting at the receipt of custom and he, obligingly, signed me off for most items. It was as if nearly seven years were just, almost ignominiously, fading away to nought and I had only hazy notions about my future, sensing that I was saying goodbye, having achieved little without really finishing the job. In retrospect, I was immature for my age and I am almost certain even today that I would have 'blossomed' in a third year in the VI form. (I was young for my year -born in late July 1947). There was, of course, my favourite 'red letter' day of the school calendar, Commemoration Day and I vaguely remember being tasked with some responsibility for seating guests, parents, etc. in St George's Church. Doubtless, records show who presented the prizes in the Plaza Cinema that afternoon but the guest of honour's name escapes me (not a naval captain or a university professor?) but, at least, my cousin, Tom (Sir Thomas) Lees, did not (he was quite a jester) stick his leg out on the stage (as he had done the year before) when I received my shared prize (with Godfrey Lancashire), the R.W. Hill prize for Greek. Were we the only two in our year sitting Greek 'A' Level?

Yes, it was a time, not of relief but rather of foreboding and deep thought, but what did not occur to me then was the time scale: had I been summarily retrojected 50 years to my notional departure from the old grammar school in South Street, the year would have been 1915 and the disastrous Gallipoli campaign would have been about three months old. I wonder if any grammar school boys who left in 1915 are now commemorated on the school's war memorial? Perhaps, some introspection in one's late 60s is acceptable, provided that it is not laced with morbid thoughts or self-pity but John Clare's words come to mind: " ... the vast shipwreck of my life's esteems ". Not all of us have achieved great success in worldly terms but can remember Hardye's with deep gratitude, if not always with unalloyed pleasure.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH- THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER AT 1pm

Our Christmas lunch again takes place at the King's Arms Hotel in Dorchester on Thursday 17 December and as we go to press, the hotel are finalising the seasonal arrangements. This traditional lunch will be a fine reunion of old friends and we expect full information to be available by early October. If you would like to join us on this lunch, keep an eye on the website or if not on internet, tell Secretary Michel Hooper-Immins [01305 779705] of your interest and he will advise you of the details.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH BOOKING FORM

| Please print out this form and return to the Treasurer (address below) | |
|---|--|
| Name | |
| Home address | |
| | |
| Christmas Lunch@ £No's requiredPlease indica | te menu choices below |
| Starter choiceMain ChoiceDessert Ch | pice |
| E-mail address for confirmation | 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, bank Sort Code is 30-92-69, Account No. if you pay by this method so he can check the or payment will be 30 th November 2015 |
| THE HARDYEANS CLUB ANNUAL REUNION DINNER SATURDAY 19 th MARCH 2016 THE GRILL ROOM, KINGS ARMS HOTEL, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER. The Annual Reunion Dinner returns to the Kings Arms Hotel in 2016. It is expected there will be a set menu with vegetarian option. Closing Date for booking and payment is 7 th March 2016 The hotel bar is adjacent to the Grill Room, aperitifs and wine will be on sale all evening. There is a car park at the rear of the hotel. Wives and partners are welcome; the dress code is lounge suits or smart casual. Raffle prizes to help our funds are welcome Preliminary ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2016 BOOKING FORM | |
| Name | |
| Home Address | |
| Dinner @ £ No's required To | able of 10 required ? |
| Years at School | |

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 to let him know you have paid.

Hardyeans' Club Tie required ?.....[Add £10 to your payment]

E-Mail address for confirmation [and receipt if paying by cheque.]

The Hardyeans Club Tie, costing £10, is a smart addition to the wardrobe of former students, 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, add £10 to your dinner payment to receive a club tie

From the Head Teacher



We are already into our fourth week back at school following the summer break. Years 11, 12 and 13 take study leave in May which amounts to little more than 32 school weeks, so every day counts. By Christmas, these students will be half-way through their school year with orals and practical exams just around the corner. This very intensive period is a particular feature of life in an upper school with teachers taking a much higher percentage of examination classes that they would otherwise do if they were working in an 11-16 or an 11-18 school.

We enjoyed another very successful summer in terms of examination results. We were particularly pleased with the number of top grades at both A level and GCSE. Over 30% of A level grades were at A or above with a 99% pass rate overall; eight students won places at Oxford or Cambridge and Fergus Johnson achieved a remarkable 6 A*'s including additional maths and further additional maths. At GCSE 29% of students achieved at least 5 grade A's or better and two students managed 12 GCSE passes all at A*! Following on from our outstanding inspection results in March – every single category was graded 1 – this completed a very satisfying year.

Our latest building project has been finished meaning we now have access to two sports hall, an indoor swimming pool, a 3G all-weather pitch and wonderful playing fields. Ideally the next project will be a performing arts facility and I hope to have more news about that by the time of the next newsletter. One old boy of the school has already offered generous financial assistance and we are working with other funding bodies to see if it is feasible to consider a new build as opposed to enhancement of the existing facilities.

Thank you to those Hardyeans who gave up their time to offer Year 10 youngsters a mock interview last summer. We were delighted with the impact and it was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into the school during the normal working day. Thank you also for the generous donation of equipment to the photography department: to date well over 30 cameras, dozens of lenses, and a huge array of filters and other accessories have been donated. As well as this we have had much valuable dark room equipment and a highly prized medium format camera given to the school. This will allow pupils studying photography to have free access to a superb range of equipment to aid their studies.

Best wishes

Mike Foley

You Write continued!

John BARBARA (1957 - 65)

I simply want to extend two sets of congratulations;

First to the Headmaster on such a fine Ofsted report. Old timers always knew Hardye's was an excellent school and it is wonderful to see that that excellence not only continues but is available across the board to the full range of pupils in the catchment. Outstanding indeed!

Second to our new President-elect; well done Tony.

Overall a really interesting Newsletter; I'm only sorry I couldn't make the Dinner and so had to miss the latest milestone of hearing our first lady speaker. I'm sure she will enjoy life in Exeter. We certainly do even though I sometimes feel somewhat renegade in not settling back in old Dorset! All best wishes,

John Barbara.

Mike BETTS (1951 - 55)

Many thanks for the recent Newsletter. One minor error - probably my fault initially no doubt! - but I am shown as a rejoined member having been at the School from 1948 until 1955. In fact I joined the School in Sept 1951, being part of the first full intake into Heathcote. I did indeed leave in Dec 1955. Best wishes,

Mike Betts