

The Hardyans' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

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Chairman : A R(Bob) RENCH

Hon Secretary : Colin LUCAS (tel 01305 265446)

Hon Membership Secretary : Peter POWELL, 3 Durngate St., Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JP (tel 01305 264420)

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Newsletter

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

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EVENTS DIARY *A REMINDER THAT WIVES & PARTNERS ARE MOST WELCOME AT SOCIAL EVENTS!*

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Last Thursday of the month, except December, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Conservative Club, South Walks, Dorchester. It helps if you let Peter LEWENDON know if you intend to come; he can be contacted at Higher Folly Farm Cottage, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8PN (Tel 01460 73927)

NB April and October luncheons feature a Gourmet Menu at £15 per head. ALWAYS EXCELLENT VALUE !!

SKITTLES MATCH Club v The School. Date to be announced. Please contact the Secretary for further information.

CRICKET MATCH Club v the School was held Wednesday 10th July 2002. Please see report from the Press Officer

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE Monday 11th November 2002, 10.20am, at the School Gates

LONDON DINNER 12th November 2002 Please see Booking Form at end of this Newsletter

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be Thursday 19th December 2002, at the Conservative Club, South Walks, bookings please, as soon as possible, to Peter LEWENDON as above, cost £12 per head approx.

HARDYEANS CLUB CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION A final reminder that there will be a concert at St Mary's Church, Edward Rd, Dorchester on 21st September 2002 in aid of the Hardyans Club Charitable Association. The theme is 'Past & Present' and performers will include current and former students. The varied programme includes works by Puccini, Saint-Saens and Handel. Lighter pieces include Miss Otis Regrets. Tickets £5 (£4 concessions). Please contact Colin LUCAS, Secretary.

OBITUARIES

On behalf of the Club we extend sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following

*Ronald B. MEYERS (1925-31) passed away in July 2002. see **From the Press Officer***

Dennis R. STEVENS (1928-33) Retired Dorchester dentist. Until ill-health intervened, Dennis regularly attended Club meetings and functions and will be remembered fondly.

Obituaries continued

Robert BARRASS (? -1962) we were advised of Mr Barrass' death in May, by Michael James. The 1962 Durnovarian reports that at the Commemoration day on 19th July, Headmaster Mr Hamilton paid tribute to four masters who were leaving including Mr Barrass, thanking him for his services as head of the Chemistry department, Commanding Officer of the CCF, and Housemaster of Hodges House. Michael James forwarded the text of a eulogy read at Mr Barrass' funeral by his son-in-law Roger de Freitas, in which he was described as a "philosopher, gardener, intellectual, scientist, soldier, walker, sailor - a man of great energy both mental and physical, of strong convictions, sound arguments and great integrity. After being Head Boy of Gateshead Grammar School he won a scholarship to Cambridge in 1939, and was called up into the RAF in 1940. He was awarded the DFC for courage in flying at treetop height spotting enemy guns at Monte Cassino. After the war he returned to Cambridge and completed his degree, having married Win in 1943. He had a great gift for teaching. All his life he loved explaining, encouraging and helping others to understand things... He had a great love of the British countryside, particularly the fells of Cumbria where he had spent part of his childhood. After retirement he moved to Wales and spent many hours cultivating organic fruit and vegetables and sailing in Newport Bay.... He was a great reader, a favourite author being A E Housman and only two weeks before his death he and Win visited Ludlow in Shropshire where Housman's work is set. The Curator of the Housman Society was thrilled to have a visitor who was able to quote spontaneously from his works." Mr Barrass would be remembered "as a devoted family man, a great husband and father and a fantastic grandfather. And a pretty fine father-in-law too."

YOU WRITE

John BARBARA (1958-65) of Woodlands, Oil Mill Lane, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon EX5 1AJ (tel 01392-875858, home; 01392-879828 fax) writes to say he and his wife retired (or semi-retired) to the above address in April 2001, to escape the demands of North London." I still work 2 days a week as Microbiology Consultant to the National Blood Authority and travel to Colindale. I also do quite a lot of international consulting but the rest of the time it's the lovely South West! And I'm quite near to my home town of Dorchester. OFSTED provided a glowing endorsement of the Thomas Hardy School and this just goes to show that things have not deteriorated, i.e. the past is not always the best. Many congratulations are due to Dr Melvin. While flying to the Channel Islands recently, as an advisor to the Jersey Blood Service, I sat next to an RAF Schools Liaison Warrant Officer. He sang the praises of the School's CCF loud and high. As an ex-RSM in

Hardye's CCF, that warmed the cockles of my heart. Well done, The Thomas Hardye School, and well done, Dr Melvin."

John adds that Nick BAKER formerly of Weymouth had recently been in contact and visited the Barbara's in their new home.

Nigel NEWBERY (1953-60) of 10, Kingston Ave, Saltford, Somerset. BS31 3LF (tel: 01225-873888) e-mail: nigel.newbery@lineone.co.uk

[Nigel's father Rupert Newbery worked at County Hall until the 1970's and was Secretary of the Colliton Club for many years. Nigel married Ann, daughter of Clarrie Woolford - stalwart of the local sports scene for many years- in 1963]

Nigel wrote to Secretary Colin LUCAS recently about plans for a reunion of the 1953 year intake :
".. The idea started months ago when I was looking at a photograph album with my grandchildren and came across a photograph taken in the summer of 1953 when we were 11, of Mr Strickland's class at Colliton Street School. As I had maintained contact with only one of the 42 pupils I thought I would see what I could do to track some of them down. I anticipated that the research would take some time and that a reunion would be organised in the summer of next year which would be 50 years after the picture was taken. I thought perhaps the local paper might also be interested as it is also 50 years since the Coronation. I remembered most of the names in the picture and with a bit of research in recent weeks I have been able to add more contacts and am now up to about 20. Of course what has happened is that the idea has progressed somewhat and several of the contacts I now have did not go to Colliton Street at all but joined me at Hardye's in 1953. Many of them are keen to meet up this year so I have arranged a provisional date of 12th October at the Conservative Club in Dorchester. Several of my old friends have tried to recite the class register but 50 years on most of them cannot get past B ! I wonder therefore whether the old registers exist. The year I am dealing with is those who joined Hardye's in September 1953 (or who joined 'our year' at a later date). Many would have left in the summer of 1958 after 'O' levels, and the remainder including me after 'A' levels in 1960.

The names I have so far are:-

Tony(Ali) BARBER	Dickie DUCKETT	R.A.(Taffy/Tony) EVANS
Tony FORD	Malcolm FREETH	Mickey HUMPHREY
John(Joe) C.A. HUNT	John R (Spike) HUNT	Ron LEE
Geoff MOFFATT	Tony MUGGERIDGE	Brian NATTRASS
Nigel NEWBERY	John PERRY	Nick PRIDEAUX
Dave RALPH	John SONLEY	Ian TAYLOR
Roger TOWNSEND	Tony WILLIAMS	

I have logged on to the website and there are a number of relevant names there. A few have an e-mail address, but most do not. I assume that the Club will have contact addresses but appreciate that you may not be able to release these to me without their agreement. I wonder therefore what is the best way to contact them and would welcome your advice....." Please contact Nigel at the above postal address or e-mail, if you are one of the above-named or can fill in some of the gaps in memory.and Good Luck with the October Reunion .. Ed]

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER, Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

From the pages of the Dorset Echo

Dorset Echo 29 August 2002

RANDELL STARS FOR EX-PUPILS

Adam Randall scored a splendid 133 not out and bowled 4-31 to dominate the annual fixture between the Old Hardyens and the Thomas Hardy School XI. This ensured another win for the old Hardyens, for the third year running. The Old Hardyens batted first, captained by local sports personality Tony Foot. It soon became apparent that the Old Hardyens were as good as any side of recent years.

As the wicket dried out and became quicker, the run rate increased apace. The first wicket went down at 15, Lee Ames aiming for four through the covers, but splendidly caught by Nick Wardlaw off Tom Cole. Foot came to the crease and after a couple of quiet singles, decided that there were runs in the wicket, encouraged by the aggressive batting of opener Adam Rendall, who rattled 30 runs in quick time, six fours and four singles.

Captain Foot was caught by Tom Rimmer off Stuart Harding for 12. After losing his first two partners, Rendall decided to attack the School's bowling with his new partner Rob Waite. He passed his half-century in fine style, taking the score past 100, finishing on a superb 133 not out. The Old Hardyens had scored 203 in 32 overs.

The afternoon weather turned out kinder than forecast and a drying wind had set in. Just over a run a ball was always going to be hard to beat, but the School were undeterred and attacked the bowling. At 16, opener Hari Lehal was out lbw to Dan Lock for 11. Jamie Powell went for a duck.

The School XI made a spirited stand, with some success. Stephen Clifford 18, Simon Pengelly 25, Tom Rimmer 21 and Nick Wardlaw 50 not out put the School back in the game. Then Adam Randall came on and tore the heart out of the School's innings by capturing four wickets for only 31 runs. He also took two fine catches. The School XI were still 45 runs short at the end of the overs.

Organised by Peter Lewendon, the umpires were Old Hardyens Secretary Colin Lucas and School Sports Master Geraint Hughes.

Dorset Echo 15 July 2002

By The Way feature

I sat with Ron Meyers at the Old Hardyens lunch three weeks ago, not knowing it would be for the last time. I shall miss his good company and cheerfulness. The sprightly octogenarian still walked the length of the town and was a regular at the Club's lunch on the last Thursday in the month. Ron Meyers joined Dorchester Grammar School in 1925, then situated in South Street and moved to the new Hardy's School on Culliford Road in 1928. He remembered the foundation stone being laid in July 1927 by Thomas Hardy OM.

Before the days of B&Q, Meyers was for 73 years, the big name in Dorchester ironmongery. Starting in 1920 in South Walks, the shop moved to Victoria Road after the war, where it stayed until closure in 1993. There Ron and his staff would willingly find the right brass screw to fit your particular job- no buying twelve in a plastic bubble attached to a card from a rack! I went to Hardy's with Ron's son Hugh and my sympathies on this sudden death go to him, mother Tinker and brother Simon.



THE THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL

From The Headteacher

Hardyans may have read of the school's superb Advanced Level and GCSE results this year.

The overall pass rate at A Level was 97%, still well above the increasing national average. An average points score of 23.6 means our students achieved an average of just under 3 B grades; this placed us comfortably in the top 40 comprehensive schools in the country. Of course many of the schools above us may lay claim to being 'all ability' schools but the reality is somewhat different.

All seven of our Oxbridge students are able to take up their places and as usual we have a crop of students about to depart for many of the top universities in the country to study Accountancy to Zoology.

After the success at A Level we awaited the GCSE results with cautious optimism. A pass rate of 78% (with the same 5A*-C figure) was a wonderful result and just reward for the hard work of students and teachers alike. Indeed 48% of our students gained 9A*-C grades. These results placed us easily in the top 2% of ALL schools in the country, and were of course the best results in the county, as were the Advanced Level. Once again I must make the point that this was achieved in a school that takes children of a wide range of ability.

Two students gained 12A* grades and Sophie Keble gained one of the top five English Literature results in the whole country. Sophie's achievement is placed in perspective when one realises that the other four students are all boys and attend an independent school beginning with the letter 'W' !

Equally gratifying was the performance of our students with special needs all of whom achieved a decent crop of GCSE results - for these students this achievement equals that of 12A* grades.

Many of you will also know that the school was elated when informed that we have been chosen by the government to be one of the first SCIENCE COLLEGES in the country. I am very grateful to the many Hardyans who have supported us in our quest for this designation. It will bring further finance, expertise and kudos to the school. I am especially grateful to Professor Hugh Griffiths who was kind enough to look at the bid, visit the school to discuss it and indeed lend his name and prestige to the application. Others of course have been equally generous both in terms of time and sponsorship and the school is deeply grateful to them.

Increasingly many students were concerned that this would mean the school would have to change its name. I would like to stress that this will not be happening. It is however an indication of the loyalty of our students to their school.

I write this at the very beginning of a new term. Our new buildings are complete (well nearly) and students and teachers are keen to get going. As things stand today the school is undoubtedly flourishing. I make no apologies for stating that we are the biggest and best in Dorset.

Dr I E Melvin

LONDON DINNER - TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2002

Hugh GRIFFITHS has made arrangements for the London Dinner on 12th November 2002 to be held at : -

University College London
Gower Street
London
WC1E 6BT

Time : 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Dress : Lounge Suits

Tickets : £30.00 per head, including wine

Transport from Dorchester can be arranged. Please contact Colin LUCAS in good time.

Telephone : (Home) 01305 265446. If writing to Colin, the address is :
4, Fir Tree Close, Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PY

Hugh organises an excellent event and we hope it will grow, PLEASE REMEMBER that ladies are MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM

To : Prof. H. Griffiths
5a Fellows Road
Hampstead
London
NW3 3LR

Telephone: (Home) 020 7483 0667
(Office) 020 7679 7310

Please send ticket(s) for the Hardyans' London Dinner on 12th November 2002,

for which I enclose £., by cheque, payable to H. D. Griffiths (£30.00 per head)

Please help Hugh by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.