

# *The Hardyans' Club*

**TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

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

President: John PEARSON

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)

Hon Treasurer: Lt Cdr Ken PEARCE (RN retd)

Hon Press Officer: Michel HOOPER-IMMINS

## *Newsletter*

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Editor: Peter FOSTER.

Editorial Address: Holmecroft, 12, South Court Ave, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2BX (tel 01305 262121)

Design, Typing and Preparation: Heather FOSTER

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

visit the website at: [www.hardyansclub.com](http://www.hardyansclub.com)

E-mail addresses for the Club officers as follows:

president@hardyansclub.com

chairman@hardyansclub.com

secretary@hardyansclub.com

membership@hardyansclub.com

treasurer@hardyansclub.com

thomashardyeschool@hardyansclub.com

editor@hardyansclub.com

headteacher@hardyansclub.com

## **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!!

### **2005 CENTENARY ANNUAL DINNER and AGMs**

for both Club and Charitable Association will be held on Saturday 19th March 2005, at the School, Queens Avenue. The guest speaker will be Rt. Rev. Stephen Venner, former Vicar of Holy Trinity at Weymouth and now Bishop of Dover, a distinguished old boy of Hardye's School. Please see Booking Form and more on this event from The Secretary (Repeated from the previous edition of the Newsletter) NB Time is fast running out so get your booking in as soon as possible!

### **LONDON DINNER**

held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at University College. See Notes from your Secretary.

### **OBITUARIES**

Please see a Tribute to Neville Lord in You Write from Chris Higson

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Simon Haigh (1984-89) <sihaigh@tiscali.co.uk> Flat 2, 14 Edward Street, Bath, BA2 4DU.

### **SITUATIONS VACANT!!**

Hon. Treasurer - Hardyeans Club. Lt Cdr Ken PEARCE has moved away from Dorset and any offers are invited for this worthwhile post. Ability to attend four meetings a year and knowledge of arithmetic useful. Contact the Secretary/Acting Treasurer for more information, please !

### **From the President - John PEARSON**

#### **SEEKING MUSICIANS!**

Most of you will know that the Hardyeans' Club exists not only to help former students from all the Dorchester Senior Schools to keep in touch with friends but equally importantly to raise money for the Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association. This association aims to provide funds to help selected students under 25, but more particularly, those just leaving school, in the costly business of their tertiary education. From starting to raise money in 2000, we have been able to help 10 students so far with up to £500 per year for their 3 years at college or university. To increase both the amount that we can award each year and to increase the number of students benefiting, we have to continue to raise funds to this end.

This year our main effort is in the form of a musical concert to be held at the Thomas Hardye School on Saturday 2nd July 2005 at 7.30pm. This is to be held in a large marquee seating nearly 800 and the evening will conclude with a firework display.

In co-operation with the present Staff and Students of the school, we hope to attract former students of varied musical talent back to this concert both to participate and enjoy an evening of choral and instrumental music from Bach to Bertwhistle; Tallis to Timblerlake or Gershwin to Bebop or whatever form of music YOU might be able to provide. The general theme of the evening will be

a Last Night of the Proms with a celebration of the considerable breadth and talent of past and present musical students combining under the overall directorship of Mrs Kirsty Barry, the present Head of Music at the School.

Can you help us either by offering your instrumental talent; musical direction; your voice as a soloist or as part of a group or expertise in sound engineering to help in the production of a spectacular concert to raise money to help less fortunate students?

If you can, please contact me, John Pearson [jjscp@onetelnet](mailto:jjscp@onetelnet) (01305 259431)

### **Notes from your Secretary, Colin Lucas.**

Most of you, will by now, be aware that I shall retire as your Secretary at the March 2005 Annual General Meeting. This Newsletter really gives me the opportunity to pay tribute to firstly your Hardyens' Club Council and all the contributors in the presentation and editing of this very worthwhile publication.

All of these colleagues have given me the utmost support during the last 15 or so years during which time I have had the honour and privilege to serve The Club in the various capacities as President, Chairman and latterly Secretary. Of course I have enjoyed carrying out these various appointments otherwise I would not have accepted nor undertaken them, but the time comes when one must consider one's age, family obligations and commitments, also other organisation which impinge on ones calendar of events. There is a limit to the amount of time one can give and today's standards determine that TIME is the most valuable commodity we have and like finance it must be used wisely.

Peter Lewendon, my long time mentor and friend has given unstintingly of his time and energy for more years than I care to remember, as sports officer and luncheon club advisor director and in every way supporter of our Club. This Christmas just passed we had 58 sit down to our Annual Christmas Lunch Thank you Peter very much.

During my term in office I am delighted that the Club entered the Millennium with a website and email communication this has been a tremendous boost to the Club and a source of new membership applications from all over the world. None of this would have been possible had it not been for Terry Stone our website manager out in St Kitts. I met him at the end of summer when he was on one of his visits to his parents Thank you Terry for all the help and support you give to the Club.

If elected I shall continue to serve as the Secretary of The Hardyens' Club Charitable Association which was the brain child of Major General John Stephenson and at this present time supports no less than eight former students in their higher and further educational careers. This can only be maintained by your continued support and I am sure that the Trustees join with me in thanking you for your support both now and in the future.

The School too is worthy of more than a brief thank you. The Headteacher Dr Iain Melvin has been very supportive in every possible way, we have always been made welcome on our visits to the School and he and his members of staff should be congratulated on their community orientated ethos and the high educational standards they continue to achieve. The Club will I am sure continue to support the School in all it's activities. We are proud of you.

Now and again I receive information about Members by members and enquiries about Members. Here is a sample: "I was trawling through websites the other day, yours looked interesting. I looked, became interested to see if any of my school pals were listed, sure enough, some were there." Contact made - another new member.

Note from Devon. Professor John Barbara "Dear Colin ,with Alan Brown & David Comely, I am trying to get some old sweats from my time at Hardye's so that a bunch of us can attend the Centenary Dinner on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005. I don't know yet what numbers I can raise but this is by way of a preliminary notice that we will need a portion of a table. More details to follow.

I 'm still enjoying my (semi) retirement from the National Blood Service; I still do 2 days a week at my lab at Colindale (N.London); despite the journey it has proven very rewarding.

A year ago I was awarded The British Transfusion Society's Gold Medal and the Royal College of Pathologists' Oliver Memorial Award and this October (2004) I was appointed Visiting Professor at The University of The West of England.

Just to keep me out of mischief I'm currently editing, with two colleagues, what we hope will be the definitive textbook of Transfusion Microbiology.

It is not all work; in fact I recently came into contact with Gordon Crocker who seems very partial to the vegetables we grow for Exmouth county market.

Best wishes John Barbara."

From Booker Bay Australia Christmas greetings and good wishes from Peter Iles.

Robin Wallace writes from U.S of A to book two Tickets for Centenary Dinner (the list is growing) maximum capacity 250 ! Make sure you have booked It looks as if there will be Old Codgers Table and a Staff table or is that the same?

London Dinner was again very well organised by Professor Hugh Griffiths (name dropping again sorry about that) and what a delight to meet Morag.19 of us sat down to dine at UCL . No parking or speeding fines this time!! excellent time had by all Thanks to you Hugh once again not only for the Dinner arrangements but your special support for the School.

As reported in the last Newsletter our Treasurer Ken Pearce has sought pastures new in Hampshire which is difficult for him to continue. I have had no response following the advertisement for a replacement unless.....um. Ken, many thanks to you for the sterling work you have so diligently and meticulously recorded for us over a number of years.

**Centenary Dinner** this repeated from last Newsletter

I make no apology or excuse for bringing to the attention of Members preliminary details of the Centenary Dinner which will take place at the school on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Now is the opportune time to prepare for this very special occasion. It is anticipated that the Guest Speaker will be The Bishop of Dover Hardyean Stephen Venner. Last year we held the Annual dinner at the School in the Vlth Form Centre and this proved to be very successful. We would have liked better support and perhaps for this special occasion more support will be forthcoming. In order to progress this further

it has been suggested that tables of 8, 10, or even 12 could be booked in advance for Family groups School or year groups Teacher groups and even former Boarding House groups. Please consider these options and contact me for your booking requirements. I hope that this might encourage some of our overseas Members to pay a once in a lifetime visit and make the extra effort and see the redevelopment that has taken place not only at The school but at Dorchester as well. We can probably cater for up to 250. Please support this event and make it the great occasion it deserves. We won't be here for the bi-centenary but we hope the Club will!!

The Booking Form is at the end of this Newsletter. Please return to Colin Lucas as soon as possible!

## **YOU WRITE**

**Roger Allard** [roger@allardfamily.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:roger@allardfamily.fsnet.co.uk)

I am sorry that the promised email/letter has not yet materialised ....However, having attended the London dinner last night that's a good prompt to put matters right. A very enjoyable occasion - 21 of us including as last year two from the same seven years, 1957-1964, as me - Tony Day and Tony Holland.

I have now joined the ranks of the retired, my last working day having been 30 September 2003.

What's nice about the London dinner is the venue, for it was to University College London that I went in October 1964 to take a three year degree course in Classics. Then in August 1967 I joined Westminster City Council as a trainee accountant and qualified in 1972 - the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants as it was then but now the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. And there I stayed for just over 36 years, the last two years and two months as Chief Financial Officer, so it was my name that appeared on the Council Tax bills and my office door where the buck stopped!

36 years in one local authority is unusual these days but I have no regrets for it was a great place to work at what many consider to be the premier local authority in the country. As regards retirement plans there is a large backlog of tasks at home - the result of working long hours for a long time but with Pauline retiring in the early part of 2005 we hope to pursue our love of travel and take off to as and where we fancy. Our travels to date have been very much Europe based so we are looking forward to going further afield.

Orpington has been our home since 1969 and there we intend to stay. It has many advantages - close to London, the countryside, the Channel ports and the major airports. My other interest is to understand the history of my lifetime and what an eventful period the years have been from the end of the Second World War.

Please feel free to use whatever you wish of this in the next newsletter.

One last thing. I did give you my email address but the last newsletter still came in the post. I am very happy to receive it by email in future to save paper and postage costs. You will see that I have copied this to Colin Lucas if this is helpful to make the change.

Best wishes,

Roger Allard.

**From: "Colin Foot" [colin.foot@virgin.net](mailto:colin.foot@virgin.net)**

Thanks for forwarding the message on. I have a reply and will get on with the mandate. I had been trying to make contact with the Club since June and along the way had tried you before and made a better first of an introduction than I did this time. It was nice to be remembered even if only as a train spotter, an interest that has never really left me as we still get the occasional steam train through Shrewsbury.

I moved out of Dorchester in about 1967 and followed a career in the Health Service ending up as boss of an Authority in Shropshire in 1982. Thank goodness they let me have early retirement last year so I am getting back to enjoying myself. Still pass though Dorchester occasionally as my parents still live in Puddletown.

Only found the Club recently and must now pay my dues. Will try to get to something one day and would like to meet up and reminisce.

**Hans Wells-Furby (1943-53)33 High Street, West Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA 22 9AP.**

The last newsletter [no 93] made me turn the memory back 60 years and then 50. I hope the arthritically typed thoughts may be of some use for the next newsletter.

There was a trend for Dorchester employers to send sons briefly to Form one before going to Prep Schools. I recollect a Walne as well as the Pope you allude to.

While for 1944 Dorset and D Day are inseparables the last full year of the War means that we who were fee payers in prep school style FORM I have suddenly galloped past 70.

The "1944 Education Act" of course brought an end to Form I and tuition fees at any level in the School from September 1945. By then the School had already started to expand into a three stream school, with the first "2C" and "3C".

One of the pleasures of being in the small Sixth Form of the early 1950s was being treated as if we were grown ups. As a result we heard observations from "Senior Management" who remembered a much smaller DGS.

"RWH:...:Three streams and six classes at Wollaston House, make it much harder to know every boy in the school."

"Dunk" Lidbury ". Academically we are a one and a half stream school,"

"Tikker" Cole "There was only one genuine sixth former when RWH arrived in 1927".

One might add that I first heard of the present Hardyeans as Dorchester Old Grammarians; then briefly as Old Durnovarians before adopting a third title Old Hardyeans in about three years in the early 1950s. It must have been the shock of reaching Fifty.

Hans Wells-Furby

[The above was squeezed out of the last edition through lack of space - apologies, Editor]

**Simon Haigh <sihaigh@tiscali.co.uk>**

After being a member of the Hardyans' Club for 15 years and always bemoaning the fact that few people from my year (1984-89) write in to say what they're up to, I thought I should give an update on my life, in the hope that it encourages others to do likewise. I've lost touch with everyone from school except Paul White, but I know many from my year did join the club. Please could you also update my address for sending the newsletter, which is: Flat 2, 14 Edward Street, Bath, BA2 4DU.

After graduating in French from Leicester University in 1994, I spent a couple of years trying to sort out what to do with my life before taking a one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism at Cardiff University. As a result of this, I secured a job as a reporter on the Western Daily Press, the regional newspaper based in Bristol, as one of their district reporters in Taunton. I had great fun being a reporter - covering the normal round of gruesome murder cases, a few county council meetings and sometimes just trying to find anything interesting to fill the paper on a quiet day. Highlights were the stories which were followed up by the national press - does anyone remember the Ghost of the Millennium Dome? - and meeting John Major and Jeffrey Archer at Somerset County Cricket Club. The latter seemed quite amiable until he realised I was a journalist. Then he clammed up. Can't imagine why.

In the year 2000 I became a sub editor on the Bristol Evening Post. And for the last three years I have been working there three days a week, and working every Saturday as a sub editor for The Observer, in London, primarily responsible for adapting their domestic edition for a slimmed-down International Edition, printed on the Continent.

I've recently started trying to build-up a sideline, one day a week, as a freelance journalist and photographer, targeting the national and local press.

I've been a keen traveller since I left school, which I gained a taste for on a Dorset Expeditionary Society trip to Ecuador in 1989. I now live in Bath.

Regards,

Simon Haigh

**From Chris HIGSON, Hardy's School 1972-79 (South Walks 1972-78; Heathcote 1978/79).<CRH@bws.wilts.sch.uk>**

A tribute to Neville Lord

Neville Lord was, in the best sense of that rather clichéd term, a "character". Those of us fortunate to be taught by him ("Geography, boys – the history of the future!?" ) and live under his care at South Walks and Heathcote will remember the immense good humour and verve of the man known variously, and affectionately, as "Cyril" ("Nice one, Cyril!"), "The Nordic Knight" or just "Nev". His forbearance in the face of what must have been endlessly tiresome adolescent stupidities and subversive acts (eg. feeding laxative laced chocolate to his dog; exploding bottles of home brew beer in the attic; "the haircut and confirmation service mutiny" of '78 and the "Great Heathcote Explosion" of '79) was positively Job-like.

The marvellous thing about Nev was that summons to answer for misdemeanours (“You and I need to have a little chat!”) invariably metamorphosed, once disciplinary imperatives had been dealt with, into conversations about a wide range of arcane topics: the fighting techniques of the great Jack Dempsey; Ealing studio films; the social significance of punk rock; Mrs Thatcher’s hair styles, and the life and times of Leonardo da Vinci are a few that spring immediately to mind. It was never clear how and why these came about, but upon reflection, I think it was simply that Neville Lord was an interesting man who took an interest in people. He was at his best when dealing with insecure and stropky teenagers: clear standards were set and expectations were high, but then we were left to “get on with it”, safe in the knowledge that if things went wrong, support would always be forthcoming. Nev gave us plenty of rope but never hanged anyone.

South Walks and Heathcote boarding houses were lively and happy places: this was, without doubt, a consequence of the commitment and hard work of Neville and Jennifer Lord. Many of us have reasons to be grateful to them for their support and guidance and numerous acts of kindness. On one occasion (about late 1977) I was languishing in the sick room recovering from a bout of flu and feeling very sorry for myself, when Nev noodled around the door in his inimitably sinewy way clutching fruit and nut chocolate and two cans of beer. Folding himself into a chair, he told me- with a conspiratorial wink- to “get some of that down your neck because the Seconds need you back playing sooner rather than later.” Our little soiree over, Nev sidled out – concealing the empties under his jumper – with the parting shot “...and don’t tell Jen or I’ll really be in the mire!”

On a more serious note, having left school, there was a time when I was really on my chinstraps and a reference from Neville Lord secured me much needed employment; for that alone, I’ve always felt considerable gratitude.

Whether declaiming in geography on some favourite theme (the wonders of “Europort” and Botlek, for example) or demonstrating in PE how not to lift weights, Nev had a certain “style” that made his lessons lively and entertaining. His ability to render simultaneous ferocious reprimands and “TLC” to tardy and inebriated 5<sup>th</sup> formers late on Saturday nights was impressive, as was his uncanny ability to find cups of tea under the most unlikely of circumstances! He understood and cared for his “boys”: a good row was always followed by a shrug, a slap on the back and a laugh. Neville never bore a grudge and happily admitted to getting things wrong “...but only now and then!”. Intolerant of sloppiness, discourtesy and prejudice; tolerant of adolescent foibles and human frailty, Neville Lord was a good man who will be remembered with great respect and affection by many Hardyens. The sad circumstances of his premature death may in some small way be ameliorated by the fact that his was a life lived well serving others, and for a schoolmaster there can be no better tribute. It was my privilege to know him and I won’t forget him. May he rest in peace.

Chris Higson,

**From: Phil Smith <philfish.smith@virgin.net> 2, Silver Birches, Stanton St.John, Oxfordshire OX33 1HH phone 01865 351464**

To whom it may concern!

Well old friends, it's been a long time coming but now I'm on line and have a bit more time and opportunity than I used to, I thought I'd try this email stuff .....so I'll tell you a potted version of my life and if you want to get back to me that would be wicked! Left school 1966 started teaching 1972 Married 1976 Two daughters Victoria & Emily aged 23 & 25 Younger getting married 25/06/05

Older's boyfriend is Dave Shipway from Weymouth! Retired from teaching as Head of Design at Oxford upper school. Hobbies painting, bird-watching, DIY, all music esp. non-classical.

### **From the Press Officer Michel Hooper-Immins**

For the first time, television cameras filmed the traditional Remembrance Day ceremony, as 2,160 students and 214 staff stood in silent tribute in front of the Thomas Hardy School memorial gates, honouring those scholars who gave their lives in war.

Both BBC South West and ITV West Country were present and the ceremony was shown on the late evening news.

Many Old Hardyans were present, led by Club President John Pearson. He and School Governor Gordon Curry laid wreaths of poppies, together with head boy Josh Hiscock and Jo Brazier. A fifth wreath was laid for the Royal British Legion by Percy Sennett, resplendent in his scarlet uniform as a Chelsea Pensioner.

Thomas Hardy School is the only school in Dorset- and possibly anywhere in the South West- to maintain this respectful tradition, inherited from the old Hardy's School in Culliford Road.

It began when the stone pillars and iron gates were consecrated in 1957. The Memorial Gates were rescued from the old school in 1995 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 the two rolls of honour, one for scholars who fell in the Great War and the other honouring those in subsequent conflicts from 1939.

Michel Hooper-Immins recalls the 1960 Remembrance Day. "It was my first year at the upper school at Culliford Road and I well remember it was snowing hard on the day. Yet we all still went out and stood in front of the memorial gates. As one who mercifully knew nothing of war, it was a brief reminder to all of us pre-teenagers of the loss of life that occurs in all wars. I think it's wonderful that the modern school has continued this tradition of 47 years."

The 2005 Dorset Year Book, published by the Society of Dorset Men, again contains a three page article on the Hardyans Club- "Old Hardyans approach their centenary."

The Society was founded in 1904, a year before the Hardyans Club and many Old Hardyans are members of both.

The Dorset Year Book can be purchased for only £6 at most bookshops.

Old Hardyean Hayne Russell, a contemporary of Colin Lucas, became Secretary of the Society of Dorset Men last March, only the tenth Secretary in a hundred years!

**CENTENARY DINNER - SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2005**

**BOOKING FORM**

Name..... Please reserve a table for  
.....persons for the Centenary Dinner at The Vlth Form Centre

Coburg Road, Dorchester 7.30pm for 8.00pm 19th March 2005.

cost £ 15.00 per person

Please forward to The Secretary, Colin Lucas, 4 Fir Tree Close Dorchester  
DTI 2PY