

The Hardyens' Club

TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Hardye's School, Dorchester, Dorset

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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 !!

2006 ANNUAL DINNER and AGM's

For both Club and Charitable Association are to be held on Saturday 18th March 2006,

ARMISTICE DAY

Friday 11th November, 10.30am at the School Gates, Queens Avenue.

LONDON DINNER

This year will be held on Tuesday 1st November at University College. Please see Booking Form at end of this newsletter. **NB First Tuesday in November** this year

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Will be on Thursday 15th December at 12.30 for 1pm. At the Conservative Club, South Walks. £14 per head. Space is limited so please contact Peter LEWENDON as above, or Colin LUCAS as soon as possible, please, to book your seat(s). Cheques payable to Dorchester Conservative Club.

CRICKET MATCH

Annual School v The Club took place on Wednesday 13th July, please see report from the Press Officer

SITUATION STILL VACANT!! Hon. Treasurer - Hardyeans Club

Colin LUCAS has agreed to remain as the Club's Acting Treasurer until a replacement is found. If anyone is interested in helping the Club in this capacity please get in touch with Colin - for contact details see the London Dinner Booking Form at end of this issue.

THE EDITOR WRITES: HONOUR FOR DR MELVIN

It was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours that Dr Iain MELVIN had been awarded an OBE. I am sure Club members would wish to join in congratulating Dr Melvin.

The following is taken from the Dorset Daily Echo:

...He said "the award was brilliant news for the school and added that he had found it extremely difficult keeping the news from his family and colleagues after receiving the letter." He added: "It's been a long month. I'm not a great person for keeping secrets. Occasionally I have nearly let it slip. The thing I have enjoyed most is waiting to hear what my family would say. I thought my father was going to ask 'what for?' but it was the first time I have ever known him speechless."

Dr Melvin has been head of Thomas Hardye School for 18 years and has overseen the merger of Dorchester's two main secondary schools into the larger Thomas Hardye School, which now has more than 2,000 pupils.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

YOU WRITE

From Bob CAREW.

September 1944 to July 1947 e-mail: carew.cec@btopenworld.com.

Your report in the spring edition Issue 96 concerning Alan Attryde and the Magpies scarf prompts me to tell you of my meetings with Alan:

On 18th August 1988 I travelled to China in my role as Export Director of a UK boiler company to have meetings with the Nantong Boiler company who were not honouring the terms of a manufacturing agreement. En route to Nantong I called at the U K Consulate in Shanghai to appraise the Consul of my intention to travel to Nantong and the purpose of my visit. On meeting the Consul, Alan Attryde, I commented that he must be from the West Country, which he confirmed. On asking from which town and being told Dorchester I then asked him if he had gone to school there and when he said yes, my response was that we were probably the only two Old Hardyeans in Shanghai. My subsequent successful negotiations with the Nantong Boiler Company were due in no small measure to the assistance received from Alan and his colleagues.

A few years later I met up with Alan again, when I was a member of a Trade Mission sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. I am not sure whether that was in Kenya or Saudi Arabia.

I would always be happy to hear from any former school mates from the period 1944 to 1947.

Regards
Robert Carew

John SONLEY (1955-60)

Updates us with details as follows: e-mail : john@jmsconsultants.co.uk Tel: 01423 869593 Fax: 01423 860404

Major General John STEPHENSON

I am sure that old friends of Bob MENZIES 1940-46 will be much relieved and delighted to know that he and his wife Jean are alive and well in Zimbabwe, although both of them continue to suffer from that country's appalling government and economic mismanagement. Extracts from his letter are reproduced below. I know Bob would be delighted to receive a letter from everyone of his old school friends but please give him your email address

Letter dated May 24th.2005 from: 17, Thames Road, Vainona, Harare, Zimbabwe.

My Dear John, and Sheila,

I have been much at fault in not replying to your two invitations to the Centenary Dinner held in March this year. Much as I would like to have attended I could not manage to justify the expense of coming to the UK for that particular occasion. My loss!

All the more reason for me to be so very touched by your gesture of sending me the "annotated" menu with all the endorsements thereon. It was such a thoughtful and kind gesture on your part to conceive of the idea and getting those present who knew me to endorse their comments. I was quite moved to realize what I had in my hands as I opened the envelope.

I help Jean with the weekly shopping but it is a sad day of the week - prices rise on an average of a minimum of 20% per month. You cannot get sugar, flour, milk, cooking oil, mealie meal (maize meal for the African population) eggs etc on a regular basis.

Fuel queues at the service stations have started again. And so the litany of governmental mismanagement could be continued.

One of the reasons why I have not replied earlier is that the cost of postage is now becoming prohibitive if you are living on a Zimbabwe Income. It costs more to send a letter by airmail to England than to purchase a 750ml bottle of local whisky. In the case of this letter my daughter in law has to visit the UK on a flying visit and she has kindly agreed to post it in the UK.

Anyhow enough of our troubles here - matters will continue to deteriorate and we therefore strive to survive as best we can in these volatile times.

I keep tolerably fit in my retirement since April last year. I have had the pleasure of resuming some of my hobbies on a more " full time basis". Principally this means taking a far more active role in handling the vegetable garden - a paying proposition in our current predicament. That became rather a heavy burden during the month of April 2005 when the gardener went off on leave. It was the daily watering which took the time and effort,

I also like to play with my car - and that meant ensuring that it was in specially good order for a holiday in South Africa in February (arranged and facilitated by my children) It involved a four thousand kilometre drive down to Durban (Mhlanga Rocks actually) and staying with relatives on the way down. I am pleased to say that I had no physical difficulty with the fast moving traffic although to avoid the toll roads we travelled on the secondary or quieter routes.

I am still playing tennis but it is very much a geriatric group gathering on a Saturday afternoon. Sadly it is not quite so much fun as it used to be - the macula of my right eye is deteriorating - and that makes it difficult to judge the speed of the ball. It is sad because I am still fit enough to run for a ball but then I have to be able to judge its pitch and speed to succeed in making the return. Have some most amusing (to everybody else) fresh air shots.

You will note that this letter is typed - on a computer. My children and I clubbed together to set up the computer and an email system for us. The latter has really proved a great boon because it allows us to make contact an over the world at very little cost with great speed and efficiency. For instance Jean's son is in Melbourne in Australia and he has email. But I do not have the addresses of yourselves and Colin and Hilda Allsopp in my email address book. Do you have emai?

Well, two pages of my waffling is enough. Hope you are both keeping fit and looking forward to a fine summer.

Regards Bob and Jean

bobajan@zol.co.zw

From Henry TILLING:

1. Standpretty, Gorebridge EH23 4QG Phone 01875 822409

I have as usual read from end to end and with great pleasure the latest Newsletter and am most grateful to you and all who contribute to it.

When you conjure up the 90 year olds I begin to recognise names and, I think, to remember faces. In this Newsletter there is one statement made and repeated that I have found surprising. The statement is that it was Hardye's School that left South Street and moved to Culliford Road. The School was still Dorchester Grammar School when I left it in 1942 and I don't remember (though that is not conclusive) hearing of the name change until after the war. I wonder if any other reader has queried the detail.

What is also surprising to me is the statement that the "new" school was in Culliford Road. I lived in that road for 15 years and at the school end but we never thought of the school as being in the road. It was out in Fordington Field yards beyond the limit of the road! Clearly, if you wanted the school to have been in a road, there was none-other available. I still have some photos of the field now called South Court Avenue.

With kind regards and renewed thanks,

Yours ever

Henry G H G Tilling

Editor: You are of course correct regarding Culliford Road being a route to the school rather than an address. The Barnes Way Site as it was called until consolidation of the school at Queen's Avenue is a description of relatively recent creation. In a 1937 Dorchester Directory in my possession the "Dorchester Grammar School - (Headmaster RW Hill)" comes in the South Court Avenue (!) section at the point where it says Here is Culliford Road. I would be interested in seeing the photos of South Court Avenue site that you mention, sometime]

Colin LUCAS

Our Treasurer (Acting) advises he still has some Centenary ties to sell at £10 each. If he can sell them he will donate £1 per tie to the Charitable Association.

FROM THE PRESS OFFICER

Old Hardyens v Thomas Hardye School by Michel Hooper-Immins

Prison Officer Adam Rendell - just returned from the World Police Games with a gold medal - struck a magnificent innings of 146 not out, to lead the Old Hardyens to victory in the annual fixture against the

Thomas Hardye School. The "old boys" XI, containing several experienced Dorchester club players, have now won five of the last six games and hit 227 for 2 in their innings of 32 overs. Stephen Clifford's young school side never really got going, running out of batsmen 152 runs short of the Old Hardyans' score. The Old Hardyans had opened the batting and the first two overs were memorable. Opener Ron Waite despatched the first ball of the match to the boundary for four. After that lapse, Richard Cole kept a good line and length.

Phil Stone bowled the first ball of the second over, then appeared to have acquired an injury which prevented him from continuing. The over was completed by Matt Rimmer, who surprised Adam Rendell with a couple of good deliveries, including a close lbw call in the same over. As Chris Senior and Liam Coward took over the bowling, Adam Rendell and Rob Waite- prolific scorers in previous matches- patiently moved the run rate along and the hundred came up after 16 overs without loss. With the scoreboard at 107, Rob Waite was well caught by Matt Rimmer on the boundary, having skied a loose ball from Chris Senior. Martin Richards came in to bat and the school thought the tide might be turning when he was clean bowled for 23 by Chris Towndrow.

Old Hardyans' experienced captain Tony Foot joined Adam Rendell and contributed 5 not out before the 32 overs ran out. Adam Rendell batted throughout the innings, amassing 146 not out and cementing what looked like a winning score. The young school side knew they had a chance, undaunted by the high target set by their opponents. The Old Hardyans' opening attack of Ian Sibley and Alan Osborne [4-15] was met with great application and determination by the school XI. However it was soon proved that the all-round strength of the Old Hardyans was too much for the younger and less experienced School side, as they steadily lost wickets.

Tim Hill [3-17] struck at the middle order and only opener Richard Cole [15] and Jamie Powell [19] made any impression on the score. Five batsmen returned quickly with ducks!

Winners and losers are largely irrelevant in this good-natured annual fixture, now played at Dorchester Recreation Ground, whose first class facilities combine ample parking with the serenity of a village cricket pitch.

Again this year, the fixture was blessed with the very best of good weather, a bright sunny warm day with a cooling breeze wafting across the ground. A number of Old Hardyans came to support, including club president John Pearson and former sports master Peter Lewendon. School sports chief Geraint Hughes and Hardyans treasurer Colin Lucas umpired with their customary good humour.

The Old Hardyans XI would like to play a few fixtures a year with similar clubs in fairly close proximity. The camaraderie of the "old boys" makes the afternoon all the more enjoyable.

Scoreboard:

Old Hardyans XI

Waite c Rimmer b Senior 47; Rendell not out 146; Richards b Towndrow 23; Foot not out 5. Extras 6. Total: 227 for 2.

Thomas Hardye School

Cole b Osborne 15; Coward lbw Osborne 0; Clifford c Sibley b Osborne 1; Powell lbw Sibley 19; Mason c S. Joslin b Osborne 0; Stone c Ames b Cannon 12; Senior not out 12; Voss b Hill 2; Towndrow lbw Hill 0; D.Joslin c Ames b Cannon 0; Rimmer lbw Hill 0. Extras 14. Total: 75 all out.



PHOTOGRAPH CAPTION: [left to right:]

Back row: Colin Lucas [umpire,] Frank Dike, Ian Sibley, Adam Rendell, Tony Foot, Alan Osborne, Martin Richards, John Pearson [Club President,] Chris Senior, Dan Joslin, Jonathon Mason, Phil Stone, Stephen Clifford, Geraint Hughes [umpire,] Chris Towndrow, Jamie Powell, Matt Rimmer.

Front row: Ashley Cannon, Tim Hill, Rob Waite, Simon Joslin, Lee Ames, Stuart Voss, Richard Cole, Liam Coward.

MORE FROM THE PRESS OFFICER - BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Colin Lucas has been spending a lot of time at the Dorset Record Office lately. He has been diligently researching the formal beginnings of the Old Grammarians in 1905. Colin discovered a very full account of the 1905 dinner from the next day's newspaper - "A large company of old boys gathered to recall old memories, to revive the charm of tender associations and to rekindle the flame of devotion to the alma mater."

Chairman of the 1905 dinner was H. Napier Kingdon, who had been the first headmaster after the Grammar School was rebuilt, from 1882 until 1895. The top table included Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Hodges - a school governor, Arthur Symonds - Town Clerk of Dorchester & clerk to the school governors and S. A. Rootham - the current headmaster.

The Hardyeans Club is 100 years old in 2005, although we know old boys did meet before then. The first dinner was held in 1904, inaugurated by Dr. Walter Lock, Warden of Keble College, Oxford and a distinguished Old Grammarian. Such was the success of that event that we think it was resolved to hold the dinner annually and to formalise the Old Grammarians Association. Monty Hellier became the first Hon. Secretary and he organised the next year's dinner on 1 November 1905 at the King's Arms Hotel - assumed to be the formal inauguration of the Old Grammarians Association.

Heather and Peter Foster have a photograph, thought to be of the November 1909 Old Grammarians dinner in the distinctive Casterbridge Room of the King's Arms Hotel. Under the borough coat of arms stand the unmistakable guests-of-honour - Thomas Hardy OM and Sir Frederick Treves GCVO Bt. No ladies are present and all the guests wear identical stiff shirts and bow ties!

We hope to have a special feature in the Dorset Echo around 1 November on the centenary and the 2006 Dorset Year Book, published by the Society of Dorset Men, carries a special feature on the Old Hardyeans and the centenary.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The new year has brought another crop of excellent examination results, a significant extension of our sixth form buildings and a number of interesting new experiences for the school.

The A Level results brought another rise in top grades with 29% of the students gaining A Grades and a substantial rise in average points score. We moved from 36th to 34th in the list of top comprehensive schools.

The endless debate on standards continues and there can be no doubt there will be 'reform' (in education one would expect nothing else) but I do find it typically British that we spend so much time cajoling young people to work hard to gain qualifications and then tell them they are of no importance or value after they achieve those qualifications. Six students gained places at Oxford and Cambridge and the vast majority of students gained the University place that was their first choice.

GCSE results were once again 83% %A* - C, the same as last year; but as is the way with statistics the figures hide interesting facts. The school doubled its number of A* grades this year to over 500 and our average points score took a significant leap forward. The media debate regarding GCSE concerned the number of 'vocational' subjects that were taken and the 'catastrophic decline' in the entries for modern languages.

The results here were achieved without recourse to the vocational option and we are one of the few schools that still maintain a modern language as part of the programme for every student. Indeed if the Government re-aligns the league tables in order of pass rates in Mathematics, English and Science we will soar into the stratospheric heights of the league tables rather than our present 76th place.

A large number of students achieved a healthy crop of A* but pride of place must go to Hugh Cumber who achieved 13 A* - this means he achieved over 90% in every examination - a remarkable achievement.

I mentioned interesting experiences - perhaps the most interesting from a personal point of view has been the award of the OBE for 'services to education'. May I take this opportunity to thank any member of the Hardyens who was involved in the process and nomination. I am deeply grateful and indeed slightly humbled (those who know me well will know I will recover from this feeling!). Secondly Mr Wheal, a member of staff who many of you may recall was invited to a reception with the Prime Minister because of his work in education. He returned with many stories of No.10 and reporting that he had managed to make his point about the present Government attitude to education. I fear it will have little influence.

The school looks forward to the new year with optimism, as ever there will be much to do and another crop of students about to embark upon the long roads of GCSE and A Level. I do however feel we are in a better position than many others - and England have just won the Ashes.

Dr I E Melvin

LONDON DINNER - TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2005

Hugh GRIFFITHS has made arrangements for the London Dinner on 1st November 2005 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.

LONDON DINNER BOOKING FORM

To : Prof. H. Griffiths 34 Rochester Square, London, NW1 9RZ

Telephone: (Home) 020 7267 4009 (Office) 020 7679 7310

Please send. ticket(s) for the Hardyans' London Dinner on 1st November 2005,

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

Please help Hugh by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.