

The Hardyans' Club Newsletter

Published in September, **January** and May

Armistice Day 11th November 2016

To stay
in touch
with
your
friends

Winter
2017

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New feature:
THS Staff
Pen Portrait



Ruby Crook-English, Hugh Love, Ben Rhodes, Megan Cooch, Christian Foott, Maisie Jackaman and Mike Foley pictured by the School gates

On Friday 11th November. Armistice Day was commemorated at The Thomas Hardy School Blessed with the best weather for a few years, near to two and a half thousand students stood respectfully at the top of Queens Avenue, and the two minutes silence was observed impeccably by everyone present.

The Army and Air Force branches of the School's CCF marched up Queens Avenue to the front of the school, to the sound of the drums.

Headteacher Mr Foley began the readings followed by Sixth Former Maisie Jackaman. Students Ben Rhodes, Megan Cooch and Christian Foott then read the names of former students who gave their lives in both World Wars.

Following this, the tradition Kohima Epitaph was read by CCF Cadet Hugh Love and the Exhortation by Sixth Form President Ruby Crook-English

Last Post and Reveille were played by Tom Bidwell of Year 11.

Wreaths were laid at the school gates by students Charles Hutchings, Will Bendall, Abby Wells and Jenny-Lee Baker (representing the 4 school Houses) and members of the School Governing body and guests, including Hardyans' Club President Tony Day. Also present at the event was Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Tim Harries.

[Photo and edited report courtesy of the Thomas Hardy School website]

Forthcoming Club and other events

Monthly Lunches have recommenced at the Poet Laureate, Pummery Square, Poundbury on last Thursdays of the month, next one February 25th. There is free car parking. We hope to see as many of you as possible for a very informal get together from 12.30pm. All are welcome, younger or older, ladies and men, and do please bring your guests.

Annual Dinner: Saturday 25th March 2017 at the Thomas Hardy School. Please see booking form at the end of this newsletter and *Chairman's notes*

Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

Community Lectures take place once or twice a month at the **School Theatre**, These lectures are free but tickets must be booked with the school, call in or Tel: 01305 266064

Wednesday 8th February "Discovering Dinosaurs in Britain!" Dean Lomax, MPhil Honorary Visiting Scientist, The University of Manchester, broadcaster and author.
(UNESCO Associated School Lecture in conjunction with The Jurassic Coast Trust)

Monday 20th February 2017 "Plastic, Plankton and Poo: investigating the impacts of Marine Microplastics in Zooplankton" Dr Ceri Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Marine Biology, University of Exeter.

Monday 13th March 2017 "Gods, Devils and Alcohol – their influence in Chemical Nomenclature" Dr Peter Wothers, Teaching Fellow in the Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge and Fellow and Director of Studies in Chemistry at St Catharine's College.
(The British Science Week Lecture)

While you're there you can admire the old Grammar School screen which has pride of place above the stage



From the Headteacher



It is difficult to believe that we are almost half way through the school year. We held 'mocks' for Year 11 and Year 13 just before Christmas and students taking exams in the summer are now in the final run-in. It will be difficult to reach the heights of last year in terms of results but we are working very hard to get as close to it as possible. Of course the success of the school does not just depend on exam results: sport, music, drama and dance are thriving. The school production of *Our House* is currently being performed in front of packed audiences and last October we held our annual concert with Imperial College, involving the orchestra and the Thomas Hardy Singers. It was magnificent!

Just as exciting, the U-16 boys football team beat Colfox 4-0 to go into the final of the County Cup and the U-15 rugby team are through to the last 8 of the nationals (NatWest Vase) having beaten a strong Cornish team 44-0 in the last round. I am told that this is the strongest rugby team the school has ever had with potential future internationals playing in our side.

You may well have seen the recent publicity around school funding and teacher shortages and we are not immune. Funding is reaching crisis levels in all schools and teacher shortages are as bad as I can remember. Last April we advertised for a chemistry teacher and didn't receive a single enquiry never mind an application despite leaving the vacancy on the website through to July! If Thomas Hardy is experiencing these challenges I fear for the rest of the education system.

On a brighter note, the Old Hardyans Annual Dinner takes place later this term and I look forward to renewing many old acquaintances

Best wishes

Mike Foley

Headteacher

CLASS OF '58 MEETS AGAIN- 59 YEARS AFTER STARTING AT HARDYE'S SCHOOL

The invitation was headed "70 not out" as the Class of '58 - those who began studying at Hardy's School in Dorchester in 1958 - headed for their annual reunion at the Colliton Club. Aged 11 in 1958, these Old Hardyans are now hovering around the milestone of 70 years old, some having attained their 70th and others shortly to do so.

The reunion was organised this year by Clive Dickinson from Dorchester, using the established old boys email network to contact around 30 of the Class of '58 all across England. The longest journeys were by Alan Attryde who travelled by train from Epsom in Surrey and Simon Frampton, who lives at Yate, near Bristol. Classmate Hugh Slavin journeyed from Poole and Barrie Allington from Yetminster. Although recovering from knee surgery, Stuart Hargreaves had recovered sufficiently to make the trip from Maiden Newton. Hardyans Past President Michel Hooper-Immins travelled up from Weymouth, as did Colin Squibb. Peter Foster, John Sibley and Peter House all live in the county town. Peter Foster - the Hardyans Immediate Past President- rose to propose the toast to all the Class of '58 and particularly to absent friends.

Shivering in Dorchester in mid-January, there was a message from classmate Richard Cummins, who is on holiday in Australia visiting his daughter. "We're just on our way to Bondi Beach to enjoy the sunshine," he emailed the envious company!

"The enduring success of the Hardyans is that so many of us have kept in touch over the 59 years since we walked into Wollaston House for the first time in September 1958," comments Michel Hooper-Immins, Secretary of the Hardyans. "I often say that Hardyans are everywhere, but it gives me particular pleasure to meet up with those who were with me on my seven year journey through Hardy's School from 1958 to 1965. Long may we continue these reunions and remain such firm friends."



[Standing:] Michel Hooper-Immins, Peter Foster, Colin Squibb, Hugh Slavin, Alan Attryde, Barrie Allington. [Seated:] Simon Frampton, John Sibley, Peter House, Stuart Hargreaves, Clive Dickinson. Photograph by Neil Gatehouse.

Chairman's Notes from Godfrey Lancashire

In the future we hope that our newsletter will be available to all recent leavers to encourage them to join The Club. By reciprocal agreement we also hope that the School Newsletter reaches all of you to tell you what is happening at School today and to foster ever closer links.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Dinner on 25th March (see application form attached) We hope that Nigel Jones will be our principal speaker. Nigel was Headboy in 1974, is a chartered surveyor and for many years was President of Dorchester Rugby Club. He is a very entertaining speaker.

Godfrey

A note from the President:

Dear fellow members of the 1957 intake,

It occurs to me that this year will mark 60 years since we first walked through the Gates at Barnes Way!

I thought it would be nice, therefore, if we were able to have a 'get-together' at the Club's Annual Dinner this March, and would be delighted to see you if you can make it.

Tony Day

Treasurer's Report : The Club's Annual Financial Report for 2016 is available if anyone would like to e-mail Alan Brown to ask for a copy. [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com]

Membership Update from Bob Rench

Total Membership 1433 assuming 720 associate members

Since the Last newsletter we have been joined by 3 new full members:

Martin Harries (1980–84) who lives in Bassingham, Lincolnshire.

James Smith (1977–84) who lives in Bellicon, Switzerland

John Deehenderson (1961–62)

Sadly we have received notification of 6 members who have passed away

Colin G Churchill (1938–44) who lived in Winchester, Hampshire

John Ellery (1941–46) who lived in Chandlers Ford, Hampshire

Stephen (Sam) Merlin (1957–64) who lived in Surrey

Eric W Taylor (1955–62) who lived in Helensburgh, Argyll

Donald A Culver (1943–51) who lived in Salisbury, Wiltshire

Rev Phillip J. Swindells (Pip) (1942–53) who lived in Sandy, Bedfordshire

We offer our sincere condolences to all their families

4 members have been added to our lost legion due to failures of emails, which I have not been able to rectify.

Timothy Bowen (1951–57) – mail undeliverable.

Stuart Rowe (1962–69) who lives in California.

Nicholas Searle (1970–75) – mail undeliverable.

Chris Cobb (1975–82) who lives in Brazil

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!

Recruitment Do you know any sons and daughters, or indeed mothers or fathers who went to the school who would like to join – sign them up !

This includes former students of Dorchester Grammar School for Boys which became Hardye's, Dorchester Secondary Modern, Dorchester Grammar School for Girls (The Green School), and Castlefield, all of whom contribute to the origins of the modern Thomas Hardye School. Dorchester.

Hardyeans' Club contacts

President: Anthony C W Day **Life Vice-Presidents:** Gordon Crocker, Peter Foster, Hugh Griffiths,

Michel Hooper-Immins, John Pearson,

Chairman Godfrey LANCASHIRE

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Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyans is the official Club facebook page for news of Club members and friends. Here's a recent post:

[Denis Barter](#)

7 December 2016

Hi Alan, I'm wondering as to whether or not the Member - Denis Barter - is truly a member or whether or not it is a mistake? Why ask I? Because I am Denis Barter who was a member of DGS from 1941 - 1946 - yes still alive and doing well thank you, (apart from fading eyesight) and my wife Pauline and I will be celebrating 62 years of wedded bliss this coming December 19th.

I'm wondering if there was indeed a second Denis Barter - my middle initial is H. Perhaps you can double check? More importantly my reason for asking, is to see if and how many of my old classmates are still alive and kicking? Been a Canadian since 1966. Now retired and living in Havelock, Ontario.

... Ciao Denis aka Rhymner (Write poetry as a hobby and have many pieces on the Web. as anyone can see as I belong to several poetry sites.

and check out the School site www.facebook.com/thomashardyeschool which links into the main school website www.thomas-hardye.net on which can be found news of events at the school including the See also www.facebook.com/groups/452234394961667/ for news of Dorchester Secondary Modern; Thomas Hardye School; Dorchester Dorset. There are other Thomas Hardye School-related facebook sites.

New Look for the Newsletter

Thank you to those who have commented favourably on the newsletter's new look - please let us know what you like or dislike about it, and what features you would like to see in it. It will evolve with time. Our newsletter is now only sent by email but can always be viewed on our website. We value your contributions, ideas and suggestions. Remember, it's *your* newsletter.

You Write.

Martin BAKER wrote last autumn about his father **Norman**, a former staff member at Hardye's.

We pass the news on to Norman. He now lives in a care home a mile from us.

Norman is doing well, and is now 92 years old. He moved from his home of 46 years in Dorset in March 2015 as he was finding that taking care of himself was getting tricky. He is now in a very lovely small care home in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, with a very comfortable room, a welcoming lounge, and splendid food. Norman's short term memory is not so good, but he still has lots of happy past memories of his time at Hardye's School. Norman now has three great Grandchildren, and one more on the way.

Here is a snap of Norman with eldest great Grandson Finlay (December 2015).

Happy for you to include any of the above in your newsletter if this is appropriate. I know some of his Tutor Group members from many years ago still like to follow Norman's progress - many of them sent their wishes when it was his 90th birthday.

Kind regards, Martin Baker



From Mike BETTS

I was intrigued to read Brian Hulse's 'challenge' in the last Newsletter, in particular noting the names of several teachers who were there in his pre-war days, and still there in my own much later time at Hardye's from September 1951 until Christmas 1955. Mr Hill (would we have dared to call him Monty?) remained as Headmaster until the end of the summer term of 1955, and I think that Ticker Cole and Saf Fox, Duncan Lidbury and Bertie Cruise were still there when I left: presumably they had been exempted from war service? Indeed Saf Fox coached me for extra Maths so that I could get into Sandhurst, and Bertie Cruise was my A-level French teacher. One other one who I always remember with fondness was Mr Steemson the Latin master: our O-Level results were first passed to Mr Hill by phone, and he read them all out at morning Assembly - when it got to my name he read 'Latin - failed.' Later when we received the written results I saw that I had actually passed in Latin, so with some trepidation went to see Mr Hill, who checked with the examining board and confirmed that I had indeed passed.

A day or two later Mr Steemson came up to me, put his arm round my shoulder and said 'My boy, I'm so pleased: I was about to offer my resignation!' Needless to say, I did not pursue Latin at A-level!

Regards, Mike Betts

Tony FIRSHMAN

Brian Hulse mentioned the 'the paucity of correspondence' from members. I have written many many times over the years, but never been published, so I suppose I had better have another try.

I spent the first seven years after university working for Ford and Kodak. I realised in 1974 that corporations were not for me.

Since then, I have worked for myself and (possibly) led a much more interesting and healthy life.

I 'retired' six years ago but the only difference is I get a state pension. My *real* pension is property which returns much more.

Some activities/work over the years:

Singing - including the Monteverdi Choir.

Photography - mainly portraiture and theatre.

Building, including a stop for St Peters' Berkhamsted organ.

(Google - 'zimbelstern firshman') and property development.

Computer sale/repairs and add-ons design, production and sale. I was a Sinclair QL trader for 25 years.

Computer programming and systems maintenance. Currently my main income, for <http://wn.com>.

I will never retire. I reckon that is the secret to a long life.

Our son Ben (26) works in computing and already earns far more than I ever have. He commutes between the UK and San Francisco.

This is written on a coach en route to Boston. I will be cycling into the airport on my Brompton bicycle. My motorbike is parked (for free) in Heathrow short-term.

Tony Firshman (1958-64 Southfields)

From John HODGES

I have always been interested to read the newsletter although I have not been to any events. I studied chemistry at Exeter University and then worked in the London area for 34 years as HM Inspector of Taxes until taking early retirement 10 years ago. My only remaining Dorchester connection is with the bank in the Mayor of Casterbridge's house in South Street although I do visit a Dorset cousin at South Perrott traveling on the Waterloo to Exeter line.

I remember Godfrey Lancashire who was ahead of me at Exeter and his father the maths master and similarly Peter Foster since our mothers arranged flowers at Damers Hospital and went to Conservative meetings.

I lived in Grosvenor Road near to South Court Avenue and sold the house to Dr Chesney the GP. Jo Roberts lived further down towards Manor Road and Thos the deputy head in Herringstone Road.

I am also a dormant member of the Society of Dorset Men but one day would like to turn up at a club event. Mind you I would need a map to find my way around Poundbury since the bypass had only just been built and railway electrified when I last visited Dorchester regularly and the Main School was still standing!

Regards
John Hodges

From Richard LOVEYS

Thank you for the latest Newsletter. I did notice the new layout and design and think that they are great. Well done. I hope that you receive additional positive comments.

I write occasional articles for a car club magazine and get virtually no feedback. The editor says that this is OK as people usually only get in touch when they want to moan!

Best wishes
Richard Loveys (1952 - 59)

New Feature - THS staff pen portrait – Geraint Hughes

Geraint Hughes has been at Thomas Hardy School for 30 years (!) and is Head of the PE Department, which has 13 staff. Sports covered include rugby, football, hockey, netball, basketball, cricket, rounders, tennis, swimming, cross country, athletics, climbing, sailing, and equestrian.

Geraint, or Hughsie as he is popularly known, came from a small Welsh village, Llanwddyn, near Bala, and hoped to become a professional footballer, but it was not to be. His favourite academic subjects at school were Science, History and Geography. Outside of school Geraint enjoys training and tries to do some running, cycling or gym every day. In his spare time (!) he loves golf (handicap of 4.9) and is fond of fly fishing.

At Thomas Hardy School there is a very traditional approach to sports although girls' football is very strong. Both girls and boys take part in the majority of sports, apart from rugby for boys and netball for girls. Geraint says THS students are fantastic in terms of PE and most are a pleasure to teach.

The 'college' structure at Thomas Hardy School suits very well, encouraging competition in football, volleyball, and rounders. Geraint believes it has been a good thing both for sport and for the school in general. Maybe it splits the school up into 4 smaller sub schools! (The Colleges are Henning, Napier, Stratford and Trenchard)

Geraint says 'We always have a lot of very talented sports people – we are currently in the last 8 of the Nat West schools Rugby vase for u/15 and are playing Mill Hill School London on 31st January (11am k-o) at Dorchester RFC, with the semi-final on March 18th at Saracens. We have basketball national players, national swimmers and equestrians. We usually play an Australian touring cricket team each summer at the Rec.' Geraint feels he is very fortunate to work at a school like Hardy's and to have a great department of staff who are very committed – this coupled with outstanding students is a recipe for success.

[pic shows Geraint at the Club v School Cricket match in 2016]



Obituary notices contributed by members

Donald CULVER

David Culver wrote: I am sorry to have to report the death, on 8 December 2016, of my brother Donald at the age of 83. He was a pupil at the school from 1943–1951, and was President of the Club, if memory serves me right, during the 1980s.

The funeral, attended by family and local friends, took place on 19 December in Salisbury, where he has lived since retirement, but there will be a memorial service in Salisbury Cathedral, probably early in February 2017. If you would like any further details, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours, David Culver (DGS and Hardy's 1946–1954)

Tom MCLELLAND

Further to the appreciation of Mr Tom McLelland from Richard Cummins (Newsletter 130) Nick Smith writes a few words in grateful memory of Mr McLelland.

I failed GCE Maths at my first attempt in 1966 and had to re-sit it at the end of the next term. I was fortunate enough to have one to one tuition from Mr McLelland for one hour per week throughout this term which resulted in a pass and meant I was eligible to enter Sandhurst in January 1969. He was a quiet, calm man who explained things in a way which I could understand and remember. I am deeply indebted to his patience and teaching ability.

Kind regards – Nick Smith



Stephen MERLIN

John Barbara writes: Stephen's son Paul wrote to inform me of Stephen Merlin's passing. 'Our father was a great man and will be greatly missed. He died peacefully in his sleep in his family home next to his wife of 46 years.' Stephen (known at school as 'Sam' because of his initials) was a good friend and contemporary of mine and we had quite parallel tracks in our school career. Sadly, in middle age (as I remember from communications from Stephen), his blossoming career was cut short by a genetic condition causing severe emphysema. Stephen had previously always been a healthy, fit and active person and I'm sure this is how his many friends from school would wish to remember him.

Best wishes, John Barbara.

[Stephen Merlin's Funeral was due to take place at Leatherhead on 20th January 2017]

Pic shows RSM John Barbara and CSM Stephen Merlin, c1964.

Philip SWINDELLS

Revd Handel Bennett wrote: Over the Christmas period I have received news from his widow, that the Revd. Philip Swindells died last March, 2016.

Philip was a fellow pupil with me during the years 1948–52, and if you still have him on your records you might like to make a note of his passing.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Regards

Handel Bennett

The Club extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of those mentioned above

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT: SATURDAY 10 March 2017

ANNUAL DINNER 2017

**Saturday 25th March 2017 at The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form Centre
7pm for 7.30pm**

Menu :

Grilled stuffed Red Peppers with mixed leaves and sauce vierge

–

Braised Lamb Shank with sweet potato cakes and seasonal vegetables

–

Warm Bramley Apple Pie with clotted cream

–

Coffee and mints

£26 pp

A vegetarian option will be available

You are invited to bring your own wine

ANNUAL DINNER 2017 BOOKING FORM

Name.....

Home address

DINNER @ £26 No's requiredYears at School [e.g. 2005 to 2010].....

Vegetarian Option required.....

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

.....@.....

Please make cheques payable to The Hardyans 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: 00403528, Account Name: The Hardyans Club. Please, if possible, quote your surname as a reference and e-mail Alan at alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com to let him know when you have paid and to advise if vegetarian option required.

PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE – NO PAY ON THE DAY!