

The Hardyens' Club Newsletter

Published in September, January and May



To stay
in touch
with
your
friends
Winter
2018

In this
issue

Chairman's
Notes

From the
Headteacher

You Write

THS Staff
Pen Portrait

News from
the
Hardyens'
Club
Charitable
Trust

Annual
Dinner
Booking form

The Sun Shines on the Remembrance Ceremony



For the second year running, Thomas Hardye School was fortunate in that the weather chose to behave on the morning of the Remembrance Ceremony. This annual event remembers all the ex-students from

Dorchester Schools who lost their lives in World War One and Two.

This year's readings were by Niall Summers, Sarah Trott, Bea Green, Ruby Crook-English and Christian Hardy. The last post was played beautifully by Tom Bidwell. The Wreath layers were Alice Thursby, Alice Padgett, Freddie Marsden, Stefan Oakes and Jake Perkins along with guests and members of the Governing body.

It is always awe inspiring that over 2000 students and staff stand in complete silence for two minutes when the proverbial pin dropping could no doubt be heard!

It shows the enormous respect the whole school have for the meaning of this ceremony that each year this silence is observed to perfection.

The CCF contingent marching up Queen's Avenue towards the Memorial Gates

[Pictures and text courtesy of the School website]



Forthcoming Club and other events

Annual Dinner Saturday 24th March 2018 at which our Guest Speaker will be :

Simon Legg (94-99) Chartered Accountant, Head of Product Control, Centrica Energy PLC, with a very distinguished rugby career - England Schools, England Students, British Universities, England Counties and currently Manager of England Counties Rugby and Director of Rugby at Blackheath.

Please see booking form at the end of this issue- closing date 10th March!!

Monthly Lunches take place at the Poet Laureate, Pummery Square, Poundbury, on last Thursdays of the month, next one is February 22nd. 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.

The Christmas Lunch was held at the **Colliton Club** in Dorchester, on **Friday 15 December**. There was a disappointingly low turn-out, although those present enjoyed the meal and those partaking had no quarrel with the beers on offer!

We are looking to freshen up this event, possibly by holding an evening meal and/or considering a change of venue. Please email your feedback to our Chairman at godfrey.lancashire@btinternet.com



From the Headteacher



You may have seen the publication of the performance tables in the local and the national press and I am delighted, of course, that Hardye's has done so well. In my comments to the press, I was keen to pass on my congratulations to teachers in all schools for the work they have done to implement the new courses at GCSE and A Level. Although the performance tables are more authentic than they once were, schools can still manipulate them if they choose to do so. The governors at this school have been very clear that the curriculum should be driven by the needs of the learners not by league tables: we continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum with the appropriate courses in science and technology and a prominent place for the performing arts. Drama, music and dance, alongside PE, are essential in any vibrant learning environment and I was saddened to read the BBC's research which shows that these subjects are being marginalised in many schools.

At around the same time that the league tables were being published we found out that Tatler magazine had named us as one of the top 20 state schools in the country. I must confess that I have never read Tatler magazine, but if you can get hold of a copy of the January edition - possibly in the dentist's waiting room - it provides a very complimentary account of the school.

Half-term is approaching and we have several trips departing at the end of this week: the annual ski trip alongside visits to Russia and America. Later in the year a group will be going to China as part of a new exchange programme and we are well into the planning stage for our next expedition, to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in 2019. We have worked very hard over the past 5 years to develop our international links as part of the college programme. Each college has to develop an international link, adopt a charitable cause and develop an environmental programme. For example, Stratford are promoting water aid and on Sunday, 18th March they will be taking part in a sponsored walk to Osmington - 18 miles round trip - to raise funds. They will mimic the journey of so many children in the third world who walk that distance every day to collect water and our students will carry two litres of water on the return leg to get some idea of what that feels like. Inspiring stuff.

A belated happy new year and I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual dinner in March.

Best wishes

Mike Foley

Headteacher

Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

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

As this newsletter was going to press, Professor Monica Grady was due to speak on Monday 5th Feb at 7pm sharing her experiences of the Rosetta mission and the excitement of the successful landing on a comet. Only a few tickets were left. The next one is due to take place on **March 5th**, when Dr Colin Wright will present an entertaining session on the Maths of Juggling. Do check the School website for updates and further information. www.thomas-hardye.net

Chairman's Notes from Godfrey Lancashire

Dear Friends, **Thank you, Bob Rench**

Bob has just retired from Council after 20 years sterling service. Bob tells me he was "pressed" (I think that means he had his arm twisted) to join Council in 1997 and was then "informed" by Colin Lucas that Bob was to become Chairman in 1998.

In 2007 Bob also took on the duties of Membership Secretary, only finally handing back the office of Chairman in 2010. Bob has continued to serve as Membership Secretary with distinction, picking up handwritten files at the outset which were best described as "in no order" and placing them into our first database which runs to this day. Bob has enjoyed his time in post, being in

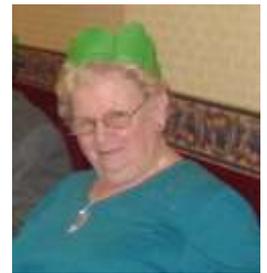


direct contact with so many members but found the job increasingly time consuming. After 20 years who can say Bob does not deserve a rest although he is still very involved with another passion – captain of his bowls team and league secretary of Bournemouth Evening Bowls League.

Bob's wife Helen has supported him throughout, often to be seen "stuffing" envelopes in the days we posted newsletters. Of course Bob and Helen hope to come to the Dinner in March

when we can all say a proper thank you face to face. In the meantime Bob, on behalf of all Hardyeans, thank you very much. "

Bob and Helen Rench pictured at a Christmas Luncheon a few years ago



HOCKEY FESTIVAL

1966



WEYMOUTH'S EASTER HOCKEY FESTIVAL, 1966

Hockey A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR HARDYE'S TEAM

HARDEY'S SCHOOL have now concluded the most successful hockey season they have had since the game was started seriously at the school ten years ago.

During the term the XI, captained by M. E. Beale, of Abbotsbury, won 12 matches and drew one—the last mentioned against an undefeated side from Millfield.

The side scored 88 goals to 22 and registered especially gratifying wins over the County A XI and Bryanston and Queen's College, Taunton. The side were indebted in particular to R. A. Fall and K. M. Chambers in defence and to C. P. Smith and M. E. Beale in attack.

After the term, ten members were selected to take part in the Western Counties tournament at Taunton and were to a great extent responsible for the unbeaten record of the Dorset side.

The same players also represented Hardye's Wyverns at the Weymouth Hockey Festival. But after two good wins on the first day they could not stand up to the strain of ten matches in nine days and lost their last three games.

I found this from 1966 and the newspaper articles also relate. Quite a team !

Back row – Roger Bonfield, Godfrey Lancashire, John Trim

Middle – Jon King, John Moulard, Kevin Chambers, Barry Buckland

Front – Ian Liddiard, Mike Beale, Andy ? Palmer, Colin Smith

This was the 1st XI referred to in the articles except Fall was absent and his place taken by Moulard.

It was AV Palmer but was it Andy ?

Very best wishes, *Godfrey*

Schools' hockey

UNBEATEN DORSET

AT the annual Western Counties schools' tournament held at King's College, Taunton, Dorset were the only undefeated side, but they played one fewer match than the other counties.

The results were: v. Kent 5-5, v. Somerset 2-2, v. Devon 2-0, v. Glamorgan 3-0.

They were not matched against Hampshire and Gloucestershire.

This highly successful side consisted of Gregg, Beaman, Carr (all from King's, Bruton), Norman (Sherborne), and Beale—the captain—Palmer, Lancashire, Buckland, King, Chambers, Trim, Smith, Bonfield, Liddiard (all from Hardye's, Dorchester).

In the tournament XI which played the Somerset men's XI on the last afternoon, Buckland, Lancashire and Norman were chosen from the Dorset side. Somerset won 2-0.

Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association

Registered Charity 1082237

The **Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association** was established to provide a positive benefit to the school from a long-standing club (**Old Hardyeans** and latterly **The Hardyeans' Club**) of former students of Hardye's School, Dorchester (and the other senior schools in Dorchester after amalgamation). The Association was granted Charitable Status in 2000.

Its purpose is to help and encourage the further education of students and former students of the ThomasHardyeSchool, Dorchester (who are under 25) and who have gained places at university or college but who, due to financial hardship of their families, may be unable to take up their offered places. Individuals apply through the Heads of the Sixth Form who verify the financial circumstances of the families. A selection board of HCCA Trustees interview recommended students and makes awards each April/May which are conditional on educational success and qualifying. Bursaries are paid in August (when successful academic attainment for entry is confirmed) to help pay the inevitable expenses of required books and equipment. Experience has shown that success at being awarded a bursary at this stage of their education encourages students to seek other sponsorships and bursaries. The over-arching criteria for the awards panel when interviewing students, is the financial hardship of the students and their families in taking up their University or College place. An annual letter is asked of the student as to their academic and developmental progress as feed back to the HCCA.

By appeals to former students, trusts and businesses, the Association has raised, and now has, just over £240,000 under charitable fund investment for disbursement. The Association hopes to continue to raise funds to increase the number of bursaries available for award and periodically to keep pace with the value of each bursary given inflationary pressures and the costs of tertiary education. Each student, at present, is given £1,000 at the start of each academic year for the duration of his or her 3 year course. Since 2001, forty one students have benefitted from a total of £74,245. At this moment (2017) ten students are in receipt of bursaries in a variety of full time university and college courses. A new scheme of occasional grants on an *ad hoc* basis is underway for students or ex-students needing funds towards internships or travel in pursuit of academic benefit which may be considered by the Trustees. The Hardyeans' Club promotes this as its own charity and welcomes legacies or any other donations which are passed to the Charitable Association for long term investment or shorter term funding of bursaries and grants. Donations to charities such as the HCCA can be offset against tax.

Julia Moore Chair of the Hardyeans' Club Charitable Association October 2017

I am delighted to report that once again, due to the generosity of Old Hardyeans and careful stewardship of money entrusted to HCCA we were able to award two one off grants in September and November last year to two ex-students of the Thomas Hardye School – one to a ex-student beginning to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the other to an ex-student embarking on a gap year through Project Trust. Both of them would have found it extremely difficult to take part in these ventures without the support that HCCA was able to give them. They have both written to let us know how they are getting on.

Julia Moore
Chair, HCCA

I am absolutely loving studying at RADA - it's a dream come true! The course is very intensive and I'm learning so much from all my teachers who have taught the likes of Ben Wishaw and Tom Hiddleston! It's really opened my mind to the broadness of the acting world and strengthened my determination to pursue a career in performance. Of course, this would not be possible without the help of the Hardyeans and I can't express my gratitude! Your help has allowed me to follow and realise my dreams!!

I've been here two weeks so far and the first week was the hardest with lots of homesickness and culture shock to contend with after a very long journey! I was excited to be here though and spending

time with the children at the home where I am staying and volunteering is lovely, the younger ones in particular are usually very pleased to see you. So far my shift pattern had consisted only of night shifts which of course bring their own challenges and I am looking forward to experiencing my first day shifts at the end of the month when I will get more of an idea of what consists of a working day and of course get to spend more time with the children whilst they are awake.

I am learning lots about living and surviving in the huge water drought which is affecting the western cape at the moment, and have enjoyed walking out in the community. Days here are long and so you can get a lot done, I have already seen some of Cape Town with a few volunteers on a couple of days off and I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to experience such a beautiful and richly diverse place.

It's very hot here as it's summer in South Africa so whilst the heat can be overwhelming I do not miss the cold and wet of England! Thank you for playing a big part in allowing me to take this opportunity.

It's always great to hear from ex-students, particularly those in receipt of bursaries or other financial help from the HCCA

Membership Update

Recruitment Reminder 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 and automatically qualify for membership, but we need contact details to send them newsletters and other correspondence. **Up – to – date email addresses are crucial**

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
Hon Secretary Michel HOOPER–IMMINS 2 , Waverley Court, Radipole, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5EE
Hon Treasurer/Membership Secretary Alan BROWN, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD (tel 01202 535034)
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Design, and Production Heather FOSTER E–Mail :heather.foster1@btinternet.com (tel 01305 262121)

www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyeans is the official Club facebook page for news of Club members and friends. 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 Community Lectures.

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.



Your Newsletter—Thank you to those who have commented favourably on the newsletter's new look – **please let us know** 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.

Press Officer gleanings from Michel Hooper-Immins

THE CLASS OF '58 MEETS AGAIN- 59 YEARS AFTER STARTING AT WOLLASTON HOUSE

From Yate, Southampton and Oxfordshire, the Class of '58- those who began studying at Hardye's School in Dorchester in 1958- headed for their annual reunion at the Colliton Club, writes Michel Hooper-Immins. Aged 11 in 1958, these venerable Hardyans are now past the milestone of 70 years old, some having attained their 71th birthdays and others shortly to do so. One wag remarked- "once we walked to school, now we have bus passes!" The longest journeys were by Richard Sonley, who travelled from his home at Eynsham, Oxfordshire and Simon Frampton, who lives at Yate, near Bristol. Classmate Graham Lush journeyed from Hedge End, near Southampton and Barrie Allington from Yetminster. Stuart Hargreaves made the trip from Maiden Newton. Hardyans' Past President Michel Hooper-Immins travelled up from Weymouth, as did Colin Squibb, Hugh Slavin, Jonathan Pullen and Colin Smith.

The reunion was organised again this year by Clive Dickinson from Dorchester, using the well-established old boys email network to contact around 30 of the Class of '58 who remain in touch all around England. "These reunions, to me, mean the coming together of long standing friends, with whom we once shared our school years and catching up with their news," comments Clive Dickinson. "After all, it is now almost 60 years since we started school and over 50 years since we left. Some of the attendees I knew quite well at school and those friendships continue. Yet some, with whom I hardly had any contact all those years ago, are now firm friends."

"In my mind, 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," says Michel Hooper-Immins, today 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 Hardye's School from 1958 to 1965, almost six decades ago. Long may we Hardyans continue these reunions and remain such firm friends."



Standing: (left to right:) Barrie Allington, Simon Frampton, Michel Hooper-Immins, Jonathan Pullen, Stuart Hargreaves, Colin Squibb. Seated: Richard Sonley, Hugh Slavin, Colin Smith, Clive Dickinson, Graham Lush.

HARDYE'S WEBSITE CREATES MUCH NOSTALGIA *CULLIFORD ROAD REMEMBERED*

www.oldhardyeans.webs.com

Nostalgia rules as I've spent several afternoons looking through Graham Allen's amazing website, which has collected over 850 photographs and media on Hardye's School, writes *Michel Hooper-Immins*. There are a goodly number of pictures of the old school, its expansion and sadly a few of the demolition. The only known moving pictures of the School are there, from the 1945 film *Childrens Charter*. Mostly groups of schoolboys from all throughout the years are pictured at the School and subsequently as Hardyeans at the various reunions which have been taking place. Some have been organised by Nigel Newbery since 2002. I have promised to provide photographs of the annual Class of '58 reunions and of the 2008 visit to Wollaston House on the 50th anniversary of us starting there. These will be on the website soon and later in the year we can add photographs of the 60th anniversary visit to Wollaston House.

If the photographs across the years were not fascinating enough, there is some fascinating history of Hardye's School on the website. For example, it seems Thomas Hardy OM researched Thomas Hardye, founder of Dorchester Grammar School, and believed he came originally from Jersey. There are photographs of the 1928 visit by HRH the Prince of Wales, later briefly King Edward VIII, who looked in apparently "on the way to the station" ! The laying of the foundation stone by Thomas Hardy OM in 1927 is said to have been his last public appearance. Another section of historic photographs show the carving of the twin wyverns and the consecration of the Memorial Gates in 1957, mercifully preserved at the new School in Queens Avenue, a gift from the old Hardyeans to the new.

Graham Allen was at Hardye's School from 1953 to 1960, a boarder at Southfield House. After gaining a degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College, he worked for a year in a team designing the autopilot for the Concorde, before moving into, and staying in- the world of designing and implementing application software mainly for scientists and engineers. Graham, who now lives in Wimborne Minster, retired in 2000 and having rediscovered some old photo negatives from Hardye's days, built a website around 2003 to share them with others. Since then, more and more Hardyeans have discovered the site and many have sent in their photos and other material, so there are over 850 photos and other facsimiles relevant to the time when Hardye's School was situated at the end of Culliford Road, between 1927 and 1997- not forgetting the lower school at Wollaston House from 1938 to 1976.

Graham will be delighted to hear from other Hardyeans who may have photographs and other material that could be posted on the website. Contact him at: graham_f_allen@tiscali.co.uk Google searches will reveal an earlier Tiscali website, which is now unsupported and obsolete- all material has been moved to the new website.

We thank Graham Allen for his foresight and hard work in creating the website

www.oldhardyeans.webs.com and now many more readers of this *Newsletter* will be able to wallow in nostalgia, remembering their days at Dorchester Grammar School and Hardye's School.



This photograph from the website, shows the consecration of the Memorial Gates at the old School in 1957, now standing outside Thomas Hardye School.

THE CLASS OF '58 RETURNS TO WOLLASTON HOUSE

On Tuesday 18 September at 12noon, 60 years to the day since the Class of '58 started at Hardye's Junior School at Wollaston House, we have secured permission from the National Farmers Union to look round the house, now the NFU local headquarters. In 2008, around 18 of us did the tour and we will repeat it for the 60th anniversary. Afterwards, there will be an informal gathering at the Colliton Club- lunches and good real ale available. It will be helpful to know the numbers, restricted to 20 or 25, so get in touch with Michel Hooper-Immins if you want to go on 18 September. Email him at: hooperimmins@btopenworld.com



*Flashback to the day of the 50th anniversary outside Wollaston House.
Photograph by Anita Harries.*

You Write

Roy Hawkes Referring to "Press Officer Gleanings" Newsletter 133. Without any doubt, Dorchester Grammar School was considered to be superior to any Weymouth equivalent! Through the generations (witness the Memorial names), members of my family had attended the school from South Street onwards. However, third and fourth sons did present a train fare expense. It was to relieve this problem that my father made enquiries at what I presume was Weymouth Grammar School. He came back to the car furious! For my younger brother and me the problem became solved when a home move to Osmington Mills rendered our bicycles the only feasible method of daily transport. At least we were awake on arrival. My "Telegraph" letter was in response to an article which discussed the uncomfortable overcrowding of trains which still have empty first class compartments. It is a decades-old problem.

The letter was published under a changed heading. There was no follow-up except through your columns! Michael Stanton and Jonathan Pullen are to be commended for their observation. All good wishes for the continued success of your columns

Sincerely,

Roy Hawkes (1932 – 1940)

Roger Burnett wrote:

I have from time to time read the newsletter

This time I read that Ian Liddiard had died last year. I was at the school with Ian from 1959–1966 (Hodges) After school we were at Portsmouth Poly but then lost touch. The last time we met we were visiting our parents who lived on the same floor in Somerleigh Court, Dorchester (the old hospital). Since retiring I have been living in France and rarely return to Dorset –my parents now both dead. My younger brother Martin was also at the school is also now retired and lives in Wellington Somerset

Kind regards

Roger Burnett

Jonathan Pullen (1958–65)

From Charles Lamb's quotation, of course"– "I have had playmates, I have had companions, , In my days of childhood, in my joyful schooldays – All, all are gone, the old familiar faces". Well, not all, but 2017 has so far witnessed the demise of several I have known. A tribute to 'Mr Dorchester', Les Phillips, in today's (4th November 2017) Dorset Echo. I remember him very well from early childhood at Dorchester 'Magpies' FC supporters and remember him coming out to shoe my mother's donkeys!

I can't remember precisely when Ralph Davies joined the staff at Hardye's. Our M & S contemporaries, and younger, would probably remember. I'm fairly certain he took up the role of careers master? Sad also to note the death of Colin Bragg who owned the sports and toy shop in High West St. We were regular customers.

Grahame WHITE

.. attached to this e-mail is a photo, probably taken in the early to mid-1950s, which I have recently 're-found'.Some years ago I intended to e-mail it to Nigel Newberry, after I had been looking at other photos on the website, but then mislaid it.

I have now found it again and have tried to clean it up. I hope it will bring back some memories to any of those in the picture. I recognise some faces, but they were 2 or 3 years ahead of me. I was in the RAF section (C.O. Jo Roberts) in the late 'fifties and thoroughly enjoyed it.

It probably helped me get an Air Traffic Control Officer Cadetship in 1965, and I spent 37 years as an air traffic controller/air traffic manager, retiring in 2002. I enjoyed nearly all of those years.

Kind regards

Grahame White



Thanks to all correspondents – your letters and emails always welcome! - Editor

THS staff – pen portrait –



Ms Katie Taylor is Head of Year 13 and is responsible for the progress, attendance and conduct of the year group as well as overseeing information and guidance for these students. In addition she is ultimately responsible for the Futures provision and destinations of our students after Sixth Form. She teaches History and is based in the Sixth Form office.

Quite incredibly this is the nineteenth year that I have been teaching at The Thomas Hardy School. I joined in September 1999. Before teaching at Thomas Hardy, I taught at The Purbeck School in Wareham for two years.

I'm from Dorset. I was born in Boscombe over in Bournemouth but, as a child, I mainly lived in Poole. I continue to live in Poole as I am drawn to the coast. Come rain, or hopefully shine, I spend most of my summer holiday on Sandbanks beach.

By the time I was in secondary education, it was very clear to me that History was my favourite subject. Other than History, I enjoyed other subjects that required reading and writing and, in fact, I have a joint honours degree in History with English Literature. At GCSE level I was also very good at languages. However, when I was at middle school I remember weekly lessons with the Deputy Head just called, 'news.' This is exactly what it was, an opportunity for 12 years old to talk about the news- it was brilliant, I loved it.

From Year 9, I knew I wanted to teach History, and I have been living the dream for 20 years! I was inspired by my History teacher whom I just found so interesting. I reached this career decision one day in a lesson about the living conditions in the First World War trenches. I remember being horrified by the living conditions and wanted to tell everyone about how horrendous World War One had been. From an early age, I had some experience in working with children as I was Sunday school teacher at a local church and I then went on to run the youth group. The only other career that appealed to me was to be a pop singer like Kylie Minogue- I probably made the right choice!

When not at school I enjoy reading. I'm currently reading *Citizen Clem*, the new biography about Clement Attlee that I was given for Christmas. I like to go and see live comedy and next month I have tickets for a comedy duo who call themselves Flight of the Concorde.

I also campaign on local issues; for example campaigning against closures to Poole hospital departments and in support of homeless people in Poole.

It is vital that our sixth form students can access advice and guidance from former students. As teachers we do our very best to advise our students, but it is much better and more authentic if we can invite guests in to school who work in a range of careers who can speak about their work. We also want to be able to give our students practice at being interviewed and to be more familiar with talking about their skills, talents and many experiences. We rely on former students and members of the Hardyears to help us to provide this support.

We have so many successes at The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form that I am extremely proud of. Firstly our exams results continue to be truly outstanding. This is testament of the hard work, commitment and professionalism of all our staff and students. It is truly rewarding to be part of a team that can work together to achieve such wonderful results for our young people. Secondly all our students are so motivated to move on to the next steps in their education and by far the majority get on to their first choices of university course or start the apprenticeship of their choice. Lastly, in addition to great exams results and exciting careers, I am proud that we support our students in their whole personal development and transition to adulthood. This term our focus for Year 12 has been their wellbeing. Through tutor time and assembly, our students have been given advice and guidance about how to look after their mental health and have been encouraged to talk to one another in times of stress and anxiety. Next week we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People's Act when for the first time some women and working class men were allowed to vote. Part of this commemoration will involve encouraging our sixth form students to register to vote and starting a debate about whether the students think they should be allowed to vote at 16 years old.

OBITUARIES - contributed by members

DAVIES Ralph H. Formerly of Hardye's Grammar School, Dorchester passed away peacefully in his sleep at Chestnut House Nursing Home, Charlton Down on 29th October 2017 following a long illness, aged 88 years. Beloved husband for 61 years of Diana, loving father of Liliias, Ian, Neil and Helen and who will be greatly missed by his 8 grandchildren.donations, if wished, for either RNLI or Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance may be sent by visiting www.grassby-funeral.co.uk or c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 8 Princes Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TW. Tel: 01305 262338 Sent in by **Jonathan Pullen**

Philip Mackie writing on the Hardyens' Club Facebook page commented: That's sad news but a good age. He was a great teacher and head of the CCF RAF contingent for many years. I remember he had a big old Mercedes that once failed its MOT on an exhaust problem; the cost of a new one was very high so he asked Mike Bowman if the sixth form artists could help build a new one from scrap and his old exhaust. Two or three of us welded up a new system and fitted it to his car - much to the surprise of all it passed even with a length of scaffold pole being used!

Adrian DOWNTON 1950 -1957

Sadly, Adrian was diagnosed three years ago, with a rare disease called Progressive Supra Nuclear Palsy. He knew that his life was going to change significantly, but as always, faced this challenge with dignity, never complaining or becoming angry, but frustrated , as for some time he was unable to communicate with loved ones and friends, but his mind was alert right until near the end of his life. He died peacefully on Christmas Eve, surrounded by his family.

Adrian attended Dorchester Grammar School, from 1950 until 1957 and made a considerable contribution to school life. He did well academically, achieving three good "A " levels , played Rugby Football for the 1st XV, was wicket keeper for the 1st XI and a Sergeant in the Army section of The Combined Cadet Force. He loved Drama and enjoyed participating in school productions, especially "A Journey's End "where all his friends seemed to make up the cast.

After leaving school Adrian intended to become a teacher, as he eventually did, but initially fate sent him in another direction. . While hitchhiking to Weymouth he was given a lift by Carl Foreman, a famous film Director on location near Dorchester. He must have been impressed with Adrian's enthusiasm for the theatre as he offered him a job on the film set as a "runner ". As a result of this opportunity he spent some time in the film industry, involved in making seven major films, ending up as an assistant Director to Guy Middleton. He had become engaged to his future wife Gill, and was not prepared to spend long periods of separation this work might have demanded, so took he took up his place at St Luke's Exeter to train as a teacher.

His first teaching post was at his former school, Colliton St Boys Primary and when the school closed he moved to a new C of E school at Manor Park, Dorchester. Promotion quickly followed to Deputy Head in Maidenhead, then Head of the village school in Wargrave, Berkshire.

He returned to Dorset, tasked with remodelling Wareham Secondary Modern School to a Middle School , which he did successfully . The school flourished and was held in high regard by the Community, but it was written in the stars that Adrian should return to his birthplace which he did when appointed Headteacher of Dorchester Middle School which was to be sited on the former Dorchester Grammar School for Girls. Adrian spent many happy years there, developing the school and enhancing its reputation and retired in 1997, after a long and rewarding career.

He made many contributions to public life, as a long serving Magistrate, member of Rotary and a very "hands on" Trustee of Age Concern Dorchester. He was Churchwarden on several occasions at St Mary's and a committed member of their congregation .

Adrian DOWNTON [continued]

Adrian led a full life and was captain of Dorchester Rugby Club's "A" XV during one of their most successful periods, and although a busy person, obtained a BA in English after three years study with The Open University .

He was, above all, a great family man, whose relationship with Gill, from the time they first met, lasted sixty five years . They were blessed with two daughters, Claire and Sarah, who supported their mother, caring for him during his long illness. He was devoted to his four grandchildren and spent much time with them, especially in retirement and their tributes reciprocated how proud they were of their granddad.

My brother acknowledged to me on more than one occasion, how much he owed Dorchester Grammar School and how the time spent there had influenced his future life in a variety of ways. I know the School would be proud of him also, and of what he achieved during his lifetime.

Submitted by his brother David [Dorchester Grammar School 1947 – 1955]

John SONLEY

Sadly, my brother (John Sonley at Hardye's until 1959) passed away very recently and in sifting through some papers, I came across the attached booklet, which gives glimpses of the history and happenings at the school during the 400 years to 1969. I'm sure you're probably familiar with the document, but just in case, I have scanned a copy. [Editor: This is the Quater-centenary booklet produced in 1969. If anyone does not have one please ask for a copy]

All good wishes
Richard Sonley

Michael TURNER

Michael was born in April 1936, and was one of the 6 original boarders who joined Heathcote House during the school year 1950-51 as a 'trial' before the House was fully opened to boarders in September 1951. He was Head of the House in 1952-53 before leaving to join the Army. He was commissioned from RMA Sandhurst in 1955 into the RASC, later becoming RCT in 1965. He reached the rank of Brigadier in 1984, and retired early at the age of 51 in 1986 to become the Traffic Commissioner for the South East and Metropolitan Area, working for the Department of Transport. He continued in this post until his retirement in 2000.

Michael had married Heather Napper, whom he had known at the Green School, and they had 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Sadly Heather had died some years ago, and Michael had lived with a subsequent partner Lorna Chorley. Sadly he contracted Motor Neurone disease a couple of years ago which he fought with much braveness, but he died on 18 December 2017.

Yours sincerely

Mike Betts
Heathcote House Sep 1951 - Dec 1955

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

Hardyans Club Annual Dinner 2018

Closing date Saturday 10 March – no bookings accepted after this date.

ANNUAL DINNER MENU

ticket price at £28 pp. See booking form below

Starter

Oak Smoked Salmon with Blinis and Beetroot Chutney

Main

**Chicken with Vermouth Tarragon Cream served on a bed of Braised Fennel
with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables**

Dessert

Dorset Apple Cake with Clotted Cream

Tea or Coffee with Mints

(A vegetarian option is available)

You are invited to bring your own wine selection

COST: £28.00

Annual Dinner 2018 BOOKING FORM

Name :.....

Home address :.....

Dinner @ £28 No's required :.....

Years at School to [e.g. 1958 to 1965]:.....

Please indicate if vegetarian option required :

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

.....@.....

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT: SATURDAY 10 March 2018

Please make cheques payable to The Hardyans Club, and send to Alan Brown,
40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, 8H9 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 Brown at
alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com to let him know when you have paid and if vegetarian
option is required.

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE - NO PAY ON THE DAY!