

To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

Winter
2019

In
this
Issue

From
the
Headteacher

You Write

Booking
form
For
Annual
Dinner

The Hardyens' Club Newsletter

Published in September, January and May



Friday 9th November 2018 at the School Memorial Gates

On this very special year of commemorating the end of World War One a hundred years ago, there were concerns that the weather would curtail the annual Thomas Hardy Remembrance event. However, almost on cue, the sun came out as the whole school and its guests assembled on Queens Avenue.

As always, the ceremony began with the approach of the School's CCF with both the Army and RAF Sections marching impeccably. Headmaster Mr Foley then began the readings by speaking on the significance of the occasion.

The following students then gave the readings (including the names of those students who lost their lives in the two world wars): Will Simmons; Amelie Dixon; Harry Standen McDougall; Josh Prowse; Jamie Sage; Isham Khan. Last Post was played by Tom Bidwell.

Mr Foley then called for two minutes silence. As always, this was observed to perfection by everyone and showed how students still understand the sacrifice that was made and respect the memory of all those who died in two world wars and others since. Then, after Reveille was played, governors, guests and representatives of the four colleges laid wreaths at the school gates.

Whilst across the country there would be many ceremonies and parades over the Remembrance weekend, there can surely be few that are more moving and perfectly observed than that at the Thomas Hardy School. *For further pictures of The Thomas Hardy School Remembrance Ceremony please follow this link:-*

https://www.thomasardye.net/pages/news/2018/11_18/Remembrance/Remembrance.php

with thanks to the Thomas Hardy School's website News section

An edited audio recording of the ceremony can be heard on the 'Listen Again' part of the local Community Radio website, KeeP106.com in the 'Dorchester Remembers 2018' section

<https://keep106.com/2018/11/12/dorchester-remembers-2018/>

From the Headteacher



We are almost at the mid-point of the school year, and for those youngsters taking public examinations next summer, we are some way beyond that. After Easter, practical examinations and orals will begin and the main exam timetable will operate from May. For the first time, A level examinations start before the May half-term, much earlier than used to be the case. Oxbridge interviews took place just before Christmas and we should hear in the next week who has received offers. There is no longer a quiet time of the year!

The school continues to thrive. We have a very large number of applications for September, both the lower school and the sixth form. However, we are always looking to develop and to improve and not just exam results. The CCF is doing particularly well at the moment due to strong leadership but we want to increase the number of students achieving Duke of Edinburgh awards. After all the success in the rugby nationals a few years ago, it is now football that is winning the accolades. Amazingly, we have three school teams in the last 8 of the national cup: U-14 girls, U-14 boys and U-18 boys. To my knowledge, no Dorset team has ever won the national cup and the tournament starts off with 600+ schools from across the UK. Special times.

The construction of the dining room continues at a good pace although there have been a few hold-ups as with any large building project; the finish date is now May. Any hope we had of holding the annual dinner there has gone for this year and we will have to wait until 2020. However, there will be a summer ball on Saturday 6th July with champagne reception, two course dinner and live music. Tickets priced at £50 per person will be available from the main reception from Monday, 4th March.

Finally, very warm congratulations to Professor Hugh Griffiths for the award of an OBE in the recent honours' list. Hugh is a former student, current school governor and Chair of Trustees. More importantly, he has been a loyal supporter of the school over many years, despite being based in London and this recognition is richly deserved.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual dinner, hopefully in early spring sunshine.

Best wishes

Mike Foley

Staff Pen-portrait

This time we turn the spotlight on the Head of the Music Department - Tom Bruton

Tom joined the staff nearly five years ago in September 2014.

Originally from Morden in South-West London, his secondary school education was at Wimbledon College.

His favourite subject was, unsurprisingly, music and he went on to study classical saxophone at Trinity College of Music where he gained his music degree. He also studied Theology and Government & Politics for A Level, and is still interested in both subject areas.



He has always enjoyed teaching, and taught instrumental lessons for a number of years before going into the classroom full-time in 2011. He also had a career as a freelance musician before teaching, this involved theatre work, TV & radio, concerts in a wide range of genres including classical, jazz & pop, education workshops, and music publishing. A portfolio career, like most musicians.

Tim has worked at many schools. This included working for Birmingham Music Service, and the King Edward Schools in Birmingham. In this time he also ran educational workshops combining music & English language teaching in the Middle East for the British Council. He lived in France for five years before returning to the UK in 2011 to begin teacher training at St Edwards in Poole, gaining his first post as music teacher at the Winton & Glenmore Academies in Bournemouth in 2012 before moving to THS.

As well as playing professionally on a regular basis, he publishes sheet music in his time outside of school under the name Saxtet Publications. He has published over 300 works by over 30 different composers, and has works on both the ABRSM and Trinity College syllabi. This work allows him to keep contact with the professional music world, and he has used his contacts through publishing to help students gain access to masterclasses, consultation lessons with music college professors, and funding schemes. He also provides lots of free sheet music to the school!

Regarding current successes at Thomas Hardy School, Tom says: The school productions of ‘We Will Rock You’ (2015), ‘Our House’ (2017) and ‘The Wizard of Oz’ (2019) have been great successes, as have our music tours to Rhineland (2016) and Belgium (2018). We are planning our next tour for 2020, where we will be taking over 50 students to Languedoc in the South of France. We’ve also had fantastic feedback about our annual Dinner Dance, which this year will be on Friday 22nd of March. Tickets for this include a gourmet fish and chip supper! The Thomas Hardy Singers continues to be invited to sing at some of the country’s most prestigious venues. We have sung Evensong at St Paul’s Cathedral for the past two years, and this year have been invited to sing at Westminster Abbey on April 4th. I took over the running of the Thomas Hardy Singers from Peter Oakes in September, he must be thanked for developing a choir with such a national reputation.

Involvement with DASP Myself and Hanna Trevorrow from DASP Music work closely ensuring not only the provision of a wide range of ensemble and lesson provision, but also the future of music at THS through targeting of ‘endangered’ instruments. In recent years this has resulted in a tremendous increase in string tuition, and more students than ever are learning an instrument within the DASP pyramid. One current project is aimed at increasing vocal tuition at THS, this is with the help of ‘The Friends of the Thomas Hardy Singers’ who are generously providing scholarships for two students to have heavily subsidised singing lessons.

[Picture of Tom reproduced courtesy of the Saxtet Publications website, makes Tom look just a little younger than he is now!]

Recent Club functions



A Post-Christmas Luncheon was held this year at the Wessex Royale Hotel in Dorchester. Sadly not many Hardyens attended but those who did enjoyed a convivial time and an excellent meal.

Present were, from left to right, Bill Caselton, Damien Lewis, Peter Foster, Alan and Helen Brown, John Hodges, Godfrey Lancashire, Tony and Elizabeth Day, with Heather Foster who took the photo.

Another regular event is the 58'ers Colliton Club lunch. Attending this year were: Graham Lush, Richard Cummins, Barrie Allington, Stuart Hargreaves, Clive Dickinson, John Sibley, Peter Foster (who took the picture), Ken Stephens, Simon Frampton, Hugh Slavin, Jonathan Pullen



Forthcoming Club and other events

Monthly Luncheons take place on the last Thursday of the month at the Poet Laureate pub in Pummery Square, Poundbury. These are informal gatherings, 12.30pm onwards. Do come along!

Annual Dinner 2019 : 23rd March 2019 at the School, 7 for 7.30pm Guest Speaker this year is the author and journalist Damien Lewis who was at Hardy's 1978-85

A Booking form for the Annual Dinner can be found at the end of this newsletter

Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

7pm in the School Theatre

Next Lectures:

February 11th 2019 'From Black Holes to Quantum Computers'

Professor Marika Taylor, Professor of theoretical physics and Head of Applied Mathematics in Mathematical Sciences at the University of Southampton

March 11th 'Exploring the Antarctic Deep Sea',

Dr Jon Copley, Associate Professor in Ocean Exploration & Public Engagement within Ocean and Earth Science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton at the University of Southampton

(The talk will be based on his involvement in Blue Planet II, where Sir David Attenborough gave him the last word!)

Venue: All lectures will take place in the School Theatre

Time: All lectures start at 7.00pm

Admission: Free of Charge, tickets available from school reception (or ring 01305 266064) and Tourist Information Centre (in Dorchester Library) from 9.00 am on release date (normally 2 weeks prior to each lecture). Maximum 4 tickets per person.

Donations are welcomed at the end of each lecture. (The money raised goes to charitable causes.)

Check out the school website for other public events that may be of interest!

Congratulations to Life Vice-President **Professor Hugh Griffiths** who was awarded the OBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours: The following appeared on Facebook shared by Tim Keats: Hugh was at the School in the late 60s and early 70s.

Full article on the Institution of Engineering & Technology website reads:

Professor Hugh Griffiths FIET is a leading authority in the field of radar research and has been awarded an OBE for his ground-breaking research in the continuing development of radar systems, including bistatic radar and its applications. Hugh is the Thales / Royal Academy of Engineering Chair of RF Sensors at University College London and is a long-established volunteer for the IET.

He has contributed voluntarily to the IET throughout his career, as member and chair of technical interest groups and honorary editor of professional peer-reviewed publications. He has made similar contributions to the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society, of which he was President from 2012-2014.

He received the IET A F Harvey Prize in 2012 - a global research prize which was awarded to aid his developmental research into the topic of bistatic radar.

Hugh said: "I am thrilled at this honour, which recognises the importance of radar in the UK and worldwide. I am hugely grateful to all of the engineers and scientists who I have worked with and learned from over the years."

Hardyans Club Contacts

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

Chairman: Godfrey LANCASHIRE until the Annual Dinner - then Nick GRASSBY takes the Chair, and Godfrey Lancashire takes over the Presidency

Hon Treasurer/ Membership Secretary Alan BROWN, 40 Valette Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 3JD (tel 01202 535034) E-mail: alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com

Hon Joint Secretaries/ Newsletter Editors Peter and Heather FOSTER. Holmecroft, 12, South Court Ave, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2BX E-Mail: heather.foster1@btinternet.com (tel 01305 262121)

Hon Press Officer: Damien Lewis E-mail: mediac21@aol.com

School Liaison Officer Vicky SMYTH (tel 01305 266095)

www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyans 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 Hardy School Dorchester, Dorset. There are other Thomas Hardy School-related facebook sites.



Find us on
Facebook

You Write

Can You Help?

Ian Carr writes

Am searching for information on my old "Divinity" teacher "Major Willis". I remember him saying "I was at Mons" (WW1). I recall him being an undergraduate at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and being a high-jumper in the Olympic Games? 1912?

Ian Carr 1942-1951.

Editor: If anyone has any information e.g from a 1950's or 60's Durnovarian, that can help Ian, please get in touch

Damien Lewis writes a major contribution concerning righting a WW2 wrong relating to one of the subjects of his latest book : **SAS Italian Job, the secret mission to storm a forbidden Nazi fortress** - Quercus Publishing, available at some local bookshops or through Amazon.

This article, by the author, appeared recently in the Daily Mirror and also the Sun newspaper:-



Once decoded in their deep mountain hideout, the radio message proved shocking and soul-destroying in equal measure: 'Not advisable to make fur fly.' It emanated from Allied forwards headquarters, in northern Italy, where in the harsh winter of '44/45 British and American forces had fought themselves to a bloody standstill.

Captain Mike Lees, agent with the Special Operations Executive (SOE) – Churchill's shadowy Ministry for Ungentlemanly Warfare – stared at the message in disbelief. A man of action who'd cut his eyeteeth on daring sabotage missions across occupied Europe, he'd parachuted behind the lines in Italy very much intending to 'make the fur fly'.

It was all too depressingly familiar. In Yugoslavia, two years earlier, he'd received similar warnings. Upon linking up with the Yugoslav guerillas, they'd given Lees the nickname 'Mickey Mouse', as the cartoon character was the only 'Michael' they had ever heard of.

But Lees had gone on to earn an entirely more appropriate epithet -

SOE Captain Mike Lees (1921 – 93) 'Wild Man,' when he'd turned a blind eye to orders from HQ, to 'cease offensive operations with the Yugoslav resistance.' Instead, he'd mounted a string of solo sabotage operations, ones of breathtaking daring, blowing German trains laden with war materials to smithereens. 'I am terribly embittered to this sort of treatment, the same thing happened in Yugoslavia ...' Lees replied, to the March 1945 warning from Italy headquarters, complaining that it was, 'tantamount to making a pact with the enemy.' Left unsaid was that he planned to take little heed of such orders now.

Lees had double the reasons to ignore such a directive. Renowned SAS commander Major Roy Farran, DSO MC, had parachuted in to join him, in his hideout in the Apennine Mountains, along with forty veteran fighters of the elite SAS. Finally, Lees had at his disposal the kind of men he'd long sought, to strike the target he so hungered to destroy.

That winter, the Allied advance through Europe's southern underbelly – Operation Avalanche – had stalled in the freezing snows and on the fearsome defences of the Gothic Line, thousands of German gun-emplacements, concrete bunkers and minefields strung across the heights of the Apennines. The purpose of Lees January '45 insertion into this area had been to arm and raise a force of Italian partisans, to strike at the enemy from the rear.

For weeks Lees had searched for targets, trekking through hostile territory disguised as a peasant farmer. But it was from a German deserter that he'd got his first clue as to where exactly to strike. 'Hans' had served with the crack German 4th Parachute Division, but he'd become disillusioned with the Nazi cause. He revealed to Lees that a major German Army headquarters was sited less than 72 hours march away.

Lees needed more detailed intelligence. He ordered his 'secret weapon' – his *Stafettas*; 'messengers' in Italian – into action. Consisting of two dozen young Italian women, the *Stafettas*' role was to use their considerable feminine charms to extract intelligence from an unsuspecting enemy.

One strikingly-beautiful *Stafetta* succeeded in winning the affections of the senior German officer at the nearest enemy garrison, at the village of Castelnovo. From him she learned that the HQ in question was that of the German 14 Army, commanding 100,000 troops manning a huge swathe of the Gothic Line. Field Marshal Kesselring himself, Hitler's commander-in-chief, was said to frequent the HQ, from where he would place calls direct to the Fuhrer. And Kesselring's deputy, the highly-decorated General Valentin Feuerstein - holder of the coveted Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross - was permanently based there.

Lees sensed a target like no other. If they could hit that headquarters, it could strike the knock-out blow, opening the way through the Gothic Line and saving countless Allied – and Italian – lives.

The fortress-like HQ consisted of two thick-walled buildings - Villa Rossi and Villa Calvi – flanking a road. Villa Rossi, a four-story red sandstone fortress, was the communications and planning headquarters for the entire German 14th Army. Villa Calvi, a slab-sided white edifice, provided senior staff quarters, including that of General Feuerstein, and Field Marshal Kesselring, when visiting.

If they could kill those high-ranking officers, they could decapitate the Nazi snake here in Italy. They could eviscerate the Germans' command structure across a broad front. They could catalyze a major breakthrough of the Gothic Line, allowing Allied forces to surge north towards the prize - Berlin.

Having found his target, Lees had been in dire need of elite warriors like the SAS. He'd raised a force of Italian partisans – several hundred mostly communist-leaning fighters - that were a motley crew of 'Robin Hood ruffians.' Indeed, the men of the combined partisan-SAS force – nicknamed the *Battaglione Alleato*; the Allied Battalion – would speak half-a-dozen different languages, all told.

In addition to Italian, and the German of the deserters, French, Spanish, Dutch and even Russian were spoken. The French-speakers were former members of the French Foreign Legion, who'd found their way into these hills. The Spanish-speakers were war-bitten veterans of the Spanish Civil War who'd volunteered for service in Britain's SAS, proving themselves die-hard opponents of Nazism and earning the nickname 'Churchill's Spaniards.'

Then there was Fritz Snapper, a former lieutenant in the Royal Dutch Army, who had somehow wandered into these mountains; he too had joined Lees motley crew. Plus their ranks had been swollen by a hundred Russians fighters, who had been captured on the Eastern Front, sent for forced-labour in Italy and subsequently escaped.

It had taken the 4 March '45 arrival of Major Farran and his SAS, and a spectacular show of military might, to unite this force and spur it into action. Farran – always the shrewd commander and a showman by nature – had masterminded a series of massive air-drops, wherein dozens of DC3 cargo planes had parachuted all kinds of weaponry to the forces gathered below.

Aircraft delivered US-made Willys jeeps – the SAS's distinctive vehicles bristling with machineguns, which Farran believed 'the greatest invention of the war' - suspended beneath multiple parachutes. Plus there was a massive 75mm 'pack' howitzer, which would be nicknamed *Molto Stanco* – 'very tired' – by the Italians, after they had manhandled it over the hills.

By such showmanship, coupled with their force of leadership, Farran and Lees honed the Allied Battalion into a 300-strong unit – a select band of the best of this multinational squad. Armed, trained and drilled by the SAS, Farran and Lees believed one hundred of the very finest of these warriors could sneak through terrain thick with the enemy, to strike the HQ target by utter surprise.

They believed those one hundred fighters could take on the 600-plus German guard force manning the HQ, and win. Having worked the would-be raiders up into a frenzy of spirited self-belief, the time was ripe to strike.

On 20 March Farran cabled a final confirmation to Italy headquarters: 'Confirm we attack . . . First wave 20 British, second wave 30 Russians, third wave 40 Italians. All on foot. Plans irrevocable now.'

But just hours after setting out for the target, a runner arrived with an urgent radio message. Allied high command had seemingly got cold feet. Fearing too much 'fur might fly', the raid was being cancelled. Instead, Allied headquarters was considering a massive bombing raid to flatten the villa headquarters.

Farran and Lees were incredulous. The Italian partisans were in no mood to delay. Their blood was up.

Indeed, this would be seen as a serious breach of trust. It would alienate the partisans, and after Lees and Farran had spent so many weeks gaining their confidences. Worse still, if the mass bombing went ahead it would doubtless flatten villages surrounding the German HQ, killing hundreds of Italian civilians. 'Collateral damage' in the Allied planner's view, it wouldn't be seen that way on the ground. The partisans would be furious.

Farran voiced his thoughts to Lees: they had yet to send a response, confirming that they had received the radio message. *But what if they had never received it?* He and Lees decided that at the risk of a court martial or worse they would continue regardless, claiming the order to stand down had arrived too late. Come hell or high water, they were going in.

There was another last-minute hitch. In the stress of the moment, Lees' malaria, contracted during his Yugoslavia operations, had returned to haunt him. Alternatively shivering with chills, then racked by bouts of high temperature and drenching sweats, Lees refused to be left behind ...

Meanwhile, at SOE headquarters, in Florence, there was utter consternation: the runner had managed to get a radio message through to them, confirming he had delivered the order to stand down. Repeated and ever more strident radio messages were sent from HQ, demanding Farran and Lees confirm the attack had been cancelled.

But all they received in return was an echoing void of silence. By then, both commanders were long gone, leading the column of raiders deep into enemy-held territory.

On the night of the 27 March the raiders reached the 14 Army HQ, striking by total surprise. In the intense and bloody fighting that ensued, they caused some sixty German casualties, torching the two villas and leaving them smoking, gutted ruins.

The 14 Army HQ was eviscerated, and put out of action.

Days later the Gothic Line was breached and all of Italy liberated, during fierce combat in which Farran and his Allied Battalion were to the fore. It was a signal victory in which Mike 'Wild Man' Lees, wounded terribly while storming the Villa Rossi HQ building, would sadly play no part.

Lucky to be alive, he would be hospitalized for the remainder of the war.

Lees was written up for a Military Cross by Major Farran, at war's end, citing the raw courage and bravery he demonstrated during the HQ assault. Sadly, this was turned down. Worse still, Lees had his war record traduced and muddied, in what amounted to a shocking betrayal.

With the help and support of Lees' daughter and nephew, I have started a petition to right this wartime wrong and to get Captain Lees properly honoured for his wartime exploits.

You can help, by going to this link to sign:

<https://www.change.org/p/parliament-to-debate-reinstating-mc-award-military-cross-to-captain-michael-lees-that-was-wrongly-denied-in-wwii>



Capt Lees seen here with family in 1956

OBITUARIES

John Hawthorne, teacher 1959-1990

John's daughter Jenny Brown, wrote to the headteacher to let the school know of John's passing. Mike Foley passed on the news noting that John Hawthorne was well known at Thomas Hardy School due to his involvement in athletics and would be sadly missed. John passed away after a stroke, aged 80. The funeral and thanksgiving service was held at Bradford Peverell church on Monday 21st January and attended by many friends and former students. Several fond memories of 'Prickles' were shared on Facebook, including the following from John Barbara: I was very saddened when Alan Brown told me that John had died. He was the inspiration for my career in clinical science and specifically, virology. He lent me a book describing how one could separate the RNA and protein of Tobacco Mosaic Virus; neither component alone was infectious but when recombined, infectivity returned. He seemed to have a book to inspire everybody and the knack of knowing what would inspire them. He was a true gentleman and always had time to reassure and encourage. His lectures on the emerging science of molecular biology and the work on DNA of Watson and Crick were pure revelations. An excellent teacher. My condolences to his daughter and any other family members. A real loss. John Barbara" 7

Richard John Thompson Nicholls

I am writing to inform you that Richard John Thompson Nicholls suddenly passed away on Sunday November 25th 2018 aged 68 years. After leaving Hardye's he went to work for GEC Telecommunications Coventry. The degree part of this sandwich course was studied at Imperial College London. He worked there all of his working life seeing the company change to GPT, Marconi and Telent. He retired in February 2015 and moved to Stretton on Dunsmore where he spent just over 3 very happy years with his long term partner Roma.

Dr Adrian Stear

Dr Adrian Stear, (Hardye's School 1948-1956) who died on December 5th 2018, aged 80, had fought a brave, pragmatic rear guard action against inoperable pancreatic cancer with which he had been diagnosed in Mid-August just after a delightful joint 80th birthday celebration with his wife, Patricia (Pat) at their home in Bradford Peverell. He was a good, generous and dependable friend to many, including myself; a man of substance as his immediate neighbour, fellow OH, Michael James, so rightly described him, and a highly intelligent polymath of ebullience and enthusiasm. Indeed, I called him 'The Sage of Yaffington' after his own family's affectionate name for him': "Yaf".

A Bristolian by birth, Adrian Nigel Stear moved with his parents and younger sister (the late Josephine) in 1947 to Weymouth where his father became manager of the Eagle Star Insurance company's local office. Another sister (Gabrielle – both sisters attended the "Green School" in Dorchester) was born two years later. From Rydal Prep. School, Adrian began his long stint of pupillage at Hardye's as a very young entrant in 1948. With a strong mathematical and scientific bent, he achieved considerable academic success, progressing to Birmingham University where he met his future wife, Pat, a fellow undergraduate, and obtained his B.Sc before National Service where he was awarded his 'wings', shrewdly negotiating potential disqualification on the grounds of myopia. According to his school friend, Roy Mackenzie, Adrian's CCF involvement included assiduously rubbing soap into the insides of his trousers so as to (hopefully) maintain sharp creases. Unfortunately, it rained on the parade the following day and Cpl Stear's trousers blew bubbles! His holiday commitments included being a deck chair attendant on Weymouth seafront and work experience at Branksome Gasworks while his adventurous nature led him to hitch-hike all over Europe, and in university days, to motor to the Soviet Union with a couple of friends. Certainly, some feat during the so-called 'cold' war. Following the award of his Ph.d. in Chemistry at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and by then married, his subsequent career was mainly in the oil industry and in the USA where he took out dual citizenship and he and Pat raised their young family in such locations as Austin, Texas, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and Manhattan. In 1973, the family moved to Los Angeles where he worked for the Atlantic Richfield Co. later transferring to Princeton NJ. About two years later, he became planning director for The Space Transportation Co. Under the Austrian, Klaus Heiss, at a time when the 5th space shuttle was still intended as a joint NASA/commercial venture. In addition to his business and scientific roles, Adrian played an active part in his children's lives, running his two sons' scout troop in LA, producing plays for them, and a football team as his US friends thought that any Englishman would be knowledgeable about that game. He also helped at least one disadvantaged child who showed academic promise. That child flew over from the USA to see him shortly before he died.

The lure of Dorset proved compelling – as it does for numerous OHs- and back in the UK during 1988 as the space programme had been put on hold following the shuttle explosion tragedy two years before, Adrian imported and started up over here the 'Invisible Fence' system for – basically- containing domestic pets (mainly dogs) which he ran, as 'Invisible Fence Wessex' from his home office in Bradford Peverell until the time of the diagnosis of his final illness. His client base was studded with celebrities and the so called 'Great and the Good'. Although not overtly religious, he was greatly supportive of Pat's vocation to the Anglican priesthood, and took an active part in rural life with his customary enthusiasm, his country apparel, mud-spattered cars and successive Brittany spaniels. I always enjoyed,

along with his generous hospitality, touring the family's extensive gardens and enthusing over the livestock and trees (an interest we both shared). I first met Adrian and Pat at their beach chalet in Weymouth's Greenhill Gardens and sorely miss those long afternoons putting the world to rights and discussing a range of subjects while quaffing seemingly endless mugs of 'Redbush' tea. He was a bibliophile *par excellence* and enjoyed attending literary festivals. Although, sometimes on the surface, he might have appeared somewhat impatient with less gifted minds than his own, it was 'tongue in cheek' and he was a kind, considerate and quietly humorous and wise man. Along with his family and many friends, I will greatly miss him. Jonathan Pullen.



Adrian Stear and Jonathan Pullen in front of the Durlston Globe, Swanage, on August 19th. 2015 Perhaps, proving the late Michel Hooper-Immin's saying: "Old Hardyeans are everywhere!"

News of former students:

Alice Blogg

A recent article in the Bridport Times features the work of Alice Blogg who works in wood and has a workshop in the west Dorset countryside [see her website:

www.aliceblogg.co.uk] She recently returned from a trip to Sao Paulo and you can read about her experiences there in the Bridport Times, to which she is a regular contributor. (Go to www.bridporttimes.co.uk and click on Digital editions). She also featured in a recent copy of Country Living. Her brothers are well known too, particularly the one who is a chef.



Chairman's Notes

Dear Friends,

After this year's annual dinner I will be passing the baton of Chairman to Nick Grassby. I have been honoured to be your chairman for eight years and I know I will be handing over to a true supporter of school and our club. Nick (1993-99) as you will probably know has a family tradition of involvement with school and I am pleased to say is from a younger generation so he will no doubt bring fresh eyes and enthusiasm to the Club as we continue to evolve alongside the growing numbers of young leavers. Nick is a qualified solicitor who spent some years in practice in London and then locally before moving into the family firm. Nick will no doubt be pleased to introduce himself in due course.

I really do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us at the Dinner and I look forward to seeing you all.

Very best wishes

Godfrey

This year we are celebrating the **450th anniversary of the School's foundation in 1569** and former staff and students alike will want to visit to mark this very special occasion. I am delighted to advise that our **guest speaker will be Damien Lewis (1978-85)** War Reporter and now Best Selling Author most recently of "SAS Italian Job". Many of Damien's books have been turned into movies or TV drama series. Damien has also just joined the Hardyens' Club Council to help with press and publicity matters.

We are very pleased to be able to hold prices as last year at £28pp for the splendid menu below



Memorial to Thomas Hardy (died 1599) in St Peter's Church, Dorchester

Annual Dinner
Saturday 23rd March 2019
, 7.00pm for 7.30pm,

6th Form Centre
Thomas Hardy School

*Homemade Chicken Liver Pate with red onion marmalade
and brioche toast*

or

Soup of the Day

-

*Beef Bourguignon on a beetroot, carrot and potato rosti with
spring greens*

or

Vegetarian option of Mushroom Wellington

-

Chocolate Roulade with fresh double cream

or

Fresh fruit Salad

Tea or Coffee and Mints

As usual you are invited to bring your own wine

Dress - lounge suits and club ties

£28 pp

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON Saturday 9th March

NB Full Payment must be made in advance – NO Pay~On-The-Day !

BOOKING FORM

Please print out this form and return to the Treasurer (address below) or email the details

Name.....

Home address.....

Annual Dinner £28.00 No's required.....Please indicate menu choices below

Starter choice(s) **Pate**.....**Soup**..... Main Choice(s) **Beef**.....**Veg option**.....

Dessert Choice(s) **Chocolate Roulade**.....**Fresh Fruit Salad**.....

E-mail address for confirmation.....

Cheques payable to The Hardyans Club, to Alan Brown, 40 Valette Road, Moordown,
Bournemouth, BH9 3JD

For payments by Internet Bank Transfer, the bank Sort Code is 30-92-69, Account No. 00403528,
Account Name "The Hardyans Club". Please e-mail Alan Brown at alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com if
you pay by this method so he can check the payment has come in. PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER
TO TELL ALAN, IN THE EMAIL, WHAT YOUR MENU CHOICES ARE!

IMPORTANT. The closing date for payment is 9th March **2019** Requests received after this date will
not be successful.

As with all Hardyans' Club social occasions, partners are very welcome