



The Hardyans' Club Newsletter

Published in October, January and May (usually)

To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

Late
Summer
Edition

2020

In
this
Issue

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the
Headteacher

You Write

Around
the
School

The
Class of '58
recall
teachers
of
the past

Obituaries

During the Covid-19 Crisis

From the Club President and Council

We thought you would like to know that during Lockdown and more recently the school has been going the extra mile to help all the students, especially the vulnerable and school remained open for them and children of key workers. Big investment has also been made into IT and a new server purchased so that on line classes have been delivered to all as required. Mike and all his staff have been working flat out to ensure all students were looked after and Lou and her team provided food parcels for those who would have qualified for free school meals, and these were delivered door to door by Kevin and the site team - a great effort.

It is wonderful to see how communities have been coming together to help. You can catch up on what has been happening in the four colleges – Napier, Stratford, Trenchard and Henning by going to the Latest News section on the Thomas Hardy School website and clicking the links to the video presentations.

See also 'Around and About the Thomas Hardy School' later in this edition for news of the re-opening in September and an important letter from Mike Foley which appears on the School website

Normally in this edition of the Newsletter we would feature photos from events such as the the Annual Dinner. Sadly as you know this had to be cancelled so we have dug this one out of the archives. It was taken in May 1969 at the Quatercentenary year Annual General Inspection. Does anyone recall which band were performing?



From the Headteacher



Even in the long history of The Thomas Hardy School, these are exceptional times. In line with all other schools, we have been closed since the end of March only re-opening to a limited number of students since 15th June. We have been setting work on-line ever since, learning a range of new skills and getting to grips with live lessons through Teams. Nothing could have prepared us for such events.

The school site has been open for a small number of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. We have also supplied food hampers to over 200 families every Thursday, including home deliveries for those families isolating or without transport. It has certainly opened my eyes to the gap between the haves and the have-nots, not least in terms of the digital divide. In some families everyone has access to a tablet or a computer, but in others youngsters attempt to access the on-line work via their phone - you can imagine the difficulty of looking at a map or a complex document on a small screen. The Government promised free school meal vouchers and laptops for disadvantaged children, but the voucher system failed and was open to abuse; the laptops only arrived in school at the end of June and then only 30 machines. We had already loaned out 70 laptops by the time they arrived.

No examinations took place this summer and grades have been awarded by each individual school. It was a complex task: not only did we have to award grades but also rank every student in every subject, for each individual grade. Exam boards have been tasked with monitoring the award of grades taking into account the prior attainment of each student and the previous performance of the school. We trust that they will be able to ensure fairness across the whole school system.

This summer we bid farewell to our longest-serving member of staff, Kaye Chittenden. She joined the Castlefield School as a PE teacher in 1985. Since then she has progressed through the ranks to her current post as Assistant Headteacher. She has been a stalwart of the school over many years and there are countless Old Hardyans who have her to thank for inspiring them and caring for them. She will be greatly missed by colleagues past and present and held in the highest esteem by students. We wish her a long and happy retirement - I can certainly guarantee that it will be active!

We look forward to better times in the new academic year. I wish all Old Hardyans a safe and pleasant summer break.

Best wishes

Mike Foley

Many thanks, Mike. Re Kaye Chittenden – a Staff Pen portrait appeared in Newsletter 135 – best wishes to Kaye for her retirement

Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

As one would expect, all public events usually held at the School have been shelved for the time being. Here is a message from the Community Lectures page on the website:-

The community lecture programme for the Autumn term has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. Updates for future events will be announced in due course. [Continued overleaf]

Thank you very much indeed for your wonderful support over the past academic year. Your generosity enabled us to send £3545.73 in total to the speakers' chosen charities: £570.67 Stroke Association; £559.30 The Mix; £675.97 Portland Bird Observatory; £963.48 Common Hope; £426.89 The Shine Trust; £349.42 Thomas Hardy School Future Engineers.

We hope you enjoy good health over the coming months and very much hope to see you again in better times. Do check the school's website for any updates – the following information is what applies in 'normal' times!

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.)

Forthcoming Club and other events

Monthly Luncheons on the last Thursday of the month at the Poet Laureate pub in Pummery Square, Poundbury. have, like all other events, been cancelled *pro tem*.

Perhaps in the next edition of the Newsletter there will be some more hopeful news. Also keep an eye on the Club's Facebook page for any further update.

Hardyans Club Contacts

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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, and more generally, 'You're over 30 and from Dorchester when.....' is a good one.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284997108221127>



Find us on
Facebook

Among recent posts: Neil Archer sent in a photo of a 1968/9 School Drama production of Othello, and there was news of the death of 'Dick' Butt, a former master at Hardy's and also the Secondary Modern. His funeral was held on 10th March at Lulworth Castle chapel. Chris Slade commented: '...it was packed'. These posts were from the Hardyans' Club Facebook site.

There are many more posts about Mr Butt on 'You're Over 30 and from Dorchester.....'

Do have a look - make contact with old friends!

*Also be sure to have a look at **Graham Allen's** website (<https://oldhardyans.webs.com>) which contains a wealth of memories – see also You Write below.*

You Write

Graham Allen

As ever, I was delighted to receive the latest Newsletter. On reading it, a couple of items prompted me to put in a "plug" for my website at <https://oldhardyyears.webs.com> , of which more later.

Firstly, the amusing item from Bill Caselton (whom I remember well from my days at Southfield House) prompted me to point out the several amusing anecdotes (at <https://oldhardyyears.webs.com/Recollections.html>) from Old Hardyyears, in particular the extracts from the Southfield House History (at <https://oldhardyyears.webs.com/Boarding-Houses/Southfields/History/index.html>).

Secondly, the Mixed Hockey photo submitted by John Pearson is also on my website, together with the names of all the male players, and guesses at a few of the ladies. This can be seen as photo no. 8 at <https://oldhardyyears.webs.com/School-Sports/Hockey/index.html> .

My website contains over 1000 images of Hardyyears and School staff from the late 1930's up to the end of days for the Culliford Road site in 1997, photos from recent reunions, even a few movies as well as the School history and many other subjects. Through your newsletter, may I again thank the many contributors for the material they have sent me and for the kind words of appreciation they have expressed.

I am sure that not only are there many of your older members who would enjoy browsing its contents, but also they may have material that they would like to submit for inclusion.

My website is free, without any advertisements (it is privately sponsored by me), does not require membership or ask for any personal details!

Graham Allen (Southfield House, 1953-60)

If any readers have material that Graham could add to his website please do get in touch direct

Re the Late Louis Dobell

I am eventually sorting through papers and photos belonging to my late Father, **Louis Evan Boatswain Dobell (1915-1998)** who attended Dorchester Grammar School, leaving in the early 1930s. I have a photograph of the Hardy's X1 Old Hardyyears cricket team in 1936 and a photo following a rugby match



between the Old Boys and the School in 1937. I am happy to forward these two original photos together with a press cutting about the cricket team if they would be of interest in recording some of the Old Boys achievements in the 1930s. I do not have family to pass them on to. I did think more of the photos I had related to the school but they are in fact of his sporting involvement with the YMCA and Monkton Rovers Football Club.

Kind regards

Shelley Carson

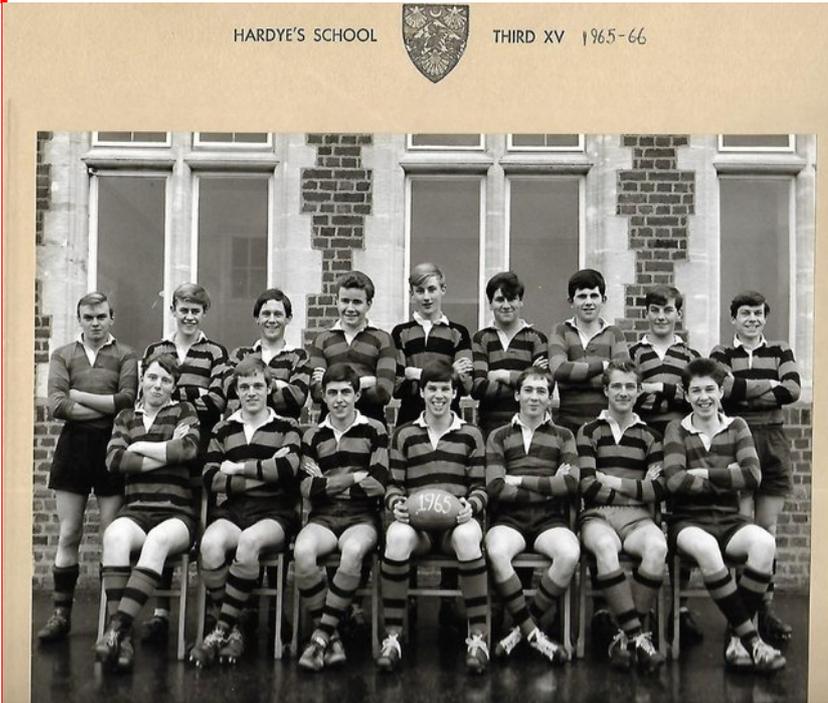
[Editor: some of our more mature members may well recall Louis Dobell, who was a stalwart of the YMCA as well as a regular attender at Hardyyears' Club functions]

Brian Holland

Thanks for your e-mail response. I must admit memories of my school years are a bit vague, especially with regard to names but, probably like you, faces do bring back some memories.

I have attached 3 pictures. One is of myself and my 2 brothers at about the right time (early/mid 60's). I am on the left of the picture, my younger brother Colin, who sadly passed away, is in the middle and my older brother Tony (school years 1957-64) is on the right. We came from Weymouth and hence arrived on the train everyday.

My brothers were the clever ones, for me lessons were something to get through until the next sports period. I played rugby, cross-country and athletics mainly.



Hence there are 2 photos that may be of more interest to you as they include other scholars from our era. Firstly the 'Third 15 Rugby team' in 1965/66 in which I am sitting to the right of the lad with the ball (presumably the captain). I hopefully recall a few names, Sims is to the right of me, Hapgood on the other side of the captain, Woollard front right on the end, Dermot Hannah back row 3rd from left, McGregor back row on the end at the right. Faces of a lot of the others are very familiar but I cannot recall the names at present.

Finally a photo of the 1966 Cross Country team, the names are on the photo which was obviously a bit of forethought by me many years ago (I really only included this because it shows me as captain!). The faces are still familiar, in fact I did go and see Roger Gould at his shop a few years ago when I was visiting the area, you possibly know him as you're both still local. This picture is of course a couple of years after my time in the Upper Fifth. Hopefully there are some people that you recall in these photos and bring back some good memories. I now live in West Sussex, near to Bognor Regis, but still visit the Weymouth area fairly regularly, although not at present, as my brothers and I have kept the old family home as a sort of holiday home.

Hope you're all safe and well down there, I look forward to receiving the next edition of the newsletter.

Best wishes

Brian Holland



From Bill Johnston

re Bill Caselton's mention in the last newsletter of the late Geoffrey Hutchings, Bill Johnston remembers:

He and I were born in adjacent beds at the Dorchester Hospital on 8th June 1939 and we went through Maud Road Infants' School, Dorchester Primary Boys' School and Hardyes together.

He gave us much amusement in the Hardyes days. I'm sure contemporaries will remember the Max Wall walk he performed up and down between rows of desks before the master came in for the lesson!

We once went by train to Bournemouth for a concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. On the



journey back I sat in the same compartment as him and was horrified when he proceeded to unscrew the light bulbs in the ceiling and drop them out through the open window,

I saw him only twice after school days. In March 1966 when he was an actor with Nottingham Playhouse the company visited Singapore, where I was living, to perform and we took him out for a meal. In the mid 1970s, when we had returned to England, we visited the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford and called at the stage door to ask if we could see him. A few minutes later he appeared dressed only in y-fronts!

In the Upper Vth I became a sort of official photographer of Corps events and have many pictures of parades and annual camps. I've attached one which shows Geoff and Dick Cleall going through the motions of 'issuing crockery' in July 1955 when we were at, I believe,

Bulford. I'm sure everyone will remember the three steaming containers of boiling water so that we could 'Wash, rinse and sterilise' the plates after a meal! (I've also attached that just so that you can appreciate the basic facilities that obtained.

Best wishes,

Bill Johnston (1950-57)

Dave Le Breton (1955-62)

Ushering at the Plaza

I have just found a number of New Dorset Music Society programs from 1960 – 1962, all autographed by the performers including such notables as Benno Moiseiwitsch, Moura Lympany and Fou Ts'ong. As ushers at these events it seems that we were able to obtain autographs by waiting around afterwards. I suspect these "ushering" opportunities came through the School – does anyone else remember it?

[Editor Peter Foster recalls attending the Moiseiwitsch concert in the Plaza as a member of the audience and on a later occasion a recital by Victoria de Los Angeles. However he has no ushering memories!]

Rob White

I was very sad to learn of the death of Colin Holland (but appreciative of the information). He was a classmate in my very first form when I entered Hardye's in 1964: 2B, under Major Kenion. As far as I remember he came daily from Weymouth as a "train boy". I kept in touch with him for a short time after we left school, but hadn't seen him for very many years.

I have, however, always retained very happy memories of him. He was an incredibly good-natured guy, the sort who always had a smile on his face and would help you out if he could. One particular memory I have concerns the CCF Annual Camp in Germany in 1969 when the two of us, along with Graham Pugh, got lost on some sort of exercise (I've forgotten the precise details). We also ran out of water on a hot day, and had to beg some from a house we passed. Fortunately we managed to work out where we were and how to get to where we were heading, and made it to the rendezvous point with minutes to spare. I've seldom been so relieved. It was commented that we were the last group to arrive and had cut it a bit fine, but needless to say we kept schtum about having got lost.

if you are able to pass on my condolences to his family, I would appreciate it. ***[See also Obituaries below]***

He was clearly taken from us far too soon; may he rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,
Rob White

***The Class of '58* have been in correspondence about staff they remember, mainly from the days before Wollaston House: here is a digest :-**

Who remembers the Colliton Street snowball fight after school one winter evening ? This took place in the County Hall car park. It came to an abrupt halt when Mr Strickland appeared to get into his car and drive home to Weymouth.....
.....Miss Walker definitely lived in Marina Gardens. I know - we went there. Why? How? I was one of a group that she took on a trip out to Weymouth and we were paddling in the paddling pool in the park along Radipole Lake Drive. Unfortunately it was slippery and I went over a over t and got totally soaked. So she took us all to her home (where her parents lived) so that I could get dried out before going back to Dorchester ...I also recall that we found out she was appearing in the pantomime at the Methodist Church in Dorchester and when the curtain went up there was a cheer from all her students who were in the front rows:-) She blushed profusely ... But that gets me thinking about other teachers. I remember Miss Minterne (MInny), a very good teacher, who taught me in the first year and used her ruler to good effect on wayward pupils' hands ...And then there was Mr Westlake in my third year who had one pupil (I know the name, but out of respect don't say it here) who even at that age used to suck his thumb all the time. So Mr Westlake tied the guy's hands to his chair behind his back to stop him doing it. It was a very good solution, but imagine the uproar and legal implications there would be these days. He was the brother of our woodwork master at Wollaston in our first years,...But if Miss Walker was 25 at the time, and as a good Methodist didn't drink, she might be alive and well in Dorchester and needing you guys to organise her 90th birthday party, or at least leave a cake on the doorstep. Maybe .. contact via an elder of the church?

..Mr Westlake was a good teacher who, as far as I recall, used corporal punishment sparingly. My main memory of his class is of him reading John Buchan's "The 39 Steps" to us. To me, all film versions are disappointing because they veer so far away from the original. By the way, the predictive text changed "veer" to "beer". It obviously knows me well!.....I believe that everyone in Miss Walker's class was in love with her. When (we) meet we always talk about her and always as if she were still as young as when she taught us!

.....Ooof! The 39 Steps. Do you think that pupils get read books that kept us enthralled like that one.....? All my grandchildren read is something called Fortnite. What the hell is that all about ? They have been at it for months....Happy days indeed.....

Or Not... There are photos from Colliton Street school on Facebook in the section "if you're over 30 and from Dorchester". I could name almost everyone in the football photo that you and I are in... Nostalgia says that they were good days but I also remember what a bully and tyrant S was. He terrified those pupils that he disliked, always picking on them and caning them.....

Thanks for the heads-up re the photos but I don't do Facebook, Twitter or any of the other 'ers'. I still however have all the old School photos and occasionally they resurface.....Oh dear, I am so sorry that you obviously had such a terrible time at Colliton Street. Personally, I thought S was a brilliant teacher but perhaps as Head Boy he didn't pick on me. I remember him as someone who loved sport and gave up a tremendous amount of his spare time for the School Teams. I'm not sure many teachers now would give up their Saturday mornings without being paid. I also give him credit for getting me through 11+, no mean feat.

I also did not have a bad time with S. OK in the classroom he had some firey moments and some lads were caned including me for not completing homework in time eg reading a chapter of Treasure Island to answer questions in class.....

As for S he gave me the odd lift to school when walking past Maumbury Rings to Colliton Street. He also spent many hours teaching sport outside of school hours. This included lunchtime cricket and throwing a tennis ball at each other. Finally, way after we all left Colliton Street school he called in at home early one morning with an advert for a lab assistant job with ICI in Welwyn Garden City at a time many of us were taking A Levels and planning to go to university. He persuaded me to apply for the job. 4 days per week plus 1 day per week at Hatfield Polytechnic. A job for life he said.... He was almost right as I started there in Sept 1965 and retired from ICI on Dec 31st1999...

among those taking part: Alan Attryde, Richard Cummins, Simon Frampton, David Higgins, Mark Loosemore, Jonathan Pullen, John Sibley, Hugh Slavin, Richard Sonley

Around and about the Thomas Hardy School

thanks to the THS website and 6th Form webpages

The Thomas Hardy School welcomed back their Year 11 cohort during August to collect their GCSE results. There was widespread relief that the chaos surrounding the A level results was not repeated. Students received their definitive grades although a small number of results were yet to arrive in school. There were some outstanding performances including straight 9s across the board for two students, Matthew Taylor and Toby Cullinane.

The headteacher, Mike Foley, congratulated students on such a fine achievement: 'I am delighted that students were able to collect their results .. free of the uncertainty that has surrounded the exam system since we locked down last March. They are fully deserving of this success, with or without exams, and should see this as the culmination of all their time in the education system not just the past couple of months. Thanks are also due to the teaching staff for their dedication and professionalism during such a turbulent period in schools'.

At The Thomas Hardy School, students were invited into school to collect their results. The vast majority of students were able to access their first choice of university or apprenticeship, including Oxbridge places.

Overall grades were on a par with previous years as one would expect. Inevitably there were some anomalies in the system which the school will pursue through the appeals process, but not on the scale being reported nationally. Mike Foley, Headteacher, described the late changes to the appeals system as unhelpful:

'The introduction of mock exams as a grounds for appeal at the last minute, has simply made the process even more complicated and confused. Worst of all, it will do nothing to support the credibility of results or ensure fairness. Mocks are organised in different ways from school to school - there is no system of moderation or standardisation to guarantee parity or equality of outcomes.

Ultimately, what matters most is that the hard work put in by students with the support of their teachers, is properly recognised, and that students are able to move forward to the next stage in their careers and education. I am delighted that so many students have been able to do exactly that.'

This latest letter (14/9/20) to Parents from Mr Foley is now on the School website: -

We are now settled back into a routine and I am very pleased with the way the new school year has started. Thank you for all your support and for ensuring that your children are so well turned out and equipped for learning. Please keep an eye out on the website for any changes to arrangements.

As you know, The Thomas Hardy School has been leading on the establishment of the Wessex Multi-Academy Trust, originally set up in 2016. Alongside The Thomas Hardy School, we have been joined by Bere Regis Primary School, Damers First School and St Osmund's Middle School. It is growing and developing at pace and we are regularly contacted by other schools wishing to join. In due course it is likely to be a significant influence on education in West Dorset providing goods and services as well as educational support for all our schools. It is part of a change in the way education is organised as local authorities gradually relinquish their responsibilities for maintaining local schools.

Since 2016, I have been combining the job of headteacher of The Thomas Hardy School with my responsibilities for leading the Wessex MAT and it has become increasingly difficult to do both. Therefore, we intend to appoint someone to lead The Thomas Hardy School, taking responsibility for all the normal day to day demands of running a large school, leaving me to develop and grow the MAT with overall strategic responsibility for all our schools.

It is an ideal time for that change to happen: we are heavily over-subscribed in the main school and numbers in the sixth form are at a record high; recruitment and retention of staff is excellent with an outstanding leadership team; the budget is balanced with a healthy reserve; millions of pounds have been invested in the building in the last few years with a major project to develop the performing arts in the offing; exam results are consistently excellent, adding significant value and placing us at the top of most league tables. We are looking for continuity of success and for someone to take the school on to the next stage in its journey. We will advertise later in the term and keep you informed of progress. I am delighted and proud to be continuing my association with this amazing school, albeit in a slightly different capacity.

Yours Faithfully

MT Foley
Headteacher

Obituaries - *Sincere condolences from the Club to family and friends of those mentioned*
Colin Holland (1953 – 2013), The following was sent in by Colin's brothers Brian (see also You Write), and Tony.

Following his school years at Hardyes (1964 – 71), Colin attended Plymouth Polytechnic and graduated with a BSc in Physical Science. After graduating he spent a year as information and communications officer for the Plymouth Polytechnic Students Union, an unusual start to a long career. In 1977 he moved to London and worked as a highly respected and successful Technology Journalist for a number of companies and also as a freelance. In his earlier days this included positions as Editor of, amongst others, the journals 'Electronic Engineering' and 'What's New in Electronics'. His 35-year career culminated in a portfolio of several editorial directorships at UBM, as well as being Content Director for a number of major conferences for the electronics industry, mainly in California.

As well as his work, football was always a passion for Colin. He always followed his home team Weymouth, a town that he never really left and visited frequently, but he also had a fond attachment to Charlton FC for over 30 years following his arrival in that part of London. He was a friendly familiar face to many Charlton supporters both home and away. The away supporters said that if you arrived in a strange town and spotted Colin in a pub you knew the beer in there would be good, real ale was another of his passions! He was instrumental in Charlton's return to their home ground The Valley some years ago and he wrote for and edited the Charlton FC fanzine 'Valiants Viewpoint' for a number of years.

For any of his compatriots, further details of Colin can be found on the web by searching 'Colin Holland Charlton'.

We are both very proud of Colin, as a person he was larger than life, in more ways than one, and also with his achievements throughout his life which left a lasting and positive impression on so many people

Best wishes

Tony (1957-64) & Brian Holland (1959-66)

Dennis M J Turner *He was a border at the school from Sept 1954 till July 1961 in Treves (South Walks House). The following obituary was received from John Pearson and is taken from the one originally printed in the American press.*

Dennis M. J. Turner passed away on February 14, 2020 in Naples, Florida following a five month battle with cancer. Born in Calgary, Canada on October 4, 1942, he attended Hardyes School (South Walks House) for 7 years leaving to pursue Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry at Bristol University and he then went on to study law at the Inns of Court. Out of law school he joined the United Nations Development Program and subsequently spent time in Afghanistan, East Africa, the Congo and the US before completing his PhD at Columbia University School of Business. Dennis was a visionary who not only conceived of innovative, next generation businesses but knew how to build them effectively. He founded his first company in 1968 specializing in management consulting and the conception of new ventures. An early champion of women in the workplace, his firm helped to launch Ms. Magazine. In 1971 he joined IMS to build its American business and ultimately grew it to become the biggest provider of information services to the pharmaceutical industry, resulting in a successful sale to the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation. In 1981 he built SMSI, which by 1986 was the largest multinational supplier of hospital patient management systems in Europe.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 49 years, Dee; daughters Lisa and Sacha; and granddaughter Brynn. His zest for life, knowledge and new experiences took him around the world and back, including a year long global sailing adventure on an 80-foot Swan. *He generously purchased many of the instruments for the Corps Band at school.*

President Godfrey Lancashire confirms *Dennis Turner was an outstanding Hardyeen, an attendee at several dinners in London and Dorchester and he was a very generous benefactor, donating sizeable sums to our club and school directly, always without fuss and sometimes anonymously.*

I was in irregular email contact with Dennis and in fact spoke on the 'phone with him not so many months ago when he was proud to send me the brochure and photos of his new apartment in a retirement village in Florida.

I remember him as a very disciplined CSM of the CCF, always immaculate in his uniform, too senior for me to know well at school but as a Hardyeen I got to know him better and found Dennis both interesting and interested in everything and everybody.