



The Hardyeans' Club Newsletter

Published in Autumn, **Winter** and Spring

To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

winter
Edition

2021

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Latest News:

Sadly there will be no Annual Dinner this year, but we do hope that 2022 will see a return to our usual Reunion Dinner at the School, and our monthly luncheons may hopefully resume later this year – definitely a case of Watch this space and the Club's FaceBook page for any future news!

Latest School News:

See the update from Headteacher Mike Foley about students returning in March and news of the new Headteacher Nick Rutherford who is due to take up his post shortly.

Remembrance 2020 – Our President reports

Once again an impeccable if somewhat thinner parade with all the cadets, readers and bugler playing their part.

I was honoured to lay the wreath on behalf of The Club.

Very best wishes,
Godfrey



All pictures by Godfrey Lancashire

A New Headteacher - coming soon

Mike Foley advised last autumn that he would be stepping back as Head to concentrate on his role as CEO of the Wessex Multi Academy Trust, based at the Thomas Hardy School. Nick Rutherford was appointed as the new head of the School and provided the following summary portrait of himself at the time of the interview:

I am the Principal of an academy in Hackney, and an English teacher. I have four young children, so my interests involve standing in playgrounds in the rain and reading Julia Donaldson books over and over again. On the rare occasions I'm not doing that, I am a keen runner, and have trained twice this year for a London Marathon that never happened. I am an accomplished pianist and chess player, although not so good at either as I would like to be, and an improving cook. I love teaching as much today as I did when I qualified, and genuinely believe, despite the challenges, that it is the best job in the world.

The Hardyens' Club would like to wish the new Headteacher the very best for the future and also extend to Mike Foley our appreciation for the work he has done to make the Thomas Hardy School the success it undoubtedly is .

From the Headteacher



As I write we are nearing the end of our second lockdown of schools. The site itself is open for vulnerable youngsters and the children of key workers and for all the other functions of school life that can only be done on-site. We were better prepared this time around and learning continues via laptops and computers. It has taken a whole new set of skills to teach a class online and I am happy to admit that I am one of the teachers who has had to put in a lot of learning time!

Students will gradually return to school on 8th March but we are required to offer lateral flow tests to every student on 3 separate occasions. Each student has to register on their phone, each time, before they are issued with a stick-on bar code for their sample. They have to take the test and then wait 30 minutes for the result. I am sure you can understand the logistics of trying to do this for 2,500 people. We estimate that we will need 14 additional staff over 3 weeks with a huge amount of planning beforehand. Have we got the correct PPE in place? Have all new staff undertaken the correct training? Have we got the parental consent forms in? How will we manage the queues? How do we ensure the samples don't get mixed up? In the meantime, we are expected to return to teaching as normal and to put in interventions to help students catch-up.

Other parts of school life continue. If you are local you will have seen scaffolding going up all over the site. This is to replace or repair almost every window following a successful bid last year. The cost of the project is in excess of £1m and follows on from several other successful building projects in recent years. We are already planning for a major re-fit and refurbishment of the theatre in 2021-22 following a grant of £500,000 from Dorchester Arts. However, the total cost of the project is £1.1m which we will have to raise from our own assets and resources. I will keep you informed.

Finally, a big welcome to Nick Rutherford who will be in post as the new headteacher of Thomas Hardy from April. It will enable me to concentrate on my other duties as CEO of Wessex MAT which is tantamount to a small local authority and growing all the time. It has been the greatest privilege of my career to lead Thomas Hardy and I am sure the school will continue to thrive and flourish under Nick's leadership.

Best wishes

Mike Foley

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 later this year there will be some more hopeful news. Also keep an eye on the Club's Facebook page for any further update. The next **Newsletter** should be available at the end of June.

From the Press Officer

By Damien Lewis The Hardyans Club Press Officer

Defibrillator Keeps Thomas Hardye Cadets Going Strong, Even During Pandemic



The motto of The Hardyans Club – long the meeting place for alumni of Thomas Hardye School – as for School, is *Scientia et Veritas*; Knowledge and Truth. Knowledge is power. But so too is proving a £600 donation by the Club to the school Combined Cadet Force, for it has enabled the CCF to buy a vital defibrillator, to keep the young cadets of the armed services fit and active, and even through the pandemic.

At its simplest a defibrillator restores normal heartbeat, by sending a powerful electronic pulse to the heart. They are used to treat heart attacks or attacks of arrhythmia, when a heartbeat is irregular or too slow or rapid. What the donation and the purchase of the device for the CCF spells is real freedom – to take to the moors and the wide outdoor spaces where socially-distance training and fitness exercises are still possible, knowing it is still safe to do so, even in remote areas isolated from easy access to medical care.

‘We’re thrilled,’ remarked Major Kevin Matthews, who runs the schools CCF, as well as holding down a full-time teaching post at the school. ‘I hope never to use it, but having it to hand adds a layer of safety that means we can expand our breadth of events.’ The provision of the defib machine will prove transformational, offering ‘new training and development opportunities,’ as well as raising the profile and recruitment into the schools CCF.



Remote area activities, augmented by online training sessions, have enabled the CCF to adapt swiftly and efficiently to the Covid19 pandemic and lockdown, and they are even planning a recruitment drive for January 2021. As CCF students have remarked, having the defib is a game changer. ‘It’s going to help us become better cadets because we can now work more independently,’ says one. Another remarked how crucial it was proving, enabling cadets to ‘do much more isolated training for longer.

Major Matthews, who currently teaches Theology and Ethics, History and Geography, is also the school's Human Rights and Genocide Education Programme Coordinator, and as part of this role he has visited Bosnia, Croatia, Japan, Poland and is planning a trip to Rwanda, in East Africa. His aspirations for the school's CCF are equally expansive and ambitious, as he seeks to increase the 75-strong Army and RAF cadet force to far greater numbers.

Pupils from years 10 to 13 can sign up, and the CCF offers huge opportunities, from learning fieldcraft, infantry and weapons skills to adventure and flying training, leadership and teamwork development, plus citizenship and community experience. It also promises Cadets real-world tangible benefits – from First Aid, Institute of Leadership and Management and BTEC qualifications to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.

Having the defibrillator will enable further expansion of the CCF, as the school's headmaster, Mike Foley, was the first to recognise, while further cementing the close relations between the school and its alumni association. 'Many Old Hardyeans will have fond memories of their own time in the CCF ... As much as the money is needed and welcomed, this is also a mark of the affinity Old Hardyeans have for the school and that is of equal value.'

Thomas Hardye School boasts a long tradition of military service, there being a carved oak tablet within the school commemorating 28 former students who gave their lives in the Great War, and 51 also gave their lives in WWII. The fallen are commemorated on Remembrance day at the school gates each year.

The President Writes

The Thomas Hardye School (THS) was founded in 1569 and for the last 450 years has been helping young people in our community. This has been no more so than now, during lockdowns, by distributing healthy and generously sized food parcels to those students in need, including all who would normally receive free school meals.

Ever since the first lockdown in March 2020 Lou Thompson, head of catering at THS and her team have put together and so far distributed over 3150 parcels. Each parcel contained :

2kg washed potatoes, 1kg carrots, 800g tin of tomatoes, 185g tin of tuna, 4 bananas, 4 apples, 2 onions, 500g pasta, 500g meat (minced beef, pork or 4 chicken legs), 6 handmade pork sausages (500g approx), 400g mature cheddar cheese, 125g sliced ham, 10 free range eggs.

The parcels have been designed to support the family rather than lunches for the child. Lou worked out that each pack would provide the following meals :

- 4-6 portions of pasta bolgnese
- 3 portions of sausage and mash
- 4 jacket potatoes with cheese and beans
- 2 tuna sandwiches, 2 ham sandwiches, 2 egg sandwiches
- 4 portions of savoury rice
- 3 cheese omelettes

Parcels have been taken if necessary door to door by the THS site team. THS has similarly looked after other schools in the Wessex Multi Academy Trust and Dorchester Area Schools Partnership. This has been a hugely impressive initiative and effort. Many congratulations to everyone involved. Students and parents benefitting have been truly grateful.



Godfrey Lancashire

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/thomashardyeshool 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: *Philip Mackie with CCF memories, Neil Archer, Tim Fletcher, Michael Adams, with memories of plays, also Alan Brown, Grahame White, Simon Frampton, Richard Sams.*

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

You Write

An immediate response to the request for further information on the photo of the 1969 parade in the last newsletter:

From **Owen Davies** Spot the goat with the band. It was the Royal Welch Fusiliers. I was there in the Naval Section!

Owen Davies 1967-73

From **David Gargrave 1963 - 68**

..On another note - as you know, sadly, Dorchester is under grave threat from the plan to build a vast development of 4,000 house to the north of the town.

I am involved in the campaign to try and raise awareness. I would like to reach out to Old Hardyans to make them aware of the situation. Would it be possible to include a note in the Newsletter?

Regards

David

Editor: David refers to the STAND (Save The Area North of Dorchester) campaign. There was a recent online Public Meeting, unanimously against this development, which was fully subscribed (more are planned), in which West Dorset MP Chris Loder took part. There was a report of this in the Dorset Echo on Saturday 13th February. See also the Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation pages online. The final date for comments in this first stage of the process is 15th March.

Re Barry Leyland 1942-48

My 91yr old friend Barry T.J. Leyland would very much appreciate receiving copies of the Hardyens' Club Newsletter as he and his older brother Gordon attended DGS during the war when their father was posted at Bovington and they lived at Wool, nr Wareham.

Unfortunately Barry has no internet facility, but if you could send the newsletters to this e-mail address, he can come round to my house to read them. He was at DGS from 1940-47, and was Captain of Hardy House and an outstanding athlete.

He is particularly keen to know who of his own very early cohort might still be alive. If anyone has a list of members born, say, 1925 -1935, that would be most welcome too.

In terms of inspiring us all, Barry remains fit and active, having only given up playing club tennis and running in recent years. He still walks most days, rides his bike to local shops, and swims when he has the chance. Learning computing, however, would now be beyond him.

With many thanks

Jane Sherwood, Taunton

Jane's email address is now recorded as contact for Barry

If any contemporaries of Barry read this, please write in to the editors and we will pass on any messages through his neighbour Jane.

Obituaries - Sincere condolences from the Club to family and friends of those mentioned

Handel Bennett (1947-52)

We have been advised by Handel's widow that he passed away 10 July 2020

Ernie [Andrew] Pearson

From David Gargrave: I noted an announcement in the Echo of the death of one of our year group at the school.

The announcement read as follows:

Passed peacefully at home in Elgin, Scotland on 9th January. Ernie [Andrew] Pearson aged 71, only son of the late Jean and Tom Pearson, formerly of Casterbridge Road.

Colin Bowden and myself recall for some reason we called him Ernie - goodness knows why but he was a gentle Scot - a, quiet, unassuming classmate although he was normally happy to be around any of our all too common misdemeanours!

Cannot think how the name Ernie arose but that was often the case with nicknames at school!.

I do recall one amusing episode during a Dave Lacey French lesson.

Dave was trying to drum up numbers for a CCF trip to Scotland, he went around the class asking people if they would go. A variety of excuses were proffered but when he came to Andrew the latter sheepishly announced that he could not go on the camp because he was going on holiday to Scotland! Dave Lacey look flabbergasted and launched in a Monty Python rant that would have done justice to John Cleese. He simply could not believe that Andrew was passing up the chance of a free 'holiday' in Scotland!. However all was forgiven and it was never mentioned again but at the time it was very amusing..

He would have left the school in 1968 as did we all.although I am not aware of any of us being in touch with him since then so can give you no further detail other than he was married to Susan and had five children and three grandchildren,

Around and about the Thomas Hardy School

[With thanks to the THS website and 6th Form webpages]

A team of four talented Year 10 students were awarded certificates and the school presented with a iPad for being runners up in UKNEST's ship design competition. The students Lily Barrett, Anna Lewis, Verity Jefferis, Amalia Solioti-Macklin attended a virtual prize giving with UKNEST's Executive Officer & Secretary, Mr Mike Rose and Mr Mike Foley Thomas Hardy's Headteacher. Mr Rose, a Naval Engineer and former Navy Commander, provided the students with valuable advice regarding future career paths in engineering.

The actual competition took place towards the end of 2019 (before the first Lockdown), with staff from the Design and Technology Department of the Thomas Hardy School and DMS. In addition, Jen Mollett, a STEM Ambassador from BAE Systems, worked with students helping them prepare entries for the competition. Rowland Cornell from Dorchester Rotary also bought a Shelterbox into school, which helped students identify what victims of natural disasters need in order to attempt to both survive and start to put their lives back together. Also assisting were three Sixth Formers, Elysia Jackson, Benedict Richardson and Elliot Twigg, recent recipients of prestigious Arkwright Scholarships.

Such competitions are a challenging and enjoyable way for young people to enrich their STEM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths); STEM subjects are a key part of the school curriculum.

Year 12 Thomas Hardy student Jess Mead has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. This year only 350 such scholarships were made to Year 12 students nationally. Jess was presented with her Scholarship by the Worshipful company of Engineers, on behalf of the Arkwright Scholarship Scheme, in a prestigious online awards ceremony. Under normal circumstances this presentation would take place at the Institution of Engineering and Technology's headquarters at Savoy Place London.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme identifies, inspires and nurtures future leaders in Engineering, Computing and technical Design. Scholars are selected by a rigorous process when in year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) and Year 12 (Northern Ireland). Jess had to undertake an on-line interview last Easter break. To be selected for interview, she submitted a detailed 8-page application form and sat a 2-hour exam.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels to pursue Engineering, Computing or Technical Design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to pursue careers in the field.

Every Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is sponsored by an industrial company, university, charitable trust, trade association, professional institution, armed service, worshipful company, industry regulator or personal donor that is relevant to the scholar's future ambitions. Scholars and the school receive financial support for their 6th Form studies, mentors and access to work experience and exclusive visits.

Jess's scholarship is sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Engineers.



We wish Jess all the best for a career in Engineering in the future