



## *The Hardyens' Club Newsletter*

Published in **Spring, Autumn and Winter**)

*This is the slightly delayed 'Spring' Edition 2021*

### **An Award for the School**

**Visit by the High Sheriff of Dorset - George Streatfeild, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

*The High Sheriff wrote to Club President, Godfrey Lancashire:-*  
Amanda and I went to THS yesterday and were welcomed by Mike. We met the amazing catering team who were so inspiring in the calm way they had just got on with ensuring those most in need were cared for. 150 bags a week, each one with 18 meals in it: and for all of the lock-downs -so impressive.



I presented the team with a High Sheriff Community Award in very well deserved recognition of their work and commitment to the community as well as the school.

Best wishes  
George

[Mr Streatfeild served as High Sheriff until March this year and was awarded an MBE in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours in June, for services to the food industry and the Bridport community]

*Many Congratulations to the Catering Team*

To stay  
in touch  
with your

Friends

Late  
Spring  
Edition  
2021

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## *From the Headteacher*



Dear Old Hardyens,

What a year - for the school, the county, the country. We all know now what it is like to 'live in interesting times', and I miss the days when the news could be safely turned off after the headlines and thought of as dull. And that's just the adult perspective. Students have missed school, social time with friends, exams and opportunities. Uncertainty continues to pervade.

Yet we must look at the positives. The school's youngsters have been called upon to show determination and resilience beyond anything expected of their age-group for generations. Their successes this year are all the more impressive because of the circumstances in which they were achieved, and so let us end the year by praising them, their optimism and their cheerfulness.

Along with the external disruption of lock-downs and restrictions, we've had lots going on in school during the year. There has been scaffolding going up and down at various points, as the project to replace and improve the majority of windows on site has progressed well. Never has it seemed better timed than this week, as temperatures soared, that windows are able to open properly and let in a breeze. I must also share with you a comment from one of the construction team working on the project, who said he'd never worked on a school with more polite and mature students – and he'd worked in lots of schools!

The improvement to facilities continues next term as the refurbishment of our theatre gets underway in October. This will transform an already excellent space into a more modern, more functional and better equipped facility, both for the school and the community. Slated to be finished in the spring, the new theatre will be real crown jewel for the school, and I can't wait for the first events and plays to be performed there in 2022.

We all hope that next academic year sees the return of normal school life – from the wealth of activities and clubs with which students can get involved, to the important rites of passage that are the public examinations at the end of Years 11 and 13. I must also pay tribute to the school staff, who have worked tirelessly to support students and each other through what has been a surreal, draining and frustrating year. Their optimism and effort have been inspirational.

We bid farewell to all teachers, teaching assistants and support staff who are leaving Hardye's this summer, thank them for their contributions to the school, and wish them good luck in their next adventures. Three deserve special mention – Mark Richardson in Design & Technology (30 years' service), Keith Johnson in PE (29 years) and Clive Jackson in ICT (13 years). Mark and Keith actually pre-date the school in its current form, and have taught generations of Dorchester's children brilliantly. We wish them all the very best, and will miss them.

Personally, it has been a great privilege to take up my post as headteacher and to start getting to know the school community. You won't need me to tell what a special place it is, and how optimism and positivity are key features which have shone through my meetings with all staff and students. I look forward very much to leading the school through the next chapter of its storied history, and to keeping you up-to-date with all our news.

Wishing all of you a very happy summer.

*Nick Rutherford*

# Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

As one would expect, all public events usually held at the School have been shelved for the time being.

## 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*.

***There is hope that the luncheons may re-start perhaps in September, so do check the Club's Facebook page for any announcement, or contact the Editors,***

***Advance notice of the 2022 Annual Reunion Dinner –***

***this is scheduled for 26th March 2022***

***Please make a note of this and look out for further information in the next Newsletter.***

*It had been hoped to stage a Club v School Cricket match this year but sadly this has not been possible. Better Luck next year!*

## *Hardyans Club Contacts*

**President:** Godfrey LANCASHIRE Life Vice–Presidents: Gordon Crocker, Anthony C W Day, Peter Foster, Hugh Griffiths, John Pearson

**Chairman:** Nick GRASSBY

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

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**Hon Press Officer:** Damien Lewis E-mail: [mediac21@aol.com](mailto:mediac21@aol.com)

**School Liaison Officer** Vicky SMYTH (tel 01305 266095)

[www.facebook.com/groups/Hardyans](https://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](https://www.facebook.com/thomashardyeschool) which links into the main

school website [www.thomas-hardye.net](http://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/](https://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**

**From the Editors:** Whilst Facebook is a valuable way of keeping in touch, please don't forget those who don't 'do' Facebook, and consider writing to the *Newsletter* editors as well, to get a wider membership response.

## Among recent FaceBook posts:

*Philip Mackie, who included a photo of 1973 Intermediate 4 x 100 Relay team 26 June 1973.*

L-R: Jimmy Atkinson, Adrian 'Joey' Frost, Philip Mackie and Mike Wolf.

We won lots of relays for years and eventually got to keep what the Head described as the ugliest trophy he had ever seen.

Comments from Peter Handford Russ Sims, John Ashworth, Mike Barrett, Tony Foot, Mark Frost and Richard Wild

Also an item from *James Tufnail*, who is soon to finish an engineering degree at Exeter University and is pursuing a career in Nuclear Fusion!

James has written a blog which you may find of interest:

<https://ournuclearfuture.blog/2021/03/22/nuclear-fusion-a-crash-course/>

John Barbara, Neil Archer and Les Mason commented on this

Les Mason – I was fortunate in that nuclear energy was part of my formative years. I left Hardye's in 1970 when I moved to Thurso in Caithness. Sat in close proximity were the Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) and the Fast Breeder Reactor. A little research shows that for a while at least Thurso was at the technical cutting edge of science with a huge concentration of scientists and engineers. If that wasn't enough there was The Admiralty Reactor Test Establishment next door where they ran tests on the latest reactors to be fitted to our nuclear submarine fleet. It was where my father worked after 20+ years in the RN. HMS Vulcan was an example of the Royal Navy and the main contractor Rolls Royce and Associates working hand in hand. I also have several friends who worked in the nuclear industry both in this country and internationally. My nephew still works in it on the health physics side.

Neil Archer Hi Les My father worked on HMS Dreadnought at Vickers yard in Barrow in Furness 1959 wish to 1961, first Nuclear submarine.

John Barbara wow! what an exposition. i even remembered the right hand rule from stan walton's a level physics lessons. so great to think that hardyes' is producing such bright sparks and exeter, where we live, is fanning the flames. well done. sorry no capital letters but i've got a flare of gout in my left wrist. from john barbara, at school 1958

*Do have a look at the Club's FaceBook page - make contact with old friends!*

*Also be sure to have a look at **Graham Allen's** website (<https://old-hardyeans.com>) which contains a wealth of memories – NB the address has changed.*



## You Write

### Graham Allen

May I submit the following regarding the latest Hardyeans Club Newsletter no 142:

1 - Thank you for showing the link to my website. However, due to Murphy's Law, my web service provider has made life difficult for me, and so I have been forced to relocate the site to: <https://www.old-hardyeans.com>

The old site does explain the reasons for this move, and gives the new site address. However, this old site will be disappearing very soon. Would you be kind enough to give this new site address in your next newsletter

2 - With reference to Barry Leyland 1942-48: Although I am not a contemporary of his, he may be interested to see the PTO]

School Panorama photo of 1947 which is shown on my website at:  
<https://www.old-hardyeans.com/Panoramas/1947/index.html>

Barry is identified as no 545. I would be pleased to hear from him if he can identify others in that photo  
Perhaps you would like to forward this information to Ms Jane Sherwood, as per the Newsletter.

3 - Finally, may I make a plea, on behalf of those of us who are not part of the Facebook community, for Club Members to send their relevant contributions to the Club for inclusion in the Newsletters where appropriate so that we may all enjoy their news and comments?

Kind Regards,

Graham Allen. (Southfield House, 1953-60)

*Editor:-The information for Barry Leyland has been passed on to his neighbour Mrs Sherwood, as has a further item of correspondence from Mrs Cynthia Newman, whose husband Roger started at the school just before his ninth Birthday, in the Autumn of 1937, and remained at the school until the end of the war years when he gained a place at Southampton University. He remembers a member of the Leyland family who attended the school as a day boy, travelling by train to and from Wareham but, of course, this could have been Barry's older Brother.*

### **Re Arthur and David de Laval Willis - from Anne Broome (formerly Willis)**

... I came across the 2019 newsletter and saw reference to my former father-in-law Arthur G de L Willis. It was interesting and touching to see the memories of former pupils of this lovely man that I loved so much.

I thought you might be interested to know that his last remaining child, John Gilbert Willis, died on 14 May 2021 at the grand age of 99 and a half years. Should anyone want more information about either Arthur or John, please feel free to pass on my email address. I was married for 27 years to David, Arthur's youngest son and a former pupil of Dorchester Grammar School, and am the mother of his four children. My eldest son Jonathan was briefly at Hardy's before we moved to Cornwall.

With kind regards

Anne Broome

Poundbury

[Please contact the Editors if you would like Anne's email address]

### ***The Colourful Life of an Engineer* - Harry Crickall Lott, MC**

**“Pupil at Dorchester Grammar School 1890-1901 -Founder and First Editor of The Durnovarian in 1901 - Vice President with Thomas Hardy of the Old Grammarians Club**

From J Brian Lott, OBE:

I have recently published the memoirs of my father, Harry Lott, who was brought up at Foundry House in Dorchester, the son of John Green Lott, the senior partner in the Lott & Walne foundry business from 1890 until 1910.

Harry was a pupil at Dorchester Grammar School from 1890 until 1901 together with his good friend (later Dr) Cyril Day who became a Dorchester GP and a noted naturalist. He was also organist at Fordington St George church from about 1895 until 1901.

He started the first school magazine ‘The Durnovarian’ in 1901 and there are many details of his schooldays in his memoirs which I thought might interest you and your members. His memoirs are available on the Amazon Books and Waterstone's websites under the title ‘**The Colourful Life of an Engineer**’.

Volume 1 ‘**A Victorian Childhood and College Life in Edwardian London (1883-1907)**’ would be of direct interest to alumni of the School, describing his schooldays in Dorchester, but Volume 3 may also be of interest to the School's history teacher if WWI is on the curriculum. Titled ‘**The Life of a Pioneer and Engineer on the Western Front (1914-1919)**’ it is an excellent personal description of WWI with a simple summary of main events of the War as well as interesting details of the life of the officers and men at the front.”

The above is an extract from a letter received by Godfrey Lancashire. The Thomas Hardy School are indeed planning to acquire a copy of Volume 3 for the History curriculum. The whole set of memoirs looks to be extremely interesting and your editor will be checking out Amazon or Waterstone's ! Here are some excerpts from reviews:

"...I found the book on Mesopotamia particularly fascinating with insights relevant to modern Iraq. Given the long drawn out experience of both the British and US armies in Iraq it might be interesting to send a copy to the Commandants of Sandhurst and West Point. It is also a reminder of how technology was spread by war – the hospital building, railways, motor vehicles, the water supply, the use of aircraft to police the desert difficulties. As an engineer, Harry Lott was on the cutting edge of the mechanics of 'civilization'."

"From the wilds of pioneering in Canada the author volunteers his service to King and Country at the front. Clearly highly competent, energetic, decisive, and brave he lives to tell a fascinating tale. The account also provides an educational perspective to the development of the War.

It also illuminates the leadership of the junior officer class, whose many sacrifices, alongside their troops, deprived the UK and the Colonies of so many fine young men.

To read this well-edited, first-hand account based on meticulous diaries maintained throughout the War is a privilege..." "an extraordinary body of work, brilliantly researched and compiled. A great achievement."

Vol 1 – A Victorian Childhood and College Life in Edwardian London (1883-1907)

Vol 2 – Emigration and The Adventures of a Young Engineer in Canada (1907-1914)

Vol 3 – The Life of an Pioneer and Engineer on The Western Front (1914-1919)

Vol 4 – Mesopotamia (1919-1924), The Story of an Engineer with the British Army of Occupation

Vol 5 – World Travels and London Life between The Wars (1924 - 33)

Together with the information about the Memoirs Mr Brian Lott has sent some cuttings and a copy of a 1902 Durnovarian among other items, which will figure in future newsletters

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

**Anthony Dennis Walden Biles (Tony) (1941-48)** died 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 aged 90 years. A Service of Thanksgiving was due to be held at St Peter's Church, Dorchester, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 at 2.30pm. Echo notice here:-

[https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/announcements/deaths/deaths/19449911.Anthony\\_Dennis\\_Walden\\_Biles/](https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/announcements/deaths/deaths/19449911.Anthony_Dennis_Walden_Biles/)

Tony Biles was guest speaker at the 2009 Annual Dinner. He was an Honorary Alderman, having been the then youngest Mayor of Weymouth in 1971/72.

*Editor Peter Foster recalls:-* My memories of Tony are through the world of radio broadcasting. In the early 1970s when I was a member of the Weymouth Hospital Radio service, Tony was a commentator, with others, for the station's coverage of Weymouth's home football matches from the Rec. I had much pleasure in working with Tony on one of our live outside relays of Weymouth Carnival, for patients in the then Weymouth & District Hospital. I recall Tony's commentary on the carnival procession was a first class example of a broadcaster painting a word picture of an event.

Tony was a regular contributor to BBC Radio's national and regional sports' coverage. Included in this were his reports for the BBC West Region's 'Sport in the West' Saturday evening programme which, particularly in the summer months, found Tony reporting on County Cricket matches in the region.

In later years, after his move to Dorchester, Tony shared some of his broadcasting memories as a guest on Ridgeway Radio, the former station within Dorset County Hospital.

Tony's bright and cheerful nature always came over well on the air. He broadcast with a smile!

## Obituaries - continued

### Nick Prideaux (1953-61)

I apologise for not informing you of Nick's death in June last year. I think I assumed that Nigel Newbery would let you know. The Old Hardyans group of friends in this area meet up regularly (in normal times!) and have been a great support.

Nick was proud of his old school and appreciated his good friends from school days.

Kindest regards  
Chris Prideaux

### Kent Stanton (1951-58)

Just to let you know that my brother Kent passed away at Barnsley hospital on 28th May after a short illness. He attended Hardy's from 1951-8. I am sure that there may be a few members of our club who would like to be informed.

Thanking you,  
Mike Stanton.

## Around and about the Thomas Hardy School

From the Sixth Form Website



We are proud of our long-standing track record of success and the varied achievements of all our students past and present. We provide all of our students with an outstanding Sixth Form educational experience. Students benefit from inspirational teaching and as a result progress in all subjects is excellent. Not only do our students achieve fantastic results but our Sixth Form ensures they develop into independent, confident and responsible young people ready for the rewards and challenges of adulthood.

Richard Nicholls - Head of Sixth Form

"The leadership of the sixth form is outstanding and inspirational teaching ensures that all students make outstanding progress." - Ofsted

## And Finally:-

two cuttings from the Harry Lott collection, from March and April 1901. Football and Gymnastics. Some Dorset names here, anyone's grandfather, or even great-grandfather ?

March 22. 1901

DORCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—On Tuesday the school gymnastic competition was held in the Gymnasium at the Depot Barracks, kindly lent by Colonel Egerton. Bailey i gave the best exhibition, but being winner of last year's cup he was heavily handicapped, having to give no less than 60 points. The cup went to Tydeman, who came next. At the high jump Fookes i cleared 4ft. 10in. The pupils have made good progress under the careful instructions of Sergeant Alford, who acted as judge of the competition.

Feb. 2 April 2. 1901

### DORCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.

The annual six-a-side competition for the school cup and medals has recently taken place, with the following results:—

1st Round—Bailey ii. beat Wright i., 12-0, byes Bailey i., Hellier, Hammond, Mutter, Tydeman i., Wells.

2nd Round—Channon i. beat Mutter after extra time by 5 to 4; Tydeman i. beat Hellier by 8 to 5; Bailey i. beat Wells 1 to nil; Bailey ii. beat Hammond 9 to 5.

Semi-Final—Channon beat Tydeman 4 to 1; Bailey i. beat Bailey ii. 7 to nil.

Final.—Bailey i v. Channon—Channon was thought to have the best team, but Bailey played up strongly and scored a goal with a clinking shot from the half-way line immediately after the start. Soon after he dribbled through and shot goal number two, and with Penny and Day each adding to the score Bailey's team won the cup and medals by 16 points to nil.

Mr. S. A. Rootham (the Head Master) in presenting the cup to Bailey i congratulated him who as captain of the school had so often led the team to victory. The first eleven have had a most successful season—played 14 matches; won 11; drawn 2; lost 1; goals for the school 85; against 17.

The following are the 1st eleven team:—Goal, Barringer; backs, Tydeman i, and Mutter; half-backs, Wright i, (Bailey i capt.), Channon i; forwards, Wells, Hellier, (Bailey ii centre), Hammond and Neville.

SOUTH DORSET JUNIOR LEAGUE