



The Hardyeans' Club Newsletter

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

To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

Spring
Edition
2022

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President's letter to Members for the Spring 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all well and certainly looking forward now to when we can at last be together again.

As you know we have, for very understandable reasons, had to postpone our Annual Dinner for yet another year. We aim to get back on track and have our Dinner at our usual time of year, next March. The date and details will be announced soon but do make a note now and try your best to come and join us and make the Dinner a very special one after so long.

We might also be able to have a tour of the new facilities at school including the magnificent new theatre to which our Club has contributed in a small way.

I look forward to seeing you soon and do remember we are still meeting at the Poet Laureate in Poundbury on the last Thursday monthly for an informal get together.

In the meantime I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing some of you at the Annual Cricket Match v School on Tuesday 12th July.

Very best wishes

Godfrey

You may have already received an email on the following subject :-

Many of you will remember how we have previously helped school by forming a panel of interviewers for Years 10 and 12. These interviews did not take place because of Covid of course. School have now asked for our help again.

We are looking for a good mix of interviewers, younger, older, male and female. If any of you can spare some time to help please email Sarah Davies, careers adviser, directly on SDavies@thomas-hardye.net to advise your availability for the dates below. (There is no need to write to say you are unavailable.)

Year 10 All day Friday 8th July

Year 12 Afternoons of Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th July Sarah will then be in contact with you and provide instructions and an interview brief.

I hope to see some of you on one of those days although I may not be there all the time.

I hope you are enjoying summer,

With very best wishes,

Godfrey

Godfrey Lancashire, President, The Hardyeans' Club



From the Headteacher



Dear Hardyeans,

I write to you in glorious June sunshine as our Year 11 and 13 students make their way into an exam, (German, I believe). The GCSEs and A Levels they are sitting are the first exams in England for three years, and I am sure we all remember that important rite of passage, as well as the confidence it gave us, and wish the students well.

Some of them are being examined in our new theatre, which was completed and handed back to the school shortly after the Easter holidays. I attach a photo and am sure you will agree it has been worth the wait. The new facility will provide an inspirational space for our musicians, actors and orators, as well as strengthening the school's ties with the Dorchester community, who will have use of the space through Dorchester Arts Productions to be staged there.

You may also know of the statue in Lyme Regis commemorating the work of Mary Anning, which was unveiled last month. What you may not have known was that it was a Hardye's student who made it happen! Evie Swire, in Year 10, started the campaign before the first lock-down when she learnt how much Anning achieved, and how little recognition she received as a woman. That she persevered with her campaign through the pandemic, and achieved what she set out to do, demonstrates all the best qualities of our wonderful students.



Finally, it is wonderful to work with staff in planning our first international trips since the last decade! Next time I write I hope to have news of the Florida Trip, running this

summer, and the geography trip to Iceland which is happening in October. A trip to Japan is also in the offing, and should happen early in the new year. International trips represent the last part of bring back the opportunities which were available to students before the pandemic. Let us hope they are never taken away again.

Wishing all Hardyeans the very best, and looking forward to seeing you at next year's dinner,

All the best to all Hardyeans.

Nick Rutherford

From the Membership Secretary

Welcome to those of you who left school in 2020 and 2021 and asked to join the Hardyans Club. Apologies for the delay in getting you into our Membership Database, but I am sure you are aware of the problems we have all had in the last couple of years.

You should now receive regular Newsletters from us, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Alan Brown, Membership Secretary. E-mail hardyansclub@hardyansclub.com.

Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

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.

Club v School Cricket match will take place on Tuesday 12th July starting at 1pm. Will be a 20/20 match at Dorchester Recreation Ground anyone wishing to take part should contact Tony Foot.

tonyfoot@maxgateproperties.co.uk

Autumn Dinner postponed until March 2023 as per the President's letter.

Hardyans Club Contacts

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

Chairman: Nick GRASSBY

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

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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

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 *News/letter* editors as well, to get a wider membership response

Among recent FaceBook posts:

Memories of Des Spriggs (whose death was advised in the last edition) from Nigel Terry, Alister Clarke, Duncan Best, Paul Matthams, Douglas Fry, Chris Hawthorne, Duncan Ferguson, Mark Russell Abbott among many. Also Tom Chadwick who was trying to contact Miriam Hawkins, sister of Peter Hawkins; and memories of the 1969 Annual General Inspection and other Quater-Centenary events .

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-hardyyears.com>) which contains a wealth of memories This site is regularly updated – latest entries from May 2022*

You Write

From Richard Cummins – News of another Richard!

RETURN OF THE NATIVE - Richard Dawe (Wollaston House 1950-1952)

After many years away, Richard is celebrating his forthcoming 83rd birthday by moving back to Dorchester . His memories of childhood years living in the town, include spending 4 years at Colliton Street prior to Hardye's .

If any other survivor of those years would like to re establish contact with Richard, then in the first instance the best route to get a message to him while he is in the process of moving is via phone.

All best wishes, Richard Cummins (1958 to 1965)

PS a friend of the other Richard, from days when we each managed health services in Lancashire and recognised each other's Dorset accents !

(Editor – anyone wishing to contact Richard Dawe please ask the Editor for his phone number)

From Owen Davies, writing from Devon

No mention of **John (Woody** to most of us) **Bright (Bill Moulard – A Heathcote mini-Reunion)**, , would be complete without mention of the long distance fund raising walks he organised. I was a couple of years astern of the trio at Heathcote and although I was absent from Woody's Lands End to Wembley walk, where I think they arrived with foresighted prudence one day later than Jimmy Saville's event, I certainly walked from Stratford-on-Avon, Cardiff, Brighton and Canterbury to Dorchester in the late 60s and from Bath to Barton-on-Sea in, I think, 1970. With absolutely no preparation, we walked 25 miles/day for 6 days and the final night was generally spent at Blandford Camp where he had negotiated dinner, bed and breakfast, courtesy of the Royal School of Signals. I think they provided us with the OS maps as well. Woody would do the route checking in the Easter holiday, finding pubs that would feed us for next to nothing each evening and weren't too particular regarding the licensing detail and a kindly farmer who would let us sleep in a barn.

Talk about character-building, they were every bit as demanding as the Duke Of Edinburgh Scheme but with all the logistic and safety support of a DIY roofer up an old ladder. They were remarkable feats of physical endurance and navigational aptitude. We tried to avoid roads as far as possible and I suspect were personally responsible for the re-opening of many miles of public and on occasion completely unknown bye-ways. Amongst many memories, I have three that stand out: a lively verbal confrontation with an armed game-keeper in woodland in the Cranborne Chase, a night on a marvellously comfortable hay floor during which I received a sharp shock in the back of my neck at about 2am from an adjacent wasp nest and the purchase of the cheapest pint of beer I ever found, in Kent, for 10d (just less than 5p to most readers). We, and we were a bunch of 15-20 lads in our early to mid-teens, also managed to raise quite reasonable sums of money, mainly for Shelter. On behalf of the survivors, thanks so much Woody - quite unforgettable blisters!

Moving on to Des Spriggs whose death I was so sorry to hear about. He arrived at Hardyes in the same year as I did. He introduced me to Physics and taught me through to A Level. Would I have been a Professional Engineer but for him? Probably not, and in retirement I am still engaged with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in UK and in the development of Graduate Engineers in Sierra Leone. Both I and hopefully the Engineering Professional have much to thank him for.

Regards

Owen Davies (Heathcote 1967-1972)

David Northover (from the Club's Facebook page)

Have been thinking about the upcoming annual OH v. School Cricket match and wondered if there was an opportunity for the OH to be resplendent in retro gear i.e caps, plain white shirts, bucked pads, sausage gloves and, of course, retro bats - Hunts County, Slazenger, SP, Mitre, Duncan Fernley, Gray-Nicholls single scoop etc so as to showcase what cricket was like 40-50 years ago and befitting our legacy. Of course this would be optional, with modern headgear necessary for batting etc but was just a thought which might capture the imagination and even give rise to some local media publicity 😊

btw - Tony Foot - I am available to participate this year. Much appreciated if I could. I had a call up about 10 years ago but the match was rained off!

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

Charles Gordon CROCKER (1939-45)

Passed away after a short illness on 19th May 2022 aged 93. Father to David, John and Jane. Funeral service to take place at Exeter & Devon Crematorium on 29th June 2022 in St Paul's Chapel at 14:00. Donations on the day to the Exmouth branch of RNLI.

Gordon was President of the Hardyans Club from 2000 – 2003. His wife Elizabeth Anne pre-deceased him in December 2021 .

Neil HORNE (1943-49)

I'm sad to report that my father passed away in March of this year. While going through his treasures, we came across many items and memories of Thomas Hardy School, most of which we were previously unaware of. The school always had a special place in my father's heart, and I believe was very impactful on his youth and eventually his life.

I located a couple rolled up photographs of the students and staff which I think are just great, yet would have been buried in one of his drawers for the past 60 or so years. My challenge is to un-roll them, flatten them out and find a suitable frame - hopefully though in a quicker time-frame !

Best regards,

*Chris Horne
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Albert TAYLOR (1939 - 42)

Thank you for your email to my late father, Albert Gordon Taylor (Taffy). Unfortunately he passed away on the 19th October 2021 and I have only just got around to checking his emails.

If you could delete him from your Newsletter emails, it would be appreciated.

*Many thanks
Lesley (Holland)*

Bernard WATTS 1939 - 45

Ashley Watts writes: I regret to inform you that my father, Bernard has died.

....He played jazz in a small band including Ted Shellabear and others. He went from school to National Service in Fassberg, Germany then trained in the motor trade and joined his father, Robert (Bob) (also a Club member and Past President) in RJ Watts and Son Ltd. Robert (RJ) Watts' years at the Grammar School were 1907 – 15

Later he could be found working for Channons in High East St.

He leaves a widow, Elizabeth.

Around and about the Thomas Hardy School

Re the Theatre refurbishment, President Godfrey Lancashire took these pictures during a preview tour in May 2022. It is a fantastic facility, 400+ seater, light and bright, high tech, huge stage big enough for an orchestra, great changing rooms and back stage etc

Wonderful for students and the community for years to come. A new modern glass portable lectern with electronics has been bought with donation from the Hardyens' Club and a suitable plaque is being arranged.

A major section of the Elizabethan screen is planned to be moved into the library but awaiting a structural engineers report to see if the wall will take the weight !

The raked seating in Mr Rutherford's picture is shown here folded back, and the view of the stage



And Finally!

Do take a look at the School website – lots of news of what the students are getting up to, e.g.: Involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, project presentations, sports achievements. This comes in another category.....

This week, Mrs Stevens, had a huge surprise when two Library books were returned to the school Library a whopping 61 years and 329 days late. They had been borrowed by Mr Kirkness who was at Hardy's School between 1957 and 1966 and who popped into the school this week to return them. He also donated a book he has written titled "The Wheel and other stories" which is a novella of Cambridge. This is definitely a new school record for overdue books.

The stamp says 28th April 1960!

