

## ***The Hardyans' Club Newsletter***

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



To stay  
in touch  
with your  
Friends

Winter  
Edition  
2023

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President's letter to Members for the Winter 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

*Happy New Year.*

*I hope this finds you well and looking forward with hope for better times ahead. Our thoughts are rapidly turning to the Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Lou, Head of Catering, is once again preparing a wonderful menu. Please see the attached application form and I do hope we will see as many of you as possible for our first dinner since 2019.*

*After six years as your Chairman and four years with the honour of being your President, it will be time for me to hand over the reins at the Dinner. I am delighted to tell you that Damien Lewis (78-85) has accepted our invitation to be the next President. This is very good news. Damien has his heart in school and has children still studying here. I attach a short CV for Damien so you can start to get to know him better.*

*Other features of our Dinner will be :*

- A short tour of school including the New Theatre, where the club donated the electronic all singing lectern, the Melvin Library, sports halls and other areas of interest. The tour will start at 6.30pm prompt. If you are interested please complete the relevant section on the application form.*
- It will be the first time the new headteacher Nick Rutherford will address us. He is looking forward to meeting you all.*
- We will be making a special presentation to Mike Foley for his achievements and ten years in charge.*
- Our guest speaker will be Daniel Lock, see his profile below.*

*Finally, a big thank you. You will recall we wrote recently to appeal for funding to help Chris King a sixth former, wheelchair bound, join the school educational tour to America. It was amazing to find that within 48 hours we achieved our target with your generosity and help. I know Chris has written to individuals who donated and I wanted to add my personal thanks.*

*It has been a privilege to be your Chairman and then President and with the majority of the 400 leavers each year joining the Club, we should continue to develop our relationship with school for years to come.*

*I look forward to seeing you on 25th March.*

*Very best wishes*

*Godfrey*

## *The New President of the Hardyans' Club*



*Damien Lewis is a number one bestselling author whose books have been translated into over forty languages worldwide. For decades he worked as a war and conflict reporter for the world's major broadcasters, reporting from across Africa, South America, the Middle and Far East, winning numerous awards. His books include the WWII classics Churchill's Secret Warriors, Hunting The Nazi Bomb, SAS Ghost Patrol, SAS Italian Job, SAS Band of Brothers and Churchill's Great Escapes. A dozen of his books have been made, or are being made, into movies or TV drama series and have been adapted as plays for the stage. He raises considerable support and funds for charitable concerns connected with his writing.*

*Lewis is a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society and the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. He is a Founder Member of the Irish Film and Television Agency (IFTA) and The Frontline Club. He is a member of the Society of Authors, the National Union of Journalists, the Director's Guild of Great Britain, the Victory Services Club, the Royal Overseas League and 21 SAS Artist's Rifles Clubhouse. He is also Patron to several charities related to his writing. He talks widely to audiences about his work, including the Theatre Royal Bath, the National Army Museum, The Royal Geographical Society, and Speakers Festivals worldwide.*

### *Contact, Social Media and Other Links*

*[www.damienlewis.com](http://www.damienlewis.com)*

*<https://twitter.com/authordlewis>*

*<https://www.facebook.com/DamienLewisWriter/>*

*Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society: <https://www.rgs.org/>*

*Fellow of the Winston Churchill Trust: <https://www.churchillfellowship.org/>*

*Founder Member of the Irish Film and Television Society (IFTA): <https://www.ifta.ie>*

*Founder Member of The Frontline Club: <https://www.frontlineclub.com/>*

## **Guest Speaker for the 2023 Annual Dinner – Dr Daniel Lock**

**Daniel grew up in Dorchester, attending Thomas Hardy School from 1993-1998. After finishing at Thomas Hardy, he moved to Cardiff to study Sport Development while on a scholarship to represent Cardiff Metropolitan University at football. After completing his Masters degree and playing football in the League of Wales, Daniel moved to Sydney, Australia. During this time, he played football in the New South Wales Premier League, while studying towards a Doctorate in Management at the University of Technology, Sydney. After completing his doctorate, Daniel moved to Brisbane and lectured at Griffith University for 5-years, before returning to the UK. He is currently Deputy Head of the Department of Sport and Event Management at Bournemouth University. Daniel also sits on the Board of Trustees for Active Dorset, working to reduce levels of inactivity in the county.**





## *From the Headteacher*



Dear Hardyeans,

Firstly, thank you to all Hardyeans who were able to support Chris King in fundraising for a place on the Florida Science Trip. Chris, who is in Year 12, has a place in the school's physical disability base, and is a wheelchair user. The Florida Science Trip, running for the first time since lockdown, is an amazing opportunity for all students who go, taking in the Kennedy Space Centre, the Everglades, Bush Gardens and the odd theme park. To create an itinerary for Chris was costly, seemingly prohibitively so – until the call went round to the Hardyeans, whose generosity meant the total was reached in a matter of days. I know Chris will want to write something for this newsletter next autumn about the trip, but I must tell you how thrilled he and his family were by your kindness.

The school's sports teams have been as busy as always, playing over 70 fixtures so far this academic year. The Year 10 Boys Rugby team have recently qualified for the quarter finals of the National Schools Vase Cup Competition, and the Year 9 and Year 11 Girls Netball teams have swept all before them in winning their area tournaments, with the Year 11s finishing a best ever 3rd in the county tournament.



In other sports, we have our Equestrian Team win their jumping class to qualify for the National Championships later on in the year, and we have had X-County Running success at the last three meets – let's hope the frost stays away for the upcoming fixtures!



As I write, the Head of Sixth Form has just sent me a message confirming that ten of our students have received offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge, with several more students waiting to hear about applications to study medicine. Congratulations to all of them – and many thanks to all of you who give so generously of your time and expertise preparing students with mock interviews.

Finally, can I say how much I am looking forward to the Hardyeans' Dinner in March, another much missed event which resumes for the first time since the pandemic. It is already very clear to me what a vibrant group the Hardyeans are, and I hope to meet many more of you in person at that event.

Best wishes,

*Nick Rutherford*

# Thomas Hardy School Community Lectures

There are no lectures planned at the moment, but occasionally they are arranged at short notice so do watch the school website for further information. Lectures are normally free to attend with tickets bookable at the School Reception. Donations are very welcome.

## Forthcoming Club and other events

**Monthly Luncheons** on the last Thursday of the month at the Poet Laureate pub in Pummery Square, Poundbury. Meet from 12.30pm.

**Club v School Cricket Match:** Please watch for news on this summer event. It is very much hoped it will take place this year.

**2023 Dinner Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023** Please see *booking details at the end of this Newsletter*

## *Hardyans Club Contacts*

**President:** Godfrey LANCASHIRE Life Vice-Presidents: Anthony C W Day, Peter Foster, Hugh Griffiths, John Pearson Damien LEWIS takes over as President at the Annual Dinner

**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)

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

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

**School Liaison Officer** Vicky SMYTH (tel 01305 266095 or 01305 231512 Wessex Multi-Academy Trust)

[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 posters:**

James Tufnail, Les Mason, John Barbara

*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-hardyans.com>) which contains a wealth of memories This site is regularly updated .

## You Write

**Information required!** John Clegg has been in touch concerning his father John Armitage CLEGG who was at the Grammar School between 1936 and '44. John writes: *'my late father – John Armitage Clegg – attended Dorchester Grammar School as a boarder during the second World War leaving in 1944 aged 16 to work for Jackson Stops & Staff in Yeovil. The family lived at Hooke, Dorset where his mother was the headteacher at the village school. I believe he attended a few meetings of your organisation in later years although he did not find many contemporaries! The Clegg family had moved from Somerset to Buckinghamshire in 1962 with two of his sons, including myself, still living there.*

*The purpose of my note is to see if you could kindly point me towards any information on the school in my father's time there or any records mentioning my father.'*

If any readers can help with wartime memories we will be pleased to put them in touch with John - *Editors*

### **Peter Millward**

I have just come across the Winter 2009 newsletter and note that I am listed among the "Lost Legion", though the dates shown are incorrect. I was actually in Southfield House (with Godfrey Lancashire) from 1950 to 1957. I left Loughborough in 1971 to come to South Wales, where I have lived ever since.

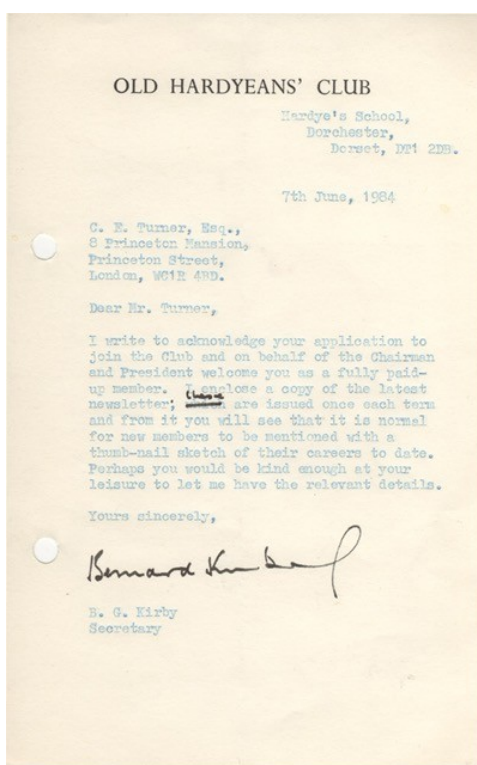
There are a number of points in that Newsletter that ring bells for me. I also remember John Dutot's performance in "The Zeal of thy House", though the part I remember was his storming exit on the line: "Lest without me the very skies should fall!" I also remember the production of "Journey's End" mentioned. Bill Caselton is a familiar name as a contemporary, and I was interested to discover that Sir Roger Gale MP is the Gale who overlapped with me at school. I had often wondered. I seem to remember he was involved in a production of "St Joan" that took place the year after I left. Jimmy Whittaker, Bert Cruse, "Dunc" Lidbury, Ticker Cole, "Boat" Stevenson, Sam Fox ("Some mothers do 'ave 'em. It's a wonder to me why they rear them.") and Ralph Hill are all names that I remember fondly.

For the record I have been happily married for nearly 59 years, and have a large family (12), ten of whom are long-term foster children. I am still active as a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church and one of my daughters is a minister in the church in Lancashire. In 2019 my wife and I had the privilege of attending a Buckingham Palace Garden Party as I had been Chair and Treasurer for ten years of a small local charity.

I would be happy to receive the newsletter by email...

Best wishes,

Peter



**Colin Turner** writes in with this 'blast from the past'....

a receipt for his subscription from the then (1984) Club Membership Secretary, Bernard Kirby

## *Around and about the Thomas Hardy School*

### **Remembrance Ceremony Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The School memorial gates provided an impressive background to the annual Remembrance Ceremony, which the School observes each Armistice Anniversary, the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month.

A very large turnout of students, one of the largest I've yet seen, was present to hear the names of past students who had given their lives in two world wars, and acknowledgments to those not named, from other schools in the locality. As the notes of the Last Post from the bugler died on the autumn air, the most intense of silences followed, immaculately kept by the students and all present. Reveille sounded and wreaths of Flanders poppies were laid at the Memorial Gates.



The Hardyens' Club wreath was laid by the Club's President Godfrey Lancashire. The wreaths formed a line of red, expressing the visual, emotional spectacle of Remembrance. The traditional military drill, associated with Remembrance was provided by the Army and RAF sections of the THS CCF. An audio recording of the ceremony is available to hear on the Keep106 local radio website's 'Listen Again' page with other Dorchester Remembrance recordings <https://keep106.com/2022/11/14/dorchester-remembers-2022/>

[ text and pictures by Peter Foster]



Club President Godfrey Lancashire is flanked by Alan Attryde and Chris Slade after the ceremony.

## **THE HARDYEANS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER**

**SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023 7.00pm FOR 7.30pm  
IN THE THE NEW DINING ROOM, THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL**

## **MENU**

**Starter** Fillet of poached salmon with carrot and courgette spaghetti, tomato red onion and caper dressing.

**Main** Coriander and lemon stuffed chicken breast wrapped in bacon and poached in red wine served with gratin potatoes and seasonal greens.

**Dessert** Fresh cream profiteroles with chocolate sauce.

### **VEGETARIAN OPTION**

**Starter** Roasted red pepper and fennel with toasted walnut and mixed leaf salad.

**Main** Winter vegetable stew in a crispy pastry basket with herb dumpling.

**Dessert** Fresh fruit salad.

**You are invited to bring your own wine.**

**BOOKING at £35 per head**

Please Note we are unable to accept bookings after **Monday 13th March**, as this will give us time to finalise catering numbers, seating plans etc. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Please pay via Bank Transfer.** Our Account Details are:

Account name: The Hardyans Club

Sort Code: 30-92-69

Account Number: 00403528

**If possible please include your Surname in the reference box when making payment.**

To confirm payment email the following information to the Treasurer at [alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com](mailto:alan@ajbrown1946.plus.com):-

The number (including guests) you have booked for.

The name(s) of the guests.

Years at a Dorchester School.

Vegetarian option if required, and for which guest(s).

### **TOUR OF THE SCHOOL**

There will be a short tour of the school for those interested, starting at 6.30pm. This will include the New Theatre, The Melvin Library and a variety of teaching areas. If you would like to join the Tour could you include this in your payment confirmation email.

### **RAFFLE & GRATUITIES**

**Please make sure you have some cash with you** as there will be a raffle with excellent prizes and also we would appreciate any donations towards the gratuities which we give the Student Waiters and the Catering Staff.