

The Hardyans' Club Newsletter

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



To stay
in touch
with your
Friends

Spring/
Summer
Edition
2023

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School

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Reunion
Dinner-
Report

The
Thomas
Hardye
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Annual Dinner report

The first Annual Dinner since before Lockdown took place in the refurbished Sixth Form dining room at the School on 26th March. There was a good attendance of members and guests including representatives from the Sixth form.

During the Dinner a presentation was made to former Headteacher **Mike Foley**, now Chief Executive of the Wessex Multi-Academy Trust. Picture shows out-going Club President **Godfrey Lancashire** presenting Mike with one of two book-ends which had been special crafted, the School crest on one and that of Crystal Palace FC on the other, as shown in second pic.



New Club President Damien Lewis was presented with the chain of office by Godfrey Lancashire.

Guest speaker at the Dinner was **Dr Daniel Lock**, currently Deputy Head of the Department of Sport and Event Management at Bournemouth University who attended the Thomas Hardy School from 1993 – 1998. Proposing the toast to The School, Daniel talked about his progress from school days at Hardyes, through playing football whilst studying for a Masters degree in Cardiff, which led to teaching in Australia, and what an inspiration Geraint Hughes had been among his teachers. Replying, and proposing the toast to the Club, Headteacher Nick Rutherford spoke about the close ties between the Club and the School and the support that was available when needed. He particularly mentioned the recent case of a disabled student who was able to take part in the school trip of a lifetime to Florida through financial help from members of the Club (see also Page 5).



Daniel Lock is seen here giving his speech and (right) flanked by Club Chairman Nick Grassby and Headteacher Nick Rutherford. Below, out-going President Godfrey Lancashire addresses the company, and more pictures of the convivial scene



[Photos variously by the Editors, and Godfrey Lancashire]

2023 Club v School Cricket Match

The Annual Club v School cricket match was arranged for Tuesday 4th July at the Dorchester Recreation Ground. Sadly the weather intervened, but Club President Damien Lewis, (pictured, centre) reports that it was a great match until rain stopped play - a nail-biter, for sure!

Well done Tony Foot and Geraint Hughes for getting it organised, and a draw seemed a fair outcome, all things considered. Honour satisfied - until the next time!

[picture Godfrey Lancashire]



The invitation below has been sent separately to all members by email but in case anyone missed it here it is again!

To All Members of The Hardyens' Club

Dear Friends,

The Thomas Hardye School Foundation Trust

I am writing as a trustee of the above trust and I am asking for your help please.

Simply we need more Trustees. The Trustees are responsible for the land and buildings of the school estate (unusual for a state school but historical from the former days of the Grammar School). The Trustees are also responsible for a sizeable investment portfolio, professionally managed, which helps school from time to time with for example donations towards the recent upgrade of all the windows and towards the new theatre. The skill sets we are most interested in are those in finance, especially investments and also those with a legal background, ie a solicitor. We are seeking ladies or men, young or older, with a little time to give back to school.

The work is not onerous, two or three meetings max in person at school each year and other communication by email. Living locally is helpful but not vital.

If you are interested, please ring or email me as a point of contact or contact our Chair of Trustees, Prof. Hugh Griffiths

Many thanks,

Very best wishes

Godfrey

godfrey.lancashire@btinternet.com 07889 101296 or 01308 485688

h.griffiths@ucl.ac.uk 07814 217636

Thomas Hardye 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 or contact School Reception. Lectures are normally free to attend with tickets bookable at the School Reception (01305-266064). 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.

Hardyans Club Contacts

President: Damien LEWIS Life Vice-Presidents: Anthony C W Day, Peter Foster, Hugh Griffiths, Godfrey Lancashire, 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

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

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

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

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>

P.T.O

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:

Richard Sams, Philip Mackie, Graham White, Jonathan Pullen, Mike Snelling, Tom Chadwick, Dave Broughton, Simon Litster

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

David CULVER writes:

Dear Editor,

I am more or less a contemporary of Peter Millward, and also remember with gratitude the seven members of staff named by him, to whom I would add Roger Rhys Thomas and the athletics master Mr. Johnson, whose Christian name I never knew. The name of the classics master, incidentally, was Steemson, not Stevenson - hence the nickname "Steamboat."

I was in a class taken by Sam Fox when David Singleton entered to announce the death of King George VI.

PTO

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I hope David will forgive me if I say I thought he overdid it a bit, which also appeared to be Sam's view, as he enquired, rather irreverently, "And are we to get a half-holiday?"

Thanks for all the work you do on the Newsletter,

David Culver

PS. The staff also included Sam Walton (but I never did his subject, which was Physics) and Johnnie Hale (who I prefer to forget anyway.)

Frank DIKE

When an event is as enjoyable as last evening's dinner was, it usually means that someone has put in a lot of hard work. I fear I do not know whether this was a collective or an individual effort but whoever may I offer my thanks. It was rather special, too, to look over the school beforehand. This was splendidly chaotic but it did mean that I met and spoke with "senior boys" that I would not otherwise have met as we lost our bearings and met in unfamiliar corridors.

Excellent food and speakers made for a very good evening, well done everyone and, again, a big thank you to you all.

Yours faithfully,

Frank Dike (61 - 66)

Obituaries

We have been advised of the following who have sadly passed away. Our thanks to the informants and condolences to relatives and friends.

Ron COLEMAN died 28th March 2023. At School 1958 -

Peter John CRABBE died in March 2020. He was at Dorchester Grammar from 1941 to 1949.

Christopher John ELLERY May 1957 – June 2023

Brian HULSE from Brian's widow Ann:

Brian Hulse was born September 1922. I think I am correct in saying he started at the Dorchester Grammar School in 1934. Passed School Certificate in 1938.

He was in the army from 1939 until demobbed in 1946.

He worked in the Bedfordshire County Council during which time he did a correspondence course to attain membership of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants now known as Chartered Institute of Public Finance.

In 1948 the NHS came into being where he worked until 1982 when he retired. His last appointment was at the Radcliffe Infirmary which became the John Radcliffe Hospital. During this time he was awarded the O.B.E. for services to the NHS.

He enjoyed his retirement playing golf, visiting other countries etc.

Sadly during his last three years he developed vascular dementia which caused him a lot of frustration not being able to communicate.

He died peacefully at the end on February 13th. 1923 have reached the age of 100 years the year before.

I hope this is of help. Please feel free to remove as much as you wish as I am sure you are aware of much of it. Also I hope my facts are correct!!

With best wishes

Ann

Andrew NICKELL at School 1952-60

Roger NEWTON at School 1952 – 60 passed away 11th June 2023

Julian ODDY (at school 1958-65) died October 2022

P.T.O.

Information on Julian's death was picked up on by **Richard Sonley** who saw the death notice of Julian Oddy's widow Pam in the Dorset Echo: Richard writes: ...On digging a bit further, the only obituary I found for Julian was in The Stage (national theatrical) magazine.... Julian was born in September 1946 and died in October 2022. I had quite a long chat with him about 4 years ago when I bumped into him walking his elderly whippets in Weymouth. He was struggling with walking ,suffering from arthritis I think, partly caused he said by old rugby injuries. I never did like rugby ! But Julian was still I think honorary president of Weymouth Rugby Club.

The obituary gave credit for extensive work in retirement creating a well regarded catalogue of plays, and mentioned that much of his career was at Westland Helicopters. I recall Julian telling me that his earlier career was in catering, I think his parents had probably been hoteliers in Weymouth ? His wife was I think head of / senior in the teaching of drama at Birmingham university ?

Around and about the Thomas Hardy School

Old Hardyeans help send Thomas Hardy student on dream trip oversea

Damien Lewis writes: Many of you may remember that in November 2022 an appeal was sent out to all Old Hardyeans, on behalf of Chris King, who was at that time a Year 12 student at the school. Chris was planning to take part in the forthcoming school trip to Florida, in February 2023, a scientific and cultural extravaganza that for most students promised to be the trip of a lifetime. The headline visit was to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, at Cape Canaveral, with its rich history of space flight and exploration, which is adjacent to the NASA Space Center Itself, the primary launch centre for human space flight. But there were also plans to visit the Volcano Bay Water Theme Park, the Busch Garden Animal Theme Park in Tampa Bay, the Clearwater Beach and Aquarium, and to have a tour of Universal Studios Florida, with its nod to all things Hollywood. And in amongst that packed schedule they also planned to cram in watching some live sports matches to boot. Chris's main challenge was that he has cerebral palsy and has been wheelchair-bound all of his life. Living with this life-challenging condition, Chris was nevertheless determined to take part in the trip, and especially since it would offer him a golden opportunity to spend quality time with his friends and peers from School, something he rarely had the time to do during a normal day's education. Chris felt being able to go on this trip would also help him foster a sense of independence and develop his self-confidence and self-esteem. The chief challenge was financial, as the total costs to enable Chris to attend – including adaptations to transport and for an extra staff member to accompany him – was some £6,000. Half of that money was generously provided by the Thomas Hardy Foundation Trust, who felt this was exactly the kind of initiative the Trust should be supporting. But the shortfall still had to be met, and hence an email was circulated to all of you, seeking to raise that extra £3,000. In the email appeal sent out by Godfrey Lancashire, then President, he pointed out how Chris was 'an exceptional young man who bears his condition with fortitude and good humour,' one whose 'attendance in school is excellent.' Your response to the appeal for the shortfall in funding was equally exceptional and excellent!



Suffice to say, within minutes of the email appeal being circulated, one Old Hardyean had sent through a £2,000 donation, and theremainder of the funds required rapidly materialised. Within seventy-two hours fresh



offers of donations were having to be turned down, for the full £3,000 had been raised and in record time. Well done all. Chris duly went on his trip of a lifetime. He remarked of it: 'The reason I found it a brilliant trip is because I learnt many things about the State of Florida, such as it used to be a big swamp, and the whole state is built on water. I really enjoyed the Kennedy Space Center, because I got to see the buildings where rockets are built, which has the world's tallest doors attached. I also enjoyed going to watch the Basketball match as I really enjoy watching sport and tend to watch a lot of American sport at home, so this was a great opportunity to watch it live ... I had a really great time in Florida thanks to your funding.'

[Thanks to Rachel Glennie of Thomas Hardye School for providing pictures of the trip to Florida, of which these are a small selection]



And Finally.....Under 15s Rugby National Schools Vase:

Thomas Hardye's team got through to the Semi-Final of the Schools National Boys Under 15s Vase, beating Reigate Grammar 34 – 31 on Thursday 9th February. The team was up against Chiselhurst & Sidcup Grammar School in the Semi-Final on 22nd February but sadly lost 43-12. In the Final played on Thursday 16th March 2023 at Twickenham, Chiselhurst and Sidcup were beaten by Old Swinford Hospital 40 – 21 *Better Luck next time !*