

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1973

Hon. Secretary:

President: P.A.W. Howe

Hon. Treasurer:

J.P.T. Martin,
?? Royal Avenue,
Tonbridge.
Tel. Tonbridge 63805

B. Welcome,
Rhydlanfair,
17 Northleigh Close,
Loose, Maidstone.

OBITUARY

Many OMs will have already learned of the sad, untimely death last August of Alec Stewart, games and P.E. master at MGS since 1942. His association with the School had in fact begun much earlier, as a new boy in 1929 under Mr. Holyman who was also enjoying his first year at the School. He left to continue his studies at Goldsmiths' College, where he represented the University of London at rugby. His active participation in sport and athletics continued on his return to MGS and for many years he led the Kent athletics team for the All England Sports. Any pupil showing an interest in athletics could also be sure of Alec's enthusiastic support.

Another memorable aspect of his participation in School activities was his vigorous role as Quartermaster in the CCF, both at base and, more especially, at camp.

His contribution to the well-being of the Society has been inestimable. Records reveal his long service on the Committee, which latterly came to rely on him to maintain in his position as Assistant Hon. Secretary a sense of continuity within the committee and to take on the role of secretary whenever occasion demanded. In particular, his efforts made the recent Annual Suppers such successful occasions. It was Alec too who could be relied upon to organize the Old Boys' teams for the annual cricket and rugby matches against the School.

It is intended that the Society award annually, in memory of Alec Stewart, a trophy, in the form of a tankard, to the member of the Senior School having contributed most during the year on the field of play or in the administration of sporting activities. OMs will wish to know that expressions of sympathy have been conveyed to Mrs. Stewart on behalf of the Society.

RECENT EVENTS

The Annual Cricket Match against the School was played on 19 July. The result was a draw, the OMs having made 112 all out and the School 91 for 8. The following represented the Society: B. Fridd (Capt.), B. Jenner, I. Milner, C. Britcher, A. Milsted, R. Craske, R. Harwood, J. Harris, R. Luck, D. Clegg, D. Holt.

A Car Treasure Hunt was organized again in 1972 in view of the success of a similar venture in 1971. Unfortunately only three competitors entered this time. The event nevertheless proceeded as planned beginning with a driving test in the School car park. There followed a 30 mile course divided into two sections and comprising the usual cryptic clues. Martin Passmore (School Captain 1972) won, having gained only second place on clues alone but snatching victory by virtue of a magnificent 52 inch blade of grass, collected en route, which earned him 520 bonus points. Despite the disappointingly low entry both competitors and organizers had an enjoyable afternoon, helped by the fact that all entrants qualified for a prize.

A Recent Leavers Function was held as usual in the Mote Clubhouse towards the end of the Summer vacation. Beer and sandwiches were provided for around fifty recent leavers who were able to feed the Committee members present with useful ideas for the future organization of this sort of function. During the evening the Headmaster took the opportunity of speaking of the value of a thriving Old Boys' Society. The Membership Secretary, Paul Watts, was able to report a healthy increase in membership by the end of the evening. (In this connection OMs will recall that at the last AGM it was agreed to discontinue the free introductory year of membership).

Small bore rifle shooting The Treasurer, Bryan Welcome, reports that the OM rifle team recently won two matches in the Maidstone and District League. The members are Bryan Welcome ('54) John Hardy ('63) and Chris Clifton ('64).

STAFF NEWS - PAST AND PRESENT

The Chairman, Ken Loveland, was pleased to be able to welcome the Headmaster, Dr. P.A.J. Pettit, to the Society at the September meeting of the Committee, and offered the best wishes of the Society for a happy and successful time at MGS.

Mr. E.J. MacFarlane, formerly Head of the English Dept. at MGS and now Principal of Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke, gave away prizes at the Lower School Speech Day. Miss Christine Phipps is now on the staff of Behenden School.

Mr. N.W.G. Sherwen is leaving to take up a post with NATO in Brussels.

Mr. R.A.S. Moorwood has been appointed Head of the Physics Dept. at the Goffs School, Cheshunt. He and Mr. J. Breithaupt are to be congratulated on the award of the M.Sc.

Mr. M.A. Bayliss left the staff in the summer and is now training at Dartmouth; his CCF service has brought him the rank of Sub-Lieutenant and when inspecting the duty watch, he found himself inspecting Midshipman A.R. Robinson (1971) just back from the Fleet.

Mr. R.J. McCormick has been successfully running the P.E. and Games Dept., plugging the gap left by Mr. Stewart's death.

Mr. C.P. Holyman, whose retirement from full-time teaching after 44 years at MGS was reported in the last Newsletter, continues to teach on a part-time basis. He was presented with a swivel chair by the Parents' Association in recognition of his service to the School. Mrs. Holyman received a brooch on the same occasion.

Old Maidstonian Mr. Mark Couchman made the presentation. The subscription list remains open for the Society's presentation to Mr. Holyman which will be made at the Annual Supper in April (see back of Newsletter).

Dr. K.A. Gourlay who left the staff in 1971 to take up an appointment as Senior Lecturer at Goroka Teachers College in Papua writes interestingly from his isolated location 5,000 ft. up in the Eastern Highlands of this very beautiful island. Home comforts (furniture excepted) seem more than adequate and the attractiveness of the surroundings no doubt compensate for the local drawbacks - limited social and intellectual life and a propensity towards earth tremors.

C.P.O. Gude is convalescing after an operation. Whilst in the Gordon Teaching Hospital, London, he found himself being inspected by a number of medical students in attendance on the surgeon. One of these, P.S. Fagg (1969) on exclaiming "Why! its Chief" was saddled with the diagnosis.

ERRATUM

Misunderstanding of correspondence led to the incorrect statement in the last Newsletter that Mr. Michael Tillet (1940) - a bachelor was married to Mr. J.A. Tebbs' daughter. Apologies to all concerned. Editor.

NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

David Tillet (1969) has gained his degree and is now working at the London University Computer Centre.

H.W. Silcock, who left MGS nearly 40 years ago, writes of the happy memories of his schooldays and records the move to the "new school" and the "stone picking" on the new playing field. He recently completed 35 years service with Standard Telecommunication Laboratories. Present address 123, North Street, Nazeing, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN92NJ.

Robin M. Slater holds a Civilian Scholarship at the Royal Military College of Science. Address: St. Peters, Somerfield Road, Maidstone.

Geoffrey R. Burr (1966) is now qualified as a solicitor and practising in Maidstone.

Peter Charlton (1940s) is a colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces serving in the Training Command Headquarters in Winnipeg, having moved there from Ottawa on promotion to colonel in 1972. He congratulates classmate John Berg on his election as next President of the Society. Address: 44-361 Westwood Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 1G4.

Robert N. Dearing in the Junior School at Brunswick House when Mr. Holyman joined the staff, recalls the dazzling effect on his class when this new master picked up and turned over a blackboard with one hand. Obviously nobody kicked sand in his face! Present address: 5 West Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE 35EX.

The Revd. Brian Hammond writes of his past ten years hard labour in the Walworth, London district. He was inducted as Vicar of South Merstham last November, where his parishioners come from a very different walk of life. Address: The Vicarage, Battlebridge Lane, South Merstham, Surrey.

B.J. O'Toole (1972) has been fruit picking in a kibbutz in the Jordan valley. He returned for Christmas and is now bound for Austria, where he will work for Christian Aid among mentally handicapped children.

N.L. O'Toole (1972) has won a tankard for rowing for Fitzwillian College in the semi-final in the novices' regatta.

Robert Wood (1956) is leaving teaching to become Assistant History Adviser in Essex. He has in recent years become increasingly involved in working with original documents.

R.E. Groves (1965) is in charge of the Art and Craft Dept. of a school in Nottingham. He has developed an interest in work for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, particularly fencing.

Fred Merrifield (1959) could be seen as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in the recent Tenterden Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of Twelfth Night.

P.C.N. Clark (1968) is now a Teaching Assistant at the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

John Trafford (1957) is to be congratulated on gaining first place in the 1972 Daily Telegraph British Driving Competition out of 28,000 entrants, the prize being a Triumph "Stag" plus a Triumph 2000 Estate. He is instructor at the Police Headquarters Driving School. Three Trafford juniors have MGS in their sights. Address: 39 Quested Way, Harrietsham.

Trevor Hayes (1968) starts teaching English and History in January at Ealing Mead School and has completed the first year of a Diploma in Sociology at the Polytechnic of North London. OMs Crispian Rees and Ron Tomsett attended his marriage to a girl in her B. Ed year at Borough Road College. Address: 9 Tring Avenue, Ealing Common, London W53QA.

Patrick Davies (1969) is now in Verden, W. Germany, as a corporal technician. He takes the Class 1 trade test next year for promotion to sergeant.

D. Knell (1965) wrote to join the Society. Address: 11 Main Gate, Police Quarters, H.M. Naval Base, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4ST.

Paul Clifford (1971) School Captain '70 - '71 was elected to an Exhibition by New College Oxford June 1972.

Richard Field (1969) having completed and enjoyed a course at Holloway College is just finishing a short stint as a part-time supply teacher. He was one of many OMs who wrote to pay tribute to Alec Stewart.

Pilot Officer Geoffrey Doling (1969) and Pilot Officer N.J. Ramsey (1971) have been commissioned in the General Duties (Flying) Branch after a period of training at the RAF Officer Cadet Training Unit, Henlow, Beds.

K. Haggerty (1972) who entered Sandhurst last September is among the candidates selected to continue academic studies at Sandhurst to qualify for degree courses at universities.

Midshipman Alan Smith (1962) was one of six midshipmen presented with a telescope by the Queen at a parade at Dartmouth. The award was made for overall academic and professional training. He is now embarking upon an engineering course at a naval college near Portsmouth.

Geoff Link (1970) has played in the Kent XV during the current season and was hailed by the press recently as possibly one of the discoveries of the season.

S. Wakefield (1972) has been accepted for the Select Chorus of the University of Leeds.

D. Craddock (1972) has been appointed leader of the Leeds University Symphony Orchestra - in his first term!

C.M. Emerson (1972) has joined the Parachute Regt. He is at present doing basic training at Aldershot, on completion of which (February 1973) he will be posted to Belfast.

P.H. Legg (1972) reports that he is enjoying Oxford and has joined the O.T.C. (Infantry Section).

David Bicker (1957) married Miss Edwina Millwood in November.

Cyril Grover (1959) returned from Rhodesia in August for the Canford Summer School course on conducting on a Gulbenkian Foundation Bursary. He is organist of Salisbury Cathedral (Rhodesia) and has his own TV programme on serious music. He is married with a girl of 3 and a boy of 2.

Alan Hart (1958) television reporter with BBC's Panorama team spoke to Maidstone Round Table members in August about his life as an on-the-spot reporter in troubled areas. His trip to Maidstone was sandwiched between assignments in Ireland.

Philip Langridge (1959) received his big chance in October when at six days' notice he stepped into the title role of Handel's opera 'Scipio', presented at Sadler's Wells by the Handel Opera Society, following the death of David Hughes, the tenor. The Hon. Secretary, who sings with the City of London Choir, has recently met up with Philip on two occasions, when he was engaged by the choir as tenor soloist, the last time being at a broadcast concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to mark the end of the Vaughan Williams' centenary year.

Tim Chambers (1965) is now at the Midsomer Norton Branch of Lloyds Bank. He married Jean Willes of MGS and they have two children, 4 years and 10 months.

R.J.S. Evens (1965) is now living in Stockwood, Nr. Bristol and working at the Bath branch of Natwest. In July he married a law graduate of Bristol University.

Paul Sadler (1968) is reading for the post-graduate Certificate of Education at Keele University. Address "Wynsdale" Walnut Tree Avenue, Loose, Maidstone.

Lieut. George Granycombe (1963) has become engaged to Miss R.L. Walters

A.V. Jones (1965) has been taking a post-graduate course at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, (Cert. M). He is now back at St. Peter's College, Oxford, reading for a D. Phil.

Paul Mullen (1969) obtained a degree at Magdalene College, Cambridge in the summer and was awarded a Rees Jefferies Road Research Fund studentship to study transport economics at Leeds University. He also found time to get married in July. He says that at Magdalene MGS is still thought of as Mr. Claydon's school and very highly regarded. He mentioned contemporaries Chris Hatton, who unfortunately was stricken with infective hepatitis and was awarded an 'aegrotat'; Alan Gray, who, after concentrating most of his efforts on the O.T.C., joined the R.A.; and Nick Goddard who was hoping to work for a Ph.D. in historical geography.

Kevin Mullen (1969) has started teaching Law at Guildford.

Professor John Griffith (late 1920s) wrote to the Headmaster from Beaumont N.S.W. 2577 enquiring after Reggie Lye.

Philip George (1950 - 1938) called at the School en route between Pennsylvania and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria as a Ph.D. examiner. Address 4 Herford Place, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19030.

Arthur Brooker has joined the Kent Constabulary as a P.C.

David Spicer is now at Grays Inn.

David Bowden-Brown (1968) of Redlands Farm, West Malling married Miss Jayne Harkin in August.

Ashley Booker (1970) is in his final year at Christ Church Oxford and intends to become articulated to solicitors on coming down. He writes that the College and in particular the law tutors are very favourably inclined to applicants from MGS. The other Christ Church Old Maidstonians are Keith Rose (1970) and Ian Steer (1972). Keith is reported to be intending a massive continental tour by taxi in the summer.

C.E. de Salis (1929) a Gunsley scholar, has been in contact with the School. He retired from the Foreign Office in 1966 and began teaching languages part-time at Ashford Grammar School. Address: Church House, Appledore, Ashford.

C.E. Eastman (1929) and his wife visited the School recently and was delighted to find honours boards and photographs dating back to his time at School.

Midshipman Thomas Fuller (1971) was among those passing out of Royal College Dartmouth recently when the Queen inspected Lord High Admiral's divisions there.

J.R. Wells (1967) who left MGS to go to Simon Langton GS, has taken up an Open Scholarship in Science at Balliol.

Roger Crittenden (1958) has been Head of Editing at the National Film School, Beaconsfield since 1961. He has agreed to lecture to the Sixth on editing.

Terry Harbord (1970) is at present at Hamble for pilot training. He passed through RAF School at Carlisle.

John Cribbin (1963) has had a review of three recent works on astronomy published in the Times Educational Supplement.

A.S. Gibbs (1967) obtained a degree in Oriental Studies (Japanese) at New College, Oxford in the summer.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Headmaster has received a letter from a Mr. Green in Winchester who recently returned from Australia, where he made the acquaintance of an Anthony John Moreno (or Mereno) a pupil at MGS from 1917 to 1920. Mr. Green was asked by Mr. Moreno to investigate his background on his return to the UK. The colourful facts as Mr. Moreno remembers them are as follows:-

He believes he was born in Loose in 1910 of Spanish parents, who may have entered the country illegally, but of whom he has no real knowledge (he tried unsuccessfully to trace them in Spain during the Civil War). Between 1917 and 1920 he attended MGS whilst living with the Gorham family in Loose, the father of which worked at Tilling Stevens with two sons at MGS. Funds having been exhausted he left School to enter the Merchant Navy. Later on having jumped ship at Freemantle

he served in the Australian Infantry for 20 years; he is now partially disabled, living at Flat 23, 6 Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, NSW 2011.

Mr. Rylands has traced an Alfred Gorham who entered MGS in 1917 and lived in Loose; he subsequently became Vice-Principal of the Maidstone College of Art before moving on. School records however do not reveal a Moreno (he may however have been registered under another name). The Editor would be grateful to receive any further information which might clarify this mystery and help Mr. Moreno determine his background. Contributions should be sent either to the Editor at 33 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge or Mr. Rylands at the School.

Editor's notes:

1. Readers will note that addresses have been included where available in this issue, as this may help OMs to contact former classmates and will be continued in future. In addition Membership Secretary Paul Watts at "Wellesbourne", Off Plain Road, Brabourne Lees, Ashford will be pleased to forward addresses to enquirers (please enclose a stamped addressed envelope).
2. The Annual Supper takes place at the Corpus Christi Hall on 7 April. Why not contact OMs of your vintage and make up a class party!

NEWS OF MAIDSTONIANS:

The following awards at Oxford have been made to date:

Peter Gow - Open Exhibition in English at St. Edmund's Hall

Peter Cater - Open Scholarship at New College

Stephen King, School Prefect, a member of the Maidstone Gang Show, was one of 40 people presented to the Queen recently at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

COMING EVENTS (STOP PRESS- Rugby, 4 Apr. O.B. v Sch. Cricket, 18 Jul. O.B. v Sch.)

Annual General Meeting - Friday 26 January in the School Library at 7.30 pm.

Soccer Match - School XI v. Old Boys XI, Wednesday 4 April.

Annual Supper - Saturday 7 April at Corpus Christi Hall, Earl Street,
tickets £1.75p.

SPORTING FACILITIES

The Headmaster has kindly made available facilities for an OM Badminton Club on Monday evenings. Peter Mayor has agreed to act as organiser initially. The first meeting of 1973 will take place at the School on Monday 22 January at 7.15. Please contact Peter Mayor at Merrie Oak, Wamlake, Sutton Valence, tel. 2280, if you would like to play.

The register of OMs wishing to participate in various Society sporting teams is now getting under way. The usual tear-off strip is enclosed with this Newsletter. Now that a Badminton Club has started, it is hoped that other activities can be set up in 1973.

OUT-OF-DATE RECORDS

The Membership Secretary Paul Watts would like to trace the present addresses of the following OMs.

A.W.J. Cooper; P.N. de S. Brammall (1971); R.F.E. Orell, M. Waters (1970); C.D. Whitehead; J.E. Aisher; D.A. Bisby (1969); W. Bridge (1970); A.H. Carmichael; J.R. Freeman (1969); J.P. Hartley (1970); P.K. King (1969); R.B. Wedgwood (1968); J.R. McBride (1970); R.D. Parkinson (1969); D.L. Sullivan (1963); V. Redman.

ALL SAINTS APPEAL

All Saints Maidstone, the Parish Church and so closely linked with the School, is in danger and repair work costing £70,000 is required immediately. An appeal is made to everyone who appreciates the value of this historic church to help preserve it.

The Officers are setting up an index of Members willing to participate in various sports either against the School or possibly against other Schools' Old Boys' Societies. Those members interested please complete the following slip and forward it to the Hon. Secretary.

Member's name and address _____

Activities _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due on 1st January, to Hon. Treasurer (address on first page). Please save us the trouble and expense of reminders.

- Please note:-
1. The subscription is 50p for everybody except
 - a) life members
 - b) Hon. members
 2. If you pay by Banker's Order please
 - a) ensure that it is for 50p
 - b) that it is dated 1st January
 3. Members wishing to receive the "Maidstonian" should write to Mr. N.W. Newcombe at the School, enclosing 35p which just covers costs. Postal Orders or cheques should be made out to Maidstone Grammar School Amenities Account.
 4. If you change your address, please let the Treasurer know.

Best wishes for 1973

Hon. Treasurer: B. Wolcome,
17 Northleigh Close,
Loose, Maidstone.

Hon. Secretary: J.P.T. Martin
33 Royal Avenue,
Tonbridge.

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY

I enclose 50p (.....p if for more than one year), being my subscription for the year 1973 (and/or 1974)

signed

Name _____

Address _____

Year of leaving

Please tick here if you would like a Banker's Order form

Mr. Holyman Presentation

To Hon. Treasurer.

I wish to make a donation towards the presentation to Mr. Holyman (to be made at the Annual Supper 1973)

Name _____

Address _____

Year of leaving

Donation _____

A G E N D A

for the Annual General Meeting of the
Old Maidstonian Society, to be held on Friday, 26 January
at the School at 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 1972 A.G.M.
3. Matters arising
4. Reports:
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer - adoption of accounts
5. Proposals for Hon. membership
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Committee
8. Any other business