

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY

JUBILEE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1980

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Annual Supper 1980

This year's Annual Supper, held on 28th March, was the most successful event of the Society for many years. More than 150 OMs turned up for a Cordon Bleu meal and a very pleasant evening. The supper was hard work for the few but they were well rewarded by the large turnout. The food was masterminded by HM and Mrs Mayor and we were very grateful for the help of Mrs Pettit and the ladies of the PTA.

The President, Ken Loveland, welcomed the guests and introduced Bill Moore, himself a past president, to propose the toast to the 'School'. Next we all sang a rousing version of the School Song and were grateful for the piano accompaniment played by Dennis Loveland.

The Head and Captain of School, Taher Iqbal, responded to the toast on behalf of the School. The Alex Stewart Memorial Tankard was this year presented to David Minter for his contribution to sport in the School during 1979. Ken Loveland also had pleasure in presenting an OM tie to Alan Blake who retired from the staff of MGS in 1979.

The evening was concluded by the induction of the Society's President for 1980/81 Alfie Johnson, a very popular OM who we are pleased to have as our President and look forward to his supper evening next year.

If you have any comments about past or future suppers we should like to hear from you. It is the main event of the year and we hope we can make future suppers as successful as this one.

Our New President

Alfie Johnson attended MGS from 1944 to 1949. After leaving the school he was an apprentice with Segas until 1954 and then served in the Royal Engineers until 1956.

After leaving the army, he studied at Westminster Technical College and Maidstone Technical College achieving Chartered Engineer Status and Membership of Gas, Mechanical and Power Institutions.

For the past six years he has been Segas Area Service Manager (Kent) with responsibility for the safety requirements of some 360 000 customers.

Alfie is a great believer in community/business/social activities with a fairly proven record in organizing fund raising schemes for awards and gifts to the less fortunate sectors of society. His hobbies include fishing, cricket and rugby football and he was recently USA Tour Manager for Maidstone RFC. Alfie is married and has two sons and a daughter. He is 46 years old.

Jubilee Notes

Unfortunately there was virtually no response to the appeal for notes on life at Barton Road in the early days. However, Howard Silcock (1927-34) writes from Nazeing

in Essex: "One particular recollection which I have is of numerous visits to the new playing field, for the purpose of stone-picking! Although this became rather monotonous, there was a certain satisfaction in seeing the little piles of stones grow as different sections of the ground were tackled. The new school was, of course, built on one corner of the field.

I do not recall much of the actual move from Tonbridge Road, but I do remember being impressed by the new classrooms with their modern 'blackboards', as well as the laboratories and the school hall. I remember Mr Philips' (Beta) very efficient system of yellow and blue cards for issuing school books.

Another memory is of doing PT every morning under none other than the famous Sgt. Bennett. To conclude, one of the attractions of moving to Barton Road was the proximity to the Mote ground for cricket week!"

Nicknames

Charles Waters (1917-28) writes: "The Maidstonian Newsletter is always of interest, although there are not many of those mentioned who come within my ken since I joined the school in May 1917 and left in July 1928 - a total of thirty four terms at the same school, which is probably a record of some sort!

In that time I came across a number of nicknames which are not in your list and may be of interest to you.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| BULL | R. St. H. Trendell, who with his brother Giles was among the demi-gods in 1917. |
| TREACLE-BELLY | Dr. Henneker, the music master, who always came to school in a top hat and 'frock coat', and who composed the music for the school song. |
| NYM | Webb, the caretaker, who was a corporal in the O.f.C. (now the CCF) -hence 'good Corporal Nym' from Shakespeare's Henry V. He used to play a bugle in the O.T.C. Band and was the only N.C.O. to have worn a moustache at that time - though Goodness knows how many do so now! |
| STINKER | Mr. Thorne, the French master, who was responsible for the nickname..... |
| THE BRAW | Sgt. Bennett, whom you all know, although he seems to be called only 'Sarge' by later generations. |
| FISHY | Evernden |
| BULL'S FLESH | South (also known as WEEDY) |
| THE BUG | Clemeston, G. |
| GUTS | Thompson |
| CLIP | Fuller |
| CHEESE | Topley |
| TUBAH | Conway |
| CAMEL | Hinge, Norman. Renowned as the 1st. X1 goalie. |
| OLD P. | Mr. Proctor, our notable Maths Master, whose standard punishment was to 'Stand you out' and who had been known to have the whole class standing out. |
| GOBBO | Mr. Webb, the woodwork Master, who followed..... |
| CHIPS | Mr. Deering (a more obvious nickname, but a quaint and rather endearing character, who lived in that part of the School which was really the Headmaster's house, as the acting Head..... |
| FREDDIE | Mr. Lister lived away from the School in Bower Mount Road. |
| PIMPLE | Burgess - I don't know why! |
| PODGY | Wilmshurst - for more obvious reasons! |
| FIGS | P.A.W. Howe |
| DECCA | E.C. Malins |
| JUMBO | King |
| PIG | Stuffins |
| NUTTY or | |
| NUTTY NOUGAT | Mr. Woolgar, the Headmaster." |

OM Sport
Rugby

School 12 Old Maidstonians 12

The annual OMs rugby match turned out to be an enthralling encounter - the best in fact for many years. The school feared they might be outgunned by a strong OMs team which included several recent Colts and 19 Group county players. The old boys were ably led by the venerable Roger Craske.

The school took the lead immediately from a superb forty-yard drop goal by captain and fly-half Philip Davies. Twenty minutes later after much cut and thrust the school went further ahead when Davies converted a penalty after a period of constant pressure by the 1st XV.

Play was of a high quality and the school showed great resilience, especially in defence. However the lightning speed of Alun Glasson eventually gave him a try in the corner, which was unconverted. Midway through the second half Davies added another penalty, which was countered almost immediately by a second try from Glasson; 9 - 8 to the school. Ten minutes from the end of this splendidly absorbing match Davies kicked another towering drop goal to put the school 12 - 8 in front. With time running out it looked as if the school was about to gain a remarkable victory, but Glasson (again) equalised virtually on time. This left Roger Craske with a chance to convert and win the match. From half-way out and with meticulous care he managed to shave the outside of the post leaving honours shared in a very fair draw.

Cricket

The annual cricket match will be held on Wednesday, 23rd July at 2.00 pm.

Tennis

The Headmaster wishes it to be known that the School tennis courts are available for the use of OMs free of charge.

News of Old Maidstonians

Occasionally I receive a letter which is in some way out of the ordinary or which contains more than news of someone's current employer. Peter Baylis's letter from Zambia is, I think, worth printing in full.

"Encouraged by the most recent newsletter I thought I'd let you know what I have been doing in the last couple of years.

Basically there has been no change - I continue to work for De Beers looking for diamonds as a field geologist. However, some interesting things happened in 1979. We have been trying to prospect the south west region of Zambia, but have been severely hampered by the war situation there. (The South West Africa Peoples Organization use this area for a base for infiltration into Namibia; and the South African Army and Air Force frequently carry out pre-emptive and hot pursuit raids well into Zambia.) This is a little publicized conflict compared to the guerilla war against Rhodesia.

Things were not too bad until late August, when the South African Air Force mistook my camp for that of a SWAPO group, and bombed the camp to oblivion! It was something of a miracle that no-one was killed (and not for want of effort on the part of the pilots either), but the camp was totally destroyed. Prospecting camps tend to be highly inflammable anyway.

Fortunately I was absent from camp at the time of the raid so that we had one useable Landrover to effect an evacuation to base camp, some 120 km away. The fire must have been quite spectacular as two thousand litres of petrol and several hundred litres of diesel and oils were destroyed; one of the petrol tanks, in fact, received a direct hit

and blew up, contributing to the destruction of the stores and my office. A Landrover also received a direct hit and we kept finding bits of it some distance away.

The jets returned later to have a look, and I can assure anyone who has not experienced it that it is unnerving to be caught in the open, defenceless, against an all-seeing opponent.

I have now moved on to a relatively peaceful area and life continues more or less as normal in the Bush. (Back to dodging elephants rather than aeroplanes!). The general political situation in this area remains in flux however. Altogether an interesting time and place to be working in."

Christopher Ames (1975) was married at All Saints' Church on 23 February; His wife, Jennifer, is working for her Ph.D. in Food Science.

Philip Ames (1977) is training as an Assessor with Reed's. He recently gained his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, and is also doing some instructing of others for the award.

Mark Blundell (1976) is going into merchant banking after taking his finals.

Alan Brice (1976) recently wrote to Bob Rylands for a reference for a post as Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Khartoum, in the Sudan. We do not whether or not he was successful. He has done a variety of temporary jobs since leaving Durham University and is engaged to be married to a teacher-in-training at Herne Bay.

Martin Brice (1972) works as a journalist in Ealing.

Jeremy Cooper (1969) qualified as a barrister and then did about two years at the Camden Community Law Centre. Subsequently he move to Florence, to research into legal services in Europe and North America as part of a European Universities Team. Present address 53 Christchurch Avenue, NW6.

Peter Crumpton (1954) is reported in the "K.M." as having gained his Open University Degree.

Peter Edwards (1956) responded to the call for news from modest correspondents. After leaving school he opted for a career in journalism and after spells on the Daily Express and abroad he rose to the "dizzy heights" of editor of the Kent Messenger in 1973, a position he held until 1978 when he deserted newspapers to form his own public relations consultancy, Edwards Harvey Associates. Peter sent news of Len Hart (c. 1956) now a Superintendent in the Kent Constabulary based in the Medway towns; Gordon Bonner leader of Maidstone Borough Council and an architect living in Buckland Road; Jeremy Hindle, Chairman of the council's Arts and Recreation Committee and Ron Key, Principal Assistant Environmental Health Officer for Maidstone Council.

J.S. Featherstone (1925) recently wrote to the Headmaster. What prompted him to do so was the sight of the School Minibus passing his kitchen window (he now lives at 2 Ashford Way, Pontesbury, Shropshire SY5 0QT).

Michael Gay (1972) works as a loss adjuster. He has been married for about a year.

Richard Goodwin (1975) and his Polish wife Yola are working in Oxford; they recently visited the Rylandses, afterwards going on tour to Snowdonia and collecting materials for their garden on the way back.

Alan Grossman (1974) has recently qualified as a Chartered accountant.

Peter Gow (1973) is working for the advertising agency "Yellowhammer". He lives at 3 Wellington Avenue, Hounslow, and is much preoccupied with D-I-Y!

Bernard Hands (1925?) kindly spent a day acting as guide and chauffeur to N.W.N. when the latter was visiting the Principality of Andorra, where Bernard now lives in pleasant retirement after working for many years in the building industry. His address is Casa del Pino, Xixirella, La Massana, Andorra.

Robert Hey (1978) recently came to the School to talk to a group of boys about career prospects. He has been working at the RN Dockyard, Chatham, and is now being sponsored by them for a university course, probably at Newcastle.

Geoffrey Hosking (1960) has just had a book published called "Beyond Socialist Realism : Soviet Fiction since 'Ivan Denisovich'" (Granada/Elek £9.50)

Christopher Huxley (1965) whose nephew is now a pupil in the Third Form, works for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in HongKong, where his principal duties are connected with the very lucrative illegal import and export of wild life. We understand that this is a pretty perilous situation, in which one is liable to tangle with some fairly unpleasant characters.

Bryan Jenner (1962) is back from the Netherlands, and is working as Director of Studies in a Cambridgeshire language school. With his wife and two children, Jane and Iain, he lives at 20 Third Drove, Little Downham, Ely.

Simon Knight (1976) is reported to be contemplating a post with Whitbread- Fremlin, in the Kent area.

John Large (1952) is an Estate Agent. He has a son, Andrew, in the Fourth Form.

David Leworthy (1962) has become the General Secretary of the Kent County Association of Change-Ringers.

Antony Mahony (1973) did his teaching-practice at Bicester School, said to be about the largest comprehensive school in England (2 200 pupils) where his Head of Department was G... ("Joe") Jannetta, formerly of the MGS staff. Antony now teaches at Lord Williams' School, Thame, teaching mainly the 11-13 year-old pupils, but also some Sixth Forms.

Dominic Mahony (1978) is doing a good deal of student drama at Exeter.

Simon Marsh (1976) has been working in the Northern Ireland Office in Whitehall. He has visited Northern Ireland once or twice, on one occasion being given a car-tour of the trouble-spots by the RUC, and he was expecting to be permanently based in Belfast.

Christopher Milsted (1978) is at the Harper Adams Agricultural College in Shropshire.

Derek Rowland (1954) who has recently been promoted to Lieutenant-Commander, RN, wrote to Bob Rylands saying that he was still serving in HMS "Collingwood", the Navy's weapon engineering school but was shortly to transfer to HMS "Plymouth" at Chatham as Weapon Engineer Officer; after setting everything up there, he will hand over to someone else to enjoy all the trips to exotic places while he joins another ship to repeat the process. He gives unstinting praise to the school CCF for the basic service training he received there. (Though there wasn't a Naval section when he was a boy at the school; in fact Derek himself was instrumental in getting the Naval section on a firm footing, giving up much time to helping with its training in the early days).

Martin Rugman (1975) has gone into the banking profession.

Paul Ryan sends news of J.R.Allibon (1972) who is currently working in Grenoble, France. John is engaged in experimental work using neutron beams to examine the atomic structure of crystals. Those of his contemporaries who knew him wouldn't recognise him now for not only does he speak French like a native, but he is a very good skier. For anyone wanting to get in touch with him and his wife Tessa, his address is 32 Rue du Veymont, Poisat, 38320 Eybens, France.

Jeremy Sanderson (1978) is living a full and active life at Sheffield University; he has done almost two years with the OTC there, including periods of attachment to Regular

and Territorial forces as a Platoon Commander, and he has also indulged in hill-walking, caving, running and active church membership. He is studying genetics and biochemistry, and is on the staff-student committee and is treasurer of the Biochemistry Society. In his letter he mentions Jonathan Swaffield, who is doing a somewhat similar course.

Michael Saunders (1974) is working for Unilever at Ashford.

John Sayer, the president of the Secondary Heads Association expressed his concern over the lunch-time supervision of pupils in schools. His remarks gained wide coverage in the national press.

Duncan Smith (1975) is working for a B.Ed., and has recently toured the Far East with a Kent Rugby side.

Colin Terry (1976) is now working in marine insurance.

Andrew Tomlin (1971) has had seven years with Larking and Larking as an accountant, but has recently been trying for a job with BP. If successful, he was hoping to be working with Ray Harwood. Andrew's address is 71 Street End Road, Chatham.

Alan Walder (1966) is teaching English for Berlitz in France.

Simon Watson (1976) is reading Law at Guildford.

The New School

On a Monday afternoon just under fifty years ago - 28 July 1930 - Lord Cornwallis was met at the Gatehouse by the Mayor of Maidstone and the Headmaster of the School and 'having inspected the Guard of Honour, composed of the School Officers' Training Corps and Boy Scouts, he was conducted to the School Hall, where the ceremony was performed... The hymn 'accept it, Lord, our effort this' having been sung, the archdeacon of Canterbury dedicated the new buildings and offered up a prayer for the School.'

Lord Cornwallis declared the buildings open, saying that he was sure all present felt that they were engaged in a notable event in the modern history of Maidstone. He hoped the School would ever retain its individuality.....

Since its origins in the Thirteenth century, Maidstone Grammar School has occupied five sites. In 1871 the School moved from the Old Fraternity Hall at the bottom of Earl Street to the Tonbridge Road, where it remained until 1930. Meanwhile in 1922 Brunswick House on Buckland Hill was acquired to accommodate the Junior School which had come into existence in 1913 on the eve of the Great War. During the 1920s it became apparent that if the School was to fulfil its functions in the broadest possible sense more ample buildings than the Tonbridge Road ones would be needed. A moving spirit was the Headmaster - from 1925 to 1941 - A.J. Woolgar, who began the School's long series of University successes, though in the days before state-subsidized grants many of the boys still had to forego such a career. When Alderman George Foster Clark made a gift of part of his estate at the top of Barton Road in 1924, the move was in sight.

The Easter term 1930 saw the final run-down of Tonbridge Road, with the sale of certain furniture and effects. E.C. Katcliffe, who was at the School from 1921 to 1930, remembers buying a bench from the woodwork shop for 2/6d and a desk from the art room for 1/-.

The move took place smoothly the following term. Indeed the Headmaster was so keen on a peaceful atmosphere prevailing at Barton Road that the boys on arrival were instructed to change into gym shoes. Stools in the laboratories, too, were fitted with rubber tips. The Junior School, from Brunswick House, was marched in quasi-military fashion through the main streets of the town.

The South Eastern Gazette described the new buildings in glowing terms: The main building of the School is rectangular in form, enclosing a spacious quadrangle. In fact the external view as seen from Barton Road gives only an inadequate idea of the spacious area and stately magnificence of the building.

On a personal note, E.B.Ratcliffe writes:-

The School's activities swung into action without, so far as I recall, a hitch, and with a new spirit of pride in the Maidstone Grammar School. This was prevalent among staff and boys and reflects the fact that we were now housed in an efficient, well-planned and spacious academy. We had wonderful premises, new equipment throughout, new books, numerous pupils who were to become nationally famous (like R.Beeching who in 1930-31 won an entrance scholarship to the Royal College of Science and later applied his talents to the reorganization of British Railways), and a staff who did more than teach, among them G.B.Phillips, C.W.R.Hodges, L.C.Julier, H.B.Matthews, T.P.Gutteridge, to mention but a few. They were guides, mentors and friends - a team under the unassuming and dedicated Headmaster, A.J.Woolgar, and a Board of Governors who governed with distinction.

The golden years of the School, the new enthusiasm, were triggered off by the move...

At the formal opening of the new building on 28 July 1930, prizes were distributed to the boys by the Mayoress of Maidstone.

News of Former Staff

Pauline Hallanzay (Glover) gained her M.A. in Education last year at Durham. Both she and Rigo are still teaching the north, and the family are flourishing.

S.W.Johnson is retiring this year from the position of Headmaster of Hulme Grammar School, Oldham. He has bought a "tiny, poky bungalow" in Stalbridge, Dorset.

James Malden is enjoying life very much at Bryanston School. He is very busy, and is responsible for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme there.

Brian Page continues his academic life; he has recently visited Finland and Sweden in the course of his work.

Alan Philpot is Head of Maths and Science at Cheltenham College of Education, after the recent amalgamation.

Bob Rylands is still immensely zestful about his retirement in darkest Shropshire, though even his cheerfulness was faintly dented at the turn of the year when power cuts, floods and a breakdown in the central heating all afflicted him simultaneously! He has played host to innumerable visitors and will no doubt continue to enjoy meeting any OMs who are in the vicinity of Kempton.

Stephen Yates continues his mysterious existence in Andorra. We understand that on one of his recent visits to this country a temporary aberration caused him to occupy the right-hand side of the road at the same time that an innocent Englishman was peacefully driving on the left in the opposite direction. We believe that Stephen now has a new car.

School News

Life is full of changes, and OMs may or may not be surprised to learn that we are intending to have Speech Day for 1980 in July instead of the traditional December. The date chosen is Wednesday 16 July, and we hope to have a somewhat different programme from the usual. The event will take place in the evening, and outside in the quadrangle. Instead of a single Guest of Honour we hope to have representatives of different periods in the School's fifty-year occupation of the Barton Road site.

Another event this summer to mark the Jubilee is the OMs Cheese and Wine Party, on the same day as the School Summer Fete, Saturday 19th July.

To take up again the theme of change, OMs will be glad to know that at last work is beginning on the extensions to the second quadrangle. The contractors moved in just before Easter, and are scheduled to complete the work in time for occupation in September 1981. The new block will contain much-needed Sixth-form accommodation, as well as greatly improved facilities for craft work; at the same time, alterations in the old block will provide additional space for science teaching and an extension to the staff Common Room facilities.

Yet another development has been the miraculous overnight transformation of the time-honoured institution of School Dinner into something rich and strange. OMs will scarcely believe that their successors of today can now decide between the set meal and a variety of appetising snacks, sandwiches, pies, hamburgers etc., as well as a range of beverages. Our canteen supervisor, Mrs Brotherwood (wife of an OM, Paul Brotherwood) and her staff have done a magnificent job in adapting to the new order; you certainly won't eat as well at the motorway cafeterias. Boys (and staff) now pay for their meals as they buy them, using actual money which disappears into a proper professional cash-register. All very simple - and tasty too!

The "musical" which was performed on May 1, 2 and 3 was a tremendous success. Stephen Telfer's witty libretto and Nicholas Drewe's extremely effective music must have surprised anyone who expected amateurishness from a "home-grown" product, and Barry Langston's production and Trevor Webb's musical direction were of the high standard that we have come to take for granted.

Staff Changes

During the year Dr J.W.Doberski and Mr A. Christian left for new posts, and Mr I.Naismith unfortunately had to relinquish his post through illness. Their places have (respectively) been taken by Mr K.J.Derrett, Miss P.E.Cooke and Mr J.E.Williams, all of whom we have been very happy to welcome. We must also congratulate Mr P.D.Evans on his recent marriage, and Mr T.A.Phillips on the birth of his second child, and commiserate with Mr B.G.Malcolm on a recent football injury which, we hope, will not keep him out of action for very long.

RECENT LEAVERS' MEETING AT THE WHEATSHLEEF PUBLIC HOUSE, SUTTON ROAD AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 1980.

Barton Road Golden Jubilee Celebration

This year we celebrate fifty years of MGS at Barton Road. To mark the occasion we are having an evening celebration with cheese and wine on the Headmaster's lawn. The date to book in your diary is 19 July 1980. Tickets cost £2 each inclusive of cheese and wine. Why not come back to MGS for a look around at the School as it is now and reminisce about your days there? (If indeed you were a Barton Road boy). Tonbridge Road boys and Corpus Christi spirits are of course also invited. Bring your wife or girlfriend and show her where your name is (or isn't) in gold leaf.

If the evening is wet the celebration will be held in the School Hall. Wet or dry, the evening will start at 8.00 pm.

During the afternoon there will be a fete on the school field. Why not come along to this as well?

Tickets can be obtained by post by completing the tear off slip below or by calling into Colin Haylor, Ashplants Cycle Shop, Granada Buildings, Maidstone or Peter Mayor, Mayor's Men's Outfitters, Gabriels Hill, Maidstone.

To Colin Haylor, 52 Brewer Street, Maidstone, Kent.

Please send me ticket(s) for the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

I enclose £..... Cheque/Postal Order.

From: Name..... Year left MGS.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....

Subscription Form

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: Roger Brown,
Hon. Treasurer,
7, Greenfields,
Willington Street,
Maidstone,
Kent ME15 8LT.

I enclose £1 (£..... if for more than one year) being my subscription to the OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY for 1980 and/or 1981.

Signed.....

Address.....
.....
.....
.....

Year of leaving.....

Banker's Order required - YES/NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

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