

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1982

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The Casual Country Evening held on Saturday, 12th September was a great success. John Winch received us at his home near Biddenden and, after a glass of wine, we enjoyed a choice of beef or chicken main course followed by delicious desserts. Entertainment was provided by the school jazz band and a barber's shop quartet. Thanks, John, for your generous hospitality.

We did manage to provide a few painters for the pavilion! Much primrose paint was applied to the walls and ceilings on one Saturday morning. On the subject of the pavilion, OM's will be interested to know that the Society has donated £400 towards the repair of the floor. Some acknowledgement of your generosity will be made in due course - a plaque on the wall, perhaps.

The Recent Leavers' Function was held on 17th December, 1981 when last year's Sixth Form were invited back to tour the new Sixth Form Block and to receive their 'A' level certificates. Apart from the obvious accommodation for the senior pupils, the building comprises proper workshops (previously, technical drawing was taught in the canteen), adaptations to introduce or extend computing, chemistry and biology teaching, and, for the first time in forty years, a sick room. For those with an interest in historical facts, the craft block was delayed in starting by the discovery of a major anti-tank ditch crossing the site. There were hitches; one being the discovery that the new public address system could be heard all over the neighbourhood! OM's will have the chance to see the new buildings for themselves at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on 29th January 1982 at 7.30 pm.

Changes

It is with some regret that I have to notify members of a few changes. Bryan Welcome, for so long a Committee member and at present the Chairman, has decided not to continue on the Committee. We shall all miss him and thank him especially for his work arranging the Annual Suppers. Incidentally, this year the Annual Supper will be on Friday, April 2nd, tickets £5. Please use the form at the end of the newsletter when applying.

The newsletter itself has undergone some changes. Alan Hart, former OM President, has very kindly paid for the production of the newsletter for many issues and the committee thought it only fair that we should relieve him of this. We are also seeking a new newsletter editor, and we would be pleased to see anybody who would like to help the Society in any way at the AGM. We cannot expect the same people to maintain the Society endlessly. Are you willing to help?

Staff News

Mr.G.W.Knight - Christmas 1981 will see the departure of another long-serving member of the staff with the retirement of Mr.G.W.Knight.

He came to M.G.S. from Goldsmith's College, University of London, in the autumn of 1947, having previously served for four years during the war in the Royal Artillery: most of his service was in North Africa and Italy with the Eighth Army.

For much of his thirty-four years in the school he has ruled majestically in the workshop, and if the rod he used was not actually of iron, past generations of

recalcitrant pupils may be excused for missing it. In earlier years he took some classes in P.T. (for P.E. had not been thought of then), and more recently has developed Engineering Drawing to take its place alongside traditional subjects in the curriculum.

Outside the classroom he will be remembered best by generations of Old Maidstenians as a distinguished figure in R.A.F. uniform on parade days, occasionally with an impressive row of medals clinking on his chest; or wearing a motley collection of khaki and light blue when field day training so dictated. Originally commissioned into the school's A.T.C. squadron, he commanded the R.A.F. section of the C.C.F. for a while; but for a long time he helped with, and later commanded, the Basic Section which evolved into the Initial Training Wing. The two bars to his Cadet Forces Medal underline the fact that most cadets in the last twenty-five years owe their military grounding to him.

It has been said that he could have made his fortune on the stage. Certain it is that he is a story-teller without equal; a man who can always choose the apt phrase or nickname to meet any situation; and one whose powers of hyperbole have never been surpassed. He is a first-class teacher, a staunch supporter of worthwhile standards, and a good friend.

In saying that we at the school will be very sorry to lose him, we wish him and Olive a long and happy retirement which has been well earned.

W.J.C.Caley.

Those wishing to contribute to a retirement present to Mr. Knight are welcome to do so. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter.

Hugh and Beryl MacCallum have been involved in a car crash. Hugh suffered a broken bone and both were "impressively bruised".

Norman Newcombe is enjoying his retirement and trying to clear twenty-eight years' accumulation of goods in his house. He has bought a house on the outskirts of Velez-Malaga in the South of Spain. He hopes that people holidaying in that area will go and see him. Full address will follow.....

#### News of OM's

Roger Beal qualified as a doctor from Charing Cross Hospital and recently did a locum in the Casualty Department of the West Kent Hospital.

Brian Callaghan has almost completed a Ph.D. thesis on Daniel Defoe. He is teaching at Maidstone School for Boys.

Gary Carcary (1976) has been selected for a course aboard the schooner "Malcolm Miller". Allied Breweries, who run the course, aim to exploit a sense of adventure and to develop responsibility and self-discipline in those attending. Gary is still connected to the Blue Eagles Youth football team. Age ranges of the six teams are from under 10 to under 16. Offers of matches from any other managers to 29 Devon Road, Shepway, Maidstone ME15 7EW.

Meteorologist Dr. John Gribbin was mentioned in the papers recently. He concurred with the views of Russian scientists who maintained that a full-scale nuclear war could leave Britain ice-bound for all but a brief summer.

Ian Hall (1975) is teaching at Bushey Meads School, Hertfordshire. He says he has a great admiration for those who can cope with teaching. He is looking for a job in computing!

Scott Hills-Johnes is working in London with adolescents in trouble. Previously, he had been living in Norway. His younger brother, Neill, is now living in Australia.

G.A.Husking has finished his year as Gast professor at the Slavic Institute in Cologne.

He says that his P.G.S. German stood up well to the strain of delivering regular lectures on Russian Literature. He is now returning to Essex University.

Richard R. Jeffery (1931) visited the school during the Easter holidays, 1981.

Mark Kelleher is repeating a year at Manchester University having spent some time in hospital because of two accidents. His first mishap was when he fell off a cliff when climbing (scrambling, not the real thing!) and this was followed by landing in an ornamental pond on a broken bottle! Apparently the social secretary of the hall of residence is always thrown into the pond.....

Philip Langridge was praised for his performance in Haydn's "Creation" at the Royal Festival Hall. The reporter praised Philip's ability to "turn recitative into news".

K.E. Loveland has ceased to be President of the Maidstone Scout Council and has been replaced by a former member of staff, Mr. J.A. Skinner.

Simon Marsh has taken up a job in the Northern Ireland Treasury. His brother, Richard is now a Sub-Lieutenant R.N. and is at Dartmouth.

Gary Maskell (1977) has commenced a B.Sc. in Estate Management at the Thames Polytechnic. Previously he followed a T.E.C. Building Course and studied for 'A' levels at night school.

James Hoss is interested in becoming a researcher at the House of Commons.

Simon Oldfield was involved in the 1981 Oxford University expedition to the Ecuador. His responsibility was for the botanical side of the expedition.

Leslie Parris has been mentioned in the news recently in connection with paintings and drawings attributed to John Constable. A display of these works - now attributed to Constable's oldest son, Lionel - is to be held at the Tate Gallery in February.

A.C. Went (1979) has now finished his course at Welbeck and has gone to Southampton University to read Aeronautical Engineering on an Army Bursary.

Nigel Wood was married in August.

OMs will be sorry to hear of the death of Martin Brookfield.

We have received news of the following OMs' successes: (awarded degrees)

E.M. Jessop	Durham	A.J. Little	Leicester
A.P. Chuck	Reading	J. Stewart	Portsmouth Poly
N.P.D. Archer	Swansea	P.R. Matthews	Liverpool
P. Eldridge	Durham	S.J. Gregory	Sheffield
S.J. Matthews	Essex	N. Reynolds	Warwick
W.H. Oldfield	City	I.R. Payne	Birmingham
J.H. Rees	City	M.J. Wallis	Kent
S.J. Sharpe	Leicester		

The following were awarded Oxford degrees

P.J. Heather	New College	F.G. Cutler	Pembroke
R. Solly	Magdalene	N. Richardson	St. Edmund Hall
P. Wynn-Owen	University College	S.J. Darke	University College
S.W.D. Collinson	St. Anne's	D.F. Keegan	Keble

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Two dates to remember

29 January - A.G.M.

2 April - Annual Supper