

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1985

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Having introduced the January 1984 newsletter with the statement that the Old Maidstonian Society "is alive and well", it is somewhat disappointing to see that this edition is only half the size of that issued twelve months ago.

Perhaps 1984 was not quite what George Orwell had foretold. Anyway, 1985 is now here, and the Committee hope that all Old Maidstonians, wherever they are and whatever they are doing, will have a happy and prosperous new year. If you are involved in a project, changing the direction of your career, visiting an unexplored part of the world, or completing a degree course, or if you would just like to give a summary of your post-M.G.S. life, then we should like to hear from you.

It is, again, possible to get a copy of the school magazine, 'The Maidstonian'. This contains a variety of articles on school activities and makes very interesting reading. Find out what is happening in the societies, what the C.C.F. sections have been doing, how the sports teams fared; plus a collection of original contributions from present pupils, and much more. To order a copy, please see the back page of this newsletter.

Editor.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Annual Supper will take place on the last Friday in March, and I look forward to seeing many of you again then. Probably groups of friends from the same year will as usual arrange to meet each other at this function. I should be specially pleased to see some of those who once explored with me the elegance and the challenges of mathematics, and some of those with whom, as Senior Scouts, I shared those memorable expeditions in the mountains of Scotland, Norway, Iceland and other countries.

I wish all Old Maidstonians a very happy and successful year in 1985.

Alan Blake.

RALPH KEMP

It is with much regret that we record the death of Ralph Kemp in late October, after a short illness. The President represented the Society at the funeral in Whitstable.

Ralph came to Maidstone to teach classics in 1935, and, apart from war-time naval service, remained at the school until he retired in 1973. He will be remembered as scholar, sportsman, traveller, philatelist and raconteur - but, most importantly, as a fine school-master. Throughout his career he retained a fresh enthusiasm for all aspects of school life, and a keen and sympathetic concern for the needs and interests of individual boys.

For many years Ralph was in charge of school games, and he retained responsibility for cricket for thirty years. Up to his retirement he continued to play for the Staff XI in their annual match against the School.

Many Old Maidstonians will look back with pleasure and gratitude on their visits to Ralph's home at Whitstable, and a few on expeditions with him to Greece, which he knew and loved so well. Others will remember encouraging his tendency to enliven his lessons with anecdotes and reminiscences of his travels and of his naval service.

Ralph enjoyed a very active retirement, travelling the world and revisiting Greece regularly. He continued to serve Kent cricket as an umpire up to last summer. His final visit to Maidstone Grammar School was in July, when he was one of the umpires in the annual cricket match between the School and the Old Maidstonian Society.

Meminisse juvabit.

#### TOM GUTTERIDGE

Mr. T.P. Gutteridge, who taught Physics at the school from 1919 to 1961, celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 30th December 1984. We offer him our congratulations and very best wishes. Tom Gutteridge was President of the Old Maidstonian Society in 1974, and endowed the annual Award which bears his name, to assist science students in undertaking travel projects to broaden their interests.

#### A DIG IN ISRAEL by KEVIN LATHAM

The Old Maidstonian Society Committee were pleased to make the Tom Gutteridge Award to Kevin Latham, who now reports on the project in which he was involved during 1984:

"I was in Israel for much of the year, and in the summer took part in the on-going archaeological excavations at Garila in the Golan Heights. Garila was a town of about nine thousand or more inhabitants, getting its name from the Hebrew word for a camel because of the shape of the extremely steep hill on whose side it was built. The inhabitants were involved in the Jewish uprisings against Roman occupation in 67 A.D. The Romans attacked the town, breaching the walls and forcing the panicking citizens to the top of the hill, where, with little alternative, they turned and attacked the unsuspecting Romans. The Romans suffered heavy casualties and were forced out of the town. The town was besieged and a second more organised attack by the Romans came shortly afterwards. This time the citizens at the top of the hill found themselves leaderless and were no match for their attackers.

"According to the main source of the history of Garila - Josephus the Roman commander and historian - the Jews 'threw themselves from the rocks'. This has been interpreted as a mass suicide, but the archaeologists of the site believe this unlikely, and that enormous numbers of Jews killed here probably died fighting, and in trying to flee hurriedly fell via the steep precipitous cliffs on the other side of the hill. The site lay unoccupied to the present day, and was completely covered until first excavations shortly after the Six Day War."

#### NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

ANDREW ADAMS (1979) works for Barclays Bank plc in London, and married in 1984.

PETER ARMSTRONG (1980) obtained an Honours degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Manchester, and is now working for British Rail on their power supplies. Whilst studying he ran for the university's cross-country team.

SEAN ARNOLD (1979) has been awarded the Robert Garraway Rice Pupillage Prize by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, following his Hamsworth Entrance Exhibition.

MARTIN BAGNESS (1977) won the men's elite class in the Australian orienteering championships at Mount Clere, near Canberra, in October. The victory came at the end of the British orienteering squad's three-week tour; earlier he had been a member of the relay team that finished second, behind Denmark. 1984 has been a successful year for Martin, which has seen him win the British Championship, the Midlands and Scottish Championships and the Jan Kjellstrom International Trophy.

JULIAN BOND (1978) is training in market research with R.B.L., a division of Unilever. He, as a trainee, was asked to teach the statistics on the course because of his mathematical ability!

KEVIN BROOKS (1981) is studying at the London School of Economics and is Chairman of the Maidstone Labour Party, in whose activities he has been involved for the past five years. On December 6th he stood in the Maidstone Council by-election for the Park Wood ward. At twenty-one years of age, Kevin has become the youngest Councillor in the town's history. He is particularly interested in public transport.

NICHOLAS CAVANAGH (1980) is working at London University doing post-graduate studies in engineering. He gained a 2(i) in engineering at Liverpool University in 1983.

NEIL CHATTERTON (1981) graduated in estate agency, but is now spending some time travelling, including several months on St. Helena.

STEPHEN COCKINGS (1981) is back in England after spending a year doing research at the University of California on the San Diego campus.

BRIAN COOK (1968) joined Radio City Liverpool as Programme Controller at the beginning of November. He left Leicester University in 1973 and started work with the B.B.C., producing programmes and reporting for 'Nationwide'. In 1982 he switched channels and joined the I.B.A. at Saxon Radio in Bury St. Edmunds.

ALAN COULSON (1970) is now working in Calgary, Alberta, Canada with the Bank of Montreal as Credit Administration Manager. Prior to this Alan was at the bank's office in London, Ontario. In June he is moving to Edmonton.

GEOFFREY COURT (1966) is now headmaster of Culloden School, Poplar, London.

BYRON CRITTENDEN (1949) is a career banker and was involved closely with the planning of the three-bank merger that created the National Westminster Group in 1970. Rather than continue in the usual branch banking system, Byron moved over to the insurance side of the business. At that time the service was in a mess, with no sense of direction.

"The first battle was to convince the bank's own branches that its insurance experts really were good enough for their customers. Until they were convinced of that, managers would continue to refer customer insurance queries outside the bank. We had to build up our credibility. A branch manager wouldn't risk jeopardising a customer relationship if he had no confidence in our brokerage, and I inherited an ingrained wariness about our expertise."

About ten years ago the old office was vacated to allow the bank's prestige tower to be built. The department moved to Bristol. Today National Westminster Insurance Service is one of the largest brokers in the country. Nearly 500 staff are employed and a computer network keeps them in touch with nearly 1100 insurance companies around the world.

"We weren't very popular in the beginning but now it's quite the reverse. We are a prime market for insurance companies particularly when they have new policies of interest to our customers. In many areas, because of our size and technical strength we are able to negotiate effectively and obtain schemes and terms at rates which allow us to pass on some of the economies of scale."

During the past decade over 750,000 policies have been arranged and the current rate is 150,000 per annum. In 1983 more than £1 billion was placed in life insurance. Cover is provided for everything from the chance of having twins to heavy engineering plant. And at the head of the unit is Old Maidstonian Byron Crittenden. (Extracts from an interview printed in 'Moneycare'.)

PETER CURRIE (1977) is Director of Music at Dulwich College Preparatory School.

JULIAN DARKE (1981) is spending a year with the West Midlands Police forensic team whilst on a sandwich course at Sheffield Polytechnic.

STEPHEN DARKE (1977) is a systems programmer for Lloyd's Register after doing a short spell at G.C.H.Q.

JOHN DAY (1949) has taken over as Chief Executive of Medway and Gillingham Chamber of Commerce. He came to the school when his parents took over a public house at Boxley. After failing his School Certificate he did his National Service, and has spent twenty-five years in the building and construction industry, mainly on the sales and marketing side. More recently he has been involved with energy conservation.

JOHN DODDS (1978) has gained a scholarship to do an advanced course in business studies at Columbia University, U.S.A.

DAVID EVANS (1981) has obtained his commission with the Royal Marines.

CHRIS FINCHAM (1972), after graduating from Manchester University, qualified as a public finance accountant. He started work in local government in the North-West and is now with the Health Service in the South East Thames Region. In 1977 he married Susan James, the sister of another O.M., MICHAEL JAMES (1969). They now have two daughters and live near the sea in Sussex.

PETER GIBBONS (1973) is now a Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police.

RONALD GIBSON (1981) has obtained his commission with the Royal Marines.

PAUL GILES (1972) is in medical practice in Doncaster.

RICHARD GOODWIN (1975) has just had a busman's holiday as medical locum in Kirkwall, Orkney.

DANIEL GREEN (1976) is doing very well with the Kent Constabulary after reading History of Art at University College, London.

TIMOTHY GREEN (1974) is touring England with his wife before returning to Australia where he runs a farm.

MARK HALEY (1979) is working in the treasurer's office of London Transport.

PETER HARRIS (1942) It is with regret that we report the death of Peter Harris, which occurred suddenly, as the result of a heart attack, at the end of June. He retired in July 1983 from St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, where he had been headmaster for fourteen years, and moved to Oxford. His death cut short what promised to be a happy retirement. He leaves five children and three grandchildren.

ALAN HART (1958) has written a biography of the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yassar Arafat. The book, entitled "Arafat - Terrorist or Peacemaker?", is published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Due to actions by certain parties a proposed visit by Mr. Arafat to launch the book had to be cancelled. Mr. Hart has good relationships with many world figures and has been involved in Middle East peace talks.

NEIL HENDERSON (1983) is a trainee betting shop manager with Joe Coral.

JONATHAN HILL (1979) is working for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Winfrith, not at Harwell as reported in the last newsletter.

MARK HUTCHINS (1980) is working for a firm of accountants in Maidstone. He gained a 2(i) in Economics at U.W.I.S.T. in 1983.

ALAN KNELL (1958) has had a varied and distinguished career in Medicine since qualifying - from Cambridge and Guy's Hospital - in 1964. It included three years as a research fellow, working on the mechanism of vitamin B<sub>1</sub> (thiamine), in the new School of Molecular Science at Warwick University, and two years as research fellow and honorary registrar at King's College Hospital in Camberwell, where he worked on the clinical problems of liver failure. Since 1972, Alan has been consultant physician to the South Warwickshire Hospital Group, and has lived in Leamington Spa. During that time he has had short spells as visiting professor and lecturer at Medical Schools in Hannover, Zimbabwe and Ghana. He comments wryly "I have acquired too many degrees (a bad case of multiple diplomatosis), but the ones that matter now are F.R.C.P.(London), Ph.D.(Warwick) and M.D.(Cantab). Alan married in 1965 and has three sons, aged 17, 15 and 11; the eldest has just been accepted by Trinity College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics.

PHILIP LANGRIDGE (1958) took the leading part in the English National Opera's production of 'Osud' by Janacek, at the London Coliseum - the first staged performance of the work in this country.

BARRIE LLOYD (1962) studied languages at Aberystwyth, and followed this by stays in France and Germany. He then went into the travel business. Today he works for an Austrian company which charters a Dutch-built luxury river ship from the Bulgarian government to take tourists down the Danube. Barrie is director of the cruise ship 'Rousse', and takes care of everything on board for the two hundred or more passengers. He can speak at least six languages fluently so he has no problems mixing with the various groups on each journey. His wife, Kerstin, comes from Sweden and is just as talented in the language field. When this season's work is over he is going to New York and we understand that after that he will be brushing up on his Croatian.

DAVID LLOYD (1982) works on the British Rail timetable enquiries desk at West Malling.

SIMON MARSH (1976) and his wife Sandra had a daughter, Claire, in August. Simon reports that his parents have recently been to Singapore to see the furniture in the Missions to Seamen chapel there which they had given in memory of Simon's brother Richard.

WAYNE O'CONNOR (1981) is in the Royal Navy Reservists as a midshipman whilst studying at Cardiff University. During the summer he shot for H.M.S. Cam

ROGER PARTIS (1958) is Environmental Health Officer (Food) for Leicester City Council. His hobby is beekeeping, in which he lectures, and has judged at the Norfolk and Yorkshire Agricultural Shows, and at Sandringham.

STUART PARTIS (1959) is Head of the French Department at the Scots School, Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia. He has written and produced school plays, and recently arranged the incidental music for 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun'. He married in May of last year. Later he attended, with his father, a recital in the Concert Hall of Sydney Opera House given by "the superb English tenor Philip Langridge" (to quote the Australian press). After the recital they had supper with Philip, who was Stuart's contemporary at M.G.S.

JULIAN PARTIS (1963) is Warehouse Manager for Hella, the German car accessory manufacturers, at Banbury, Oxfordshire.

QUENTIN PARTIS (1967) is Buyer for the Toy Department of Grace Brothers, a large department store in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

NICHOLAS PATERSON-JONES (1980) designs record sleeves for Chrysalis records.

RICHARD PAYNE (1980) is flying Lynx helicopters from H.M.S. Osprey, Portland. He is in the same flight as Prince Andrew.

DAVID PRIEST (1981) completed his degree course in Education and Chemistry at the University of York, and is now teaching at Tonbridge Girls' High School.

JUSTIN REES (1977) has just completed two years patrolling in a nuclear submarine.

IAN RICHARDSON (1980) has recently completed his training with the Royal Air Force at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. As a Pilot Officer he now goes on to specialist training as a navigator.

IAN SMITH (1978) qualified in Medicine from Westminster Medical School this summer and gained distinctions in Therapeutics and in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He is currently working as house physician in Kidderminster General Hospital. In February Ian moves to Watford Peace Memorial Hospital for a six-month period as house surgeon. He does say that any O.M.s. are welcome (as patients) at either establishment!

IAN STEER (1972) works in merchant banking in London.

DAVID SUTHERLAND (1972) qualified as a Cost and Management Accountant, and is Finance Manager with Jeyes (part of the Cadbury-Schweppes Group) in Thetford, Norfolk. He is married and lives in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. He recently visited the school, and gave us news of several of his contemporaries.

NEIL SUTHERLAND (1975) qualified as a Chartered Accountant, and now works with a computer company in Farnham, Surrey.

MARK TAYLOR (1976) has been teaching golf in North Carolina and hopes to join the professional circuit.

PAUL TAYLOR (1980) gained a 2(i) in Management Science (Marketing) at Lancaster University in 1983. He now works for Lloyds Bank plc as a graduate trainee on their Management Development Scheme.

SIMON TAYLOR (1983) is at Magdalen College, Oxford. He is captain of the college Rugby team and acted in 'The Miser' by Moliere. During the summer of 1984 he went to the U.S.A. where he helped to run a children's camp.

WILLIAM TYDEMAN (1954) has had his book "Four Tudor Comedies" published by Penguin. He dedicated it to those who taught him English at Maidstone Grammar School.

PETER WADDELL (1962) is Head of the Sixth Form at Bishop Reindorp School, Guildford, Surrey.

SIMON WAKEFIELD (1972) has a Ph.D. and is Lecturer in Oceanography at Swansea University.

MICHAEL WILSON (1970), now Keeper of French Paintings at the National Gallery, admits that he is "no Pissarro", although two of his oils were shown for the first time in the Gallery's staff exhibition this year.

JOHN WOODGER (1953) and his family moved in October from Church Stretton, Shropshire, to Watford, Herts., where he is now vicar of the Parish Church of St. Mary. The church was extended in 1979, and provides a Christian centre for the town. John's new address is 20 Devereux Drive, Watford, Herts. WD1 3DE.

## UNIVERSITY RESULTS

It is pleasing to report the following successes by Old Maidstonians in their degree courses:

SRIMATH AGALAWATTE (1980)	Surrey University	B.Sc. (2:2)	Biochemistry
PETER ARMSTRONG (1980)	Manchester University	B.Eng (Hon)	Electrical Engineering
IAN BENTLEY (1981)	Teesside Polytechnic	B.Sc. (2:1)	Control Engineering
TRISTRAM BISHOP (1978)	Kent University	B.Sc.	Mathematics
ADAM BUTLER (1981)	London School of Economics	B.Sc. (2:1)	Economics
GARETH DENNARD (1981)	City University	B.A. (2:2)	Business Studies
JONATHAN FARROW (1980)	Durham University	B.Sc. (2:1)	Physics
PHILIP GOODYEAR (1981)	York University	B.A. (2:1)	History
GUY HEWITT (1981)	Southampton University	B.A. (2:1)	History
TIMOTHY HIGSTED (1980)	Warwick University	B.A. (2:2)	Film and Literature
ANDREW HOLDING (1981)	University of East Anglia	B.Sc. (2:2)	Biology
STEVEN JONES (1981)	Leicester University	LL.B. (2:1)	Law
NIGEL KIRBY (1980)	St.Catherine's, Oxford	B.A. (3)	Engineering
PETER KNIGHT (1981)	Sheffield University	B.Eng (2:1)	Engineering
KEVIN LONG (1981)	Huddersfield Polytechnic	B.Sc. (Hon)	Transport & Distribution
MARTIN MAVIN (1980)	Southampton University	B.Sc. (2:2)	Medical Engineering
SIMON OWEN (1981)	London School of Economics	B.Sc. (2:2)	Economics
IAN PATON (1980)	Loughborough University	B.Sc. (1)	Chemical Engineering
JULLIAN PHEBY (1981)	Warwick University,	LL.B. (2:1)	Law
DAVID PRIEST (1981)	York University	B.Sc. (3)	Education and Chemistry
SIMON FURDY (1981)	Sussex University	B.A. (2:2)	Mathematics/Computing
MARTIN SCOTT (1977)	Surrey University	B.Sc. (2:2)	Economics and Sociology
MARTIN WILES (1981)	Essex University	B.Sc. (2:2)	Biological Chemistry

## SPORTS NEWS

CRICKET: SCHOOL 166-5 dec. OLD BOYS 165-7 MATCH DRAIN

The School elected to bat on an overcast afternoon. Runs flowed freely with several batsmen getting reasonable scores thanks to one or two dropped catches. A good helping of spin bowling ensured that plenty of overs were bowled.

In reply, the Old Boys scored steadily and looked well set to reach their target. Having done the hard work just two runs were required off the last over for victory. Unfortunately, an accurate final six deliveries prevented any addition to the score, despite a couple of run outs, and the game ended in a very creditable draw.

## RUGBY:

On 10th November, Alun Glasson (1979) played for Wales 'B' team against France 'B' at Cardiff on the wing, his usual position for his club, Newbridge. Not only did Wales win, 29-20, but Alun scored a second-half try to give his country the lead.

The School team is to make a tour of Portugal at the end of February. A party of 20 to 25 boys and masters will make the trip which will cost about £2000. Fund-raising activities are under way and any O.M. wishing to help should contact Des Diamond at the School.

## CHESS:

John Nunn, who taught at M.G.S. in 1975-76, moved into the top ten world-ranked chess masters in December when he captured the individual gold medal at the 88-nation olympics in Salonika. His personal record of 10 points out of a maximum of 11 helped England to the silver medal, behind the Russians. John's score has only once been bettered on the top two boards.

## COMING EVENTS:

SCHOOL vs OLD BOYS RUGBY MATCH will be played in March. Anybody interested in playing should contact Des Diamond at the School.

SCHOOL vs OLD BOYS CRICKET MATCH will be played in July. Anybody interested in playing should contact Ron McCormick at the School.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Maidstonian Society will be held in the Staff Room at Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone, on Friday 25th January 1985, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

- AGENDA:
1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 27th January 1984
  3. Matters arising from the minutes
  4. Secretary's Report
  5. Treasurer's Report
  6. Membership Report
  7. Amendment to Rules \*
  8. Election of officers, committee and auditor
  9. Any other business

\* all proposed changes to the rules must be received in writing by the secretary at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

All Old Maidstonians are welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting.

## ANNUAL SUPPER

The Annual Supper will be held in the Main Hall at Maidstone Grammar School on Friday 29th March 1985, at 7.15 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that the price has been kept to the same figure as last year, namely £6 per head. Tickets can be purchased by using the form at the foot of this page.

This year the committee will be arranging for adequate time for socialising to be available both before and after the meal and the formal proceedings. If you have not been to an Annual Supper before, why not come and meet your former colleagues this year?