



Old Maidstonian Society

Newsletter - Summer 2010



President: **Paul Clifford**

Chairman: **Richard Ratcliffe**

Secretary: **Anthony Hayward**

Diary date:

Friday March 25th 2011
The 2011 Annual Supper at 7.30 pm
following the AGM at 6.15pm

FRONT PAGE UPDATE

Committee Meeting

The Committee met at the school on 13th May 2010. Several issues of importance were agreed, amongst them:

- **Dr Tony Webb** kindly agreed to take on the Archives. To date archive material has been considered separate, MGS and OMS. The Committee decided that all belongs in a single archive and that it needs cataloguing, maintaining and storing under control. **John Caley** agreed to assist – he has been instrumental in ensuring that at least one copy of each Maidstonian magazine still exists.
- **Bernard Mee** kindly agreed to take on the Awards. It is the intention to liaise with the school as to what Awards should be made, and then raise funds through the membership to subsidise them.

Neil Turrell's contribution to the school was acknowledged by the creation of the post of Vice-President. This post will be occasionally bestowed on those who have served the Society or School well.

A number of other duties and posts were agreed or ratified, including:

- **Paul Clifford** stated his guest speaker would be **Andrew Dilnot** (1972), Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford;
- **Richard Ratcliffe** was re-elected Chairman of the Committee;

- **Anthony Hayward** will continue as Honorary Secretary for another year. He is President-elect and will take over from **Paul Clifford** at the Annual Supper and AGM on 25th March 2011;
- **John Clayton** has agreed to take on the role of Annual Supper co-ordinator;
- **John Clayton** was also re-affirmed as the OM Governor on the School Governing Body for a further 4-year period commencing at the end of the current academic year. Dr Argent expressed his satisfaction and thanked John for his support as a governor;
- **Peter Weaver** kindly volunteered his services to the committee, and was co-opted;
- **Graham Belson** remains Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and an Editor of the Newsletter - the latter function with **Peter Weaver** and **John Clayton**.

The Treasurer reported that the supper had generated a small surplus of approximately £250 which would provide for the running costs for the next year (e.g. postage etc. to those requiring hard copies of the Newsletter).

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 21st September at 6pm in the Headmaster's Study.

The Chairman's Thoughts

The past year or so has seen a lot of change in the way we try to operate the Society. It's not easy to run a vibrant Maidstone based "club" for members who post graduation tend to go and live all over the place – anywhere but Maidstone it would seem! The terms "herding cats" or "bottling fog" come to mind.

However in large measure due to inputs from some "new blood" on the committee – notably Graham Belson who has stoically taken on the roles of Treasurer / Membership and Newsletter editor there is more enthusiasm around these days. We have revamped the Annual Supper to a "semi buffet" basis, made membership free to all old boys and are re-focussing the website into a much more 21st Century communication medium – importantly this must be attractive to boys who left the school more recently than most of the ageing committee!

So now we need to look forward and address the important task of providing support to the School in appropriate ways. Of course we do have an OM Governor, who has always supported the school in the ways Governors do. (John Clayton is also part of the "new thinking" on the committee). Financial support through "awards" has always been part of our remit but the original bequests from which award income is derived look quite small in today's terms (although they were generous at the time they were made) and with interest rates so low we can hardly provide anything very generous from their returns.

So the next thing we need to do is launch a more professionally based "appeal" (please don't groan dear reader) and we are looking at the options for this as I write. Our new Headmaster, Dr Nick Argent, came from a fee-funded school in Guernsey where fund raising has always been an important role for alumni. Nick has made some very helpful suggestions as to how we might proceed based on his experience at Elizabeth College.

We have also just discovered that there is a "Society for Societies" like the OMS – the *Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies* (AROPS) with which we need to become involved to pick a few brains from others in our position. I could say "watch this space" – which is a tad corny but in the present situation is perfectly valid. What I'd say in front of that is "Is there anyone out there who can help?" In other words if any OM reading this feels able to bring their professional experience to bear in getting us off the ground with re-establishing some useful money raising ventures please get in touch!!

Richard Ratcliffe (1964)
Chairman OM Society General Committee.

The General Committee of the OM Society: 2009 - 2010

In addition to a new President, three new members have been co-opted the committee and their résumés are included below. Committee meetings are normally also attended by the Headmaster, Dr N Argent.

Paul Clifford – President 2010 to 2011

The Clifford family has a long connection with MGS. My great-grandfather was a pupil at the school in the 1860s and he was followed in turn by two of his sons, his grandson (my father, who died in 2006) and by me. All my forebears served as President of the OM Society so the weight of well over a century of history as well as the chain of office is now bearing upon my shoulders.

I left Maidstone to go to university in 1971, but my parents lived all their lives in the town or its immediate environs (my mother still does) so my links have remained strong. For more than 20 years I was a non-executive Director of the family business which traced its history in Maidstone back to 1747. I played (largely undistinguished) cricket for The Mote for several years in the university holidays, "groping uncertainly forward" (as John Arlott might have said) while David Sayer's thunderbolts whistled past the outside edge (and that was just in the nets).

Since leaving university I have spent most of my working life in publishing in a variety of editorial, marketing and management jobs. A number of years ago I switched careers and worked for almost 9 years for Oxfam, running part of the UK operation, raising money, managing part of the shop network, campaigning, and developing its Fair Trade brand. In 1997 I went back to publishing and, since then, have been MD of Lion Hudson plc, the UK's largest independent Christian publisher.

I have been married for over 30 years and have two grown-up daughters, one married and living in Brussels and the other in London. For 20 years I have been a Church of England Reader (a voluntary office now re-designated Licensed Lay Minister) attached first to a large suburban church and, as of the last 12 months, to a group of rural parishes just north of Oxford. So you can look forward to a sermon at the 2011 supper when it comes to my turn to speak.

I remain enormously grateful to MGS for helping to shape me as a person. The intellectual training, the opportunity to exercise responsibility, the huge variety of extra-curricular openings to develop my aptitudes and interests, the dedication of time and enthusiasm by many masters (I don't imagine they are still called that) are all aspects that I recall with pleasure. I was sometimes over-awed and out of my depth, often stretched, and once, when as a rather pompous Captain of Cricket I was thrown in full cricket gear into the deep end of the swimming pool, seriously annoyed, but never bored. Haec olim meminisse juvabit indeed.

In my time, MGS was an impressively good and humane institution. Change has come to our educational system with machine-gun rapidity in recent years. Even a county such as Kent which has retained the grammar school system cannot

escape the new pressures. There are now more demands and more responsibility on a school like ours than ever. If it can retain the skill of developing so much differing potential among its students while sharing its expertise and their talent with the wider community it will not just live up to its traditions but enhance them.

Editor: The Clifford family kindly donated a gift which funds the Ted Clifford Award for History. This is awarded annually for 'excellence in history', to a boy in Year 8 or Year 9, by way of an inscribed silver gilt Victorian tankard.

The Committee – New Members

James Kinsman - 2005

James joined MGS in 1998 and spent an enjoyable 7 years at the school before moving to Southampton. At Southampton University he studied for 4 years to achieve a MEng Electronic Engineering with Computer Systems. Having married young in 2009 James moved to Stevenage and is currently on a 2 year graduate placement at a local electronics firm, with the hope of transferring into a full time job at the company next year.

During his time at MGS James met lifelong friend Simon Pain and together they formed the fledgling company Macro Level Solutions which is currently providing a part time job for the pair. In 2006 the social networking site Facebook emerged onto the scene and James created the first Old Maidstonians group on this site. This led to James being contacted by the committee in 2009 to discuss further integration between the two groups. As a direct result of this meeting James has agreed to join the committee and use Macro Level Solutions to further the Societies website and update the technology used within the society.

Simon Pain - 2005

From the first few years Simon always was interested in how things work & how they were constructed. Much to his mother's dismay he spent large portions of time at playgroup following cables & pipes rather than playing with the other children.

He was a student at MGS from 1998 to 2005 during which time he was involved in many different activities. Over the years he was a member of the choir, a student librarian, a member of the sound & light team and a founder member of the Programming Club.

He has since taken his hobbies further doing a BSc in Computer Science at Warwick University where he was also involved in the Theatre Tech Crew and Radio Warwick, the student radio station.

He is now employed in a permanent job working as a programmer for Reed Business Information, a publisher located in Sutton in Surrey. He also continues to pursue programming

as a hobby, working with James Kinsman as part of Macro Level Solutions, their own Software Solutions Company.

Peter Weaver – 1958

Peter has been co-opted to the committee as a member of the editorial sub-committee.

Peter attended MGS from 1950 to 1958. When he left he went to Kings College London to study Electrical Engineering. He graduated in 1961 and, after a short period with Faraday Electronic Instruments (Sheerness), he joined Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd. at Rochester. This was the start of a 25 year career with various parts of GEC, where he held a number of senior technical and commercial appointments, including a period of seven years as Technical Manager of Marconi Space and Defence Systems at Frimley.

In 1987 he left GEC to become the Technical and Operations Director of The Cartner Group, specialising in electronic sign and advertising systems. In 1990 he set up his own engineering management consultancy, specialising in the fields of innovation and technology transfer, and computing services. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (formerly the IEE) and a Fellow of the Institute of International Licensing Practitioners.

Peter retired last year, when he moved to Heathfield in East Sussex. He is married and has two grown-up sons and two grandchildren. He has maintained an interest in classical music (engendered at MGS where he played the viola), and in photography, which keeps him amused in the limited time available in the busy business of being retired.

New Committee Members

The Society is making every effort to increase the number and type of functions it holds. The need for a member or sub-committee to take on that responsibility was discussed but unfortunately all current committee members are either engaged in other roles within the Society or do not have the time required to dedicate to such a function. **We would appreciate a member to assist in developing social events.** The role will involve working with the membership to organise functions such as reunions, annual and sports events, and other activities to maintain contact between the members and the school.

If you feel you have the time, energy and desire to participate in the organisation of the Society's activities then we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Belson

If you would like to contact any of of the committee members, please feel free to do so by reference to the contact information in the table overleaf.

The Committee

	<u>Email</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Richard Ratcliffe – Chairman - 1964	rbr1@btconnect.com	
Anthony Hayward – Secretary - 1958	anthony.hayward@hotmail.co.uk	
Professor Malcolm McCallum – Web- master - 1963	m.a.h.maccallum@qmul.ac.uk	
Dr. Brian White - 1969	drbdwhite@yahoo.co.uk	
John Caley – 1955 to 1998		01622 751801
David Leeke – 1990 to 2000	david@leeke.org.uk	
John Clayton – Co-Editor - 1968	j.clayton@hikent.org.uk	
Gardner Crawley - 1962	gardner.crawley@dalsterling.com	
Tony Bishop - 1962	tony_bishop1@btinternet.com	
Graham Belson – Editor, Mem. Sec., Treasurer - 1965	oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk	01622 730514 or 07770 738041
Bernard Mee - 1960	bandj_mee@yahoo.co.uk	
Peter Weaver – Co-Editor - 1958	p.weaver@iee.org	

Contacting the Society

The e-mail address of oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk is the preferred method and should be used by all those who wish to contact the Society to advise of any news, or have any questions regarding membership. Messages to this e-mail address are forwarded to the Editor. He can also be contacted by phone on 01622 730514 or 07770 738041. For those who still prefer to use snail-mail, the school's postal address should be used - The Old Maidstonian Society, Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7BT

Distribution of the Newsletter

We would once again request all those who have not done so to please provide an e-mail address for the forwarding of future Newsletters electronically to reduce costs.

Please forward your e-mail address to the Membership Secretary at oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk.

If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter, or a copy in a larger print size, then we would be very pleased to accommodate you. Simply contact the Editor either by phone at 01622 730514 / 07770 738041, or by writing to the school at Barton Road.

Contributions to the Society

The Society holds a current account for general expenses and the profit from the Annual Supper is sufficient to maintain a healthy balance to enable the Newsletter to be posted to those who want a hard copy. Although membership is now subscription free, any contributions to the current account will be gratefully accepted.

Contributions to the Awards Fund are a different matter altogether. That fund is used for the benefit of the pupils of the school. Any contributions are gratefully accepted, but most will be transferred to the Awards Fund where they will be used to the benefit of the school and its pupils.

Membership Register

The Society maintains a Membership Register of Old Maidstonians. This records the contact details of each member

– address, e-mail, telephone and mobile numbers – and date of leaving. It is maintained by the Membership Secretary and is available to any member of the committee. Any member who objects to their name and contact details being on such a database should contact the Membership Secretary.

The contact details of members are never released to any other member, person or organisation. If a member asks to be placed in contact with another then we pass that request on to the member being contacted, including the contact details of the member trying to make contact.

Members should keep the Society informed, preferably by e-mail to oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk of any changes to their contact details. However, it is acknowledged that not every member has access to a computer and every communication, whatever form it takes, will be answered.

Facebook, Twitter, Friends Reunited

There are several websites devoted to Old Maidstonians. Some are apparently for members of a particular year, others have more members. We sincerely hope that younger Old Maidstonians who have joined such social interactive sites will join the Society and that the range of events, such as reunions, will develop.

The Old Maidstonian Website

The website has now been redeveloped and news from members is placed on it as soon as it is received. We continue to look at ways of improving it.

We Would Like to Hear From You

The Society is always very pleased to hear from its members. Please update us as to your post-school history, and we will publish it on the website.

You may have suggestions for future events or activities, you may be looking for information or to be put in touch with a fellow Old Boy (or Girl). If you would like to share with us some anecdotes about your time at the school then please do contact us. E-mail is a particularly convenient method of reaching us and is preferred.

News of Old Maidstonians

The Old Maidstonians Society has heard from the following members whose reports are reproduced below.

John Chislett – 1940

Belated and many thanks for the Newsletter Winter 2009. Congratulations to all concerned in its presentation and production. I look forward to future Newsletters by e-mail.

Regarding subscription free membership - with the future of the Society and expansion of its membership so important I fully support the committee's decision. The MGS has been, and remains, a great educational establishment and all those privileged to have studied there should want to reflect that through membership of the Society.

I left the School way back in 1940, during the days of "Nutty", "Beta", "Bill", "Reg", "Herbert", "Tom", to name only a few, more respectfully known as Messrs Woolgar (Headmaster), Phillips, Manning, Lye, Matthews, Gutteridge. How many of us remember those with respect and trepidation?

After 5 years war service in the RAF, I pursued an accountancy career with a practice in Maidstone, before switching, in 1961, to industry in the Midlands, East Anglia, a short spell in the Antipodes and finally London. With retirement in 1987, following three house moves my wife and I are now settled in Berkshire.

My support for the Society includes a period as Treasurer in the late 1950's, and occasional attendances at the Annual Dinner. Maidstone is now a happy memory, for only on rare occasions have I been able to visit the town of my birth, marriage in 1950 and the arrival of a son and daughter. Happy Days!

Robert Stevenson – 1947

I retired from teaching in 1988. Since then I have been kept busy with athletics, hockey and scouting. I am President of Wales Schools Athletics, Vice-President of Irish Schools Athletics and served for 13 years as Treasurer of the Schools International Athletics Board of four Home Counties. I have just completed 60 years as a timekeeper in schools and adult athletics.

In scouting I have been District Commissioner, District Secretary and County Secretary, and am a member of the NI Scout Council. – I still help the local troop every week.

Last June in the Queen's Birthday Honours List I was awarded an MBE for voluntary service to athletics, hockey and scouting

in NI. I received the award from Prince Charles at an investiture at Buckingham Palace on November 17th 2009.

(Editor – the Society extends its heartiest congratulations).

Graham Hocking - 1949

Graham has sent us a four part serial (so far - there is more to come) of his post-MGS life. It begins in 1944 when Graham first attended MGS and currently finishes on part 4 in 1959.

Graham's memory is phenomenal, and he appears to have a total recall of most of his life and a mass of minutiae. It makes fascinating reading, not least because it gives considerable insight into how times were after the war, and what life was like then.

Being 35 pages long so far, it is too long to reproduce here. Parts 1 and 2 have been placed on the website and the next two parts will appear shortly. However, for those who would like a printed copy then please contact the Editor and I will print and send you one.

Dennis Fuller – 1950

Dennis has been in contact and has informed us that he is about to retire. We wish him all the very best for the future.

Derek Sole - 1950

As a contemporary of John Cooper (aka Tony or Jack at various times) I enjoyed reading his account of our time at the school during the war years.

An event I vividly remember was the quarter centenary celebrations in 1949 when we had a cricket match against the Old Boys (we lost), a service at the church on a very hot day (several of us crept back to the school for a surreptitious swim in the pool until we were evicted by "snoop" Sawdy and Miss Human who had the same idea). There was a special school concert which included some hilarious skits by some of the staff. A teacher, Mr Searle (brother of Humphrey Searle the composer) composed some music for the school orchestra which incorporated the school song.

I came to New Zealand in 1956 with Royal Insurance. I lived in Dunedin, Invercargill and came to Wellington in 1972 where I have lived ever since. I took early retirement in 1987 and have been involved in various voluntary organisation since. At the moment I am conducting guided tours on a small island in Wellington Harbour - Matiu Somes Island - which has about 1000 years of history behind it. A long time in NZ terms!

Rev. John Woodger - 1953

I continue an active life, with plenty of ministry in this area. At the age of 73 I completed an M.Th. in Preaching at Spurgeons College and the University of Wales. Perhaps I've learned something about preaching after nearly 50 years of doing it?

John Munn – 1955

John wrote to us requesting a hard copy of the Newsletter, which of course we are more than willing to oblige. He said: "I sometimes regret being a dinosaur BUT, at age 70, still spend most of my time in fresh air. 'Confined to barracks' will arrive inevitably when computers etc. will surface".

He finishes his letter with:

Two elderly folk sitting on their settee.
Wife to husband: "What are you doing today?"
Husband: "Nothing"
Wife: "But you did that yesterday"
Husband: "I know, but I didn't finish it".

Peter Walker - 1955

MGS January 1950 to 1956, University of Leeds 1956 to 1959 – BA in Economics.

Chartered Accountant - FCA in March 1963 and left the UK for 2 years in September 1965 for Peru, and never returned to live or work. I don't think my mother-in-law ever forgave me. Worked/resided in Lima, Peru 1965 to 1969 and New York 1969 to 1990. Brussels 1990 to 2003, and retired and returned to the US as the children and grandchildren are all on 'this side'.

My school 'career' was undistinguished to say the least, but I suppose there is no harm in including the 'notes'. I did play for the 1st XI for most of the 1955 season (opting out of cricket in 1956) when in the first year sixth. David Sayer was captain - then third year sixth - and my role as a first change bowler was to stand around and watch while Dave Sayer-at half-speed and Dennis McDonald took seven or eight wickets and then, perhaps, be allowed to take aim at a couple of tail-enders. All very exciting.

Basically I lost contact with OM's until 1994 when I attended my first OM Supper and have been to a few since then. Sadly, several old and renewed friends have passed away in recent years - before their time – Charles Hutchins, Graham Smith, Keith Stamp.

A question - do you have any record of Michael Surman – 1950(?) – 1955? I did speak to David Sayer at an OM Supper in 1996 or 1997 - he and MS were contemporaries at MGS and Oxford (Balliol), but he had not heard from MS for a number of years and had lost contact. He did send me the last address he had, in Essex, but my letter was returned "addressee unknown". Also I contacted Balliol College which had the same Essex address on record but no news for several years. Michael Surman lived in Chatham and I moved back

to Gillingham in 1951 (I lived in Maidstone only two years) so we whiled away many hours on Maidstone & District "express" buses. Michael Surman's father was headmaster of Chatham Technical School so presumably some parental influence was involved in Michael attending MGS rather than Rochester Maths or Gillingham Grammar.

Cricket addendum - we have a neighbour here, in this obscure corner of NE Florida (the scene of a recent one-man performance by Tiger Woods), who is a cousin of Graham Saville – formerly Essex CCC and Norfolk CCC and subsequently quite a prominent cricket coach and writer. David Sayer must have 'met' him on the pitch a few times. Graham Saville is a cousin of Graham Gooch. There is no getting away from Brits. or cricket!

The Newsletters are greatly appreciated.

(Editor – regrettably, we have no record of Michael Surman – can anybody help out?)

Robert (Bob) Wood - 1956

Thank you for the very full winter 2009 Newsletter which reached me yesterday.

The Society gave invaluable support when (as a fifteen-year-old) my father died, leaving my mother pension-less with three sons, all of whom were (or were to become) pupils at MGS, and I am glad to read the details of the various awards still available. I am glad to think that I have already made a small contribution to these, and will consider making more in future.

I was sorry to read of Yuri Roovet's death. He and I performed a double act as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in the memorable production of Hamlet directed by S.W.Johnson. It was Ichabod [S W Johnson]'s first production with the senior dramatic society, and took place on 16th to 19th November 1955. We were rather proud of the fact that we didn't need a single prompt through the four performances. I attach a copy of the best of the photos taken for the Kent Messenger at the dress rehearsal - it shows the play scene. Yuri is the thuggish fellow sitting on the steps of the throne, and I am his foppish sidekick (we deliberately played the parts in that way).

All good wishes to you and the other members of the committee.



Gerald Carter – 1958

I have only recently discovered the Old Maidstonian website. I was at the school from 1950 to 1958 and am wondering if many (or indeed any) of my contemporaries are members of the Society.

I am 70, and retired in 2000 after 39 years as a Patent Attorney. My wife died last year. I read, paint, write, bookbind, make stuff and look after a (quite large) house.

Editor: The Society offers its sincere condolences to Gerald on his loss. We have been able to locate several members of the Society of his year, some of whom attended the 2010 Annual Supper.)

Roger Crittenden – 1958

Just writing to establish e-mail connection. To update on my recent past:

After many years as Director of the MA programme at the UK's National Film and Television School I am now concentrating on writing. However the last book I published: 'Fine Cuts - The Art of European Film Editing', has provoked a number of international seminars that I have been invited to preside over. After chairing one at the Polish National Film School in Lodz, the most recent was in Cuba, just last week at the famous International Film School established by Castro in the 80's. The next will be at our own National School at Beaconsfield Studios next Easter.

Meanwhile I am writing 'An Alternative History of Cinema' for my original publishers, Thames and Hudson and a book on the French New Wave for Intellect.

The latest very exciting venture I have become attached to is an online film course which will launch next year. Best wishes to all.

Alan Ely - 1959

I don't have much contact with the Old Maidstonian Society, since I left MGS fifty years ago and rarely get to any functions from my home in Lichfield Staffs. I was thrilled to be in Maidstone for the 1999 celebration of 450 years since the foundation of MGS. I am part of the 1951 entry cohort that includes my best friends John Martin and Brian Spillett, also Rodney Parkins who is doing so much to keep our year group in touch. I went to Reading University and read modern languages, becoming a teacher in Birmingham (4 years), Dudley (2 years) and Rugeley Staffs (25 years). I married in 1964, had two sons and now have four wonderful granddaughters. Retirement is great, by the way: I can warmly recommend it - it sure beats working !

In a further e-mail, Alan added:

I think I said I joined MGS in September 1951, so I was certainly not a 1962 leaver! In fact I did three years in the Sixth, as was not unusual in those days for those wanting to try for Oxford or Cambridge (no such luck, but I had a relaxing year after A levels and sang in the Messiah that year with the Choral Society under Mr Cutforth, a marvellous experience). I left MGS in 1959 and kept up my singing with the Reading University Choral Society (St Matthew Passion, Bach B Minor Mass and Belshazzar's Feast to name but three works performed

there). In 1971 I joined the Lichfield Cathedral Special Choir (a 120-strong Choral Society based in the Cathedral) and still sing with them, as well as being Ticket Secretary and trying to fill 650 seats for each concert!

At MGS I joined the CCF in the third year (now called year 9, I believe), wearing a khaki uniform for the next three years and instructed by Colonel Keast, Captain R.R.Rylands (the Deputy Head) and the redoubtable Sergeant Bennett (who was the school caretaker and had fought in WWI). I had a great interest in aviation at that time and joined the RAF Section of the Corps as soon as possible. We managed to get to Easter Camp at RAF Andover, where I had my first flight (in a Chipmunk), then RAF Waddington, Lincs (a top-secret Vulcan V-bomber base) and lastly RAF Gaydon, Warwickshire where pilots trained to fly the other two V-bombers - the Valiant and the Victor. Exciting times, and no more so than when, as the senior ranked cadet at Gaydon, I was offered a 20 minute flight in a Canberra jet bomber. Mr G.I.F.Thomson was our senior RAF officer (and co-incidentally the Head of Divinity at MGS). I don't know how he wangled such marvellous locations for our camps.

My love of aviation persisted and I am now Secretary of the West Midlands Branch of Air-Britain, with 60 members in the region. We have a monthly meeting, so there are film-shows, talks and quizzes to organise, as well as a monthly newsletter that I produce and send out. We have day-trips to airports and air museums at home and abroad, as well as base-tours to military bases in the UK. Air-Britain is an international association of air historians with about 5000 members.

Did you keep the school Journal that was issued to all boys in October? You should be able to find my details in Upper Sixth A for 1958-9 and the 'Valet' section of the Maidstonian for the autumn of 1959. That does sound an awful long time ago, doesn't it ?

Christopher Badcock - 1964

I left MGS in 1964 and graduated from the LSE with First Class Honours Social Anthropology and Sociology in 1967. I got my PhD in 1973 and was appointed to the department of Sociology at LSE in 1974, where I have remained ever since and am now Reader.

I published a number of books and papers on psychoanalysis, evolution, and the social sciences and had a private didactic analysis with Anna Freud beginning in 1979 and terminated by her death in 1982. I then began to contribute to what we would now call evolutionary psychology, and published a number of books, culminating in *Evolutionary Psychology: a critical introduction* (Polity 2000). From 2004 to the present I have been collaborating with Bernard Crespi, Killam Research Fellow in the Department of Biosciences at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, and in 2009 I published *The Imprinted Brain: how genes set the balance between autism and psychosis* (Jessica Kingsley), which describes our theory and findings. Currently I am working on a sequel which discusses the psychological, sociological, and cultural implications of the new ideas and is entitled *The Age of Asperger*.

My *Psychology Today* blogsite provides latest developments and further details: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-imprinted-brain>

Charles Goodrich - 1964

Thank you for the Winter 2009 edition and I look forward to receiving further editions online.

After a career in commercial aviation with BCAL, BA and Gulf Air (with 20 years' service overseas), in 2009 I celebrated 10 years as an independent airline consultant, operating mainly in Africa and the Middle East, involving new start-ups and also re-structuring ailing airlines to become profitable - plenty of potential clients around!

David Macreavy - 1964

I've just seen the request in the Winter 2009 Newsletter for details of members' e-mail addresses. I know I had some correspondence a few years ago with one of your predecessors, but cannot now remember (a) whether this was by e-mail or not or (b) if it was by e-mail, whether this would have been conducted using my current address.

I'd like to be able to tell you some exciting news, but I'm afraid I lead a very boring life. I'm (very) gradually renovating the house my wife and I bought eleven years ago, but it has proved much harder than either of us thought at the time. This was made much more difficult, both physically and mentally, when my wife died in January 2009 after having been ill for four years. I'd always appreciated the work she'd put into our relationship as both an old-fashioned housewife and mother, but this was reinforced no end when I found myself having to do many of the things that she used to do (the others just don't get done).

I'm now retired from my former job working in the business of wills, estates and trusts for NatWest Bank. As my whole career of 35 years with NatWest had been in those particular fields, I'm happy to say that I cannot claim any responsibility for the 'credit crunch', but I still don't often bring into any conversation the fact that I used to be a bank manager!

I had hoped that retirement would speed up work on the house, but (in common, I suspect, with a lot of retired people) there still don't seem to be enough hours in the day.

My wife and I had two daughters, both happily married. Our younger daughter has two children of her own, aged eight and four. Thankfully, as they only live about three miles away, I usually see them about twice a week. They certainly help to keep me fairly fit (both mentally and physically).

I've always enjoyed cycling – indeed, I used to cycle to school from Sutton Valence every day – although I haven't done as much as usual over the last year. I hope to start again in earnest when the weather gets a bit better.

Speaking of Sutton Valence, when my parents moved my family there in 1961 from Coventry, they hadn't appreciated that Sutton Valence School even existed. Had they done so, I'm sure I would have been sent there, as its front gates were only about 100 yards away from our house. I certainly don't regret ending up at MGS, though, as I have many happy memories of my time there.

Well, that just about sums up my life at the moment. I hope the bad weather isn't causing you too many problems!

Paul Ryan - 1972

Paul is Head of Event Operations – ESPN, and contacted us;

I was a pupil at MGS 1965 – 1972 and in my last year there, Martin Passmore and I produced a film about a year in the life of the school. This was particularly poignant as it was the last year, for many years, that the school admitted 11 year olds.

I have recently uploaded the film onto YouTube and thought it might be a good idea to add a link to it on the OM website or I could arrange with your web master to have it actually part of the website. (*Editor – we will look into this*).

For now, if you want to see it go to YouTube and search for Maidstone Grammar School Film. I have had to split it into six parts because of file size restrictions on the site but if it is decided to put it on the website I can supply the film as a single file, of course. Hope you enjoy it!!

James Burt - 1979

I was at MGS from 1973 to 1979 and amongst my subjects I studied A level political studies under Dr. Webb who I see is still around. I've worked all my career in the rail industry (since leaving university in 1983) and am now based in Croydon working as Service Delivery Director with Southern Railway. I occasionally see Jonathan Fenn on the train going to London - he was in the same year as me and is now a partner with one of the city law firms I believe. I am also in touch with Graham Harrison who was also in my year and who has been running libraries since leaving university.

Dr Nigel Spencer – 1985

Currently I am head of Learning and Development at a City law firm. I worked for seven years at PWC, and before that I was Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University. I am a Trustee of the British Institute at Ankara and the British School in Athens.

After enjoying Latin and Ancient History so much with Dr Edwards at MGS, I decided to study Classics at King's College London, including a PhD, during which I spent 2 years at the British School in Athens carrying out my research into the island of Lesbos in the Bronze Age and early Iron Age – I then returned to England and took up a postdoctoral research post at Reading working on a large US project focusing on the history and archaeology of Messenia (southwest Greece).

I then obtained two postdoctoral fellowships at Oxford to direct my own research project on the coastline of Turkey opposite Lesbos focusing on archaeology, anthropology and environmental change, continuing my interest in this region as begun in my PhD thesis. This was a project in which we worked with lots of US, Turkish and UK academics – and running such projects is almost like running your own small business, gaining funding, marketing the project, writing up and publishing results, directing the fieldwork and also liaising with senior Turkish government departments to gain a permit to carry out the work.

I then moved to the City and gained a position at PwC in London as a client-facing advisor, learning from scratch an element of tax law – my skills at running educational programmes was

also utilised and I enjoyed other HR elements such as graduate recruitment. In parallel to this role I was still writing up the research from our project in Turkey, so continuing my academic work as a spare-time vocational aspect.

After 7 years at PwC I decided that I wanted to focus full-time on an educational role but stayed in the Corporate world and gained the position as Head of Learning & Development at a law firm – where many of the themes from my anthropology (hierarchy, power, team dynamics) were also relevant in learning and organisational development areas of the role (even if the context was about 5,000 years later!). In this period I was also asked to be Interim HR Director, have developed programme which have changed the career path for our junior lawyers (an MBA before they join us as trainee lawyers) and also have become a qualified business coach.

As I was still in touch with colleagues in academia through writing up my work in Turkey, I was asked to take up a voluntary role as a Trustee of the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara and the British School at Athens – which has kept me in touch with my vocational interest in academia, archaeology and Classics ... which is where I began!

James Narramore – 2000

James graduated from Bristol University with a degree in Spanish and Portuguese. He now works in a financial company in the city.

David Wilson – staff – 1976 to 2002

We've had a note from Dr. Wilson as to his doings in the last year. He is active in the local amenity society in Chichester



where he now lives. The society recently had a major success in preventing Tarmac from routing heavy gravel lorries through the town every few minutes, which would have continued for 15 years; and in being part of the partnership which got a major Heritage Lottery Fund grant for refurbishing the old City Walls. He is also Secretary of the local Residents Association, keeping various neighbours up to their commitments or alternatively, calming the next neighbour who has been incensed by the failure of others. Perhaps most excitingly, he was promoted to Centurion at Fishbourne Roman Palace but carrying 40 pounds of chain mail and other equipment around really needs someone younger! His current project is making a Roman loom.

Oliver Burbidge – 2009

Oliver is currently working at a Primary School before hopefully going on to read medicine at university.

Obituaries

It is with much regret that the Society records the death of Old Maidstonians. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Arthur Ratcliffe - 1924

We have been advised by the OMS chairman, Richard Ratcliffe, that his uncle passed away on 19th January aged 98 and 50 weeks. This was his eulogy at the funeral:

“Arthur was the second youngest of seven siblings. My own Father, Eric, who died in 1990, was the youngest and also an Old Maidstonian. Perhaps it was Arthur's calm temperament and placid approach to life which contributed to his great age. He was certainly the best educated – if one measures “best” by the fact that he was the only one to go on to take a University degree. (London School of Economics 1932). In later years he was somewhat self deprecating of this achievement but one has to remember that there were precious few school leavers who went on to further education in 1929.

I got to know Arthur very well in the last five or six years of his life than I had done hitherto – we had some excellent conversation on my weekly visits to see him in the Coach House Care Home. I probably got closer to him in some ways than I had been to my own Father in his last years – such was the nature of the dialogue: the conscious effort to go and see him so that he wasn't lonely – although he was a man who was remarkably content with his own company. He took great delight in achieving 98 and as each birthday passed he would note with enthusiasm that he had passed the age his brothers and sisters, his Uncle and his Mother had died. Just before Christmas he told me that he thought he'd make 99 but was in some doubt about 100. In the event he nearly made 99 – missing it by 3 weeks. Perhaps his most significant birthday in recent times was his 90th when we arranged a surprise Sunday lunch at the old family home (now a guest house), Roslin in St Michaels Road. He was overjoyed to be there and we had to hold him back from nipping up the staircase to find his old room!

He still took an interest in Maidstone Grammar School and knew that I was still involved with the School and the Old Maidstonian Society. My favourite tale, which proves that the youth of 1929 was little different from those of today, concerns the day Arthur left school. He was friends with a boy named Percy Wilkinson and a boy named Charles de Sallis, who died last year (I guess it was me telling him that which set the memory going!). Charles lived just above the Ratcliffe family home on the Tonbridge Road and the day was hot and sultry. The three of them spent the late afternoon in Charles' garden and to use Arthur's words became "somewhat inebriated". Alfred Ratcliffe, my grandfather, was a pillar of the Methodist church and Arthur roared with laughter at the memory that his mother had to smuggle him up the back stairs to his room upon his return so that his father wouldn't find out about this disgrace.

The other evocative memories were of a time further back to the end of the First World War. I recounted to him that I had laid a wreath for Rotary at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. His reply was simply "I was there". What he meant and what he went on to tell me was that he along with the rest of the family went to a celebration of the end of hostilities on Armistice Night in 1918. He would have been 7 years old at the time. This event took place in the grounds of Rochester Castle and there was (as I am sure happened up and down the land) a big open air celebration. Both he and my father, as the two youngest, were not allowed to stay up for the firework display and were packed off home to Watts Avenue to bed. Clearly that still rankled 90 years later – although Arthur was never one to bear a grudge and regarded it with such long hindsight as slightly amusing.

His other story about the end of the first world war relates to his eldest brother Alfred. Apparently Arthur used to ride pillion on the back of Alfred's motor cycle which must have been quite something in 1918. I wonder what their parents thought? The story relates to watching the troop trains returning from France. He used to tell me that he could still vividly recollect seeing the soldiers waving their caps out of the train windows as they went through Chatham Station – or (and this was where the motor cycling came in) as the trains went up Cray Bank – a good distance from Rochester for a small boy to ride pillion.

Here was a man whose mental faculties were pin sharp to the end. He may have lost most of his eyesight and his mobility but he never lost his mental agility. A lifelong railway enthusiast, he could still recite all the railway stations in the correct order from any London terminus to any Kent coast destination without even stopping to think about it and his recollection of the family birth and death dates was quite amazing. He'd play mental games with me like recalling all the pubs in Maidstone or the newspapers which had ceased publication since the last war.

He was a unique "last man standing" from his generation of a remarkable family. Family values were important to them. It was a privilege to hold conversations with Arthur towards the end. Sitting in his armchair letting the reminiscences flow it was very much living history. I shall never forget him."

Bryan Jenner - 1939

There was a report in the Kent Messenger of the death of Bryan Jenner, who led a band in Maidstone - The Brian Jenner Band - aka Brian Jenner and the Jenmen on January 31st 2010 at the age of 87

Brian's musical career began when he won a scholarship to MGS and he joined the school's Officer Training Corps, where he learned to play the bugle. He volunteered for the RAF at 17, where he found there were frequent calls for musicians to play at dances in the officer's mess. He joined the station band at RAF Cranwell and learned to play the euphonium.

He trained as a radar mechanic and his service career took him to many postings around the country and to Holland and Germany. He married Mak Boxall 1946 and the couple bought a run-down orchard behind Leeds Castle with a view to becoming market gardeners. They lived in a converted cricket pavilion in South Park while Brian gradually built his own house on their land.

The smallholding grew to a large farm with battery hens, turkeys and pigs and well as fruit and vegetables, but still Brian had to supplement the income by performing at dances and concerts.

Brian became a big name in the local dance band scene and as the manager of several others such as the Dave Wilson Sextet and the Deputies.

The Brian Jenner Band had a long-term residency at the Moat Hotel in Wrotham, played frequently at the Star Hotel in Maidstone and at the Pav dance hall in Gillingham. In the early 1960's they supported two emerging bands – the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. They played together for 30 years but the advent of rock'n'roll resulted in Brian having to add a rhythm section to the band which proved successful for a while.

Their two children emigrated to new Zealand in the 1970's, and after retiring in the 1980's, the Jenners followed them. He is survived by his wife, children, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Air Vice Marshal Michael Hedgeland - 1940

Air Vice-Marshal Michael Hedgeland died on Christmas Day 2009 age 87. We understand he died peacefully at home in a sheltered accommodation flat in Tonbridge. His son lives nearby and had been very close to him for the past year since he moved from High Wycombe. The funeral was small and private. There was a Memorial Service at St Clements in the Strand on Thursday 15th April. An obituary was published in the Daily Telegraph on 8th March.

AVM Hedgeland was educated at MGS, gaining many academic successes. He was keen to be a pilot, but the RAF valued his inventive mind more greatly and he was commissioned into the Technical Branch in 1942. In August he was selected to join a team led by Dr. Bernard Lovell on the development of the H₂S blind-bombing radar system at the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Malvern. There followed a period of intense activity and the first operational set was ready by the end of the year and he drove Bomber Command's first BB set in a signal van to a pathfinder squadron in Graveley, Hants

to install the set in the Halifaxes of 35 Squadron. He remained at the base as the first squadron radar officer appointed in Bomber Command, and he received a mention in dispatches in 1943 for the work. He was responsible for servicing the GEE navigation aid and the Monica early warning radar, both of which significantly improved the accuracy and effectiveness of the bombers. In 1944 he moved to Wyton, home to more pathfinder squadrons, where he had additional responsibility for other bombing and navigation radar aids, such as OBOE and LORAN. These devices had a major impact on the accuracy of the pathfinder aircraft and the main force of bombers that followed them into the target.

In 1945 he was Squadron Leader in charge of all radar trials at TRE where he met his wife who was a physicist there. By the end of the war he was the RAF's most experienced radar engineer and he spent the next three years at the Central Bomber Establishment. In September 1948 he was given leave to spend three years at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and graduated with a first class honours degree in Electrical Engineering. He was awarded the Siemens Memorial Medal and Prize at Imperial College, together with a cash prize for books as the student at the top of the final class list in Electrical Engineering. He served with the University Air Squadron and learned to fly.

On his return from Imperial he completed his training as a pilot and later converted to the Meteor jet fighter. He regularly used the Meteor to calibrate ground radars. In 1952 he returned to the radar establishment in Malvern where he was responsible for developing V-Bomber navigation and bombing systems. In 1957 he was posted to Headquarters Bomber Command where he commanded the Avionics Development Unit.

He received the OBE in 1957.

He was Director of Signals in the Far East from 1963 to 1965. With British forces heavily involved in Brunei and Indonesia in remote and inaccessible locations, great demands were placed on his expertise and organisational abilities.

In December 1965 he returned to the UK as Staff Officer, RAF Signals Command, commanding the RAF's central communications centre at Stanbridge. In 1970 he was appointed Director of Electronics at the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive. From 1975 he was Senior RAF Member of the Royal Ordnance Board and became President in March 1977. He was promoted to AVM on 1st January 1975, retired from the Service on 31st March 1978, and was awarded the CB in 1977 which we believe was for his work with Professor Sir Bernard Lovell at Jodrell Bank.

After retiring, he acted as consultant to various communications companies. He was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and was an active member of the Thames Valley Branch. He continued to fly, giving air cadets experience flights and towing gliders for the RAF Gliding and Soaring Association. He also had a love of the garden and travel, and made several round-the-world trips meeting old pathfinder comrades. He devoted much of his time to the Pathfinder Association, having witnessed so many young men depart on operations, never to return. The veterans elected him to president from 1985 to 1987, a unique honour for a ground-based officer who had never flown on operations.

His wife, Jean Brinkworth, died on New Year's Eve 2006, and he is survived by his two sons.

Michael Tillett - 1940

We were saddened to hear of the death of Michael Tillett just before Christmas. The Reverend Michael Shaw, another OM, took the service which was held at Vinter's Crematorium on 19th January and which was very well attended by his many friends. The organist was Trevor Webb, who taught at the school. Graham Belson attended the funeral on behalf of the Society.

Michael was a very accomplished musician and well known to many current members of the Society. His name is on one of the boards in the school hall and reads:

Michael S. Tillett
A.R.C.M, 1940
Exhibitioner Royal College of Music 1940

He was the first pupil at MGS to take music as a higher certificate and he went on to study at the Royal College of Music. He was a close associate of Sir Michael Tippett, the composer.

James Clinch has kindly allowed us to publish the eulogy he used at Michael Tillett's funeral on 19th January:

"Michael Stephen Tillett was born in Maidstone in June 1922, the youngest son of George and Mercy Tillett. In 1930, at the age of eight, he went to the newly built Grammar School just above the family house in St Philip's Avenue. Academically he was very bright, always top of the class, although I'm not sure how the musical gene in him was cultivated. There were no music lessons at the School at that time although there was encouragement from Edward Julier, the Modern Languages teacher and a fine pianist, and Charles Holyman who taught English principally but in later years also taught singing. Michael had private piano and violin lessons and clearly made considerable progress so much so that one of his aunts arranged for him to be taken to Glyndebourne. This would have been in their first season, 1936. One must understand that his musical knowledge was very wide even at this age of 14 and he had already worked through the whole of Wagner's *Ring* in piano transcription from the County Library!

Unusually for the school at that period he wanted to take the Higher School Certificate in Music and a new young master, William G. Golding, recently appointed to the staff, was charged with watching his progress. Michael always said that he had little recollection of lessons with Golding but he remembered an essay on the symphonies of Sibelius (brilliant, he had thought) being returned marked disappointedly as 'Good - 13/20'! He passed the Certificate with distinction; there were only six others with this grade in the whole country.

I remember him coming into the Grammar School Big Hall to conduct the first performance of his *Suite for Orchestra* in May 1938. He was very shy about it in later years, comparing it very disparagingly with the sort of work that boys like Tommy Pearson were writing in the 1990s. But the last movement, entitled *Cum grano salis* (with a pinch of salt), had a quirky tune that caught on in the school and everyone was whistling it. And I've never forgotten a performance of part of *Façade* with his late lamented friend Len Smith joining him at the piano and John Fulljames reciting Edith Sitwell's words with a megaphone through a gap in the stage curtains. All in the best Sitwell tradition!

Michael went to the Royal College of Music in 1940 as an Exhibitioner and studied Piano Accompaniment and Viola. Following a short spell at Morley College where he met Michael Tippett, he joined the music staff of Highgate School for a short spell before he joined Rugby School in 1945. He stayed there for twenty-three years until, in 1968, he went back to Highgate School, succeeding Edward Chapman as Director of Music. However, ten years later, he went back again to Rugby as their Director of Music, a post that he held until his retirement some twenty years ago. Michael made it a condition of his appointment that he should never be required to play the organ – “not a musical instrument!”

This early connection with Michael Tippett led to Michael and several other musicians being invited to submit a piano transcription of the first scene of Tippett's opera *A Midsummer Marriage*. Michael's score was accepted and this led to him being Tippett's amanuensis, proof-reading all his music and writing the piano transcriptions. These had to give an indication of what the piece would sound like when played by an orchestra, but also had to be a help to the singers. All the transcriptions have Michael's name on the front page but many people thought that Tillett was a misprint for Tippett! They are meticulous, absolutely clear and beautifully laid out. His manuscript was impeccable. Everything done by hand – no *Sibelius* computer programme here!

I have a note from Schotts, Tippett's publishers, which I would like to read to you. “Everyone at Schott Music, especially the London office, would like to pay tribute to a wonderful colleague of extraordinary energy and professionalism – and constant good humour. From the late 1940s, Tillett edited every Tippett score, making the vocal and short scores where necessary, deciphering his increasingly impossible hand and understanding the cryptic instructions. Tippett always kept to a strict schedule and the demands on Tillett, as the composer recognised, could indeed be arduous. By the end, Tippett's eyesight had almost completely gone and Tillett wrote out most of the score of his final orchestral work, *The Rose Lake*. But Tillett remained unfailingly cheerful and punctual.” Tippett said once that Michael was the only other person in the world who knew the music as he did – and even better!

We ought to realise that all this work for Tippett was being done on the side, as it were. His main job was teaching and directing a big department. Tippett's work was done in the holidays and free evenings and weekends. How does one come back from 2 hours' of violin teaching to tackling Act 1 of *King Priam*?

He conducted the Rugby Philharmonic Choir on many occasions and prepared them as one of the choirs in the first performance of Britten's *War Requiem* in Coventry Cathedral in the spring of 1962; Michael was also the rehearsal pianist for the full Festival Choir in the Cathedral. I heard afterwards that the Rugby Philharmonic was the best of all the local choirs that took part – and I'm sure that none of us here today would be surprised at that.

A week of the summer holiday was always spent at Dartington Summer School and as recently as last June, Michael wrote down his remembrances of those times. He worked with many of the great and the good of the music world but unfortunately he gives no dates! He was expected to play at chorus rehearsals and he was particularly skilled at these, even when some new composer appeared with only a copy of the full score.

On retirement Michael returned to his family home in the Loose Road. There wasn't much work coming from Tippett now, so short of things to do he would transcribe anything that came to hand – simplified versions of Brahms' *Second Piano Concerto* and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to be played as rehearsal aids with local orchestras. He even transcribed the whole of Elgar's *Third Symphony* for piano duet; I gather that Anthony Payne wasn't too pleased when he heard about that! And before long he was playing with local choral societies and for Associated Board exams where his help and coaching would make such a difference. Singers would come from London especially to work with him.

From 1995 up until last year he helped Freda Crispin organise weekly concerts in June and July at the United Reform Church in Week Street, persuading friends to play and raise money for charity. These were very popular. He was always the accompanist, never the soloist, until one occasion in 2003 when he couldn't fix a soloist!

The years were catching up on him. He'd been fixed up with a heart monitor years ago but he had great trouble walking even the shortest distances. And matters got worse so that he rarely left the house. He was always going to come to such and such a rehearsal but would cancel, often at the last minute. Even just before Christmas he was planning with Freda what to do in the summer concerts, but Freda knew, and we all knew, even then, that it wouldn't be so.

We shall miss him greatly.

© James Clinch

Peter Mayor - 1946

We have been advised by Geoffrey Marchant that Peter Mayor passed away on Tuesday 16th February. We understand that the funeral was a private affair and took place on 25th February. Geoffrey kindly wrote the following:

I know that Peter was a Past President of the Society in the 1960's and was a committee member for a long time. For many years he owned the family gentlemen's clothing outfitters on Gabriel's Hill. I knew him in later years firstly as a Maidstone Rotarian and then for many years as a member of The Rotary Club of The Weald of Kent where he had been a member for some 20 years. I believe that prior to being a Rotarian he was a member of Maidstone Round Table. I also recall that he played club cricket in the Maidstone area.

He had lived with his wife Inga at Woodchurch for many years and prior to that in Sutton Valence after, I assume, having lived in Maidstone. His son Hedley, who lives in Frittenden, is also an old boy of the school.

Philip Langridge - 1958

Philip Langridge, considered to be one of the leading talents in English opera and oratorio, died of cancer on Friday 5th March at the age of 70.

Langridge studied at the Royal Academy of Music and appeared on all the world's great operatic stages. He was known for his versatility and command of a wide variety of styles, and was made a CBE in 1994 for his services to music.

Elaine Padmore, director of opera at the Royal Opera House, where Langridge had performed many times since 1983, said that it was a huge shock when she learnt that Langridge had cancer and how little time he had left. The ROH issued a statement saying all there were "very sad at the news. Philip was such a generous friend to all of us at the Royal Opera House, and on a personal level that friendship went back many years". She paid tribute to "his intelligence, his humour, his wonderful voice and superb musicianship, his compelling presence on stage, and the many roles he made his own - his Loge here is etched in the memory, and Lulu only last season - all these come to mind together with the obvious pleasure he felt at singing in Harrison Birtwistle's *The Minotaur* directed by his son Stephen. All these wonderful things about Philip will be sorely missed, as well as his broad smile and great story-telling".

Composer Sir Harrison Birtwistle said the tenor's death left "a large hole in the world's music", and described the opera singer as a unique artist, while others paid tribute to his superb musicianship.

Born on December 16, 1939 in Hawkhurst, Kent, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music before embarking initially in a career as an orchestral violinist. In 1962 he began singing lessons with the Canadian baritone Bruce Boyce, continuing later with the composer, harpsichordist and voice-teacher Celia Bizony. He attributed his vocal longevity to the solid training he received at that time. He was a dedicated and enthusiastic performer of contemporary British music and premiered several works by British composers including Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*, (ENO), and *The Second Mrs Kong* at Glyndebourne. Few of his roles were easy to sing and he attributed his facility with difficult music to his initial training as a violinist. He studied the instrument from 1958 at the Royal Academy of Music and started his career as an orchestral musician.

Philip Langridge was a grammar school boy who never went to university, and his voice had an earthier flavour and his singing a rougher edge than the run of English tenors. He sang Britten superbly, and his interpretations for major Britten roles were highly regarded. He sang the title role of Peter Grimes all over the world including at the ROH, English National Opera, the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala. His forte was opera, and the impersonation of strong, complex and even grotesque characters, expressed in abrasive, forthright music. He was a champion of many important 20th-Century roles including Mark in Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*.

He made his professional operatic debut at Glyndebourne in Richard Strauss's *Capriccio* in 1964. His talent ensured that from the late 1960s onwards he was in demand throughout Europe, the US and Japan. He made his debut at the ROH in September 1983 in a double bill singing the role of The Fisherman in Stravinsky's *Le Rossignol* and Teapot in Ravel's *L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges*. His roles for The Royal Opera included the title role in *Idomeneo* in 1989, *Jupiter* (Semele) in 1996 and more recently Don Basilio in David McVicar's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* in 2006. He returned to the Wagnerian role of Loge in *Das Rheingold* on a number of occasions for the ROH, first performing the role in 1996. It is for vividly theatrical interpretations such as these, sung with red-blooded commitment, that he will long be remembered.

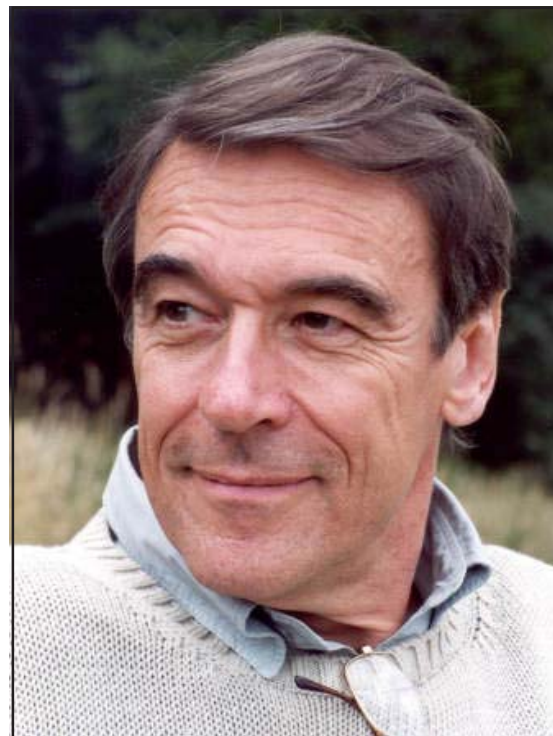
He made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera, where he was especially popular, in 1985 as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and at Salzburg in the role of Aron in Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* in 1987. He first performed as Loge (*Das Rheingold*) with the Metropolitan Opera in 1993.

Internationally he was in great demand. He appeared on a regular basis with many of the world's leading opera companies and music festivals, in a wide repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to contemporary works. For example, he appeared as *Oedipus Rex* in Japan in a new production that won the 1994 Classical Music Award for best opera production, and in America at the New York Metropolitan where he sang his first Loge (*Rheingold*) to great critical acclaim. His performance at the Salzburg Festival in 1993 of Nerone in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* was also highly praised. In fact, he had become a regular guest at Salzburg.

He also performed regularly at La Scala, Milan, where he appeared in *Boris Godunov*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Wozzeck*, *Idomeneo*, and at Covent Garden, where he had appeared in *Boris Godunov*, *L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges*, *Jenufa* and *Idomeneo*.

Another composer with whose music he was closely associated was Janacek. He performed *Osud* and *The Makropulos Case* at the ENO, and *Jenufa* at the ROH and Glyndebourne.

In concert, he sang with the major British orchestras and has performed frequently with the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Previn, Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, Orchestre de Paris, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, and the Boston Symphony.



Recent stage appearances included *Pelleas and Melisande* at the Netherlands Opera, *Moses and Aron*, *Jenufa* and *Oedipus Rex* at the Châtelet, Paris, *Billy Budd* and *Rheingold* at the Metropolitan, New York, Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong* at the Glyndebourne Festival and *Semele* at the Royal Opera House. His last performances on stage were with The Metropolitan Opera, New York in December 2009 and January 2010 where he reprised the role of The Witch in Richard Jones' production of *Hänsel und Gretel*.

Offstage he was a genial, English gentleman, debonair in personality. He served on the Arts Council's music panel from 1983 to 1986 and was president of Godalming Choral Society. Langridge's command of a wide variety of styles was reflected in his extensive discography, ranging from the early classical to the present day, and which earned him numerous awards including two Grammys, an Olivier in 1984, Singer of the Year Award from the Royal Philharmonic Society, and in 1994 he was awarded the CBE. He acted as President of Opera South in the years 2005 to 2010. He was a collector of watercolours and Victorian postcards.

He leaves his wife Ann Murray, herself a mezzo-soprano, and their son Jonathan. He also had two daughters, both professional musicians, and a son, Stephen Langridge, the opera director, from a previous marriage, whose godfather is **Peter Weaver**.

The Society is grateful to **Jim Clinch** – 1946 - who knew Philip well and who has very kindly written the following:

The sudden death of Philip Langridge, the international tenor, has resulted in many excellent obituaries in the national press but sadly, few have mentioned his early life and his connection with Maidstone Grammar School.

Philip came to MGS in September 1955 by special arrangement to take O-level Music. His family lived at Cranbrook and it was expected that he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a plumber. But he 'proved rather musical' (as he himself has put it) and, persuaded by Ray Grainger (still with us in his mid-90s!), he took up the violin. This turned out to be very successful and, helped by a bursary from the County, he was eventually given a place at the Kent Junior Music School. Still contemplating the building trade as a career, a further change from his Tunbridge Wells school to Maidstone Technical School became necessary. After O-levels (including Technical Drawing, Metalwork and Music!) he moved full-time to MGS in September 1956, again by special arrangement between Mervyn Bruxner, the County Music Advisor, and headmaster William Claydon. Violin lessons continued to be taken at the Kent Junior Music School with Rosalind Borland. As was the case with other promising boys at MGS, Charles Holyman gave him singing lessons, but it was as a violinist that he went to the Royal Academy of Music in 1958.

In March 1957 David Cutforth had conducted a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* which involved the combined choirs of the Grammar Schools. In *The Maidstonian*, Mr Julier commented: "*Philip Langridge sang the parts of Judas, Peter, the High Priest and Pilate effectively: he has a very promising voice.*" These bass parts certainly fitted his voice at that time. (Actually it was only for fun really. I certainly had no idea, at that stage, that anyone could possibly earn a living at it'.) At the RAM he took up singing as a third study 'on a whim' with Bruce Boyce who thought after a year or so that he might really be a tenor – 'a useful oratorio tenor'. By now he was an LRAM on the violin and had a GRSM for teaching music. His singing rapidly improved under Bruce Boyce's tuition, a few professional concerts came his way and in 1964 he managed to get into the Glyndebourne Chorus. The rest is history and has been well documented.

I spoke to Philip in the early part of January after he had come back from New York to tell him about Michael Tillett's death. We chattered about the old days at County Music Courses at Benenden and he enquired after his old violin teacher, Ray Grainger. Singing at The Met had proved a very tiring experience. He was cast as The Witch in Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel*, not usually a tenor part. But those of us who heard it on BBC Radio 3 will not have realised what was actually happening. Philip's costume was large and heavy; he had to run up and down tea tables wrecking the china, singing all the time (he was 70 in December). He told me that he thought he had picked up some bug so on arrival back in the UK he cancelled everything for a month. It was the last part he sang.

He remembered his days at MGS with great happiness, returning to sing at Charles Holyman's funeral and he was the guest speaker at a Music Department Dinner in April 1999, arranged by David Leeke; every Director of Music from Noel Long forward was present.

Philip Moore - 1960

We have been advised that the funeral took place on 5th May 2010 of Philip Moore. He was organist at Hunton and West Farleigh churches and was well known in Kent Music School circles. He died on 18th April after a short illness and just short of his 70th birthday. He lost his wife to cancer 18 months ago.

We have also heard with great regret of the deaths of the following Old Maidstonians:-

Alan Chapman - 1943

James F Clark - 1946

Ray Cole - 1957

Mark Couchman - 1942

Gordon A Dent - 1944

Stuart Smith - 2010

John Wilmshurst- 1944

Karl Wittwer - 1975

Awards Funds

The society has several awards funds, totalling about £12,500.

Bernard Mee has taken on the role of Awards Co-ordinator, which will involve the following:

- Liaise with the school, particularly the Headmaster, with respect to awards;
- Identify what awards might be made, and how much they will cost:
 - a) An annual award of perhaps £250 to £500 for a particularly good project at school;
 - b) Assistance with an event such as a World Challenge;
 - c) Assistance to a pupil with a particular aptitude, who is unable to fund themselves;
 - d) Identify equipment or software which the school needs and provide it;
- Develop a mechanism for determining what awards should be funded;
- Develop a mechanism for the committee to quickly agree to awards being made;
- Promulgate within the school the fact that the Society is able to provide awards;
- Advertise on the website and in the Newsletter;
- Determined fund-raising based on the goals identified with the school, and approach the membership, local bodies, local firms, to contribute to those causes.

It was noted that no specific requests for support had been received through the school but it was acknowledged that the fact that the OMS could actually respond to such requests had not been well promulgated recently.

The processing of any awards will need to be evaluated against certain criteria, not least the availability of funds. It was generally acknowledged that the best way to proceed would be to define an objective and then raise the funds necessary for it, as potential contributors are more likely to be attracted to donate to a specific project than to simply donate to the Awards Fund.

Old Maidstonian Society Awards

The following details the various awards available to current or previous members of the school.

Old Boys Award

This award is made on the recommendation of the Headmaster to a present or former pupil to enable him to continue his studies at the school, or to take up a place or continue at a recognised institution for higher or further education.

G B Phillips Award

Geoffrey Phillips was a long serving History master at MGS serving over 40 years until his eventual retirement from part-time teaching in 1958. For much of that period he was Second Master (Deputy Head).

Geoffrey was President of the OMS in 1958 – 1960. Upon his death in 1973 he made a bequest to the

Society of £500, the investment income from which was to be used to augment the value of the Old Boys Award and/or be used on behalf of pupils at the school or Old Maidstonians receiving higher or further education to undertake projects considered by the Committee worthy of support.

T P Gutteridge Award

Tom Gutteridge was also a long serving master at the School over a similar period of time to Geoffrey Phillips, retiring in 1963. He taught physics for a considerable period.

Tom was President of the OMS in 1974. In 1974 he made a gift to the Society of £250, the investment income from which was to be used for the assistance of sixth form science students to pursue course or activities designed to broaden their cultural horizons.

Dicker Trust

David Dicker was a boy at the school, leaving in the early 1960's. Upon leaving he joined the RAF. David was sadly killed in a military aircraft accident whilst on service with the Air Force. Some years later (1993) his parents decide to honour his name by setting up a Trust Fund to be administered by the OMS which would make awards to current and former pupils of the School and to Old Maidstonians for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipient's continuing education.

The Special Distribution Fund

A Trust Fund to be administered by the OMS which would make awards to current and former pupils of the School and to Old Maidstonians for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipient's continuing education.

J F Payne Bequest

J F (John) Payne, an OM who left the school before WW2, died in 1998 and made a bequest to the Society in his will of £500.

The terms of the fund require administration by the OMS which "shall form part of the Society's Award Fund and be distributed for the benefit of both current and former pupils of Maidstone Grammar School". The award is made on the recommendation of the Headmaster or by direct application to the Committee. Funds awarded shall be for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipient's continuing education.

General Awards

General awards may be made of undistributed income from all the awards except the Gutteridge where this excess is added to the £250.

E F Clifford Gift

E F (Ted) Clifford was a boy at the school in the 1920's – 1930's and was President of the Old Maidstonian Society in 1951. His father and Grandfather had also been President of the Society (in 1895 and 1931 respectively) and his son Paul Clifford is President in

2010 – 2011. Ted was a member of the Committee for many years.

Upon Ted's death in 2006 his family chose to recognise his long service to the Society and the strong family connection by the generous setting up of an award for "excellence in history", the Ted Clifford Award for Local History to be awarded annually to a boy at the school in year 8 or 9 by way of an inscribed silver gilt Victorian tankard and a silver plated memento. The winner attends the Annual Supper at which the presentation is made.

Alec Stewart Memorial Tankard

Alec Stewart was a boy at the school in the 1930's who joined the school staff after war service as Head of PE. He died in service in 1972. A memorial in his name was set up by the Society to perpetuate his memory by the award of a tankard annually to the member of the Senior School contributing most during the school year either on the field of play or in the administration of sporting activities. The presentation takes place at the Annual Supper to a candidate nominated by the Senior Sports Master and approved by the Headmaster. This was originally set for not less than 20 years and in 1992 the Committee decided that this should continue indefinitely. This award and the engraved tankard is provided out of Society funds.

Charitable Status

Following the decision to more actively support the school by raising funds for specific needs, Charitable Trust status will be evaluated and if considered useful, sought. Registered Charity status would permit gift aid of donations. **Gardner Crawley** and **Bernard Mee** will progress this.

The OMS Website

The committee acknowledged the considerable work already completed on the website by **James Kinsman** and **Simon Pain**. The website is seen as the main vehicle for the Society to keep in contact with the membership. It needs to remain exciting and a 'must view' resource for old boys, and must therefore be regularly updated.

Malcolm MacCallum is the webmaster and runs the site in conjunction with James and Simon.

Archives

The location and content of the archive was discussed at some length and it was agreed that there was little fundamental difference between Old Maidstonian archive material and that of MGS. An archive has been established in the school, and the location is both suitable and secure. The Society expressed its thanks to the Headmaster.

Dr. Tony Webb has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Archivist, and his previous position as deputy head will undoubtedly lend a great deal of professionalism to the project.

John Caley, who also was a teacher at the school for many years, has agreed to assist. It now remains to determine what is archive material, and to catalogue and store it. Much work has already been completed and all current OMS archives and photographs have been catalogued. Accessibility to those carrying out research is one of the remits and it is also the intention to make available to the members copies of the photographs that are available.

The question of fireproof containers was discussed and this together with other policy matters will be progressed by the Archivist with the assistance of **John Caley** and others.

A medium term project to digitise the archive was suggested by **James Kinsman** and although this would not be cheap it could be worth exploring further. There might be ways of mitigating the costs.

OM Society Rules

The Rules of the Society had been redrafted by **Dr. Brian White** and helpful legal comment had been received from former committee member and retired solicitor, **Tony Bishop**, who will continue to receive Committee minutes. **Dr. White** will build in these suggestions and it is anticipated that the revised Rules will be available prior to the next meeting in September for endorsing at that meeting.

(Editor: This has now been completed and the revised rules have now been circulated for final approval. As soon as that is finished they will be posted on the website.)

Annual Supper

John Clayton agreed to take on the role of organising the Annual Supper. Feedback on the revised format for the Annual Supper was reviewed and overall it was felt that the buffet style had been a success. Suggestions would be evaluated for the next Supper to be held on Friday 25th March 2011, regarding seating plans, attendance lists and name badges to make the whole experience more fulfilling for the old boys attending.

Use of the occasion for year group reunions was an important point and these should be maximised. Special 'date' reunions (e.g. 25, 50 or 60 years) could even warrant mini pre-functions and school tours.

The President felt that a target finish time for the event was important although social chit-chat could continue after the 'final toast'.

The School Song

The school song, Gaudeamus, was written in 1908 by music-master Dr H F Henniker, ARAM, to Latin words by the Headmaster at the time, the Rev C G Duffield, MA, headmaster from 1898 to 1913. It remains very much in use today, although in an abridged form. The modern use is to sing verses 1 and 5, with the chorus. Most Old Boys are surprised to find how easily it can be recalled, though a crib sheet is always available for those who left the classics behind years ago.

There is a full version of the song on the OMS website.



Junior Speech Day

Malcolm MacCallum – 2008 President of the Society and OMS committee member - was the guest speaker at the Junior Speech Day on 16th July. We are very pleased to reproduce his speech here.

Headmaster, Deputy Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the risk of annoying the Headmaster by lengthening my speech, I cannot help noting two things which happened during the earlier part of the prize giving and which set off some personal reminiscences.

One was the impressive number of boys representing their county, or their country, at various sports: well done to them. It reminded me of when my son played under-13 cricket for Essex. The captain of his local adult team, for which he also played, took delight in teasing the opposing captain by saying "We have two Essex players in our team today. I hope you don't mind" - and out came my son and his friend in their under-13 sweaters.

The other was the prizewinners who won several prizes across a range of subjects. Long ago I was on the other side of the prize giving. In those days we had book prizes, and I chose as my mathematics prize a critical edition of John Donne's poems (which I still have). The prize giver asked me about this, which surprised me. It seemed to me quite normal to be interested in both poetry and mathematics, and I'm glad to see that is still the case.

Those of you now in the school may well be wondering whether somebody who was at school as long ago as me has anything of interest to say to you. I wonder the same thing myself. The world is certainly a very different one. For my generation the main fear was a nuclear war, to which we came very close when I was in what is now called year 13. For you the main concerns may be terrorism, climate change, and the world's oil, water and food resources - or you may be more concerned by England's failure in the World Cup.

In some ways it's a more competitive world now. However, the signs that people have become more materialistic and individualistic are contradicted by some of the mutual support and charitable work one sees among young people, some of it reflected in today's ceremony. What has changed is that for young people the competition is more regulated and more centred on academic achievement. When less than 10% of people went to university, exam marks were less important than they seem now, and many who left school at 16 became very happy and successful.

The danger of the present system is that instead of an education you get a training in passing exams. Do not accept that limitation. It will do you no good in the long term. Take your chances to learn about and experience things beyond your GCSEs. This school offered me those chances, and it can do the same for you. Almost all the things I do for fun got started here. The school's out-of-hours sports, drama and music, the Debating Society, the Cadets, my time as a prefect, and a school trip to Wales, explain how I got started on leadership, management and speaking in public, why I played, coached or umpired in various sports, and why I'm still hill-walking, singing in choirs and going to the theatre and opera.

I heartily congratulate all today's prize winners, but we must not forget that those who did not win prizes may equally well go on to great things. A few years ago, with some friends, I tracked down most of my MGS contemporaries. Among other things, I was able to put the members of my year's rock band, like the one we heard earlier, back in touch. They are playing again, and are still very good! We discovered what a fantastic array of careers our year had gone into. We were spread all over the world, and not only in academic or professional jobs: there was a Jaguar dealer in Hawaii, a jazz drummer in Paris, and a safari tour operator in Kenya. Many had not been prize winners at school. In my day, we did 'O' levels rather than GCSE, and it was possible to stay for 2 years in the 5th form, today's year 11, to improve one's marks. That class, in my year, included, for example, a future very well-known organist and conductor and a future Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army. You do not have to be a prize winner to do well.

Your sharpest memories may be of teachers' peculiarities: I won't forget the teacher who could unerringly throw the blackboard rubber at anyone not paying attention, which would not be allowed now of course. He also taught us to remember the Latin word, 'undique', by referring to the contents of the washing lines everywhere round the school on a Monday. With hindsight, we were really well-educated and offered many opportunities, and I'm sure staff work hard to keep that tradition going.

As Dr. Argent mentioned, I came here when my father got a job as a teacher. I was one of about half a dozen teachers' sons in the school. We were either very bad or very good, because being in the middle made it too difficult to avoid accusations of being treated specially. Boringly, I was one of the good ones. But of course that did not stop me doing some of the things boys do. My short criminal career included picking the lock on the school pavilion. And I played fives at lunchtime without the required padded gloves: Health and Safety officers would have had a fit. Luckily the bruises seem to have done me no permanent harm.

When others seem to be acting badly, foolishly or recklessly, as I did then, it may help to remember that everybody alive is a winner in Darwin's natural selection process. What has made mankind so successful is its brains. You have that ability. So use it. Whatever it is you are interested in, turn your brains on as much as you can.

When I was a tutor in Cambridge, interviewing prospective students, we did not care so much about whether students had done worthy or intellectual things, as about whether they could talk intelligently about their interests. I can recall an excellent candidate who talked about wargames, and another about pet snakes, both topics not at the top of my personal favourites list.

Some of you will be thinking about your GCSE options, or even A level options. I would advise picking the things which interest and excite you most. You will achieve more if you study something you really care about. I was lucky in this respect. I had decided at about age 12 that maths was what most interested me, though of course I didn't know then whether I'd be able to do it well. The head may not thank me for saying this, but I was so convinced I wanted to do maths that I deliberately made a mess of my mock O level history in order to stop the history teachers pressing me to do A level History.

I find it sad that so many people now seem to think maths and science are boring. The creativity and fun sides pass them by. This of course does not stop people using the benefits. Mobile phones, satnavs and wifi simply would not exist, or would not work, without ideas from advanced maths, physics and engineering. Physics-based industries, especially aerospace and electronics, are a larger part of the economy than the much-advertised biotechnology. An engineer, Brunel, who built innovative bridges, ships and railways, came second in the TV series to find the greatest ever Briton, beating Shakespeare and Darwin. I hope a good number of you will be as inspired by science and engineering as I was.

Even when a subject interests or inspires you, it may demand some repetitive work. The top footballers put in huge amounts of training, and musicians practice for hours every day. Similarly to do well in languages or maths, even if you have talent, you also have to train. You have to learn verb endings or do a large number of practice calculations, until you don't really have to think about them. Then you are free to think about more advanced things like how to phrase a passage in music, how to express a thought in a foreign language with clarity and style, or how to design and build an electronic system.

The surprise you may get, and I hope you do, is that mastering and possessing those skills that you get by practice, and the practice itself, can also be fun. I have a friend whose wife was a ballerina: she was still doing a 90-minute ballet class for pleasure every day in her 70s.

Summing up, have fun, whether in your school work or your leisure time, but, as you do it, keep your brains in gear, because then you will get much more fun and much more benefit.

Teaching Staff Changes

Leaving Staff Sept. 2009 - August 2010:

Geoff Chantler (supply) – 22 July 2010
Phil Robling – 31 August 2010
Penny Lavender – 31st August 2010
Chris Meigh – 31st August 2010
Antonio Estepa-Silva – 31st August 2010
David Sparkes – 31st August 2010
Trevor Willis – 31st August 2010
James Coltella – 31st August 2010
Maria Quarman – 31st August 2010
Xing Wei McArthur – 31st August 2010
Dafydd Morse – 31st August 2010
Andrew Adekunle – 31st August 2010
George Pearson – 31st August 2010

New Staff - September 2010:

Matthew Harris – Physics
Oscar Cayeula-Abenoza – MFL
Adam Terrell – PE
Sharon McElhill – Head of Biology
Sarah MacIntyre – Science
Gareth Darbey – Geography
Doug Waller - RE

Leaving GTP's:

Ronan Fisher – 31st August 2010
Ana Schanz – 31st August 2010
Matt Galbraith – 31st August 2010
Sam Tapp – 31st August 2010

New GTP's:

Daniel Brady – Science GTP
Zoe Sanger – English GTP
Karen Rasor – MFL GTP
Jonathan Crowhurst – Music GTP
Annette Holder - Science

Supply Staff:

Roger Fu – Chinese

2009 – 2010 School Year Events for Old Maidstonians

The following dates may be of interest to **Old Maidstonians**

26th July to 31st August
Summer Holiday

10th September
Senior Speech Day

MGS Website

It is not our intention to report in detail on information which is readily available on the school website, but we suggest members go to:

www.mgs.kent.sch.uk

MGS AND ACADEMY STATUS

(A note from the MGS website)

Parents may be aware that MGS is one of the schools eligible for conversion to Academy Status. Whilst we recently registered our interest in Academy Status the present situation is that the DfE have not yet been able to furnish schools with sufficient information to make an informed decision on this issue. As such MGS has no immediate intention to apply for Academy Status. Parents can be assured that we will only consider this step if there are clear advantages for the school and its pupils. Parents should also note that Grammar Schools that do become Academies will be permitted to retain selection.

OMS and MGS Sale Items

Books: There are several books which have been produced either by the school or by the **Old Maidstonian Society**, and which can be obtained through the school:

“WAC: Trials and Triumphs of a Grammar School Headmaster” - A history of **Maidstone Grammar School** from 1925 – 1941 through the final report of Headmaster **Alfred John Woolgar**, MA, and from 1942 – 1966 in the Speech Day Reports of Headmaster **William Arthur Claydon**, CBE, MA. The book was researched and compiled by **James Clinch** (OM 1936-46, staff 1974-91)

Cost £10.00 (*postage an additional £2.50*) (ISBN-10: 0-9552145-0-5 ISBN-13: 978-0-9552145-0-9)

“Guadeamus: An Account of Music at Maidstone Grammar School” - Published in 1997, this book is the definitive history of music at the school from the early-1900s with a prelude by Michael Tillet (Old Maidstonian 1932-29) and postlude by David Leeke (staff 1989-2000) The book was researched and compiled by James Clinch (OM 1936-46, staff 1974-91)

Cost £5.00 (*postage an additional £2.00*) (ISBN-10: 0-9530861-0-0)

“A History of Maidstone Grammar School Combined Cadet Force (1906 – 2006)”

Researched and compiled by Diana and John Caley, the book was produced to commemorate the centenary of the Cadet Force at the school. It brought up to date the original history that the authors had written in 1981 at the 75th anniversary. It contains many pictures along with thirteen appendices of useful data and information.

Cost: £5.00 (*postage an additional £1.50*) (Not published with an ISBN)

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## Garments:

### Ties

There is a supply of both styles of the Old Maidstonian tie and these can be ordered using the return sheet at the end of this Newsletter or by e-mail. The **Crested** version is a Jacquard Woven Tie with all-over motifs of the crest in gold, red and blue on a navy background. This is the correct Old Maidstonian Tie.

Cost, including postage, £8.50.

The **Striped** version is also a Jacquard Woven Tie with a main colouring of navy blue containing angled stripes of gold, purple and white. The tie was one of two produced for the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and was originally the tie the School Captain wore. It is now worn by all senior prefects.

Cost, including postage, £6.50.

Both are of a polyester Rep and 54" x 3 1/8" in size.

### Blazer Badge

The Society has obtained a large version of the OM's badge (approx 5" x 3") which is for sale at £15 each.

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## Past Presidents of the Old Maidstonian Society

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|             |                       |             |                         |             |                    |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1884        | Rev. S.M. Crosthwaite | 1932        | A.J. Harland            | 1977        | R.R. Rylands       |
| 1893        | G. Hulburd            | 1933        | T.J. Bonny              | 1978        | R. Craske          |
| 1894        | E. Hills              | 1934        | A.S. Bennett            | 1979        | K.E. Loveland      |
| <b>1895</b> | <b>J. Clifford</b>    | 1935        | F.L. Wallis             | 1980        | A.A. Johnson       |
| 1896        | R. Mercer             | 1936        | J.H. Taylor             | 1981        | J. Winch           |
| 1897        | Dr. Plomley           | 1937        | J.G. Ambrose            | 1982        | M. Passmore        |
| 1898        | R. Hoar               | 1938        | S. Beaufoy              | 1983        | B. Welcome         |
| 1899        | J.P.H. Wood           | 1939        | Rev. Dr. F. Streatfield | 1984        | J.A. Blake         |
| 1900        | W. Hayes              | 1940-46     | K.E. Loveland           | 1985        | D. Chater          |
| 1901        | A.J. Waterman         | 1947        | J.H. Taylor             | 1986        | G. Bonner          |
| 1902        | H. Day                | 1948        | P.J. Homan              | 1987        | G. Hosking         |
| 1903        | H. Monckton           | 1949        | W. Moore                | 1988        | R. Ratcliffe       |
| 1904        | T.R. Betts            | 1950        | A.L. Ayres              | 1989        | W.J.C. Caley       |
| 1905        | W. Day, Junior        | <b>1951</b> | <b>E.F. Clifford</b>    | 1990        | R. Brown           |
| 1906        | G. Smythe             | 1952        | J.H. Pocock             | 1991        | B. Rylands         |
| 1907        | F. Laurence           | 1953        | N.C. Cook               | 1992        | H.F. Weedon        |
| 1908        | F.W. Ruck             | 1954        | M.H. Ayres              | 1993        | H.C.H. Darley      |
| 1909        | P. Smythe             | 1955        | J.F. Payne              | 1994        | J. Clinch          |
| 1910        | W.H. Day              | 1956        | G.G. Earl               | 1995        | B. Mee             |
| 1911        | W.H. Lendon           | 1957        | G.E. Waters             | 1996        | M.F. Watts         |
| 1912        | A.W. Smith            | 1958-60     | G.B. Phillips           | 1997        | D.C. Diamond       |
| 1913        | A.F. Corfe            | 1961-62     | M.H. Couchman           | 1998-99     | Dr. P.A.J. Pettit  |
| 1914        | E. Ruck               | 1963-64     | A.A. Newman             | 2000        | S.J. Delo          |
| 1915        | W. Vaughan            | 1965        | P.H. Mayor              | 2001        | V.A. Bishop        |
| 1916-21     | G.T. Cook             | 1966        | R.L. Oxley              | 2002        | G.K. Marchant      |
| 1922        | W. Day                | 1967        | P.W. Ewing              | 2003        | P. Oldham          |
| 1923        | G. Drayson            | 1968        | R.R. Rylands            | 2004        | Dr. B. White       |
| 1924        | Sir Edward Sharp, Bt. | 1969        | Lord Beeching           | 2005        | Dr. D.E. Wilson    |
| 1925        | F.A. Wallis           | 1970        | C.C. Haylor             | 2006        | Dr. R. Parkins     |
| <b>1926</b> | <b>J. Clifford</b>    | 1971        | J.J. Burke              | 2007        | F. Sando           |
| 1927        | W.H. Proctor          | 1972        | P.A.W. Howe             | 2008        | Prof. M. MacCallum |
| 1928        | W. Clemetson          | 1973        | J.A. Bergg              | 2009        | Dr A Webb          |
| 1929        | C.A.W. Duffield       | 1974        | T.P. Gutteridge         | <b>2010</b> | <b>P Clifford</b>  |
| 1930        | W.J. Sharp            | 1975        | M.A. Gibson             |             |                    |
| <b>1931</b> | <b>W.C. Clifford</b>  | 1976        | A. Hart                 |             |                    |

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## OMS Annual Supper and Annual General Meeting

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The Annual Supper will be held in school hall on **Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2011** at **7.30 pm**. The change of format to a buffet and the use of round tables was judged a success and will be continued next year. **All Old Maidstonians** are welcome.

The menu will be published at a later date, but those requiring special meals should contact John Clayton at [j.clayton@hikent.org.uk](mailto:j.clayton@hikent.org.uk).

The **Old Maidstonians Annual General Meeting** will take place immediately before the supper at 6.15 pm and all members are very welcome to attend.

**ORDER FORM**

**GARMENTS**

I enclose £ ..... for the purchase of ..... Crested tie(s) at £8.50 each

I enclose £ ..... for the purchase of ..... Striped tie(s) at £6.50 each

I enclose £ .....for the purchase of ..... Blazer Badge(s) at £15 each

**BOOKS**

I enclose £..... for the purchase of ..... copy(ies) of WAC: Trials & Triumphs....  
at £10.00 each (plus £2.50 postage)

I enclose £..... for the purchase of ..... copy(ies) of A History of MGS CCF....  
at £5.00 each (plus £1.50 postage)

I enclose £..... for the purchase of ..... copy(ies) of Guadeamus: A History of Music....  
at £5.00 each (plus £2.00 postage)

**Total: £ .....**

**YOUR DETAILS**

Name: ..... Year of Leaving: .....

Address: .....  
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E-mail: ..... Telephone: .....

**Please return this form to:**

**The Old Maidstonian Society, Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7BT.**