



Old Maidstonian Society

Newsletter No.5 - Summer 2011



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President: **Anthony Hayward** Chairman: **Richard Ratcliffe** Secretary: **Graham Belson**

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As reported in our last OM Newsletter, during my term of office I want to make a number of visits to the school to study the aspects of life there which particularly interested me when I was a pupil. By so doing I hope to be able to develop links between the school and the OM Society in these fields. So far I have managed to make two visits to the school, and can report as follows.

The Junior Christian Union is now led by outside professional youth workers, while the Senior CU is led by the pupils themselves. Both would like visiting speakers from the OMs, so I have offered to do both if they wish.

The Combined Cadet Force now consists of Army, RAF and Naval sections. I spent a pleasant afternoon with each section, sampling their training and finishing with a combined contingent dismissal parade. There are many requirements, such as officers, civilian instructors, and items of equipment, all of these shortages are due to cutbacks to cadet funding. I suggest OMs who are, or have been, in Her Majesty's Services and remember their own CCF days, contact me by email at

anthony.hayward@hotmail.co.uk and I will pass on any offers of help to the contingent commander.

So far I have been unable to observe any activities in the Music Department due to their preparations for exams, but I hope to make another visit to the department in the autumn term. In the meantime I am looking forward to visiting this year's Aldeburgh Festival where Philip Langridge's son, Stephen, is presenting an exhibition of his late father's work, including some of his early performances at MGS.

Anthony Hayward

THE CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

I wrote last time about the Society making representation to Michael Gove protesting about the effect of the education spending cuts being disproportionate for Grammar Schools with large Sixth Forms. We have received replies from his civil servants and from Helen Grant and Hugh Robertson our local MP's. Their words in reply are somewhat bland and non-committal of course, but at least we have nailed our colours to the mast and been "read".



Neil Turrell outside his school

I was travelling through Singapore in April en route to a holiday cruise and we spent a day with Neil and Trish Turrell and met with their daughter Nancy and her son. They are all enjoying their sojourn in the Far East and send back good wishes to all in the Society. Neil will be over in the UK during July and I hope to see them whilst they are here. Most of his staff at the Tanglin Trust School are British and he actually has made a number of flying visits to London recruiting, but it's almost like "there and back in two days" – so no sign of him slowing down!!

We had a good committee meeting in June and coupled that with an EGM at which we ratified the Rules of the Society (at last!) and also finalised the revised Awards Scheme which we shall launch formally in the Autumn (see elsewhere in this issue). We are also applying for Trust Status so that member contributions will be treated under HMRC rules for Gift Aid. I do hope members will support the scheme and see fit to assist the work of the School in these times of financial belt tightening.

We also signed off the certificates for the Honorary Vice-Presidents (previously known as Honorary Members) of the Society. These included Neil Turrell and David Leeke (President-elect). The Society also honoured John Caley as an additional HV-P in recognition of over 55 years in the MGS family, first as a member of staff and then beyond that into his retirement with the CCF and the Committee of this Society. In all of these roles he has laboured tirelessly.

Richard Ratcliffe

OM UPDATE

Committee Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting:

On 13th June there was an Extraordinary General Meeting followed by a meeting of the committee. The EGM was held to ratify some revisions to the Society's rules and the rules of the Awards Scheme. For the record, we print both of the agreed sets of rules below:-

Old Maidstonian Society Rules

1. Name

The Society shall be known as 'The Old Maidstonian Society'.

2. Objects

The objects of the Society are:

- a. *To keep former students and members of staff in touch with the activities of the School;*
- b. *To keep former students and members of staff in touch with one another;*
- c. *To provide an association which shall endeavour to promote the interests of the School and support the Governors, Headmaster, staff and students as opportunities may arise.*

3. Membership

- a. *Full Membership of the Society shall be confined to former students of the School and former members of the School's staff.*
- b. *Serving members of the School's staff shall be Associate Members of the Society.*
- c. *The Society may at AGMs or EGMs elect as Honorary Vice-Presidents any persons who have not been students or members of staff, but who have rendered distinguished service either to the School or to the Society.*

4. Management

- a. *The affairs of the Society shall be controlled by a committee elected from the Membership by the AGM. This Committee shall comprise a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and as many other officers and members as are deemed appropriate by the Committee and endorsed by the AGM.*
- b. *The President shall hold office for one year. He or she will be confirmed as President-Elect by the AGM and will assume office at the end of the Annual Supper in the following year. The Committee may at its discretion make an additional nomination for a 2nd President-Elect, who would follow the President-Elect at the end of his or her term of office.*
- c. *The permanent post of Honorary Vice-President will be bestowed occasionally on those who have served the Society or School in an outstanding manner. (Existing Honorary Life Members at April 2010 will also be given the title of 'Honorary Vice-President').*
- d. *The Headmaster, the President then in office and the President-Elect shall be members of the Committee ex officio.*
- e. *The Committee shall have powers of co-option.*
- f. *All members of the Committee, whether elected, co-opted or sitting ex officio, shall have the right*

to vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have an extra, casting vote.

- g. The Committee will appoint its own Chairman annually at the Committee meeting following the AGM, but the President will normally chair the AGM.*
- h. Four Committee members shall constitute a quorum.*
- i. The Committee may appoint sub-committees if required.*
- j. As required under the School's terms of governance, the Society, through its Committee, shall appoint a member of the Society to serve on the School's Board of Governors.*

5. Finance

- a. Membership of the Society shall be free to all those who are eligible to be members.*
- b. The Society's financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December, or such other period as shall be agreed at the AGM or at any EGM.*
- c. Separate accounts shall be maintained for the general running of the Society (The General Reserve Account), and for the Awards (The Awards Account - see section 11).*
- d. The Treasurer shall present full accounts and a balance sheet to the AGM, with a request for their adoption.*
- e. The accounts of the Society shall be subject to an annual independent examination by a person appointed for that purpose by the AGM. In the absence of a current Independent Examiner, for whatever reason, the Committee shall be authorised to make an interim appointment which shall remain valid until the next following AGM.*
- f. The Independent Examiner may not be a member of the Committee of the Society and should be a professionally-qualified accountant.*

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- a. This shall be held in each calendar year normally before the end of April on the same evening as the Annual Supper.*
- b. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting, together with an agenda, shall be notified to all members, not less than 14 clear days in advance, together with any proposed alterations to the Rules of the Society and any other matters of moment.*
- c. The purpose of the Meeting shall be:
 - i. To receive reports from the Secretary, from the Treasurer and from any sub-committees;*
 - ii. To adopt the accounts if thought proper;*
 - iii. To confirm the management arrangements as detailed in section 4;*
 - iv. To discuss any other business previously notified.**

- d. All Full Members and Associate Members shall be entitled to vote at the AGM, and a quorum shall be formed by ten members.*

7. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- a. An EGM may be called at any time, by the Committee or by 25 members, giving fourteen clear days' notice to all members. Such notice shall specify the time, date and place of the meeting and the purpose for which it is being convened, with details of any proposed decisions to be taken.*
- b. All Full Members and Associate Members shall be entitled to vote at an EGM, and a quorum shall be formed by ten members.*

8. Annual Supper

A Supper shall be held each year, normally during March or April.

9. Sporting & Other Activities

The Society shall arrange such sporting or other activities as may seem appropriate from time to time.

10. Colours

The colours of the Society shall be navy blue (23 mm), white (4 mm), purple (3 mm) and old gold (8 mm), to be worn in descending band order. (The widths shown in brackets are those of the stripes on the tie.) Only members shall be entitled to wear the colours and badge as incorporated in any garments which may be provided by the Society.

11. Society Awards

- a. The historical details of all Awards are given in Appendix 1 of these Rules.*
- b. Awards shall be maintained and distributed as detailed in the separate 'Awards Scheme Guidance Notes', which may from time to time be amended by the Committee and approved by a General Meeting of the Society.*
- c. The Committee, duly considering the advice of the Treasurer, shall decide how to collect contributions, invest capital and distribute the resultant income.*
- d. The Committee shall consider requests for Awards made directly by eligible applicants, or on the recommendation of the Headmaster.*

12. Changes to these Rules

Any alterations to these Rules may be made only at the AGM or at an EGM, after notice has been given to members in accordance with Rule 6(b) and 7. The date for implementation of any alterations to these Rules shall be decided by the AGM or an EGM.

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Awards Scheme - Guidance Notes

The Society is keen to resume the Awards Scheme and the Guidance Notes for implementing it were agreed and approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The original intention was that the interest from the investment of the donations would be used to fund the Awards. In the current economic climate that is no longer viable, and therefore the continuation of the Awards Scheme will depend solely on the generosity of the membership in replacing the capital. Each year a list will be published detailing the Awards made, and a request for donations to replenish the fund made through the Newsletter.

The text of the Guidance Notes for the Awards Scheme is as follows:-

The Old Maidstonian Society has at its disposal funds which have been donated by former pupils and staff for the furtherment of the education of individual Maidstone Grammar School pupils and former pupils.

The Society will make awards each year to pupils or ex-pupils to assist them in a course, an event, or an activity to further education. Each request will be dealt with sympathetically and all applications will be assessed solely on their merit.

The maximum amount to be awarded annually will be £2,500, subject to the availability of funds. The maximum amount of each award will be £500. If, in future, the level of contributions allows an increased annual sum to be awarded, then that increased sum will be decided by the Committee.

Some Awards Funds have now been amalgamated in order to reduce the complexity and the administration. The names have been retained of all the Funds which were previously ascribed to a particular pupil or teacher. The new list of Funds is as follows:

- The Old Maidstonian Award;*
- G B Philips Award;*
- Dicker Award;*
- J F Payne Bequest;*
- T P Gutteridge Award;*
- E F Clifford Gift;*
- Alex Stewart Memorial Tankard.*

Full details of the amalgamated Awards Funds is available upon request. A list of the original Awards Funds, as far as can be determined, is appended to the Society Rules and is available upon request.

The total amount awarded each year will be taken from each Award Fund in proportion to its size; however, awards will be made in accordance with the specific terms allocated to it. The G B Philips Award, Dicker Award, J F Payne Bequest and T P Gutteridge Award will be awarded until such time each fund is depleted. The name

of each of those awards will be perpetuated by retaining the sum of £1 in each. The Old Maidstonian Award will be sustained by contributions from members 'after the event'; in other words the award will be made and the amount will be later recouped through advertising in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Any interest accrued will be apportioned in proportion to the size of the remaining Award Funds. Any surplus funds will be allocated to the Old Maidstonian Award.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The ability to demonstrate some excellence in the sport or activity;*
- The candidate's initiative, commitment and achievement;*
- A genuine reason for attending;*
- The ability to demonstrate some effort to self-fund the course, project or training;*
- A clear contribution to the personal development of the applicant;*
- The degree to which the activity brings credit to the school.*

Awards are entirely discretionary. They are intended for personal development and to benefit the broader outlook of the recipient.

Applicants must currently be attending Maidstone Grammar School, or be Old Maidstonians. The Awards Scheme will be advertised in the school during September and October each year and in the OMS Newsletter. The closing date for applications is the 31st October of each year.

Candidates will be screened by the Headmaster, who will then recommend to the Society Committee to whom awards should be made. The Committee, who will be informed by e-mail or letter of the names of the applicants with supporting documentation, will have the opportunity to review all the applications and their decision is final. However, it is likely that the Committee will support the recommendations of the Headmaster. Copies of all the applications will be available to the Committee upon request.

It will be assumed that each Committee Member agrees with the Headmaster's recommendations unless they state within two weeks of their receipt of the recommendations that they do not.

A successful applicant will be requested to submit a report on their experiences to the Old Maidstonian Society, which will be published in the Society Newsletter, and they may be asked to attend the Annual Supper to give a short, verbal account for the benefit of the membership.

Applications should be made on the OMS Awards Application Form, copies of which will be available from either the school office or by e-mail request to oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk. Completed forms should be submitted to the Headmaster.

Committee Meeting Notes

Highlights of the Committee Meeting which followed the EGM were as follows:-

Charitable Trust The Old Maidstonian Trust Deed resolution, proposed by Gardner Crawley and seconded by David Leeke, was unanimously approved by the committee. Gardner Crawley is dealing with this matter, and an application has been made to HMRC for Charitable Status and Gift Aid. Full details will be published once the matter is concluded. The four trustees of the Trust, elected on a 3-year rolling cycle, will initially be Richard Ratcliffe, Gardner Crawley, John Clayton and Graham Belson.

Social Events Several OMS members have offered to make presentations of their experiences and particular areas of expertise, both to the school and the Society. It was agreed to investigate how to achieve this with events such as:

- Wine and Cheese Evenings
- Lunches, including spouses
- Mid-summer BBQ
- Mid-week evenings

The matter of charging for the functions was discussed, and in order not to deplete the Society funds it is likely that minimal charging will have to be adopted.

The Committee continues to try to interest a member or members to assist in organising functions. The role of a Functions Organiser will involve working with the membership to organise reunions, annual 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 Chairman or Membership Secretary.

A Social Evening with David Leeke - he writes:-

Some of you will know that I am currently President-elect of the Old Maidstonians Society (I take over as President for a year in March 2012). I am especially keen to make contact with as many staff and students from my time at MGS during the next 18 months.

To that end I have arranged a drink for anyone who can come (ex staff and students) at The Chados Pub in St Martin's Lane near Charing Cross Station on Friday 16 September 2011 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. I shall be there and hope that as many of you as can will pop in.

I hope to see you on 16th September. If that is impossible, do please come to the annual supper when I will be installed as President. This takes place in the school on Friday 23rd March 2012.



The Committee at work

L to R, clockwise: Brian White, Peter Sampson, Gardner Crawley, David Leeke, Richard Ratcliffe, John Caley, Peter Weaver, John Clayton.

As you all might guess, I wish to give special attention to music during my year of office, and I am delighted to tell those of you who have not yet heard that Robert Fuller (who was my no. 2 for the last few years of my time as Director of Music at MGS) has been appointed to succeed my successor, Andrew Lowen as MGS's Director of Music from September this year. I know that Robert has just a few years to do before retirement, and this will boost his pension. Robert has always been very astute when it comes to finances! As I have said, I am delighted at this news and thrilled to know that the old 'core ethos' of music at MGS (which I was lucky enough to inherit and which Andrew Lowen has continued) will continue under Robert. He has a new young Assistant Director of Music who is younger than most of you - about 23 I gather!!

I do hope that I will see lots of you on 16th September in London. Do please pass this message on to anyone else who you think might be interested in joining us on this occasion. I will also put something on Facebook about this.

All the best
David

Treasurer's Report

The General Revenue Account is used for the day-to-day expenses of the Society and currently stands at about £2600. The Awards Account is used solely for Awards under the Awards Scheme and currently stands at about £12,800.

General Revenue Account

The Society holds a General Revenue Account for general expenses and the profit from the Annual Supper contributes towards the Newsletter being posted to those who want a hard copy. However, the Newsletter costs about £5 to print and produce, and any contributions towards those costs are always gratefully accepted. Whilst

the Society is delighted to forward printed copies to those members who do not have e-mail, or who simply prefer a printed copy, we rely solely on contributions to the General Revenue Account to cover those costs – we do not have any other income source other than the small excess from the Annual Supper.

The Society acknowledges the 30 or 40 members who have standing orders in place and who contribute annually to the Society. Although many of the standing orders are small, they are still gratefully accepted. The Society also gratefully acknowledges recent, more significant contributions from John Booth, John Caley and John Doe towards the costs of printing and posting the Newsletter.

Awards Fund Account

This fund is used for the benefit of the pupils or ex-pupils of the school who need financial assistance for their personal development and to benefit the broader outlook of the recipient. Please refer to the Guidance notes above. The Society intends to distribute £2,500 of these funds each year and then recover the capital from the membership.

Continuing the Awards Scheme will of course be completely dependent upon the generosity of the members. Any contributions will be most welcome and will allow the Awards Scheme to develop and assist those in need.

Other Society News

Graham Belson has been forced by pressure of work to stand down as Newsletter Editor and Secretary at the end of August. He will continue as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. We are most grateful to Graham for his tireless efforts on our behalf.

The Society is very fortunate that Brian White will assume the roles of Secretary and Newsletter Editor when he retires at the end of August.

Malcolm MacCallum has taken over the Website management, with Simon Pain and James Kinsman.

Nostalgia Quiz

Do you remember where these crests were to be found?
Read on - answer later.



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 joining and leaving the school. There are currently over 800 members of the Society, an increase of about 500 in the past two years and over 100 this year so far. There remain over 150 members with whom the Society has lost contact, as no responses have been received from several attempts at communication.

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. We now receive a significant number of such requests as the membership increases.

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

The date of leaving MGS is not an ideal reference to bring members 'of the same year' together. Occasionally pupils leave at the end of the 5th year and their contemporaries continue for another two, or maybe even three years. The only satisfactory way to deal with the matter is to have the dates of both joining and leaving the school. If you could please pass your dates of leaving and joining to the Membership Secretary it would be helpful.

From an administration point of view, it is far easier to be able to telephone a member rather than write or e-mail. We have the telephone numbers of many of the members, but by no means all. Again, if you could please send your home and mobile numbers it will undoubtedly save time and effort.

We are aware that there are errors in the Membership Register which crept in whilst transferring the information from the previous card system to the current Excel format. These errors are gradually being removed and we ask for your patience if we have your details incorrectly recorded.

It is our intention to publish the Membership Register (listing names and dates only) in the Winter Newsletter each year.

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HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

With the advent of subscription-free membership, the previous honorary position of Honorary Life Member, established to recognise service to the Society or School, effectively became redundant. The Committee decided to adopt Honorary Vice-Presidency for those who had previously held Honorary Life Membership. The following are now Honorary Vice-Presidents:

John Booth	Des Diamond
Nigel Dodd	David Wilson
Cyril Foreman	Chris Hatton
David Leeke	Ron McCormick
John Morgan	Rodney Parkins
Donald Scott	Neil Turrell
Tony Webb	

It was unanimously agreed at the recent Committee meeting that John Caley should also be made Honorary Vice-President in recognition of his long service to the school, CCF and the Old Maidstonian Society. He wrote in response:

"I am more than grateful for the honour which the Committee did for me yesterday evening in appointing me as an Honorary Vice-President. I have now joined the ranks of such legendary figures as Bob Rylands. Can you please pass on my thanks to all concerned?"

It was also decided that all of our Vice-Presidents should be presented with a certificate to commemorate their appointments. As an example, John's certificate is printed above.



THE OMS AND MGS WEBSITES

The OMS website www.oldmaidstonians.org.uk is continually updated with the latest news, most of which is eventually published in the Newsletter. The website is seen as the main vehicle through which the Society keeps in contact with the membership.

It is not our intention to report in detail on information that is readily available on the MGS (School) website, and members should go to www.mgs.kent.sch.uk

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 in the Newsletter and 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 another 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.

You can contact the Society by e-mail at oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk, or by writing to:

The Old Maidstonian Society
Maidstone Grammar School
Barton Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 7BT Tel: 01622 752101

E-mail 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 Membership Secretary. 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.

Each member of the committee may be contacted individually using their e-mail addresses which are given later.

THE SOCIETY CREST

The school crest contains the motto 'Olim Meminisse Juvabit'. As reported in the Winter 2009 Newsletter, this is probably taken from Book I, line 203 of Vergil's Aeneid where Aeneas is trying to console what was left of his troops as they lay shipwrecked on the shores of Carthage.

Broadly speaking it is often interpreted to mean “A joy it will be one day, perhaps, to remember even this”.

Another version is ‘Haec Olim Meminisse Juvabit’:

Haec: These things

Olim: Formerly, sometime

Meminisse: To remember

Juvabit: It will please, be helpful



The OMS crest, which has been in existence for as long as anybody can remember, omits the ‘Olim’. Whether or not that was deliberate is not known, but perhaps a preferable motto might have been ‘Nunc Meminisse Iuvo’ to better reflect the past rather than the present:

Nunc: Now, at present, this time

Iuvo: Present active of Juvabit.

Are there any Latin scholars out there?

(Editor: I hasten to add that there is absolutely no intention to change the motto or the crest!)

The Newsletter is published in mid-April, and at the end of July and November annually.

Those who have e-mail receive the Newsletter by this route, which reduces costs. Many members either do not have e-mail, or for other reasons prefer to receive a printed version of it. The Society is pleased to oblige. However (*there is always a ‘However’*), the Newsletter costs about £5 to produce, print and post, and the Society would appreciate any donations towards those costs.

ARCHIVE MATERIAL

The Society is always pleased to receive any Old Maidstonian or MGS material. If you have any copies of the Maidstonian, Journals, or any other material that we can archive we would appreciate it if you would please send it to the Society at the MGS Barton Road address.

NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

The Society is always very pleased to receive news of Old Maidstonians. Maintaining contact between members is what the Society is all about! Please note that letters and e-mail communications are, as far as possible, reproduced more or less as received and minimal editing of the content is made. However, space is sometimes limited and we also have to protect the innocent! So, as always, “the editors’ decision is final”.

Tony Gosby: 1945

Thank you for continuing to send me the OM Newsletter – always a great pleasure to have news of my contemporaries, even if they continue to diminish in numbers. However, there was still one about – Keith Mitchell, and I think that he was a fellow of new boys in 3A in September 1939 with a form master ‘Puggy Richmond’. I can find no trace and I wonder if you would be kind enough put us in touch.

Newsletter no 4 includes a request for news of OM’s and I enclose a précis of my time since schooldays. AKA ‘Goz’, see enclosed doodle!

A Short Autobiography from D R Gosby:

On leaving school early in 1945, I went to Maidstone School of Art, at the suggestion of the Deputy Head, ‘Beta Phillips’. Due to family circumstances I then had to find work and was taken on as a trainee draughtsman in the County Architects Department at Springfield. The head was Sidney Loweth, a very amicable boss. Walking in the town centre one evening he caught up with me and chattered away. Down Week Street we were passing the old Woolworth’s building, with shining curved bays heading towards the sky as a facade. “Look at those, look at those – King Kong’s URINALS!” Do have a look when you are that way sometime.

In those days reaching the age of 18 meant that your immediate future lay with the army and if you did not like it you were sent down the mines to work at the coal face. Having been in the school cadet force I chose the former. When in the Rhine army in Germany I learned that a “Class B” release could be obtained if one had been accepted for full time university or technical training. The architect father of a school friend had recommended me to do so. My “demob number” for release was 78, and as they had only reached the 30’s at that time two or three years could stretch ahead. My application for release was actually signed very quickly by my commanding officer (I thought this was very suspicious considering he had always been very polite to me).

Five happy years at a school of Architecture in London followed and upon obtaining professional qualifications I went back to work at the County Architect’s Office. After two years I left to work as a private architect and was pleased to do



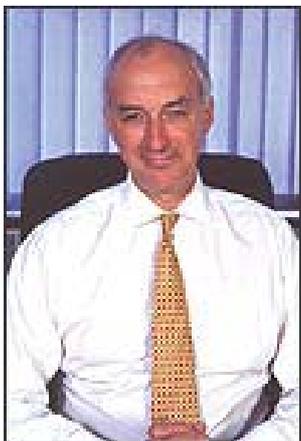
work commissioned by the County Architect to add to other commercial work.

Later I had an association with an older surveyor in offices in Mill Street, Maidstone. One day on leaving them I quite literally bumped into 'Bill' Manning, with his gleaming bald dome fringed with curly white locks. Without a moment's hesitation he greeted me with "Hello, young Gosby – how are you?" Bearing in mind that I was never clever enough to be in his class for Advanced Maths and he only noticed me when signing the Form Register and this was 12 years earlier, it was remarkable. Do schoolmasters still have this amazing gift of 'total recall'?

After an enjoyable career I retired in 1993 giving me more time for sketching, cartooning, and house painting. I have a lovely wife and two daughters, all of them classical musicians. Me? I can't play a note!

Bruce Rylands: (date?)

Although retaining his connections with the Firm, Bruce Rylands retired from practice with Gill, Turner, Tucker in June 2008. A former Partner in the commercial department, Bruce Rylands had a long and successful career with the Firm, which he joined in 1969



Norman Butcher: 1946

As a pseudo-Scot of Cornish ancestry, brought up in Kent and with strong Yorkshire affiliations, I have strong and good memories of my time at the school from 1939 until 1946. Born in 1928 in Chichester as the youngest son of a hardware shop manager, my father went from Folkestone to Maidstone in 1935 to open a new branch in Week Street for Timothy, Whites and Taylors, later taken over by Boots. As a family of five we lived first in Blythe Road and then in Postley Road, a short walk along Sheal's Crescent and Barton Road to the school.

At school throughout the Second World War, MGS provided for me exactly the right stimulating environment, firstly under A.J. Woolger and then from 1941 under the formidable

W.A. Claydon. Teaching in Physics, Chemistry, Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics was particularly strong. My scholastic studies were balanced with drama as Stage Manager for annual Shakespeare and other productions and playing cello under Mr Julier in the school orchestra, (I sat between Mr Phillips on the double bass and Mr Keast on the bassoon). I also stage-managed the visit of both Benjamin Britten and Sybil Thorndike (daughter of the Vicar of Aylesford) to the school. Wartime Kent provided an interesting range of extra-mural activities (Battle of Britain, etc.). Like Andrew Dilnot (Newsletter No. 4) I watched Kent playing county cricket in Mote Park (L.E.G. Ames, Godfrey Evans, D.V.P. Wright, et al).

By the spring of 1946, I had developed an interest in metallurgy, so Mr Manning, knowing Dr Clarke of the Physics Department at the University of Sheffield, suggested I tried for an entrance scholarship at Sheffield. As a lad from Kent I shall always remember the cultural shock of that first brief visit to Sheffield early in 1946, especially being part of the great stream of people leaving the Sheffield Midland Station early, going out walking in Derbyshire at the weekend. Although I did not get the scholarship at Sheffield, nevertheless the University indicated that I would probably be offered a place after National Service so I enrolled in the Army in September after leaving school in June 1946. After the initial six weeks training in Maidstone, I went to the Royal Artillery depot near Oswestry for Heavy Anti-Aircraft training and endured the harsh winter of early 1947.

By March I had transferred to the Army Educational Corps based at Alton Towers in Staffordshire and which became Royal whilst I was there. I spent the whole of March on a special training course for teachers in the Army at Holly Royde College in the Palatine Road in Manchester. I was captivated by the delights of Manchester – its superb Central Library and the Halle Orchestra playing at the Belle Vue Circus!

From Alton Towers I was posted to BAOR in Germany and, as a Sergeant in the RAEC was attached to several units, notably the Third Regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery near Hanover, part of the 7th Armoured Division. I thus became a Desert Rat though I've never been near a real desert. With a slight delay in my demob due to the Korean War, I got to Sheffield University in October 1948 to do an Honours Degree in Chemistry. For a third subject in my first year at Sheffield I chose Geology and was immediately captivated, so transferred to an Honours Degree in Geology at the end of my first year, graduating eventually in 1952 with a First in Geology at Sheffield.

I went on to do research on the west side of Dartmoor, meeting up with Bill Dearman, a geologist from Imperial College in London who was then employed at Meldon Quarry near Okehampton. From Sheffield I got the opportunity to go to Oxford in 1954 on a Hastings Senior Scholarship at the Queen's College. I still have Mr Claydon's little congratulatory note! At Oxford I worked for two years under the remarkable L.R. Wager, then Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, who had discovered the world's most famous layered intrusion in 1930, the Skaergaard Intrusion on the East Greenland

coast, and who, in 1933, had climbed higher than anyone else on the Everest Expedition that year. I eventually visited the Skaargaard Intrusion myself on a wonderful Russian ship-borne expedition in September 2001. I shall never forget listening to the ship's radio on the final Tuesday as events unfolded in New York!

Whilst in Oxford, I married Margaret Nutter of Brighouse, a fellow student at Sheffield, in a ceremony at St Peter in the East, next to Queen's, conducted by the College Chaplain, David Jenkins, later to become the somewhat controversial Bishop of Durham. My wife then worked in the Cartographic Department of Oxford University Press making school atlases. Our eldest son, Colin, was born in Oxford in 1956. He is now one of the world's leading engineers designing computer systems.

In 1956 I got my first academic post as Assistant Lecturer in Geology in the University of Reading. My work with Bill Dearman on Dartmoor came to fruition in 1959 in a major collaborative paper published in September that year. I went on to work with other geologists in the South-West of England, trying to understand this complicated part of Britain. My Lectureship at Reading came to an end in 1969 by which time, thanks to Harold Wilson and Jenny Lee, the Open University was set up. Fortunately for Geology, or Earth Sciences as it became known, the OU appointed a truly remarkable man, Ian Gass from Leeds University, as its Foundation Professor in 1969. Once in post in April 1969, Ian Gass exploded in every direction setting up what became arguably not only the best Department in Britain, but in the whole world!

I had the good fortune to be appointed by him to be Staff Tutor in Earth Sciences for Scotland. With my family I moved north from Reading to Edinburgh between Christmas and Hogmanay at the end of 1970. I was then responsible for the teaching of the whole of science for the whole of Scotland, a unique job which I thoroughly enjoyed until my retirement in 1992. I was able to appoint some excellent people as tutors and encouraged many OU students. I even had one, the OU's most remote student, on the Isle of Foula off Shetland! I visited her, and stayed the night with her family in their primitive croft. Another student was in the State Hospital at Carstairs and was killed by another inmate in a spectacular breakout I remember.

Having retired from the OU in 1992, I have continued to remain as active as possible becoming seriously interested especially in the history of geology. In 1997 it was my idea, which I put to The Royal Society of Edinburgh, to organise an international meeting, held that year in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, to mark the Bicentenary of the death of James Hutton (1726 – 1797), regarded throughout the world as the Founder of Modern Geology. In 1995 I discovered the site of Hutton's house at St. John's Hill in Edinburgh and a Memorial Garden now occupies the site.

I have broadened my interests to include the other leading figures in the Scottish Enlightenment – David Hume, Adam Smith and Joseph Black. Of the four, I believe that Hutton, still the least known to the public generally, is arguably the greatest figure in the Scottish Enlightenment, because for the first time he discovered how the earth works! Unlike the others, Hutton held no post of any kind – a truly remarkable achievement!

With my younger two sons born in Reading before moving north, I am immensely proud of the achievements of all my family. Although it was not in a good state in the 1970's, at least I can have the satisfaction of knowing that my three sons were at the same school, the Royal High School of Edinburgh, as James Hutton, Leonard Horner, Archibald Geikie and Ronnie Corbett.

(Ed: We were very pleased to be able to assist Norman in re-establishing contact with two other 1946 contemporaries – James Clinch and Patrick Bailey.)

Keith Mitchell: 1946

Thank you for the Spring edition (2011) of the OM Newsletter.

Apologies for my appalling handwriting which clearly caused a lot of frustration to decipher, I can only plead old age and lifelong inattention to detail. I intend to send you a few lines on what has happened to me from 1946-2011 and when I do I'll try to ensure that they are legible.

Three points from what you published:

1. Our name for Mr Kemp was Garibaldi
2. I have learned from another OM (not a member) that Bob Holland died about 3 years ago
3. I'm sure it was Victor (not Vernon) Fawcett (Ed: Keith, with respect, I am equally sure you are wrong. He was definitely 'Vernon' - a lovely and very talented man whom I remember well. My artistic incompetence was legendary, but was always very patient with me. PSW)

I really enjoyed reading the Newsletter and will ensure that any future contributions from me will be legible even if it isn't literate.

P.S. Do you know anyone named Gordon Dent living in Bearsted? He would be nearly 84 years old and is an OM who left MGS in 1944. I know he moved there some years ago.

(Ed: Regrettably we were unable to assist with contact details for Gordon Dent – does anybody know of his whereabouts?)

I was interested to see the caption – Derek Sayer – in the Spring newsletter. Probably someone will contact you who knew Derek much better than I did, but if not..... As a precocious 11 year old I played a couple of matches for the Under 14 cricket X1 in 1940 of which Derek was the undoubted star. As the contribution says, he went on to become the 1st X1 star fast bowler. He was followed into the school by his middle brother, Donald, who was a useful cricketer in his own right. But the star of the Sayer brothers was the youngest brother David, who entered MGS about 1947. Like Derek he was a star fast bowler and he went on to gain 3 cricket blues at Oxford University, play for the Gentlemen against the Players and take 441 wickets for Kent between 1955-76 as an amateur.

At least two other OMs played for Kent in the post-war period. John Larking played 3 games in 1946 and my contemporary in the MGS teams, Maurice Fenner, played about 12 games between 1952 to 1954. He also played for Combined Services and the RAF. He retired from the Air Force as a Wing Commander and was, for a while, Secretary of Kent CCC. We met very briefly in 1969 in Singapore when I was secretary of Combined Services Far East Cricket and the full RAF team came out to play us.

Derek Sole: 1950

I transferred to New Zealand with Royal Insurance in 1956 and worked in Dunedin, Invercargill and Wellington until I retired (early) in 1987. For about 12 years I worked as full time volunteer with a Wellington inner city community agency, doing administration, driving, researching, etc. In 2000 we moved to Eastbourne, a village on the opposite side of Wellington Harbour to the city. In Eastbourne I became involved in environmental groups and monitored the seed fall from native trees and also monitored rodent and mustelid (Ed: A mammal of the weasel family.) numbers. I also joined Eastbourne Forest Rangers who maintained tracks in the local regional park.

My main activity these days involves Matiu/Somes, a small island in the middle of Wellington harbour. It has 900 years of Maori history and has also been used as an animal quarantine station, an internment camp for “aliens” in both wars, and a human quarantine station from 1872 to 1920. It is now a scientific and historic reserve with endangered animals such as Tuatara (a reptile which pre-dates the dinosaurs) and Cook Strait Giant Weta (An insect about the size of a mouse). The Eastbourne Forest Rangers provide guided tours of the island and I have written guidebooks for use by the Rangers.

My main interest is in the human quarantine period which is the reason why I have written these notes. I was surprised to find a connection back to Maidstone. Many of the immigrants were disaffected Kent farm workers and they held mass meetings in the Corn Exchange in Maidstone, which by a coincidence is close by the Kent Fire Office building occupied by Royal Insurance where I had started work. (It is now a Muggleton Inn !). This is well documented in the book *The Farthest Promised Land* by Rollo Arnold.

John Doe: 1952

My history is not very inspiring as other OM's. My school days were from September 1947 to July 1952. I have lived and worked locally in the building trade. I left work slightly early because the company computer system was driving me up the wall. How I resisted attacking the terminals with a hammer I don't know.

A few brief words of encouragement from Alec Stewart introduced me to 20-year very enjoyable stint with Maidstone Rugby Club. It was great fun playing and drinking alongside so many Old Maidstonians. I played cricket for a bit longer until the eyes started going.

I got married in 1963, had two children and now am a grandfather to two, both of whom I'm delighted to say are at their local grammar school. I have been retired for ten years, and am thoroughly enjoying all the holidays, outings and other delights of retirement.

Thank you again for the Newsletter.

Robert Snare: 1952

I intended to write to you last year to congratulate you on the way you have improved the OMS in content and communication, but at the age of 78 I decided to stand in the May 2010 GE in the Aldershot Constituency, where I thought I could pit my military experience against the incumbent Gerald Howarth. I was unsuccessful as the Conservative

euroscptics voted for their party rather than in the national interest. I now run two UKIP branches in SW Surrey and Aldershot, so I have a never-ending task on my hands.

Of interest, is the fact that I attended a hustings at Farnborough Sixth Form College, and desperate to find a few simple facts viewed from a young person's perspective, I trawled through my memorabilia and found my MGS Distribution of Prizes programme dated 20th October 1949. If you are interested I will photo copy and send it, but I assume you have these records anyway. The main point is that the prizes were presented by Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. I related my experience as a youth of their age to what had largely been an apathetic audience, more concerned with gay rights than the then current political situation. I concluded with Monty's final sentence to the effect that if only 5% of us had listened to his speech, and put his words into action, we would be very successful in life, and I never forgot it. After the meeting was over I was surrounded by a dozen or more young men who said they were going to vote UKIP.

I am still in contact with John Waters who was a year behind me, but also joined the RAF. Our names should be on the Cadetship Board which when I last saw it was in a dilapidated condition over one of the back doors. I did write and ask that it be refurbished and updated with subsequent cadetships to Sandhurst, Dartmouth and Cranwell.

Well done and with best wishes.

Squadron Leader RAF (Retd) FRAeS

- Married with three grown up daughters;
- Graduate of the Royal Air Force College Cranwell;
- Graduate of the Royal Air Force Staff College Bracknell (1967);
- Graduate of the RAF Central Flying School;
- Three tours on Hawker Hunter Jet Fighters No 20 & 26 Squadrons, No 124 Wing 2nd Tactical Air Force RAF Oldenburg Germany;
- Promoted to Squadron Leader. Assumed command of No. 1 Jet Provost Squadron, RAF Leeming, training ab-initio pilots;
- MOD Joint Service Staffs;
- Air Plans Joint Service HQ Middle East, Bahrain. Wrote the British Forces Withdrawal Plan;
- Retired from the Royal Air Force in September 1970;
- One year design, and test and development flying with Britten Norman Bembridge. (1971-72);
- Became a CAA delegated Flight Crew Examining Officer with Gulf Aviation, Bahrain (1972-1979): Air Europe (1979-1991);
- Following collapse of Air Europe in 1991, formed own flight crew training Company and completed contracts training flight crews for Arkia (Israeli) Airline: Anglo Cargo Airline: Condor/Sud Flug Lufthansa: Alitalia;
- Flight Training Manager for British Caledonian Flight Training centre at Gatwick. Finally retired in December 1999;
- Chairman Compton Parish Council (1991-1999) Parish Councillor 1986-91;
- Stood as UKIP candidate in the May 2010 General Election for Aldershot.

Canon M.M.H. Moore: 1954

Thank you for your letter of April 29th and the OM Spring Newsletter, a great improvement on the old format. I am glad that consideration is being given to two of the subjects of our recent emails: recognition of OMs by the year of their arrival at MGS, and OMs contributing their experiences to current students by oral sessions in the School.

You may be interested to know that I recently spent much of a day in Salisbury renewing acquaintance with Professor W.M. Tydeman, who was Captain of the School in 1953-4. Our parents were friends, so we have known each other for over seventy years.....

A brief biographical resume from me: after National Service (Russian in the RN) I took a degree in modern languages at Pembroke College, Oxford, and then prepared for Ordination at Wells Theological College. I served a curacy in Bethnal Green before moving to Bucharest, Romania, where I was additionally responsible for English-speaking congregations in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. I worked with Archbishops at Lambeth in ecumenical relations from 1967 to 1982, and at Hampton Court from 1982 to 1999 as Chaplain in the Chapel Royal. I then joined the College of St Barnabas, a community for retired Anglican clergy near Lingfield, where I help with services in the Chapel and continue my study of languages – with the aid of a computer. (I have discovered that it will read the NT to me in Malagasy.....)

A brief anecdote from School: Mr J. Legat was an exact and exacting German master in the 1950s and prompted the following exchange:- JL: "What's the German for ——?" I: "Oh I know it perfectly well.....". JL: "You don't. If you did, you would be able to tell me what it is!"

My eye was caught by the references to Stuttgart on page 20. I lived there for a year in 1958-9 as an 'Assistant' teacher. It has been much improved (?) by an autobahn network since. The beauty of surrounding hilly woodland might be jeopardised by further railway encroachment. Stuttgart incidentally is a Landeshauptstadt (regional capital), which is much more than a county town.

As my knowledge of computers improves I have found that I can receive the Newsletter online, and I shall be happy to do so in future. I have found The Maidstonian too, a very different publication to the one I knew. Is the old Journal still published in any recognisable form? I notice there are now six Houses, with names reminiscent of WWII.

P.S. Another flavour of the School in the late 1940s: One morning Mr Phillips caught us UIVs in school early. GBP: "What are you doing in here already?" Tydeman: "Chandler's watch said a quarter to....." GBP: "Oh, Chandler has a talking watch, has he...?" (Collapse of conversation. This was long before the age of digital and voice synthesis.)

John Munn: 1954

It's raining – first time for ages. I need to 'do things' so a few additions/comments/anecdotes to allow me to recall so many 'fond' memories of my enjoyable times at MGS.

What is especially pleasing to one, as an 'average' pupil, is to ascertain through media of the so many positions of importance attained by the so many lads (lasses too, now) who like the current headmaster (and myself) submit to coming from quite a 'lower class back-ground. Brilliant Correct Ethics AND a Superb School (Institution of Learning).

Firstly – this will not be brief. There is no need, or urgency, for it even to be read. Merely to 'empty my head', reminisce, and perhaps add a few snippets to current known facts.

I was wondering whether (or whether or not?) – (fault of Mr Newcombe 'Froggie' master of the English grammar) Keith Mitchell's (1946) brother Brian would be the Brian M who a) coached at Maidstone Harriers / Mote South Parks and b) was a master at, I think, Tonbridge School?

Vernon Schubert Fawcett was my art teacher. He was brilliant, I was useless. He lived at Hollingbourne and he had a special 'punishment' which was to grip one by the jowls, press hard and hold on. It worked, I know. Having once dropped!!! a trolley ticket on alighting for school, Vernon – bless him – had me pick up every one between the trolley stop and the school gate house. Discipline?!! Bring it back.

Mr Kemp 'Killer' was also known as Ralph.

Bill Manning, I felt, taught by rote, Chemistry. Same words/methods, same time each year/week/day. A most genial man.

K(en) A Sawdy. 'Cassidy' in my time was one teacher of German.

Alec Stewart. I, too, was 50/50 and very occasionally had to choose the largest slipper for 'bendovers' mostly because I began to run for Maidstone Harriers before leaving school. I was 'lightweight', not suited for rugby (unfortunately) so it was Alec's 'fault' for sending myself, Cook, Pilbeam etc., 'round the lake' in lieu. I've done a 'Forrest Gump' and trot still (ONLY) having had a pacemaker inserted in mid-2009.

Frank SANDO – Aylesford Paper Mills. I wrote once to The Telegraph. My running hero – with Pikie, Jim Peters et al, was AT THE TOP for a very long period of time.

Mr Julier ('Jugs'). Fingal's Cave, Prince Igor and other marvellous music was 'upset' when somehow – no names – Carbide appeared – or rather disappeared into an inkwell!!

I was knocked 'accidentally' into the swimming pool by Gibbard whose dad, I think, was a laboratory technician at the time? Can still remember the 'bubbles' before my face and, of course, all thought that one was playing about. This was real serious though I soon learnt to swim fish-like whilst doing National Service in Singapore.

I recall (know) Robin Ambrose, Henry Darley, both 1957 and Stuart Partis, 1958, because they had the ability (intelligence) to stay on.

You may be interested to know that my colleague Michael Lutener, a fruit farmer at Marlow, Kent, who was saved by the Kent Air Ambulance after being run over by a tractor whilst clearing apples (South East Farmer May 2011) has helped to raise more than £22,000 for that charity. I tell you because Michael wouldn't. He's far too modest. A very keen rugby player at MGS. Fly half I suspect. In advance of time, practising body swerves a la Martin Offiah.

Is it coincidence that during my time David Sayer, Derek's brother, was a superb fast bowler at MGS? Subsequently playing for Kent. David would be about 73/74 years of age by now.

Andrew Dilnot's wonderful – modest – recollections relate so well to mine. Different era but to leave school and watch (for free) Godfrey Evans, Fred Ridgeway, Les Ames, Arthur Fagg playing at The Mote. Superb. Brian Fagg, Fagg's son, was a school pal, became a PE teacher. Now resides in Hythe, Kent. Please tell Andrew that 58⁰ (Fahrenheit) is not warm. We both know.

Tuck shop yes, Sarg' Bennett, CCF, yes. Bill Keast. All brilliant memories. To quote: "I wasn't much of a pupil but it was a very, very, good school". And still is.

Graham Bowes: 1953 to 1956

I was a late entrant from Southborough School, and although my grandmother who raised me was delighted with my acceptance, I was left somewhat aghast. It was fortunate that one 'Bob Brown' who lived in Sheals Crescent and I in Postley Road became good friends under the same form-master 'Killer Kemp'. (I am saddened by news of Bob's recent demise).

My only claim to fame during my stay at the school was to catch up on 2 years French tuition under a Mr Sawdy, to succeed in overtaking those already studying the subject. However, my devotion to this subject was truly frowned upon by one W.A. Claydon, who threatened me with expulsion if I did not show a similar interest in other subjects. I did take note! The French has come in useful in my many trips to Monaco. Thank you school!

Although I detest all forms of sport, one comical event comes to mind in the form of a school cross-country run, in which I came in last. I got a bigger cheer than the boy who came first! I ended my time in 5E (a newly created form concentrating on English Literature). This introduced me to the poems of William Wordsworth, which pleased me, and 'I have felt a presence that disturbs me with the joy of elevated thoughts'.

Post M.G.S:

After several minor employments, I eventually joined the railway company, commencing with a post as booking clerk at Maidstone East Station. The lure of foreign free travel and lots of overtime work kept me in this employ. I spent 32 years in railway service, during which time I met my wife (also in railway service) who provided me with a dear son.

Whilst I detest all forms of work, both physical or mental, my employment on the railway enabled me to pursue my lifetime ambition to seek the kite in Wales. This gave me enormous pleasure and currently I am pursuing a similar creature, whose identity I shall, for reasons best known to myself, not reveal.

(Ed: Graham included with his letter an article written by him entitled 'The Kite Man of Pontrhydfendigaid', which details his attempt to find Kites in Wales. He was successful and became known as the 'The Kite Man'. A copy of the article is available if you would like one).

Peter Edwards: 1951 to 1956

When I left school – at headmaster William Claydon's suggestion (!) – I told him I would be going into journalism. He poo-pooed the idea, saying all I was good for was the army. Despite that, I entered journalism, worked abroad and on the Daily Express in London in the 60s and then became editor of the KM in 1973 at the age of 33. I still hold the record of being the youngest ever editor of the KM. I left in 1978 to form my own PR company and still do some PR work from my home for a couple of clients. Now I am 71 I am taking it a little easier these days but have no plans to give up work altogether.

Keith Hearnden: 1957

I'm attaching a brief account of an event in which I was involved back in the 1950s, in the hope that you and others might think it interesting enough to include in a future issue of the OMS newsletter. I can also take this opportunity to thank you and everyone else involved for continuing to produce news and views of our school and the people who have graced it over the years.

When Henry Darley contacted me by email earlier this year, he mentioned that a copy (text or recording, I don't know) existed of SW Johnson's address to the OM annual dinner some years ago. That was one dinner I did attend, because I was lucky to have SWJ as both an A Level English Literature teacher, and then (an enormous privilege) as a one-on-one tutor for university entry preparations in the third year sixths. I remember his speech well. He was erudite and witty and had just recently then retired from being Headmaster at Hulme School (I think) in Manchester. His best one-liner was that he had just received a letter from Wiltshire County Council telling him that in future burial charges would rise in line with the cost of living! If it is possible to obtain a copy of this speech, would you please let me know?

(Ed: We were pleased to forward a copy to Keith. Copies of the CD are available to any member and are recommended listening).

Ed: We have also received the following letter from Keith:-

I originally submitted this to The Guardian, following their obituary of Keith Andrew, the former Northants and England wicketkeeper, earlier this year. David Sayer (mentioned below) later went on to tour with England to India and Pakistan. He was a tall, strong fast bowler who, as might be imagined, struck fear in every school side we played. I usually

fielded in the gully for his bowling and, believe me, the ball whistled off the bat towards me on many occasions. I hope OMs from more recent generations might find this piece of ancient history interesting.

In the summer of 1956, Keith Andrew and his Northants side were one of Kent's two opponents during Maidstone cricket week at Mote Park. The school, being just across the road from the Mote Park county ground, allowed we 6th formers out in the lunch hour to watch play. At that time, we had an exceptionally strong cricket team - I think six or seven of us had played at schoolboy level for Kent, whilst David Sayer was already playing for the Kent County XI whilst still at school. We wanted to continue playing together during the summer holiday against adult sides, but the school/Kent Education Authority refused us permission to use the school kit.

In those days it was unusual for individual cricketers to own their own bat, pads and gloves; so, in order to fund the purchase of kit, we then homed in on the idea of using the school's strong connections with the county team (not just through David Sayer, but because the former Kent opener, Arthur Fagg's sons were at the school then, and one teacher, 'Killer' Kemp, had played often for the 2nd XI) to seek "Vice-Presidential" subscriptions from those involved in the county game across the road.

We were allowed to approach players in the pavilion to explain our aim. Whilst it was perhaps understandable that most Kent players stumped up a fiver each, what was immensely gratifying was that Keith Andrew personally took us under his wing to introduce us to the Northants side, including at that time Frank Tyson, who then also gave us money. Mr Andrew didn't need to give us his time and support: but the fact that I remember the occasion so clearly more than fifty years later speaks volumes.

There was a spectacular outcome. We got our kit, some fixtures were arranged, and when we turned up for our first match, (my memory at this remove is fallible, but I think it was at Linton) to our immense surprise we discovered that both Godfrey Evans and Colin Cowdrey were there to support us. Not only did this impress us, it also provided enormous cachet with our opponents. Both players stayed with us throughout the game, and Godfrey Evans further proved his pedigree with the most extremely skilled demonstration of fivestones play that any of us had ever witnessed.

Stuart Partis: 1958

Hi Graham, just received the Newsletter and had to buy a couple of printer cartridges! Congratulations on the presentation.

As I may have written, I am in the throes or prose of rewriting my book for general (as opposed to the 'in' crowd) readership, especially for Glenelg's Palindrome Literary Festival in October (omitting contributions by others which do not reflect my own views and are probably more than scurrilous). This is the third Festival, for each of which I have been commissioned to write a musical.

A lot has happened in the last six years! But my current preoccupation is another musical, 'Polly in the Outback' which I was asked to write for the sesquicentenary of Australia's greatest explorer, John McDougall Stuart. I'll bring a video of the preview with me to the UK in August, and leave it with Rodney (Parkins) for circulation. The 'Big Day' for performance is 24th July.

I was very saddened by the death of Philip Langridge. And Philip Moore too, I believe. Sorry not to have been able to make the reunion, but Rodney (who does a truly remarkable job) is organising a mini lunch for me in late August.

Now just a short personal anecdote (which will be added in my book) which was recently broadcast on ABC Classic FM. Twenty years ago I cut off the middle finger of my right hand with a circular saw; it just 'hanged on' by the skin, but I wrapped my hand in a tea-towel and was taken by a neighbour to Bathurst hospital (my wife was working in Sydney so I had care of two under-fives!) Fortunately the father-in-law of the Bathurst emergency doctor was a micro-surgeon, so he phoned around Sydney and found an all-night theatre, where I was operated on. Though I regained the use of my finger sufficiently to play the Maidstonaise at my last reunion, it had lost its piano memory (i.e.: for scales, arpeggios etc). Imagine my amazement when, only a fortnight ago, I was playing a Mozart Sonata and my finger, of its own accord, played the ornamentation perfectly for the first time in 20 years! I then found that I could play parts of the Mozart Concerto which I had been learning at the time when I returned to it - again for the first time in all those years! It's one where the right hand has to look after itself while one concentrates on the intricate arpeggios and scales in the left.

Looking forward to reading the Newsletter tonight. Stuart

Rupert Powell: 1953

Other people's recollections bring to mind so many delights of my two years at Maidstone (3c and 4L) in 1951/3. "Nogger" Knight with his clipped military moustache, the doyen of the carpentry workshop (himself reputed to have lobbed a loaded chisel at a miscreant) - the same workshop where at Christmas three seniors dressed as policemen sang

“The Bold Gendarmes” with words specific to the Masters: “If Mr Kemp should drive his chariot at 30 miles or more...” probably way beyond its capacity!

Not to mention the freezing open air swimming pool which seemed so much healthier than the chlorine-fumed enclosed ones; the delights of cross country in Mote Park (stopping to lift a stone at the source of a stream and finding adders underneath) and Partis Minor (Stuart) demonstrating towel elevation in the changing room after gym. Going back after 56 years so many things had gone or changed. Even the rugger field had shrunk to a size that even with the thickest peasouper it would be hard to get lost. But then everything looks smaller when you re-visit childhood haunts. My beloved bungalow at Loose is now surrounded by a housing estate; Maidstone has expanded to engulf the villages and it’s all so busy. Let’s face it: I’m a hayseed at heart.

How lucky I was to retire (at 49 but that’s a different story) to Bude and re-create my lovely garden of 2 acres, on a whim and never expecting to see my 600 saplings or “whips” grown into 30ft trees. This was the result of witnessing a window collision of a tree-creeper (a sparrow with a curved beak and a starling’s plumage) whose sole source of food was a decaying apple tree which had been due for the chop until the poor bird’s demise brought about a change of plan and the Forestry Commission (“You’ll never get trees to grow at Widemouth Bay but we’ll give you the benefit of the doubt!”) helping us to create a wonderful wildlife habitat in our field.

Finally, how did I come to plough my own furrow? W.A. Claydon was an exemplary Headmaster - not so the poor soul in charge of Bromley Grammar School (or as we laughingly referred to it “Hayesford Academy for the sons of gentfolk”) to which I was sent in 1953 when my parents moved to the suburbs. Having been unjustly given seven of the best for laughing in class, I determined Nil illegitimos carborundum (all right; it’s not Latin and sorry about the missing “olim”) and this, along with a mentality which was not suited to the constraints of local government or a brain not mathematically equipped to become a good highway engineer, I became an Expert Witness which was fine until a change of management said I had to tell lies. That, combined with a cause celebre when I successfully contested a Stop sign infringement – all over GB there is now one road marking instead of two and all the fines had to be repaid – contributed to a retirement which I have enjoyed for over 20 years. Nevertheless, how right the school motto: it is good to look back on old times.

Barry Evans: 1960

Barry sent us a link to articles he has obviously written for The Journal – Eureka, Humboldt County, California: <http://www.northcoastjournal.com/section/field-notes/>

Terry Skinner: 1962

I attended the school from 1955 to 1962. I was absolutely astounded recently to find on Friends United my class photo (1955) form 3C with me all neat and tidy in the front row!!

Geoffrey Court: 1958 to 1966

Captain of School 1965 - 6. Currently and since 1985 heads up an educational charity in London concentrating on teacher resource support called Circleworks.

Nick Maycock: 1973

I was at MGS from 1965 to 1973 after which I went to Keele University and have lived in Edinburgh since 1977. Thought it would be interesting to hear from any contemporaries.

Andy Smith: (Leaving date 2002?)

We recently spotted the following article in the “KM Extra”

Golfer qualifies for Open after borrowing clubs

by Alex Hoad

MAIDSTONE golfer Andy Smith says qualifying for the Open Championship at Royal St George’s is a dream come true.

The 26-year-old former Maidstone Grammar School pupil, who is attached to Tudor Park Golf Club, produced a superb performance to win the final qualifying event at Littlestone to earn his place in the draw for the 151st Open which starts on Thursday, July 14.

His second round 68 gave him a four-under-par total of 136.

Smith said: “I just can’t believe this is happening to me. I only went for it because it is in Kent – I have only been playing occasionally since I had a stomach operation last year. I am lucky to even be playing golf.”

Smith has been labouring, gardening and working as a carpenter’s mate since his operation and added: “I have been doing anything I can to get a bit of money to make ends meet.”

“I have always been waiting for a break in golf and hopefully this will be it. I had pretty much given up hope that it was ever going to happen.”

“Plenty of people down the years

have not believed in me so to do this and for it to be at Sandwich, makes it more special.”

The clubs he used in qualifying were not even his own.

He said: “I used borrowed clubs. My own irons and wedges are older and don’t conform to the regulations now so I had to borrow a set from a member at Tudor Park.”

“I found another wedge in my garage without grooves which I was able to use and luckily I borrowed another one from the lost and found at Tudor Park.”

“I only used them for the first time when I paid £25 to come down for an extra practice round.”

Smith said he hoped to be able to land a new set of clubs before teeing-off at Sandwich in less than a fortnight.

Smith said he felt unusually calm during his final round, which was interrupted by thunder and lightning, forcing him to finish the following morning.

He said: “It was probably the best I’ve ever played. I just played good shots and without nerves.”



BEST PLAY: Andy Smith, right, who shot 68 despite his second round being interrupted by lightning, with Greg Owen, who will be his caddie for The Open
Picture: Matthew Walker p030&306

Richard Carter: 1975

I joined MGS in 1968 and left in 1975. I currently live in Norfolk and am Deputy Head at a primary school on the outskirts of Norwich. I am definitely poacher turned gamekeeper.

Alec Clews: 1980

I joined MGS lower 6th in Sept 1978 for A levels in Computing, Maths and Physics. Whilst I was something of an academic failure Tim Baker, the new Computer Science teacher, managed to start me on the road to a fruitful IT career and I work as an independent IT consultant in Melbourne, Australia.

I am still in touch with some of my MGS and MGGS contemporaries including Graeme Browse and John Gilbert (1981) and Tim Baker (joined staff 1978, who moved out of education and now lives in the south of France also working in IT).

After an abortive attempt at an IT degree I started work at NCR in central London in 1982 and then moved to Kuwait (at the same time as John Gilbert) and Bahrain for five years where I got married. In 1989 Marilyn and I moved to Ilford, Essex and started a family. We now have a 16 year old son and 12 year old daughter.

I pursued some OU post graduate courses but family and a move to Australia has put that on hold, however I have not given up the idea of returning to study part time.

In 1998 I had the opportunity to move to Melbourne and we have been living here ever since. I've been self-employed since 2006 - I won't bore people with details of my professional life but you can read more at <http://www.visualcv.com/kdir204>. That page also has links to a recent video of me presenting if you want to see how little hair I have now!

If any OM's are based here I'd welcome contact — alecclews@gmail.com or 0425-770-886

Mike West: 1992

I wondered about getting in touch at some point, and telling the school how things have moved on in the last 19 years.

I left MGS in 1992 after royally messing up my Physics A-Level and went to Canterbury University for 3 years to study Computer Systems Engineering. I passed that with a glorious 3rd (I never did learn to revise) and was pushed by my mum to find a job before my 3rd year had even finished. After scouring the Kent Messenger each week, 3 days after leaving university I got a job making computer games for Anco in Dartford, and that career is where I've stayed for the last 16 years. I've made football management games, war games, medieval combat games, and for the last 7 years have worked at the highly prestigious Lionhead Studios in Guildford on the Fable Franchise for the Xbox & Xbox 360.

I now am one of the top developers on the team in the design department, generally telling all the other poor souls what to do. In total, these games have sold over 10 million copies worldwide, won numerous awards and got my boss an OBE.

I have always thought about popping back to MGS one day and telling the latest batch of students that you can get into a fun career that pays well if you are willing to work hard and push yourselves. Does anything like that happen at all? I'm sure a decent number of them love computer games and will have heard of Fable and might be interested in me giving them advice on how to find a job in the future. Might be more motivation than some of the more serious professions people have ended up in.

I don't know if you also know that Joel Veitch (A bit of an internet celebrity) was in my class too. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joel_Veitch

Chris Long: 1999

Thanks for the most recent update. I note your request for some stories and will pen you something soon. I married a girl I met in the sixth form, we have a son together and, following University, I own and run my own company in Kent with another Old Boy 15 years my senior. Good story?

(Ed: Any OM's story is a good story – please find the time to contact us.)

Quiz – Now do you remember the crests? This desk once had pride of place on the stage in the hall. It's now, sadly, relegated to the admin. department entrance lobby, where nobody seems to love it!



OBITUARIES

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

Alan Atkins: 1951

We received the following from Robin Ambrose – 1957

It is sad to report that Alan died in September 2010. After leaving MGS he went to Exeter University and then worked for a while at the Admiralty. In 1963 he took up a job in New Zealand as a hydrographer, producing detailed charts to mark the depth of various sea areas for the New Zealand Navy. He became the highest ranking civilian working alongside naval staff. He was based in Auckland, was married to Maureen and had four children. Sadly he did not live to enjoy many years of retirement.

Dr Sreedhan Roy: (date ?)

This article was published in the Downs Mail on 8th June.

Dr Sreedhan Roy (72) who lived in Vinters Park for the last 27 years, was a mathematician who taught for almost a decade at Maidstone Grammar School. Born in India, Dr. Roy came to the UK in 1966. He achieved first and second degrees before completing a PhD in Mathematics at Imperial College, London. As well as working in Maidstone he went on to teach at Mid-Kent College in Chatham, from where he retired. His work was his passion, he published academic papers in international journals and was absorbed in maths. He leaves his wife Sukla, to whom he was married for 37 years and daughters Curie and Somali, and son David.

Peter Craven: 1950?

This article was published in the Kent Messenger on 10th June

A lovely, kind, boyishly cheeky and sprightly gentleman. This is how loved ones described Peter Craven, director of Earl Street Employment Consultants, who died peacefully in his sleep on 2nd June at his home in Loose aged 78. Peter was husband to Elaine Craven, MBE for 45 years and was very proud of his family. Born in Redhill in December 1932, he studied at MGS. In his career he held several key positions in Switzerland and Germany. He was also CEO of Maidstone Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of the Kent Business Community and was councillor for the Farleigh Ward in the late 1980's for four years. A funeral service was held at St Francis Church, Maidstone on Monday 20th June followed by burial at Sutton Road Cemetery.

MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL TODAY

MGS Teaching Staff

The following teaching staff will be leaving the school at the end of the school year:-

James Coltella
Francoise Miles
Colin Bolt
Andrew Lowen
Stephen Bishop
Helen Burns
Michelle Greenwood
Nick Draper
Dee Morfey
Valanee Olley
Daniel Brady – Graduate teacher
Zoe Sanger – Graduate teacher
Jonathan Crowhurst – Graduate teacher

Speech Days

The guest speaker at the Junior Speech Day on 15th July was Wing Commander A Rolfe, Old Maidstonian.

Senior Speech Day will be held on 16th September and the guest speaker will be Helen Grant, Maidstone and Mid-Kent MP.

HEADMASTERS OF MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

An occasional article taking us from the first Headmaster through to the present day, kindly produced for the Newsletter by OM Roger Brown.

3. Mr. Rowland Stubbersfield (1575 – 1585)

Monarch(s) on the throne of England:

1559 – onwards Elizabeth I

Prime Minister(s): *The first PM was not appointed until 1721*

Notable events during the HM's tenure:

1577 (Dec) Francis Drake sets sail from England to go round the world;

1578 (April) William Harvey discovers blood circulation;
1581 (April) Francis Drake completes circumnavigation of world / receives knighthood;

1582 (Oct) Gregorian calendar introduced to Italy and other Catholic countries;

1583 (June) First life assurance policy taken out.

Location of School: Corpus Christi Hall

Mr Stubbersfield graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1568 and completed his M.A. at this institution in March 1572. He commenced his tenure of headmaster by promulgating the first set of “Rules for the School” in 1575 which were passed by a selection of notable persons of the town at a meeting on 25th April that year, including the mayor, various jurists, gentlemen, and freeholders.

It is said that under his care the School advanced and that there was much structural improvement at the ‘Old Brotherhood Hall’. Ten shillings (*modern 50-pence*) were spent on repairs to the Master’s House in 1577. In 1578 there were repairs to the school building of 11s. 6d. (*equiv. 59-pence*) along with another 3s. 4d. (*17-pence*) for workmanship done to the Cloisters and 8s. (*40-pence*) for the construction of a new Clerestory (see *note*). Four years later two more items of expense: 5s. 4d (*27p*) for planks to construct seats in the school and the making of a writing table; and, 8s. (*40p*) for mending the glass in the building.

Sadly, little else is found about this gentleman. For OM historians there is an item which, regrettably, at this time is missing, known as the Stubbersfield Receipt. It is a framed receipt for his periodic salary and the text (shown in the actual language but fairly recognisable) is as follows:

Ano Domini 1576

Receaved by me, Rooland Stubbersfild, of Maidstone in the County of Kent, Scholemaster, of Jarvice Maplesden, one of the Chamberlens of the towne of Maidstone aforesaid, the sum of fyfty shillings of good and lawfull money of England, due vnto me for my q^{tere} wages, ended in the fest day of the Annuciation of o’ lady last past before the Date hereof. And, to wittnesse the same, I, the said Rooland have sette my hand to this quittance the xxvijth of Marche, the eighteenth yeare of her reigne of o’ Sou’aigne Lady Elylysabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France, & Ireland, Queene, etc.

By mee, ROOLAND STUBBERSFILD

Note: A clerestory is the upper part of the central nave of a church which rises clear of other buildings and has its own row of windows (from the French: clear and story)

4. Thomas Symondson (1585 – 1628)

Monarch(s) on the throne of England:

1559 - 1603 Elizabeth I

1603 - 1625 James I

1625 – onwards Charles I

Prime Minister(s):

The first PM was not appointed until 1721

Notable events during the HM’s tenure:

1586 (July) Sir Walter Raleigh brings the first tobacco to England (from Virginia);

1586 (July) Sir Thomas Harriot introduces the potato to Europe, including Great Britain;

1588 (July) English fleet defeats the Spanish armada;

1605 (Nov) Gunpowder plot to blow up the English Parliament (Guy Fawkes hanged);

1606 (April) England adopts the Union Jack as its flag;

1607 (July) First singing of ‘God Save the King’;

1612 (Dec) First viewing of the Andromeda galaxy through a telescope;

1617 (Aug) First one-way street opens in London;

1619 (Dec) America’s first Thanksgiving Day;

1624 (Sept) First submarine tested (in London);

Location of School: Corpus Christi Hall

Thomas Symondson has one of the longest tenures of headmasters at Maidstone Grammar School commencing in 1585, following the departure of Rowland Stubbersfield, and ending, sadly, at the time of his death forty-three years later. He is recorded as being a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, but his achievement there is not listed. He was twice married: his first wife, Jane, died in 1600, and on 27th April 1608 he married a widow, Margaret Rumney; she died the following year.

He was the first headmaster to come under a scheme of inspection (*not unlike the modern OFSTED*) which in 1598 was termed as “the continued care of the Corporation for well-being of the School...an annual inspection by the Civic Fathers ‘by some scholastic exercise there then to be done and performed by the scholars of the same school to make a yearly trial of how they have performed and how they have furthered their learning by the Master of the said School’”. At least there were no surprise visits as it was deemed that one month’s warning should be given of the day and time of such inspection!

It is known that Mr Symondson took an active role in local politics and was a member of the Common Council. Minutes of meetings show that he was attending as late as 1625 by which time he is known to have been very infirm; effective from 1621 his attendance at such gatherings was ‘at his pleasure’ rather than being formally required. It is in 1625 that the first recorded use of the school facilities for a civic function occurs and is seen as the origin of the time-honoured custom of the School attending the retiring Mayor to church, and having the right to be present at the election of his successor and subsequently acclaiming him when duly elected.

LORD BEARSTED AND SHELL

Ed: Whilst attending a Rotary meeting recently, I was talking to Dennis Fowle, editor of the local Downs Mail (mainly to belatedly request his permission to publish some of the articles on Old Maidstonians from that publication) and we touched on Lord Bearsted and his connection to the area. Members might find the following to be of interest, taken mainly from Wikipedia, particularly as the school has a close association with the park and the rugby and cricket clubs.

Marcus Samuel was born into a Jewish family in Whitechapel, London. His father, also Marcus Samuel, ran a successful import-export business, M. Samuel & Co., trading with the Far East, which Marcus carried on with his brother, Samuel Samuel. He realised the potential of the oil trade during a trip to the Black Sea in 1890, and ordered the construction of eight dedicated tankers, the first of which was *Murex*, which was under the command of Captain John R Coundon. His were the first such ships to satisfy the Suez Canal company of their safety, allowing him to ship his product to Bangkok and Singapore. In 1897, he formed Shell, later known as Shell Transport and Trading, after his first business, which sold painted seashells. He was knighted in 1898 for assisting in the salvage of HMS *Victorious*, which had grounded and was pulled to safety by two Shell tugs.



In 1907, Samuel's company combined with the Royal Dutch company of the Netherlands to create the company today known as Royal Dutch Shell.

Samuel was Lord Mayor of London from 1902 to 1903, and received the traditional Baronetcy in 1903. In recognition of Shell's contribution to the British cause in World War I, he was created 1st Baron Bearsted of Maidstone in the County of Kent in the 1921 Birthday Honours. In 1925, he became 1st Viscount Bearsted.

His country estate at The Mote in Maidstone was sold after his death to Maidstone Borough Council for £50,000 for use as a public park, now known as Mote Park. The house has since been used as an orphanage and a nursing home and was commandeered by the British Army during the Second World War. It is now being converted into retirement housing.

AND ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A Blonde was sent on her way to Heaven. Upon arrival, a concerned St Peter met her at the Pearly Gates. 'I'm sorry,' St Peter said: 'But Heaven is suffering from an overload of goodly souls and we have been forced to put up an Entrance Exam for new arrivals to ease the burden of Heavenly Arrivals.'

'That's cool' said the blonde, 'What does the Entrance Exam consist of?'

'Just three questions' said St Peter.

'Which are?' asked the blonde.

'The first,' said St Peter, 'is which two days of the week start with the letter 'T'?' The second is 'How many seconds are there in a year?' The third is 'What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

'Now,' said St Peter, 'Go away and think about those questions and when I call upon you, I shall expect you to have those answers for me.'

So the blonde went away and gave the three questions some considerable thought.

The following morning, St Peter asked if she had considered the questions, to which she replied, 'I have.'

'Well then,' said St Peter, 'Which two days of the week start with the letter T?' The blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer could be applied to the question.

'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions?', St Peter went on, 'How many seconds in a year?' The Blonde replied, 'Twelve!'

'Only twelve?' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?'

'Easy,' said the blonde, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.'

St Peter looked at the blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the Blonde. 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven. Now, can you tell me the answer to the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?' The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.'

'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'And what is the answer?'

'It's Andy.'

'Andy??'

'Yes, Andy,' said the blonde. This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer. Finally, he could not stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?'

'Easy' said the blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited till his Billy boiled.'

And the blonde entered Heaven...

“It is better to ask for forgiveness afterwards than to ask for permission beforehand ...”

~~~~~

More Tommy Cooper one-liners  
My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that - 2:30am?  
Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

Two fish in a tank – one says to the other “I’ll man the gun, you drive...”

I was in the pub with my wife last night and I said I love you. She said is that you or the beer talking? I replied it’s me talking to the beer.

~~~~~

The Latest Disaster Picture:
The pilot at low level had no control over his aircraft. It narrowly misses a crowd gathered for the air show and slams into four buildings. One can only imagine the horror of the occupants inside those buildings.



YOUR COMMITTEE 2011-12

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Committee members are all pleased to hear from OMs. Let us have your news and tell us what you think of the Society, its Newsletter or its website.

OMS ARTICLES FOR SALE

Books

There are several books which have been produced by former teaching staff and which can be obtained through the Society.

WAC: Trials and Triumphs of a Grammar School Headmaster

A history of Maidstone Grammar School from 1925 – 1941 through the final reports 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)
ISBN-10: 0-9552145-0-5 ISBN-13: 978-0-9552145-0-9



Gaudeamus: 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) and postlude by David Leeke (staff 1989 - 2000)

The book was researched and compiled by James Clinch (Staff 1974 - 1991)

ISBN-10: 0-9530861-0-0

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

Researched and compiled by John and Diana Caley (Staff 1955-1998), 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. (Not published with an ISBN.)

MGS 1549 to 1965 – A Record

32 Pages, 6" x 9"

There are a limited number of hard-back versions of this publication, which is a revised and enlarged version of G.B.Philips's short history of the School produced in 1949, the quatercentenary year. G B Philips undertook the task in his retirement and the work was completed by N W Newcombe. The foreword was written by R R Rylands and notes that the publication, originally produced in 1965, also brings to an end the era of WA Claydon. (Please note that most have some sort of marking on the covers, and although in good condition, are not perfect.)

Garments

Ties

There is a supply of both styles of the Old Maidstonian tie and these can be ordered using the return sheet 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. It was introduced in the 1970's additional to the OMS Striped tie

The **Striped** version is also a Jacquard Woven Tie in navy blue with angled stripes of gold, purple and white. The tie was the original OMS tie and predates the Crested version by several decades. The design was later used on the ties for the School Captain and Deputy School Captain from about 1994 and continues to this day, although the direction of the stripes is reversed.

There is evidence that the OMS tie may have been black, not navy blue, around the Second World War years, but there is no information as to when it changed to blue.

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



Blazer Badge

The OM's blazer badge is approximately 5" x 3" in size.

CD's of Past Annual Supper Speeches

2011 Annual Supper Andrew Dilnot - Guest Speaker

Paul Clifford – President

Nick Argent – Headmaster

Tom Woods – School Captain

1975 Annual Supper SW Johnson – guest speaker. Erudite and witty



Payment

The Society has established internet banking, and the facility is available to make payment using the internet.

The Natwest bank account details are:

Maidstone Branch, 3 High Street, Maidstone, ME14 1XU
Account: Old Maidstonian Society
Account no: 00051802
Sort Code: 60-60-08

Please use your surname and initials to assist us in identifying who the payment is from. Would you please also advise the Membership Secretary either by post, e-mail or letter if you have taken advantage of this facility and forward a completed order form.

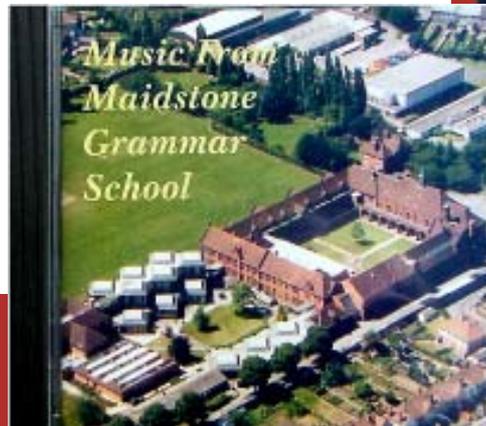
Alternatively payment may be made by cheque to: **The Old Maidstonian Society** and sent to the school.

MGS Archives

Original spare copies of The Maidstonian for most, but not all years, from the beginning are available. First come, first served - when they are gone, they are gone.

450th anniversary memorabilia is also available:

- Ties: Plain navy blue with a 450th Anniversary crest at the bottom;
- Sets of notelet cards, four different designs, with envelopes, packs of four;
- 10 notelet cards, single design;
- CD of school music.

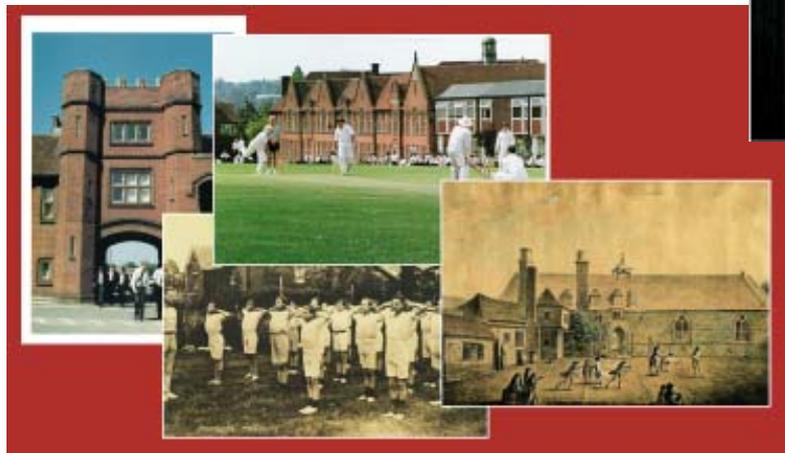


Tie

CD

Payment

Payment for archive items should be made by cheque to: **Maidstonian Grammar School** and sent to the school.



Notelets

The order forms are attached as separate documents.



The Old Maidstonian Society Newsletter

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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 in the Newsletter and on the website. 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.

