



# Old Maidstonian Society

## Newsletter No.6 - Winter 2011



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President:  
**Anthony Hayward**

Chairman:  
**Richard Ratcliffe**

Secretary:  
**Brian White**



**The new Sixth Form Centre**

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

**F**riday, 16th September, 2011 will rank highly in the annals of MGS history. The Guest of Honour at the Senior Speech Day was MP for Maidstone and the Weald, Helen Grant, who opened the splendid new Sixth Form Centre and Food Technology Building. Helen praised the school as a 'wonderful learning establishment' which has 'an enviable record of success'. She presented the prizes with kindly and individual congratulations for each of the prizewinners.



**Helen Grant, MP**



**Dr. Argent**



**Tom Woods**

The Headmaster, Dr. Argent, gave a very encouraging report of the school's performance and there were brief speeches by last year's School Captain, Tom Woods, and the current School Captain, Samuel Coppard.

The occasion was greatly enlivened (and well played!) by musical contributions from the Concert Wind Band and by a wind trio (Wilson, Haggart and Tindall) playing a movement from a Vivaldi concerto.



**Samuel Coppard**

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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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### Christian Unions

Following my visits to the CUs last term I spoke to each of them this term on 'What is a Christian?' This was the first talk that I gave when I had become a Christian at school; next term I shall speak about the New Testament Church and its relevance today. If other OMs would like to speak to the CUs in the future, please e-mail me on anthony.hayward@hotmail.co.uk. The meetings last for 30 minutes and begin at 13.30 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### Combined Cadet Force

I have visited the CCF again, and I received a request that we should update the Military Scholarship Boards. I shall be obtaining a quotation from the CO which will be raised with the OM committee in January.

There is one OM officer, who four years ago was a pupil at MGS and one volunteer from Andover, whose sons were pupils at MGS.

### Philip Langridge Bursary

Following my attendance at the inauguration of the Philip Langridge Bursary, which was also attended by members of Cranbrook Choral Society, Annabelle and I attended a Masterclass and Cover Performance of *The Magic Flute*, both in aid of Philip's Bursary. The leader of the orchestra was a former leader of the County Youth Orchestra, and she advised me that Co-Opera-Co, for which the bursary applies, may be performing in Tunbridge Wells on the 24th March so she may be able to attend our own OMS event in the afternoon (see below).

As for the 24th March event, I have already notified Kent Music and Cranbrook Choral Society, requesting them to provide items and anecdotes. The provisional programme is as follows:-

1. Those attending the OM Dinner may like to stay at the Premier Inn next to The Malta, where wives can have dinner together on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
2. On Saturday at 10:00 guests can catch the boat to Maidstone, or drive to MGS.
3. After morning coffee at All Saints' Church there will be a conducted tour around Maidstone, followed by lunch.
4. At 14:30, the Big Hall will be open for a cheese and wine reception.
5. From 15:00 onwards, the Philip Langridge Memorial Event will take place.
6. After the event, guests can return to The Malta for dinner or go to Tunbridge Wells for the Co-Opera-Co performance.

The proceeds of this event will be divided between the Philip Langridge Bursary and the OM Society.

It is requested that those wishing to perform an item, or relate an anecdote will reply directly to me. We can provide an accompanist but no opportunity to practice first!

Further details will be provided in January to all of those expressing an interest in the event.

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## THE CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

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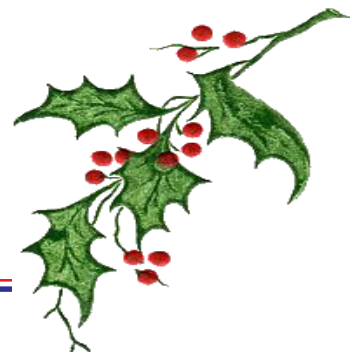
Welcome this time to our new Editor, Brian White, who has taken on both this role and that of Honorary Secretary from Graham Belson. Graham has worked tirelessly for your Society and with Peter Weaver (who is continuing to provide the design and layout skills, which have proved so valuable) has taken the *Newsletter* forward to something of which we can be justly proud as an excellent means of communication to members. Very best wishes to you Brian!

Christmas is now just around the corner and the Society will, again, have an evening in December (Monday 19<sup>th</sup>) to which this summer's leavers are invited to meet colleagues and compare notes on their first term out in the wide world away from Maidstone.

The Trust Status, which I wrote about in the previous *Newsletter*, has now been confirmed, so donations to our Trust Fund can now be treated under HMRC Rules for Gift Aid. We wish to lift the profile of the charitable work of the Society in providing financial support in these straitened times for students who are in genuine financial need, assisting them in fulfilling education-related projects outside the formal curriculum. We re-launched the availability of funds to students during the autumn term and we will be working closely with the Headmaster and his team in delivering real benefits to the School in this way.

I am grateful not only to Graham and Brian but to all the committee who all now have 'jobs to do' rather than just turning up to Committee meetings and delivering their wise words (which are still wise and still very welcome!). It is heartening that in these days, when volunteering in any field of life is something of a minority sport, we have such able people prepared to give of their time to make this Society a success, and to ensure that we can act as a focus for Old Maidstonians of all ages by the provision of news and activities to all for our mutual benefit.

A very merry Christmas to you all.



## TALKS TO OMS AND THE SCHOOL

In addition to other issues which are mentioned elsewhere in this publication, on 5th September the Committee noted that several OMS members have offered to make presentations of their experiences and particular areas of expertise, both to the school and to the Society. It was suggested that such talks might be combined with the following:

- Wine and cheese evenings
- Lunches, including spouses
- A mid-summer barbeque
- Mid-week evenings

Subsequently we have heard from the School about the following OM speakers:

- John Jones gave talks about a career in medicine and his experiences as a medical student. He was an excellent speaker who engaged with the students and they found the sessions really valuable.
- Richard Leach has offered to talk to physics students.
- Mike West is likely to visit next year to talk about his career in IT.

If you feel encouraged to add to this list please contact our secretary, Brian White.

## THE OMS AND MGS WEBSITES

The OMS website [www.oldmaidstonians.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## OMS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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, the Newsletter costs about £5 to produce, print and post, and we would appreciate any donations towards those costs. To those members who have made generous donations, many thanks.

## 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.

## AWARD SCHEME DONATION

Our grateful thanks go to Keith Mitchell (1946) for his recent donation to the Awards Scheme.



## NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

*The Society is always very pleased to receive news for Old Maidstonians, as maintaining contact between members is what the Society is all about. Please note that letters and e-mail communications are reproduced more-or-less exactly as received and minimal editing of the content is made. However, space is limited and we do have to exercise our discretion in protecting the innocent, improving the grammar and avoiding lawsuits. So, please be concise, erudite and legal. The editors' decision is final!*

**Nigel Dodd**, who began his music teaching career at MGS many years ago, wrote to thank the Society for making him an Honorary Vice-President of the society: 'I was delighted, surprised and deeply honoured to receive recognition for what I was able to do for MGS. I am very appreciative of what I learned from valued colleagues, amongst many others perhaps especially W A Claydon, S W Johnson and D Cutforth, all of whom remained friends long after I left the school - we continued to visit Ruth Claydon in Cheltenham until her death.

'Retrospectively, I realise how fortunate I was to start my teaching career at such an excellent school, with high academic values and an exceptionally rich cultural life. If I was able to do anything in return, I am very pleased.'

Nigel also notes that he is glad that Anthony Hayward (our current president) is still enjoying playing his violin with the Tonbridge Philharmonic.

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*Ed: Our next two contributors, Colin Haylor and Alastair Macfadyen, have both contributed articles containing fascinating reminiscences of their time at MGS and their subsequent careers. Unfortunately both were very lengthy and we have had to make some fairly substantial cuts for this Newsletter. Our apologies go to Colin and Alastair, and would refer members our website where we hope both articles will be published in full.*

### **Colin Haylor: (1958)**

Prompted by Keith Hearnden's (1957) memories of Keith Andrew (the late Northants and England cricketer) I was reminded of my own experiences which may be of interest to some of you. Before I start, however, I think it is important to note that whilst the academic side of an MGS education is something to value, the extra-curricular opportunities were not to be underrated. Sport and drama took up a lot of my school life and have given me much pleasure ever since.

In 1963 I had been working for Rothmans as a salesman for year or so. At a meeting we were asked if anyone was interested in cricket. The company was sponsoring the West Indies touring team and one person was to be attached to the team. An appointment had been made but he was not available for the first two weeks. I was to join them to start the tour at Arundel with no idea of what I was supposed to be doing. I was made to feel at home straightaway and when the two weeks were up the team manager (Berkeley Gaskin) asked me if I would like to do the whole tour. It didn't take me long to say yes! From then on I was part of the team (I still have the tie).

George Duckworth (ex-England wicket keeper) was Baggage Manager and the company provided a large van and a driver to move the considerable amount of gear from match to match. He also had to make sure all the hotel arrangements were made. I assisted with this and generally did whatever I could, as well as promote the company of course. I have very fond memories of George. He was also the official scorer but, as the tour progressed he was approached by ITV to do some commentary so I took over the scoring. He was also a director of Warrington Rugby League Club and he invited me to spend a weekend at his home and to watch a match. He didn't manage to convert me to the 13-a-side game!

As we went round the counties we were well entertained. I particularly remember Manchester where we saw a pre-West End premier of 'Pickwick', followed by a backstage party and, on another occasion a visit to a night club where an up-and-coming DJ called Jimmy Saville told me I looked as if I had just crawled out of a cave!

More often than not a day's play would be followed by an invitation for both teams to one of the tents that surrounded the ground. It was on one of these occasions that I met Keith Andrew. He certainly made sure that I was not left out and

was one of many county cricketers whose company I particularly enjoyed. He was undoubtedly the best wicket keeper in England and did play in the first test at Old Trafford (his second and last cap); however his batting meant he was a consistent No11 so Jim Parks, an adequate keeper but much better batsman, was selected thereafter.

*A few more memories which, hopefully, may be of some interest.*

- Having dinner with George Duckworth and Geoff Boycott (then playing for Minor Counties) and discussing whether Geoff should become a professional cricketer or stick to accountancy. Think he made the right choice!
- Playing Kent at Canterbury where one D M Sayer scored 18 runs and took the wicket of Basil Butcher.
- At the end of the tour a reception given by the Lord Mayor of London at the Guildhall and being presented with a carving set as a present from the team and team photograph (*shown*) including me.

Over the next few years, on behalf of the company, I continued organising charity matches and assisting County Beneficiaries which lead to the foundation of the Rothman Cavaliers whose matches were televised on the BBC.



This was, undoubtedly, a highly successful tour in all respects. We won the Test series 3-1 with 1 draw and the team made friends wherever they went. They enjoyed their cricket and with such people as Gary Sobers, Rohan Kanhai, Lance Gibbs and Wes Hall were a joy to watch. Above all the contribution of Frank Worrell as Captain was immense. He inspired everybody and was respected by all.

One final thought: it does pay to volunteer (sometimes).

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#### **Alastair Macfadyen:** (1956 to 1963)

I entered MGS in the autumn term of 1956 along with 98 others. There were three forms of (as I recollect) 33 boys each. We were the first year to gain entrance without a formal 11-plus exam. For those who may raise their eyebrows at this, the Kent Education Committee had, for many years, subjected pupils in the Primary area to what were called the 'Kent Tests', essentially an early form of the present SATS. These covered various subjects, including Reasoning Arithmetic (if there are 3 cows and 4 sheep in a field, how many animals are there altogether?), Mechanical Arithmetic ( $3 + 4 = ?$ ) and the Intelligence Test in which the candidate had to decide which of various shapes, statements, etc., went together. There were possibly other papers, but these are the ones that I remember.

Anyway, I gained admittance to the hallowed portals of MGS and on the first day we were duly lined up inside the main gate, divided into forms and taken off to our classrooms. My first form master was Mr (Eric) Newman. I think we were in Form 3A. We were all clad in short trousers, which were compulsory for the first two years and we also had to wear the school cap, compulsory for all except those in the 6<sup>th</sup> form. Both of these rules were relaxed during my time at MGS, though.

At that time the school was starting a major expansion and building work was in evidence for pretty well the whole of my period there. Early memories include the building of the General Laboratory, on the East side of the Quad and art lessons under Mr Fawcett were frequently punctuated by the sound of hammering and drilling. The cavernous acoustic of the art room made it like being inside one's mouth whilst the dentist was at work.

In those days the concept of 'Health and Safety' was, happily, not even a dream at the back of anyone's mind, so the only

protective clothing ever worn was a white lab coat for physics and chemistry (and probably for woodwork in the 3<sup>rd</sup> form). Two examples remain firmly fixed in my mind which would never be allowed to happen today: The first was a demonstration of static electricity. The biggest boy in our class, George Granycombe, stood on an insulating platform strategically placed by the master's desk in the General lab. He was given one end of a wire to hold, the other end being attached to the Wimshurst Machine. This was then vigorously operated by the master in charge, possibly Eric Newman, but I can't be sure. After a short while, George was instructed to drop his end of the wire, which he did, and the master then pointed his finger at the end of George's nose, moving gradually closer until there was a satisfying spark produced 'twixt nose and finger. The master then turned on the gas tap on the desk and instructed George to point to it with his finger: 'closer, boy, closer!' Another spark was produced and the gas duly lit. It was a memorable lesson!

In the third form (i.e. the first year) we had to start learning French, a novelty for all of us. However, more was to come. At the end of the first year, the exams that we took enabled a mass sorting of us according to the results. The brightest of us were put into 4L where we took up Latin as well as French, the next group went into 4G, who took up German likewise, whilst the other class remained with French only. Latin was a mystery to me at first until, in desperation, I carefully read the 'Shorter Latin Primer' with which we had been issued and realised what all these Declensions and Conjugations actually meant and were used for. My entire knowledge of 'Parts of Speech' is due to my learning Latin at MGS.

In the Upper 4<sup>th</sup>, some, if not all of U4L started to learn German as well. I was amongst their number and although never a great linguist, it wasn't anything that I ever regretted being made to do. In the Remove, RL took four 'O' levels, English language, Latin, French and Maths a year earlier than the rest. This meant that we only had to take four (in my case) 'O' levels in the 5<sup>th</sup> form the next year and so could benefit from a higher level of teaching in that year. The 5<sup>th</sup> form was the first year where we were separated into Arts and Science subjects: I was in the latter group.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> form, despite having taken French 'O' level the previous year, we continued with French lessons a couple of times a week. Our teacher for this was Mr K Y M MacKenzie. He was an amazing character: it seemed that he had been part of SOE during the war and had been a radio operator, always a hazardous occupation. He had at one time hidden in the middle of a bog for several days whilst a large number of Germans had tried to find him. The stuff of great adventure for us, but it must have been terrifying for him.

Many years later I saw a TV programme about the activities of SOE in which he figured prominently. At the end of the war he had, it seems, marched into the local town at the head of several hundred *Maquisards*, effectively their commanding officer. At the time of writing (August 2011) I have finally found a reference to him on the Internet, in the list of SOE personnel, see this URL: <http://www.specialforcesroh.com/awards-2298.html>. For the unconnected, a summary of this brave man's career was as follows:

- Born 17<sup>th</sup> September 1916 of a Scottish father and a French mother. His full name was Kenneth Yves Marcel MacKenzie
- He was a Captain in 'F' section SOE
- He was awarded the MBE and the *Croix de Guerre avec Palme*
- After the war he is listed as having gone to Nigeria with the Colonial service
- He died 26<sup>th</sup> June 2002

After 'O' levels, I stayed on into the 6<sup>th</sup> form, taking physics, chemistry and maths-for-science. I might add for those more used to the current system it was very exceptional for anyone to take more than 3 'A' level exams, . In addition we also took the 'Certificate of Proficiency in the use of English' and 'General Studies'.

The head of sport was Alec Stewart (often referred to as 'Tish', but for what reason no-one knew). [*Ed: Does anyone know why?*] He ran a tight ship and you knew where you were with him, although he was generally popular with the boys. The last PE lesson of every term was spent playing 'Pirates', in which the gym was littered with vaulting horses etc. and the idea was to avoid getting caught by the 'pirates'. If you touched the ground at any stage you were 'out'. Great fun! About the age of 14, each class received from Alec the so-called 'Jock Strap lesson' where the need to wear one of these devices was stressed, plus a graphic description of the perils of VD, to say nothing of the perils of smoking. It was hard-hitting, by the standards of the day.

We had PE twice a week in the lower years, we were in the gym for the Autumn and Winter terms, but went swimming in the open air pool for the Summer term. Games was a double period, rugby in the Autumn and Winter terms and cricket in the Summer. If the weather was unsuitable for rugby (frost was the usual reason) then a cross-country run (or

walk, depending on your level of fitness) in Mote Park was the substitute. It took very exceptional circumstances for games to be cancelled completely!

Another master of whom most of us have fond memories was Mr (Ralph) Kemp. He, too, was heavily involved in games, but also taught Latin. He drove an open-top sports car of some sort and lived during the week at 'The Swan' (up the Loose Road, just past the Fire and Ambulance stations), returning to his home at weekends. I believe that this was at Whitstable, or somewhere in that area. Ralph was a keen photographer and on one occasion showed us some of his extensive collection of colour slides (quite out of the ordinary in those days: photography was normally black and white prints) taken in various museums in Italy and possibly Greece, of various historic remains and artefacts. His reputation went up considerably when he explained that photography was forbidden in these places and that his technique was to bribe the local small boys to create a diversion whilst he took the pictures.

The whole school trooped down to All Saints Church for the beginning of term service, I was learning to play the organ there for most of my time at MGS but never got involved in the playing for the service, although I did play for the memorial service for Bob Rylands (deputy head) many years later.

The Head for the whole of my stay was Mr W A Claydon. He was a remote figure although I believe he taught some classes for those in the Arts 6<sup>th</sup>. The only time that he ever taught a class in which I was present was during the Asian 'flu epidemic of 1957. Probably about 25% of the school (including staff, of course) were laid out by this at any one time for several weeks and the remains of our class were suddenly graced by Mr Claydon's presence one afternoon for a lesson in the absence of the normal teacher. *[Ed: To go from the sublime to the ridiculous, I remember, as a praefect, doing some 'teaching' during this period. P.S.W.]*

Music was a major activity in the school. On entry into the school each boy was assessed by the head of music, Mr (David) Cutforth who tested out your voice and musical ability. I had a good treble voice and could play the piano and so was unilaterally drafted into the Choral Society. I didn't really want to take part, but every Tuesday morning when Sarge Bennet came round to read the various notices I was summoned to see Mr Cutforth to explain why I hadn't been at the previous evening's practice. Eventually I conformed and took part in the performance of Bach's 'St Matthew Passion' the following Easter. It was my first experience of large-scale choral singing.

There was a large School Scout Group, which (as a member of another group in the town) I wasn't involved with, although Eric Newman, who ran one of the two troops, was also an Assistant District Commissioner. Alan Blake, who taught maths, ran the Senior Scout troop and was also ADC (Senior Scouts) and invariably known as 'Tiddles'.

School societies were plentiful; I became an active member of the Change-Ringing Society in the 5<sup>th</sup> form, due to one of those acts of serendipity in being seated next to an existing ringer whose enthusiasm rubbed off on me. It was the beginning of a life-long hobby.

It must have been on my last day when I last met Mr Claydon; all the leavers had to go and be bade farewell by him: it was stressed that we had to go to his office in Journal order. As I entered his sanctum for the first and last time he greeted me with 'Ah, Macfadyen, come in and sit down.' Through my cynical mind ran the thought that he probably didn't know me from Adam and would have said the same thing to anyone that came through the door at that point. In fact, our paths had crossed one day in the 5<sup>th</sup> form: I was in the school office to purchase a ruler or somesuch when Mr Claydon came in. I was wearing a predominantly green pullover which had flecks of many other colours in it. That morning, Mr Portal, our form master at the time, who was noted for a sarcastic manner, had commented on it to the effect that he liked it. The head took one look at my pullover and announced that he didn't like it. I was unwise enough to say that Mr Portal had said that did like it, then we went our ways. At afternoon roll call I was roundly castigated by Mr Portal for having quoted him to the head as I had done. Fortunately, all the class backed me up and nothing further was said, but the school rules regarding dress were subsequently amended appropriately.

All too soon I was out through the main gate for the last time. There is no doubt that as a centre of learning excellence the school was (and still is) in the first rank. My proud achievement was to gain an 'A' grade in 'A' level physics. Before readers of the present era point out that everyone gets 'A' grades these days, I would observe that in those days the pass mark for the various grades was not fixed, rather they were adjusted so that the same percentage got the various grades, which neatly got round the problem of the questions not always being of equal difficulty from year to year. An 'A' grade meant that I was in the top 5% of candidates for that exam board.



**Keith Mitchell:** (1946)

By the summer of 1946, Mr Claydon had seen more than enough of me and I'd had more than enough of being a 17 year old blazered schoolboy, trying to take girls out on half a crown a week pocket money. So I decided to forgo the third year in the sixth form and tried to get called up for the army as quickly as possible. I was joined in this by one of my best friends from MGS, Tony (Tank) Reeves (1939 to 1944) who wanted a break from his pharmacy studies at Medway Technical College.

So we visited the recruiting office near the River Len on Mill Street and asked the RAF sergeant who ran things if he could get us a quick call up. Tony didn't help our cause by telling the gentleman that we wanted to go into the army because we couldn't swim and didn't use Brylcreem. When we got outside I told him that he had just ensured that we would be sent down the mines as Bevin Boys, but a couple of weeks later our call-up papers for the army arrived and on a misty day in early November, two not-so-cocky, nervous youths boarded the train for Canterbury.

When we finished our basic training, we were both booked into the RASC for further training, but in different locations and trades. We never saw each other again, because in 1952 Tony died in South Africa. After training in Cirencester I had the luck to be sent to Italy, then Austria and then back to the UK to train as an Educational Corps sergeant. My father had spent most of the First World War in the trenches in France, so I'll never forget the look of amazement on his face when I walked into the house with three stripes on my arms after less than a year in uniform. I then went to Dover and St Margaret's Bay, finishing off with a few months in Iserlohn in West Germany. I enjoyed nearly every minute of the two years.

While serving, I had obtained place at Bristol University but I decided to do teacher training instead. So October 1948 found me in Worcester at a mixed college, which meant that the students included some 130 nubile young ladies beyond some swinging doors which stayed unlocked until 10.00 p.m. At Worcester, I acquired a teaching certificate and a fiancée and then moved to Southampton in 1950. I was there until 1954, making new friends and losing a fiancée on route. I then decided that future prospects in the teaching profession were very bleak indeed and so in January 1955, it was back to the army *via* Canterbury again. It was an eventful year because I became an officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps and met my wife, marrying her in January 1956. We had postings to Taunton, West Germany (Celle), North Wales, Arborfield, Singapore, Cambridgeshire and Germany again before I left the army in 1975.

On the leaving the army I used my experience of teaching English to the new German army and of producing a scheme for teaching English to Gurkhas, to get a job teaching English to the Royal Saudi Air Force in Riyadh, working for what is now the BAE Systems. I stayed there for 14½ years, rising to become the programme manager and finally retiring in 1989.

I have met a few OMs on my way and I'm currently in touch with four of them although there are huge gaps post-1946 in some cases. I met David Fisher, younger brother of Jack (Jumbo) in Singapore in 1968 and we have stayed in touch. I played cricket against Maurice Fenner (1940 to 1946) in Singapore in 1969 and met Ron Thresher (1941 to 1947?) at

my brother Brian's funeral in 1990. (Ron, incidentally, played a few games for Kent and also for Harlequins RFC.) On fleeting visits to Maidstone I used to have a drink with Roy Chatfield (1939 to 1942) in Geoff Fletcher's (1937 to ?) pub in Earl Street.

There are now also four of us from Puggy Richmond's Form 3A whom I know have survived from 1939. I met Tom Grimes (1939 to 1943), who was in the Royal Navy for several years and then worked for the GPO in Maidstone, in 2000, and recently I have had contact with Brian Hadlow (1939 to 1945) and Tony Gosby (1939 to 1944) in a 2011. Tom is ex-Royal Navy and lives in Maidstone, and we stay in touch regularly. I have known Brian Hadlow since 1933 when we entered St Michael's Primary School together, and we also frequented Cornwallis playground for many years from 1935

*Editor's notes*

*Roy Chatfield died in March 1998.*

*Maurice Fenner may still live in the Canterbury area.*

*David Fisher: the Society has his contact details.*

*Jack (Jumbo) Fisher died some years ago.*

*Geoff Fletcher died some years ago.*

*Tony Gosby: the Society has his contact details.*

*Tom Grimes: the Society has his contact details.*

*Brian Hadlow: the Society has his contact details.*

*Ron Thresher may still live in the Lenham area.*

*Keith Mitchell asks whether Norman Butcher made a mistake when he wrote in the Summer 2011 Newsletter, 'With a slight delay in my demob. due to the Korean War, I got to Sheffield University in October 1948.' Keith points out that the Korean War didn't start until June 1950.*



to 1945. We met once on leave in 1947 and then played cricket against each other in 1967 (Brian was in the RAF for many years, and he's now in Canada.) Finally, Tony Gosby, my form-mate for five years, wrote as the result of my piece in the *OM Newsletter* and I hope we are going to stay in touch.

If anyone is still reading at this stage, I did eventually get a respectable degree in 2000 and I'm still actively involved in cricket as a league umpire. Oh, and back in 1954 I was best man for another of Puggy Richmond's 1939/1940 form who went on with Tony Gosby and myself - Norman Hawkes.

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**Norman Parr:** (1930s)

I enjoyed my time at MGS and whilst not an academic did, much to the masters' surprise, gain seven credits and one pass (French), which disappointed Mr Holyman who said I would 'walk it'. Anyway the result earned me a pair of gold cuff - links from my Father which I still have although not *de rigueur* nowadays.

My father was the victim of the great depression, 1928/32, who had been given a gold watch and a thank-you letter. An old school chum advised him that there was an opening with the same company of which he was the Bristol branch manager, in Maidstone, which is how I came, eventually, to be a pupil of MGS. We lived in the Loose Road and I attended Mangravet School where I became friends with Pudney, Page and a third lad whose name escapes me. We were fortunate in having a Miss Ring to drive us on to her goal of entrance to MGS. So that must have been 1934/5 and the three of us stayed together, moving up the ladder form by form, but as my father had a house built in Bearsted we were in different houses and consequently drifted apart.

I loved the sporting opportunities offered and sacrificed many a Saturday, playing away for the school, and enjoying the bangers and mash suppers provided afterwards. I also represented School House PT winning squad under the leadership of the younger Homan brothers for a couple of years. One little incident I recall was just before the Masters v School cricket match and the sports master of the time wanted batting practice in the nets, so I offered to bowl. He put a shilling on his middle stump and I knocked it over with my third off-spin ball - not sure though whether he faked missing to compensate me!

I paraded under the watchful eye of 'Brauer' the CSM of the OTC and an ex-guardsman, and I earned my sharpshooter badge which stood me in good stead in the Home Guard Sunday morning rifle shooting target practices - my friend Sam Harnett also a sharpshooter and I usually shared the 'pot'. Under the command of a veteran corporal six of us would march up to the Pilgrim's Way and patrol it for several miles in two man shifts - me sporting a 'Tommy-gun', which I kept under my bed, all for 7/6d a week.

I was on a Tube a couple of years after WW2 when I found myself standing behind a very tall ramrod gentleman whose back of the head view seemed familiar and as he turned slightly I recognised him - 'Hello Brauer', I said. He turned and replied, 'Why hello young Parr - what have you been up to?'. On another occasion, I visited the school and having gained the secretary's permission was wandering along the upper corridor of the old building when I spotted Mr Holyman, now an older gentleman, taking a class, so I tapped on the door and he signalled me to enter and his first words were 'hello Parr; good to see you.' Then he made the whole class stand up (such manners!) as he introduced me - what memories these men had (or had I been so wilful they couldn't forget!).

I also joined the Stamp Club run by Mr Carter out of school hours. I still have my original collection, hoping that one of my six sons would show some interest, but after landing me with sale/return bills, interest waned. I blotted my copy book, during a school concert when at the end of an exhilarating performance by our eccentric chemistry master of Gershwin's *Rhapsody In Blue* - greeted by uproarious applause by the audience - I whistled!

I remember that in the early days of form L2 our form master was the sports master who punished us rookies for some rowdiness by hitting the muscle part of the fingers of both hands of the whole class - with the edge of a ruler (imagine that today) - maybe he was riled by having his name associated with scandal, reported by the *Kent Messenger*, with a local lady. That didn't harm his reputation but rather enhanced it amongst us boys.

I was a member of the sixth form for a couple of terms but [life was complicated by] attempting calculus down an air raid shelter, the distractions of ARP Messenger duty and Home Guard, plus the fact that my mother died and I was suspended because my father took me away to get over his grief and to organise a housekeeper.

Finally it was decided I should join a local firm of chartered accountants, McCabe and Ford, as an articled clerk and in March 1941 signed five years of my life away. A farmer client of the firm offered me the job of 'tally-man' to the hop pickers but also paid me 15/- a week and gave me a grandstand view of the Battle of Britain (a pilot actually bailed out at 300ft from a smoking plane and landed in our field). I stayed with the firm until I volunteered and joined the RN in 1942. I was sent to the USA for training as a carrier-borne operational fighter pilot. I served on HMS Colossus and was discharged in late 1946 as Lieutenant (A) RNVR.

I tried to put my limited knowledge of accountancy to becoming a bank manager in Iran but after my first tour gave it up. I returned to the UK, with my prize possession, a genuine hand-made tribal Persian carpet, which still graces our home and is now more than 100 years old. I found a talent for retail salesmanship and worked for a well-known soap manufacturer, a very fortunate choice as I met my future wife who was the daughter of a colleague. I changed job to a world-wide soup company and was Divisional Sales Manager when I left. I have been retired more than 20 years and am in the process of arranging a two-day 60th wedding anniversary celebration on July 25th/26th 2012 for all my family of 35.

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**Stuart Partis: (1958)**

As reported in the April 2011 Newsletter, Stuart was one of Alan Bennet's original 'History Boys' at Oxford, and he has written a book of his time at MGS. The full version is available from Stuart (contact details available on request), but he has also produced a reduced version entitled *Terminal Report*, and the Society has a few copies for sale at £5 each, including postage. Please e-mail the Society if you would like a copy.

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**Peter Sampson: (1950 to 1955)**

I started at MGS in 1950 in Form 3C with Alan Blake as my Master and left in 1955. I subsequently spent my working life in the construction industry. I went from school to a firm of consulting engineers in Maidstone as a trainee draughtsman and attended Maidstone Technical College to obtain an ONC in Mechanical Engineering and then attended (part-time) at The Borough Polytechnic to qualify as a Building Services Engineer. I subsequently worked for London Consulting Engineers and also major construction companies before moving to East Sussex in 1975.

I married in 1962 to an ex-MGGS pupil, Iris Dietz, and we have four children.

I have attended most of the OMS suppers for the past 10 years and retain contacts with some of my peers. I was active in MGS Scouts and became a Queens Scout in 1955 and also obtained a silver hat badge in the CCF for the highest marks in Cert A 2 in 1954. I left MGS in 1955 as a L/Cpl.in CCF, having attended camps at Shornecliffe and Thetford (twice).

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**Norman Butcher: (1946)**

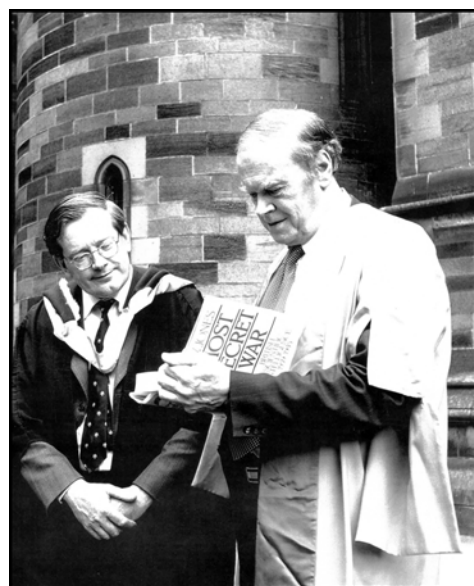
In the Summer 2011 Newsletter, we published a letter from Norman Butcher (1939 to 1946). Unfortunately we accidentally omitted to include a photograph of Norman with Prof. R.V. Jones, author of *Most Secret War*. The picture was taken at the University of Glasgow in June 1978. We are pleased to publish it now and offer our apologies to Norman for the omission.

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**Leon Shaw: (1946)**

The Headmaster received a letter from Steve Murray, Secretary of the Old Manwoodian Lodge, which is a masonic lodge made up of former pupils and masters of Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich. (Steve also has two sons at MGS at present.) He reported that one of their older lodge members, Leon Shaw, attended both MGS (1941 to 1946) and SRMS, starting at MGS school at the age of just eight years old. [Ed: Was that the norm in those days?]

Leon had passed to Steve some documents relating to MGS, notably a musical score from 1944, composed by one of the then MGS music masters, J A Tebbs,



Norman Butcher with Prof.R.V.Jones

which he also signed. Leon says that the boys used to sing this song at various special occasions in the school calendar. [Ed: I'll try to obtain more details for a future Newsletter. This is certainly not the School Song, which was composed in 1908.]

Leon is not very well at the moment, and the Society has his contact details, if anyone would like to write to him.



**Jim Walker:** (1996)

Roger Brown reports that Jim Walker has been a member of Maidstone Rugby Club for 20 years. Having played since the age of 13 through the various levels, he has taken over the mantle of first team captain for the 2011-2012 season.

## 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.*

**Gordon Bonner:** (1938)

In September 2001, The *Downs Mail* reported the death on July 28<sup>th</sup> [at Staplehurst Manor Nursing Home after a long illness], of former Maidstone Mayor, Gordon Bonner (1938) and former OMS President (1986), who was aged 89. He had attended MGS, where he enjoyed art, sport and music. He played in the school's swing band and joined the Army cadets. During the war he was with the 8th Army in the Western Desert, where he acted as Montgomery's driver in Cairo, Alexandria and Tobruk.

Gordon met Rosemary at a civic ball in Maidstone, and they married in August 1947. His work as an architectural consultant for embassy buildings took them abroad in the early 1970s. They were based in Tehran, but Gordon's area covered India, the former Ceylon, the Middle East and parts of Africa. They returned to Maidstone in 1973, and both later stood for the Borough Council; he represented Bridge Ward and his wife represented Thurnham. Gordon became council leader for six years and was Mayor in 1982-1983. He was also chairman of the group which selected Ann Widdecombe as a potential future MP for Maidstone.

Gordon's daughter, Vicci, said that Gordon celebrated his golden wedding by taking his family to Switzerland to stay at the same hotel on the shore of Lake Lucerne, where he and Rosemary had spent their honeymoon. Gordon was very proud of his family and Vicci commented: 'We all greatly respected his guidance, encouragement, help and advice.'

A celebration of Gordon's life was held at Coxheath church, where he had helped to start the primary school and took services as a lay preacher.

**Bruce Barnett:** (c.1945)

Peter Sampson reports the death of Bruce Barnett, who left MGS in about 1945.

**Roger Pellant:** (? dates)

News has reached us of the recent death of Roger Pellant, in his 50s, from Alzheimer's disease. We know that he worked for the accountancy firm, Levick's, but the Society would appreciate any further information about him.





## HEADMASTERS OF MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A series of occasional articles, taking us from the first Headmaster through to the present day, kindly produced for the Newsletter by OM, Roger Brown.

### 5. Revd Thomas Elmstone (1628 – 1642)

Monarch(s) on the throne of England: 1625 – onwards Charles I

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

Notable events during the HM's tenure:

- 1633 Inquisition of Galileo Galilei (in Italy) for professing a belief that the Earth revolves around the sun
- 1638 (25 June) Lunar eclipse is first astronomical event recorded in USA
- 1642 (Jan) King Charles I with 400 soldiers attacks the English parliament (then flees to Oxford)

Location of School: Corpus Christi Hall

Thomas Elmstone obtained his degrees from Emmanuel College, Cambridge: his BA in 1626 and MA in 1629. His appointment to Maidstone Grammar School is thought to have been instigated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, who at the same time placed Rev. Robert Barrell to the charge of All Saints' Church.

Elmstone's contribution to the school is not recorded but some details exist as to what was happening around the town. The Corporation had long favoured the 'Roundhead' clan and sought much to the ministrations of Thomas Wilson, then Rector of Otham. In 1644 Wilson was transferred to Maidstone where he remained until his death in 1653. Meanwhile, the Rev. Barrell had been imprisoned by the House of Commons in April 1643 and his living sequestrated.

Elmstone's departure came in June 1642 when he was dismissed by the Corporation; however, he continued to be paid until the summer 1646. At some point during this period he took up the living at Boughton Malherbe, a post previously held by the Rev Barrell. He had married twice: his first wife died in 1639 and he married 'Mrs Crisp, widow' in 1649. He died three years later in 1652 and was buried in the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Maidstone.

One must assume that school life continued at MGS (1642-1646) although who actually was at the helm is unrecorded.

### 6. Thomas Lambe (1646 – 1647)

Monarch(s) on the throne of England: 1646 - onwards Charles I

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

Notable events during the HM's tenure:

- 1646 (April/May) King Charles I flees Oxford and surrenders in Scotland

Location of School: Corpus Christi Hall

Thomas Lambe had also attended Emmanuel College, Cambridge, obtaining his BA in 1643 and MA in 1646. His appointment filled what had been a vacancy at MGS for four years, but sadly, his tenure lasted but one year; indeed, he was the first of a rapid change in headships, with the school having seven headmasters in the following seven years.

No other details about his career and life are recorded.

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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Committee decided to make a regular donation to this appeal, and received the following letter as a result:

"Thank you for your tribute to this year's Field of Remembrance by completing a Direct Debit instruction to make a regular annual gift of £30.00 by Direct Debit. Your support means we are able to join as a Nation to

honour and remember the brave sacrifices made by those in our Armed Services - from World War I to the current conflict in Afghanistan today.

“The Royal British Legion will write your message onto a Remembrance Cross and plant it at Westminster on your behalf. You are very welcome to visit the Field of Remembrance to see your cross. The Westminster field will be open on Thursday 10th November for visiting until Sunday 20th November. Your dedication to Old Maidstonians will be planted in plot number 163.

“Your support allows us to provide specialist welfare care to elderly ex-servicemen and women in our care homes and rehabilitation care for younger servicemen and women through the new Personnel Recovery Centres. The Royal British Legion is dedicated to serving those in need, on behalf of all those who benefit from your generosity, thank you.”

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## THE OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY CHAIN OF OFFICE

It has been suggested that a future edition of the *Newsletter* might carry a feature about this important historical artefact. As a foretaste of this, we can say that the chain appears to have been donated by President number 11, who was H.Day in 1902. It has a nominal value of only £1, but the cost of insuring it would run several hundred pounds. There is a view that it is not worth insuring, as it could never be replaced anyway.



However, as it is kept in the school safe when not in use, it is very secure.

If anyone has any information about the chain which might form the basis of a more detailed article, we will be pleased to receive it.



## CCF PHOTOGRAPH

We have received a photograph of the CCF at Thetford from Henry Darley. Peter Sampson says, “I gave this photo to Henry at the last OM Supper. It was Platoon 3 of the Army section. Henry was right marker and I am on the far side.”



## INFORMATION REQUESTED

In the last *Newsletter*, John Munn (1954) referred to the fact that ‘Vernon Schubert Fawcett’ was his art teacher. Was Vernon’s middle name really Schubert? If so, does anyone know why? Musical parents? An actual family connection? If you have an answer, please contact the editor.

## OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY AWARDS

Details of the new arrangements for awards were given in the last *Newsletter*. The editor thought that it might be useful to publish the following historical details of the awards. Changes to the awards structure have been possible because in general, the Society can choose for itself what sums are used from what fund and for what purpose. There were no original stipulations, except for the T P Gutteridge Award. We have, therefore, been able to make the whole awards fund more flexible and useful at the present time.

### 1. Old Boys’ Award

- This award shall be made on the recommendation of the Headmaster to a present or former pupil to enable him to continue his studies at the School, or to take up a place or continue at a recognised institution for higher or further education. The value of the award shall be £25 per annum.

- The original source of the award fund was the original scheme of life membership subscriptions dating from the 1920's and 1930's.
- Original sum: £300
- Current value: £2,949 (Has not been awarded for many years.)
- Effectively combined with the Phillips and General Awards.

## **2. G B Phillips Award**

- The income from the investment shall be used to augment the value of the Old Boys' Award and/or be used on behalf of pupils at the School or Old Maidstonians receiving higher or further education to undertake projects considered by the committee worthy of support.
- In 1976, the committee stated that the award should be made to those in financial need, and that it would be sympathetic to OMs embarking on 'courses supplementary to their main courses'.
- Geoffrey ('Beta') Phillips was a long-serving history master at MGS, serving over 40 years until his eventual retirement from part-time teaching in 1958. For much of that period he was Second Master (Deputy Head). Geoffrey was President of the OMS from 1958 to 1960, and he died in 1973.
- Original bequest (1973): £500
- Current value: £500
- The bequest does not restrict the capital sum from being distributed.

## **3. T P Gutteridge Award**

- The income from the investment shall be awarded to assist sixth form science students to pursue courses or activities designed to broaden their cultural horizons.
- In 1983, the Society newsletter noted that the award was intended to 'assist travel projects', and this was supported by a list of beneficiaries, all of whom had made 'expeditions' to other countries: Canada, Greenland, Greece (archaeology) and Australia (a study tour).
- Tom Gutteridge was a long-serving physics master at the school over a similar period of time to Geoffrey Phillips, retiring in 1963. He was President of the OMS in 1974.
- Original gift (1974): £250
- Current value: £254
- The gift does not restrict the capital sum from being distributed.
- The interest (if no award is made) is added to the capital, but can be included in a later award amount.

## **4. Dicker Trust (a trust fund)**

- Awards shall be available to both present pupils of the School and to Old Maidstonians for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipients' continuing education.
- David Dicker was a boy at the school, leaving in the early 1960's, whereupon he joined the RAF and was killed in an aircraft accident. Some years later in 1993, his parents decide to honour his name by setting up a trust fund to be administered by the OMS.
- Original gift from the Dicker family (1993): £6,000, with £2,000 going to the Dicker Trust and £4,000 to the Special Distribution Fund. The Trust fund is combined with the Special Distribution Fund.
- The gift does not restrict the capital sum from being distributed.

## **5. The Special Distribution Fund (a trust fund)**

- Awards shall be available to both present pupils of the School and to Old Maidstonians for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipients' continuing education.
- In all cases the number of awards in any one year shall not be limited and any undistributed income will be carried forward. The amount of an individual award shall be determined by the committee, except where restricted by the scheme's income, and the amount given may be for a part of the full sum required by the applicant(s). An award may be made solely from one of the 'funds' or jointly from two or more of the schemes. Whilst the tenure for an award is the year in which it is paid out, the committee may renew it for a further period.
- Original gift (1993): 4,000
- Current value (due to Gift Aid): 4,666
- The gift (from the Dicker family) does not restrict the capital sum from being distributed.

## **6. J F Payne Bequest**

- The terms of the fund require administration by the OMS which 'shall form part of the Society's Award Fund and be distributed for the benefit of both current and former pupils of Maidstone Grammar School'. The award is made



on the recommendation of the Headmaster or by direct application to the committee. Funds awarded shall be for educational projects or such materials deemed necessary for the recipient's continuing education.

- There shall be no restriction on the amount of any one award, no limit to the number of awards made to an individual or group, and no limitation on the amount distributed or awards made in any one year.
- The award may be for a part or the full sum required by the applicant.
- An award may be made solely from the bequest or jointly with monies from another of the Society's schemes.
- J F (John) Payne, an OM who left the school before WW2, was President of the Society in 1955, died in 1998, and made a bequest to the Society in his will.
- Original bequest (1998): £500
- The gift does not restrict the capital sum from being distributed.

## 7. General Awards

- General awards may be made of undistributed income from all the awards, except the Gutteridge (where the excess is added to the original gift of £250), the Clifford (which is for a single specified purpose), and the Stewart (which involves no actual funds).
- This was originally intended for worthy causes, and could be used for World Challenge and the like. However, it could be closed, and the funds transferred to the Old Boys' Award and/or the T P Gutteridge Award.
- Original value: unknown
- Current value: £2,949 in conjunction with the Old Boys Award, but technically higher if undistributed income from other awards is included.

## 8. E F Clifford Gift

- This funds the *Ted Clifford Award for Local History*. This is awarded annually for 'excellence in history', to a boy in Year 8 or Year 9, by way of an inscribed silver gilt Victorian tankard. The tankard is on a base which was purchased by the Society, and the name of the recipient is engraved on this. The Society retains the tankard, which is displayed at the Annual Supper when the award is made to the winner, the latter being given a silver-plated memento.
- E F (Ted) Clifford was a boy at the school in the 1920's and 1930's and was President of the Old Maidstonian Society in 1951. He was a member of the committee for many years, and when he died in 2006 his family chose to recognise his long service to the Society, and the strong family connection with the school, by means of this gift.
- Ted's grandfather and father had also been Presidents of the Society (in 1895 and 1931 respectively), and his son, Paul Clifford, will be President in 2010 to 2011.
- Original value: £250
- When it was recognised that this sum was insufficient, Paul Clifford gifted another £1,500, bringing the award to £1750.
- This award must remain separate from all others, unless the terms of the gift are amended by the Clifford family.

## 9. Alec Stewart Memorial Tankard

- The Society shall award a tankard annually to the member of the Senior School contributing most during the school year either on the field of play or in the administration of sporting activities. The presentation shall take place at the Annual Supper and be to a candidate nominated by the Senior Sports Master, and approved by the Headmaster.
- Alec Stewart was a boy at the school in the 1930s, and he joined the school staff as Head of PE after war service. He died in service in 1972. The award was set up in his name by the Society, to perpetuate his memory.
- Originally, the term of the award was set for not less than 20 years; in 1992, the committee decided that this should continue indefinitely.
- Original year of presentation: 1973
- A new tankard is provided out of Society funds (the Current account, not the Awards account) each year. The Society also pays for the winner's place at the Annual Supper.

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## AND ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The joke about the blonde going to Heaven which was printed in the last *Newsletter* reminded the editor about another story related to Saint Peter:-

A man lived on the third floor of an apartment building. One day he went home early from work because he suspected his wife of having an affair and he wanted to catch her with her lover. However, although his wife was in state of undress and appeared to be very flustered, there was no sign of another man in the flat.

By chance, the husband looked out of the window, and saw a man sitting in a sports car just below: he was looking up at the window whilst smoking a cigar. He thought, 'That's him,' and as the fridge was nearby, he opened the window, lifted the fridge, tipped it over the windowsill and it fell on the man in the car.

A few moments later, Saint Peter was jingling his keys at the gates of Heaven when a man came along clutching his chest. Saint Peter said, 'What happened to you?' The man replied, 'I knew that my wife was having an affair, so I threw our 'fridge out of the window on top of her lover. The strain was too much for me, and I had a fatal heart attack.' Saint Peter said, 'You'd better come in.'

He was followed by another man, whose head was swathed in bandages. Saint Peter said, 'What happened to you?' The man replied, 'I can't understand it: I was sitting in my car, minding my own business, when a fridge landed on my head.' Saint Peter said, 'You'd better come in.'

A third man appeared who was on two crutches, covered in blood and barely able to move. Saint Peter said, 'Blimey, mate, you're in a mess! What happened to you?' The man replied, 'Well, I was sitting in a fridge...'

### **More Tommy Cooper one-liners**

I rang the local swimming pool. I said, 'Hello, is this the local swimming pool?' He said, 'It depends where you're calling from'.

I phoned a builder and said 'I want a skip in my garden'. He said 'I'm not stopping you.'

### **Some Les Dawson one-liners**

I went to the doctor and asked for something for my wind. He gave me a kite.

My mother-in-law hung her bloomers out to dry. We had gliders landing in the garden.

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## **SCHOOL EVENTS**

### **Proposed Old Boys *versus* Senior Rugby Team fixture**

Ollie Rogers is organising this for December 9<sup>th</sup>, and it will be played at Aylesford Rugby Club. There will be a £15 subs fee for each player and they will receive a pair of commemorative socks and a spot of tea for their trouble. More details will be forwarded if you request them from the Society or the School.

### **School Carol Service**

This will be held at All Saints' Church at 19:30 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Senior Rugby Tour to Italy**

40 senior rugby players will be touring Italy in April 2012, and a fund-raising quiz night will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The notification will probably be too late for members reading this *Newsletter*, but there will be other fund-raising events over the coming months.

A new tour kit has been designed, and there are opportunities for companies, organisations or individuals to sponsor the playing shirt or individual players. Various sponsorship packages are available, so if you are interested in becoming a sponsor or know of someone else who might be, please contact Mr E Seymour or Mr O Rogers at the School.

(oliver.rogers@mgs-kent.org.uk or 01622 752101)

### **Junior Speech Day and the Founders' Service**

These events will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

## OMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL SUPPER

The Annual Supper will be held in the School Hall on Friday March 23rd 2012 at 19:30. There will be a buffet as in the past two years, and seating will once again be on round tables. All Old Maidstonians are welcome. Despite the rising cost of food, John Clayton has negotiated a cost of £19 per person: this will have now been fixed for three years. Those requiring special meals should contact John at [j.clayton@hikent.org.uk](mailto:j.clayton@hikent.org.uk). Once again, name badges will be used, showing the years of leaving MGS.

The Old Maidstonians Annual General Meeting will take place immediately before the supper at 18:15 and all members will be very welcome to attend.

The use of the occasion for year group reunions is important and we would like to encourage them. Special 'date' reunions (e.g. 25, 50 or 60 years) could even warrant mini pre-functions and we will probably be able to arrange tours of the School, given enough warning.

### OM Supper Menu

#### Starter

Carrot and Coriander Soup

#### Main Courses

Chicken Korma

Vegetable Balti

Served with Pilau Rice, Naan Bread and Assorted Chutneys

Or

Poached Salmon in Watercress Sauce served with  
New Potatoes and French Beans

Or

Pea and Mint Risotto (V)

#### Dessert

Selection of Desserts

Coffee and Mints

## YOUR COMMITTEE 2011-12

**Anthony Hayward** (1958) – **President**

[anthony.hayward@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthony.hayward@hotmail.co.uk)

**Richard Ratcliffe** (1964) – **Chairman**

[rbr1@btconnect.com](mailto:rbr1@btconnect.com)

**Dr Brian White** – **Secretary; Co-Editor** (1969)

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**Graham Belson** (1965) **Membership Secretary,  
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**John Caley** (Staff 1955 to 1998)

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**Gardner Crawley** (1962)

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[dmwaww@gmail.com](mailto:dmwaww@gmail.com)

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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)**

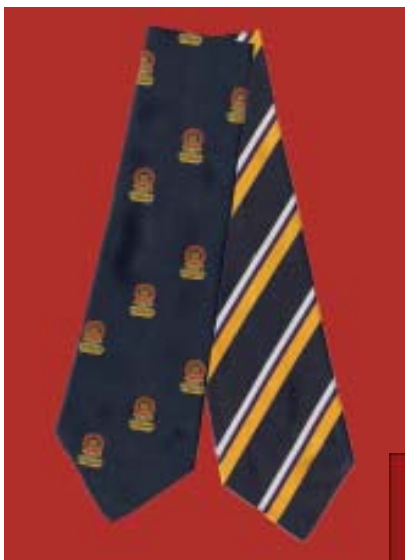
Researched and compiled by John and Diana Caley (Staff 1955-1998), the book was produced to commemorate the centenary of the Cadet Force at the School. It brought up to date the original history that the authors had written in 1981 at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It contains many pictures along with 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

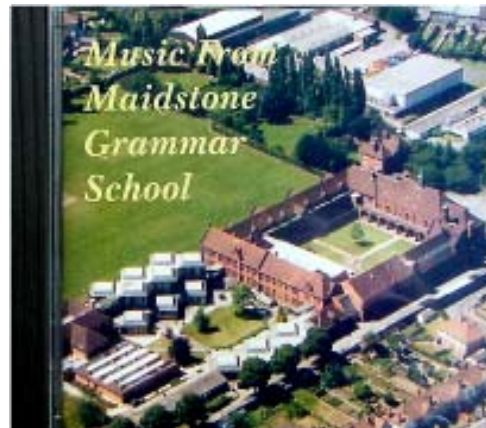
## Payment

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.



CD

## 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.

450<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia is also available:

Ties: Plain navy blue with a 450<sup>th</sup> 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.

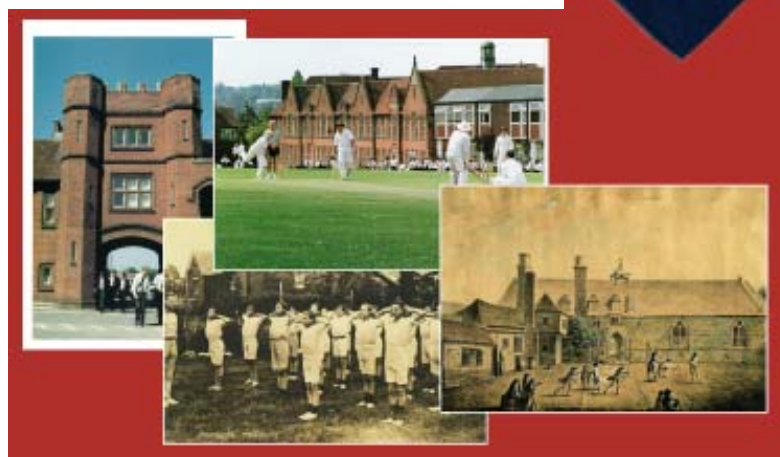
Tie



## Payment

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

*The order forms are attached as separate documents.*



Notelets



# 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.

