



Old Maidstonian Society

Newsletter No.10 - Spring 2013

President:
David Leeke

Chairman:
Richard Ratcliffe

Secretary:
Brian White

MGS IS:-

The Headmaster outlines his vision



I conducted an exercise in October in which I asked the students and staff what it means to be a part of the MGS community: essentially what are our

core values? This really did get us focused and reminded us all why we value being part of the school. These ideas have been central to my vision and I have summarised them into four main core values.



MGS is a community. We are a community, sharing a common purpose: to prepare young people for the

COMMUNITY

future. Community is really important to us and this is why we have placed it first: being part of the MGS

community is special. So many people have allegiance to the school, and we need to ensure that we never lose this. The support that we give to the students and to each other is obvious. The word 'traditions' was suggested by the staff and student body as one of the things most important to us: we wish to maintain the ethos of tradition. All that we do at MGS should be based on our core values and it is really important that we constantly return to them.

We need to be more positive about success and find more opportunities to celebrate and share success. We will return to the grandeur of Celebration Days: we must

never lose these special celebrations, and for a school like ours we must ensure that they reflect our core values. More opportunities for celebration and reward will be developed, particularly where parents can be fully engaged. Parents have missed this aspect of the school and we are

keen to re-establish it. We have already seen the GCSE Presentation event which took place in early December, but the big one is for the leaving Year 13 students who will return to collect their A-Level Certificates. In the past the Old Maidstonian Society has run this event but for various reasons attendance has diminished over the past few years. Work will be done to promote the event as it is an opportunity, not only for students to receive their certificates, but more importantly, to see each other and the staff that worked with them. The evening will take place in March and be timed to capture students returning from university for Easter and will be followed the next day with a 1st XV versus Old Boys rugby match.

It is events like this that keep the community feel at the school.

Short stories wanted
Sixth Form competition
See page 17

MGS is a place for learning. We strive for academic excellence, but most importantly to inspire a lifelong love of learning, with students growing as independent leaders.

Obviously, a key aim of any school is to raise standards. Our academic performance is excellent, but we also know that we can do better. Raising standards does not simply mean working harder; it means working differently, trying new things and giving greater responsibility to the students. Yes, it will mean taking risks, but no one learns anything new by not making mistakes. It also means having higher expectations. What do people do when the bar is raised? They jump higher. The students need to have higher expectations for themselves; they need to believe that they have ability and can gain achievements.

Target setting at Key Stage 4 and 5 is having a positive impact, and standards have improved. This culture of raising the glass ceiling will continue, be strengthened and brought into Key Stage 3. Students who have aspirational targets throughout their time at school feel that they are being encouraged to work constantly towards achieving their potential.

Practising skills learnt, or the opportunity to write at length, are important aspects of learning and these cannot always be accomplished within the curriculum time provided in school. Hence there is a need for appropriate levels of homework to develop learning. However, homework always needs to be linked directly to the work being done and be clearly justifiable in academic terms, so that the students can see the purpose in doing it. Unnecessary or pointless homework creates resentment amongst students towards school. Excessive homework demands can also create awful tensions at home as parents fight to persuade their children to do it. We also need to be careful that if we set students written work to complete, they will reasonably expect feedback on it. Therefore we need to set work which is based appropriately on how much we can reasonably mark. We need to develop a homework policy in the school based on these principles, so that we can extend independence of learning and skill acquisition among students, and prepare them for post-16 education, making them self-sufficient learners whilst being conscious of their work-life balance and that of the staff.

A student can spend seven years in this school without parents meeting his the teachers; this cannot be right. However, Academic Interview Day *versus* Parents Evening is not the argument. It is important that communication with parents is improved. I am not happy to know that formal opportunities are not given

to parents to meet the teachers of their children. We will develop proposals very soon, but subject teacher consultation opportunities of some form will be re-introduced in the school from September.

One of the biggest curriculum reforms for 25 years is about to come upon us, as English Baccalaureate and A-Level reforms will all need investigation into their impact on what we do here. There will be challenges, but I believe that challenges are opportunities. We will continue to provide a broad curriculum for students, as we all believe this is the right thing to do. There are still many questions at present and few answers, so please watch this space!

Our enrichment and extra-curricular programmes are excellent. Students have a wide variety of opportunities in which to participate, with many also providing leadership and service to the school. This supports them by developing skills and characteristics that are not always developed within the classroom. All of this is possible due to the goodwill of staff and for that I am grateful. To further develop our enrichment programme we are looking to create an International Baccalaureate 'Creativity, Action, Service'-type programme for the 6th Form. Completing A-Levels, as we know, is not enough, and we want to ensure that all 6th Formers are involved in leadership and/or service. We can learn so much from the student body and they certainly have the skills to take on things with little input from the staff.

Also, within the 6th Form we are looking at our curriculum provision: we have a broad curriculum on offer, which is positive for the school, but the culture of dropping subjects after AS-Level is something that I have always disliked. When students do drop subjects, unviable sets may be created, and this cannot continue. Hard and difficult conversations with students and parents may have to be had, and difficult decisions about not running small sets may have to be made. This is not desirable, but all schools now have to look at what they can offer, and ensure that there is a balance between funding constraints and student choice.

Learning outside the normal parameters of the classroom is very important to me. Our students are so much more than a set of examination qualifications: they have interests, hobbies, skills and abilities that are as diverse, creative and enriching as those of our staff. We want to find ways to provide opportunities for developing this cultural and social enrichment and so will be introducing an Extended Learning Week in June. This is a week when we will engage as a school in a very different way, and all staff and students in Years 7 to 10 will be involved. This will not be a week in which

LEARNING

to study geography or history, for example, but a period in which to create a school newspaper, put on a theatrical or musical performance for the local primary schools, do a community gardening project at the local old people's home, spend the week creating a robot or designing and painting murals for the sports hall. Students will not work in tutor groups, but in vertical groups of Years 7-10.

MGS is a place to feel safe and supported. The most important people in the school are our students and the staff body are our principal resource. The work that we all do contributes to the success of the school: this certainly does not go unnoticed and is much valued.

The pastoral and student services aspects of the school are excellent, and the structures that are in place are having a positive impact: these need to remain as a strength of the school. The House structure, though, should play a larger part in the school, and not just be seen as a route to compete. With the school being so large, these smaller communities develop identity, belonging, and of course, competition. We want to see more opportunities for students in one House to work together and so further develop the allegiance to that House, and more competitions as well. Research suggests that a successful House system forms 'the core unit of identity of the student, so rather than seeing themselves belonging to a school of over 1,300, they attach themselves to a House unit of perhaps only 300 other students, under the watchful eye of the Head of House, and an army of House tutors. Older students have important jobs in looking after the young. Close bonds form between students and with teachers. 'We feel that our current pastoral system can help to further strengthen the success of the House system.

MGS is a community within a community. Our place in society is really important. There are so many things we already do to engage with the wider community, but we need to continue this good practice and forge more links in order to develop a diverse perspective and dimension within the school.

There are a number of premises matters that we are working on, and the next big project will be the Sports Hall. A lot of work has already gone on behind the scenes in order to get this project ready, and it is hoped that the first phase will start in the next 12 months. Fundraising will then begin in order to work towards phase two – a complete extension of the current sports hall, creating a new sports centre with gym, weights room, fitness studio, entrance lobby, café, etc. The ultimate aim, which is to improve the environment the

students and staff experience in PE, is the main focus. It is an exciting project and I feel reassured that the people working on this are experienced and feel positive about it.

After the Sports Hall, the next big project will be to do something about the last huts: rooms 90, 91, 92, etc. This is a long-term project but it is hoped that a third building, similar to the 6th Form block and Applied Learning block will replace those rooms.

Opportunities to link further with the wider community are being developed: as already mentioned, the 1st XV versus Old Boys match will take place in March, and the Community Carol Service saw an increase in numbers in December, but not to the extent which could be achieved. What was most disappointing about that event was the number of current MGS students in attendance: attendance of current students and parents at school events is something about which I feel particularly passionate.

Strengthening the involvement of the Parents' Association and Old Maidstonian Society is something we are also working on: all of these things should encourage Old Maidstonians, friends of the school, and parents to remain close to the school and give something back now and in the future.

Finally, one of the biggest legacies I wish to leave at MGS is a Development/Alumni Office. Schools that don't have a Development Office which seeks to bring additional funds into the school are missing a trick. The creation of such an office will take time to do right, but it is about engaging the community to give something back to the school. The state provides the bread and butter to deliver an education, but we would like to provide some jam. I have seen what similar developments have achieved in other schools and, their impact on the students. We want the best for the students, but it is becoming increasingly a situation where individual schools need to be more proactive and seek support elsewhere, other than from the normal sources. It all links in: strengthen the engagement we have with the community; live and work by our values; raise standards. These will all contribute to making the school a better place to remain part of. The allegiance and loyalty to this school is one of its unique selling points, and we need to utilise this as best as possible. One of the ways in which we can start is by ensuring that every single leaver this year joins the OMS – it costs nothing to do so and results in their continuing association with the school.

As I said back in September I am here for the long haul and I wish to make a positive and sustained impact on the students and staff at Maidstone Grammar School and I will do so with pleasure and dedication.

SAFETY AND SUPPORT

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

I write these few thoughts almost as the cab doors are slamming to take away the diners from the Supper at the School on 22 March – and what a Supper it was, with a near-record attendance of 104, and excellent speeches from the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson (1971), Dean of Worcester Cathedral, and Alex Rolfe, Captain of the School. Our President, David Leeke, was inspired in choosing Peter as his Guest of Honour, whose stories about his time at the school were illuminating: his tale of his CCF experiences had John Caley falling off his chair (possibly with embarrassment?). The committee says farewell to John this year and thanks him for his enormous contribution to the School and the Society since 1955, when he joined the teaching staff as a new graduate from Cambridge. John has noted that his connection with MGS can be traced back for 100 years this year as his first Head of Department in 1955 was Geoffrey ('Beta') Phillips who joined the MGS Staff in 1913. Wow!

The Society is in good heart and good shape. This school year we have welcomed our new Headmaster, Mark Tomkins, who has welcomed the opportunity to work with the Society as part of the 'greater school population', in assisting the School in many ways, not just through financial support for students suffering hardship and need.

We are trying to be more proactive in organising events in addition to the Supper and it is hoped that a 'gig' will take place in June featuring the Muskrats – a bunch of elderly Old Maidstonian recycled 1960s pop musicians who will have us on our feet (well tapping at any rate) and rolling back the years. Well if Jagger and Co (Dartford Grammar School) can do it...!

Your committee have worked hard and as a great team in the last year and this will, I feel sure, continue: Our incoming President, Ron McCormick, who joined the school to fill the shoes (eventually) of Alec Stewart in 1966, is known to so many generations of OMs, and I feel sure that he will engender enormous support.

I wish you all well for a pleasant summer! (As I write, in mid-March, it is snowing again!)

Richard Ratcliffe
Chairman

MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

So, last night at the Annual Supper I handed on the Presidency to my friend and former colleague, Ron McCormick. My year in office has concluded, and what a memorable year I have had. It has been a huge thrill and honour to have served as your President, and it has been a momentous year in many ways. As a country

we have celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, and the 2012 Olympics, held in London for the first time in well over 60 years. But, closer to home, MGS has had a momentous year in its own way, not least in welcoming another new Headmaster who takes his place in the great history of the School. It has been my pleasure to welcome and get to know Mark Tomkins in my Presidential year, and he has already made a clear impact on the life of the School. He is extremely happy to embrace the many and diverse traditions of MGS, but is also firmly focused on looking forward to the future in a very 21st century way. His outlook embodies much of what those of us who have been around for a long time think is good and right, and I hope that in the coming years he receives multifarious support in diverse ways (not least financial!) from all Old Maidstonians as he seeks to effect his exciting vision for MGS.

In this year it has been my pleasure to attend both Speech Days (Dr Nick Argent's last and Mark Tomkins' first), as well as a number of other one-off annual events. It has been good to view these from the point of view of the President – I spent many years seeing these from the seat of the school's Director of Music! I was also delighted to play the organ for the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols held at All Saints' and to see a large congregation on that occasion. During my year in office I was also privileged to return to the school hall in the guise of the musician that I first and foremost am – and to conduct a memorable performance of Haydn's *The Creation* fifty years after a recording of the work was made in the same venue under the direction of one of my predecessors as Director of Music, David Cutforth.

And so to the annual Supper which ended with the inauguration of Ron as the 2013 President. Though my career has included teaching in various guises, the one defining factor of my musical life has been my life-long involvement with church music. I am now a full-time musician and liturgist, and during my time working at MGS I held the part-time post of Canterbury Diocesan Music Adviser for 10 years. So, I felt it was very fitting to invite as my guest on this occasion an Old Maidstonian who has had a distinguished career in the Church. The Very Reverend Peter Atkinson, currently Dean of Worcester, was at MGS from 1963-1971 was delighted to address us in the hall he recalled as a new boy exactly 50 years ago. Peter spoke eloquently and entertainingly and was warmly applauded; several attendees suggested that it was the best after-dinner speech they had heard for many years. It would be good if, with Peter's permission, we could print it in its entirety in the pages of this or a future newsletter. And I would like to add publically my personal thanks to Peter for his warm generosity of spirit and good company.

Thank you all so much for the support I have received during this very memorable and moving year for me; from former colleagues and pupils, from the current teaching and administrative staff of MGS, and perhaps most of all from members of the OM Committee who have been a wonderful support and encouragement to me. The memories of this year will remain with me for a very long time. Thank you all very sincerely.

David Leeke

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

At the end of 2012 the General Reserve account, that from which all sales and expenditure is managed, was valued at £2,500. However, due to the need to purchase scarves and ties in bulk to save costs during the course of 2012, much of the total is tied up in stock.

Total expenditure on running costs during the course of 2012 was £2,800. However, there were two extraordinary items - £535 for the refurbishment of the President's Chain of Office, and £780 for the development of the website. The remaining £1,500 was normal expenditure mainly on printing and posting the Newsletter and Membership Register.

During the course of the year many members very kindly donated to cover the cost of their printed Newsletters and Membership Register, and other members also donated small sums. The Society was left one legacy of £1,000 and the total donated to the General Reserve Account was an excellent £1,700.

It is the intention to transfer the surplus above £2,000 to the Awards Account as soon as the cash is realised from sales.

We would ask members who receive the Newsletter by post who have not donated to recognise that it costs about £5 to print and post each sending, a total of approximately £15 per year, and we would be very grateful if they would subsidise those costs, thus allowing more to be diverted to the Awards Account for the benefit of the pupils.

THE AWARDS SCHEME

2012

During the course of 2012 the Society made four awards to pupils to assist them in their further education,

STOP PRESS

We are trying to contact Nick Rose (late '50s - early '60s). If you can help please email Graham Belson.

including one award to a pupil to enable him to continue at the school and complete his education there.

In addition, the Society donated to the school's bi-annual World Challenge expedition to Vietnam, and to the MGS 1st XV Rugby Tour to Italy.

Finally a donation was made to the 6th Form outside seating project. The 6th Form Common Room apparently becomes rather hot with 400 students in it during the summer months (what summer months?).

All awards are approved by the headmaster, senior teaching staff, and the committee. The total in 2012 was £2,350, slightly less than the £2,500 annually allocated. However, the total amount of donations to the Awards Account totalled £1,130, and although we

are extremely grateful to those who donated, it is clear that we will need to raise more in the future if the level of awards is to be sustained. The Society would be very pleased to receive any sums to help support the school and its pupils; perhaps members might even consider leaving a sum in their will to the Society. Every penny donated goes to the pupils.

2013

The Awards Account remains in a healthy state and at the beginning of 2013 was standing at almost £10,000, enough for at least the next four years.

There has been one award made this year so far to a pupil in need.

CONTACTING MEMBERS

As well as being our Hon Treasurer, Graham works hard in the role of Membership Secretary. He asks us "... to remind everyone that since 1st January 2013 members' contact details have been released to other members without approaching them for their permission, unless they have opted out of the facility."

Do remember to let Graham know if you want your details with held.

The Newsletter is published during April, July and November. 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, it costs about £5 to produce, print and post, and the Society would appreciate any donations towards those costs.

HAYDN'S "CREATION" – SUCCESS!

You could say that success is assured if you get together a team of experienced singers, a first class (and hard working) 'maestro' and a well known and much loved work such as Haydn's "Creation". Those concerned might have been somewhat sceptical about such an assertion, but they need not have worried. The concert on 17th November, for which our President, David Leeke, conducted The East Malling Singers, augmented by some Old Maidstonians and their friends, was a musical treat.



All three of the soloists, on which the work is heavily dependent, were first class. Nichola Corbishley (a professional soprano and former MGS pupil) filled the hall with apparent ease with her beautiful, youthful voice, which only suffered a little in quality in the higher register at full volume. I heard every word, in spite of some strong competition at times from the choir and orchestra. We knew we were in for a treat from her first entry in "The Marvellous Work". The tenor, Alexander Bevan, is gaining an enviable reputation as a professional artist with his strong, rich tenor voice. His excellent diction and accurate intonation did Haydn proud. I particularly enjoyed "In Native Worth" in Part 2.

For some of us, the singing of my Co-Editor of this Newsletter, came as the greatest surprise. Many of us were unaware that Brian White had such an excellent and accomplished bass voice, which complemented his professional colleagues wonderfully. His recitatives were suitably majestic, always tuneful and appeared confident throughout. His duets (as Adam with Eve) in Part 3 were a delight.

The choir, for whom David Leeke was a former conductor, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the formation of The East Malling Singers. They achieved a high standard of musicianship and good tonal quality from all sections. In one or two places rather greater attention to David's very clear beat might have improved the 'crispness', but, all round, an excellent performance which was well supported by the invited orchestra. I only noticed one bit of 'chaos', not intended by the composer, from which they all recovered quickly.

I was reminded (unashamed nostalgia) of choral works in the MGS Great Hall fifty odd years ago, under the baton of David Cutforth. The acoustics were better than I remembered, the performance at least as accomplished, and the enjoyment as great. Sadly, the size of the audience was somewhat less (and its average age somewhat greater) than some of those I remember, but there was unanimous enjoyment both musically and socially.

A retiring collection contributed a useful £220 to our Awards Fund. Our thanks are due to everyone who contributed, to all who performed in or organised the event, and we are especially grateful to David Leeke for all his hard work (on and off the rostrum).



Peter Weaver
November 2012

NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

Dan Abnett (1990 to 1995) is a world-famous comic book writer, and his work is now about to reach the silver screen. A lengthy feature about him appeared recently in *Kent on Sunday*, and this, together with many other articles can be found on the Internet. He was a guest speaker at a MGS Speech Day a few years ago.



Simon Backshall (1978 to 1983) writes, 'Whilst at MGS I wanted to be a vet, but found the school would not recommend me the grades to apply and so I lost a lot of interest in my studies in the Upper 6th and achieved D/E grades. I applied to the RAF (my only other career interest) when in the Upper 6th but failed selection at Biggin Hill. I moved to Liverpool and undertook a year's voluntary work for the Mission to Seafarers charity. I then spent a month on the "Francis Drake" sail training ship as bosun. I had never sailed before but the skipper was desperate, having been let down by someone else - a steep learning curve. I re-applied to the RAF and was successful. I was commissioned as a Fighter Control Officer in 1985 and spent six years at radar stations around the UK and abroad, including four months living in a lorry container on Mount Kent in the Falklands! I also saw service overseas during the first Gulf war and Northern Ireland.

'When at RAF Coltishall, I met **Sean Chiddention** who left MGS in the Lower 6th if I remember rightly, to join the RAF. When I met him he was flying Jaguars but later went on to fly with The Red Arrows. [Editor's note: if you Google 'Sean Chiddention', you will find lots of RAF-related information about him.] My time in Northern Ireland and a particular incident left me with post-traumatic stress issues which took me many years to deal with. I am proud of having been part of the armed forces and have every admiration for today's serving men and women - in particular those in Afghanistan.

'On leaving the RAF in 1991, I worked for the Housing Corporation, a government agency, for three years, but decided that my future was not behind a desk. I went to night school and retook my A-Levels, achieving A grades and went to Vet School at Liverpool University in 1995 for five years. In 2007 I set up the first feline-only veterinary clinic in the North West in my home town of Southport. I am married (21 years) with two daughters age 20 & nine. My two nephews are now attending MGS so the link continues!'



Laurence Basden, known as 'Bazz' (1941 to 1948) wrote as follows. 'I joined the school in Miss Bunyard's Form 1 in 1941. We lived in very cold Hut 1, located over the air raid shelters in which we spent many exciting hours! My progress through school was uneventful, and I was considered to be only an average student. I joined the School Scout Troop 2 when I was 11, and became a Patrol Leader and then Troop Leader. I left school at 16 after I had gained my "School Cert."

'Much to Mr Claydon's disgust, I entered a five-year Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship with Vauxhall Motors Ltd, and I became a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. I married a past member of Maidstone Girls' Grammar School and we raised two sons, both educated at The Judd School, Tonbridge. I enjoyed a long, interesting and rewarding career at senior management and director levels in the retail motor industry in Kent and South-East London.

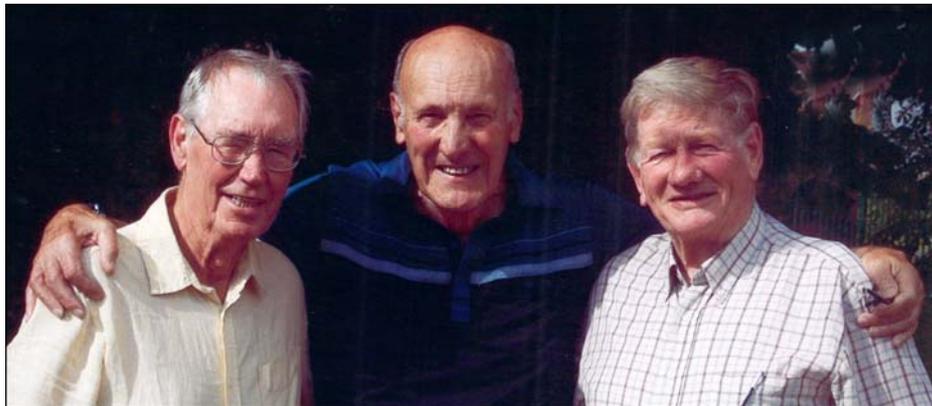
'Throughout my career I have continued to serve the Scout movement, holding several Warrants and Appointments. I recently retired as Chairman of the County Scout Council of Greater London and the South East. I am now a County Vice President and I was delighted to receive the Scouting Award of the "Silver Acorn" in this year's St George's Day Honours List.

'I regularly attended the OM Supper for many years in the later 60s and early 70s, and served on the OM committee. I regret that these days, now in my 80s, my lack of mobility precludes my attendance at the Supper and other events. In my retirement, I have continued my life-long hobby of wood-carving, first started when I was at Maidstone Grammar School.'



Des Diamond (staff 1972 to 1990) says that he started his first real job at MGS in 1972. The untimely death of Alec Stewart in August left a vacancy in the PE Department, and Des had just returned from a seven-month trip in the USA, desperate for a teaching post. He had a whirlwind interview and job offer and became the newly-arrived Dr Pettit's first appointment!

John Cooper (1943 to 1951) sent the accompanying photograph, which shows him (centre) with **Derek Spencer**(right) and **Cliff Wilks**(left). This was taken recently in Kent, at a reunion of these three octogenarians who all started at the school in 1943. 'After leaving MGS in the late 40s and early 50s we scattered with only sporadic meetings from time-to-time over the 60-odd years. Having survived the vicissitudes of WW2 we have all managed to avoid the Grim Reaper to date...' He sends best wishes to 'all OMS folk, and any of our contemporaries who are still on the planet!'



Bernard Charles Albert Earl (1942 to 1950) was born in Maidstone on 5th December 1931. He says: 'Writing about one's life, when much has gone well, seems like showing off: I am not averse to that. I have hesitated, however, until reaching 81 years to accept that it is also a way to say, "Thank you".'

Bernard became an Army Captain, and then a science teacher, establishing Kent's first Field Study Centres. He was then a secondary school headmaster, Kent County President for the National Association of Head Teachers, and a member of various Kent County Council and local committees. He had a wonderful marriage of 57 years, with children and grandchildren.

He says that he had first-rate, hard-working, working-class parents, but these are now part of his past life, much of which hangs on a pencil (!) and Maidstone Grammar School. 'On my way to the school hall in 1942, more than 70 years ago, to take the 11+ examination, I dropped the necessary pencil along Loose Road. Mr (Jimmy) Heard, who was invigilating the examination, smiled at me, a worried ten-year-old, and gave me a pencil from his pocket. I was given a chance, amongst all the fee-paying boys to be a "scholarship boy". To my joy, Mr Heard was to become my first form master. So many others that really cared followed, even if I did not always fully appreciate the fact. The 'f' in italics by my name in the school *Journal*, which was issued to all pupils, meant that I was a "Free Placer"- not always an advantage amongst contemporaries.

'Mr (Tebbo) Tebbs and the school choir, and Mr (Jugs) Julier with classical music, pushed out my music boundaries. Later, encouragement came from Mr (Charlie) Holyman for solo singing and performing in school plays, with the "reward" of coach trips to London to see top-quality performances of ballet and light opera. I remember that when a few of us were invited to sing at a social evening in the home of Mr Tebbs, we indulged in seeing who could eat the most olives. So many staff - too numerous to name - women as well as men, did so much to extend our education and personal standards during the difficult and interrupted war years.

'In those years, a limited knowledge of chemistry helped in making home-made fireworks. The cordite and lyddite, extracted from unexploded ammunition, plus a shortage of common sense, gave surprising impetus to some of the experiments at home. It seemed quite in keeping with activities with the Combined Cadet Force when Mr (Bob) Rylands, or one of the other officer members of staff, gave two of us a piece of scaffold piping to use as a mortar on manoeuvres. It was made operational by dropping a lighted thunder flash down the tube, when it was necessary to drop a further inverted and unlit thunder flash on top of it. The first explosion sent the second thunder flash soaring off to explode where you had (hopefully) pointed it quickly enough. We soon had to use our berets to hold a very hot piece of pipe. These were the years when most of us were destined for compulsory National Service anyway. A contemporary and friend was Bernard Calladine: at one time, we again met briefly when we were both Captains in the same army corps. The CCF had an outstanding role model in Major Calladine.

'We were urged to make every effort in sports and PE. Frank Sando (see below) and I were contemporaries in the late 1940s, so we all knew what it was theoretically possible to achieve on the school cross-country run. The course was set out around the grounds of Mote Park and ended with re-entering the school grounds for a run of one quarter of a mile around the school track. Despite determined efforts to compete with Frank, it seems that he completed the last quarter of a mile on the track and then came to watch the rest of us enter the school field.

'The sixth form was my chance to change direction from mainly arts to serious science study. The first rate science teachers, Mr (Norman) Booth, Mr (Bert) Mathews, Mr (Tom) Gutteridge, and Mr (Harry) Lomas, enabled a boy who

loved the insect, animal and plant life of the countryside to see other ways to look at it all. Opportunities given then were of so much value later.

'I have no shortage of memories of schoolboy mischief, including my own, even in this era of "six of the best" and Saturday morning detention. Mr Mathews was highly respected but also had the responsibility of issuing the free milk and straws at morning break. One of our science lessons was interrupted by a very anxious young pupil, holding a bowl containing many bundles of straws tied in tens with red cotton. He had been told by "an older boy" that Mr Mathews required him to do it. It was 1st of April. The young lad was given kindly thanks and sent on his way.

'A fifth-year pupil mastered the ability to make the varying sounds of a squeaky hinge with little facial movement. Pitch perfect, he wisely used the skill infrequently, but if he politely requested to get a book or ruler from his desk in another part of the room, we were in for a treat, coupled with maximum self-control. The hinged seats were on a frame with a desk that had a hinged lid. The pupil's seat squeaked as he got up. The desk lid of the other desk squeaked as he opened it. It squeaked as he lowered it. The tension as he returned slowly to his original seat was almost unbearable. The only thing to do was to keep faces fixed downwards on work which had lost all our concentration as we waited for a final prolonged squeak. Getting out into the corridor at the end of the lesson to let loose long-suppressed laughter was a relief. One of our OM's may remember his own skill at imitating convincing sounding bird song. An impromptu performance in one lesson brought an annoyed response from a master that he could hear bird noises. The culprit, with innocent face, politely got up and closed a couple of opened windows.

'MGS continued its influence on me all through my life. It was never surprising to find that particularly dependable colleagues were Old Maidstonians. Thank you MGS for giving so much and for so many enjoyable memories. Good luck and good fortune to all who continue through its doors.'



John Foster (1933 to 1939) writes: 'I joined the school in September 1933 as a "scholarship" boy from St Michael's C.of E. Primary School in Maidstone. In those days, before the so-called "Eleven Plus", boys and girls could, on recommendation, take a scholarship examination at eleven, or at ten, if considered appropriate, and if successful went to a grammar school.

'At that time, there was a "Lower School" at Barton Road, consisting of 1st and 2nd year forms for nine- and ten-year-old fee-paying pupils. They, together with the new scholarship boys, went on into the 3rd forms: 3A, 3B and 3C, although in 1933, for the last time, 3A was known as "Shell". (Shades of *Greyfriars*, Harry Wharton and Billy Bunter!) The school was then, of course, only three-form entry, with a total number on roll of 420-430 boys.

'My first form master was Mr W. C. Rawlings - affectionately known as "Plugs", for obvious reasons. He was not only an excellent form master, but taught arithmetic, algebra and geometry in such a way that one enjoyed mathematics. He had an unerring aim with a piece of chalk for an inattentive pupil. I remember him with affection and gratitude in the difficult transition from a primary to a grammar school.

'Pupils progressed into forms 4A, 4B and 4C, and then into forms known as "The Remove". (Further echoes of public schools.) Thereafter they went into the fifth forms, and on into the two sixth forms: VIA for arts pupils and VIB for science and maths. My final two years were in VIA with the following staff:

- form master and English teacher, Mr R. T. Lye;
- deputy head teacher and history teacher, Mr G. B. ("Beta") Philips;
- form master and French teacher, Mr C. S. Cocker ("Joey");
- Latin teacher, Mr L. S. Morton.

'All of these managed to push me through Oxford and Cambridge Higher School Certificate, for which I have always been grateful.

'In those days, all master were required to wear black gowns when on teaching duties or at school assemblies. On Speech Days and on other similar special occasions, they also wore academic hoods.

'For morning assembly, hymns were normally accompanied on the grand piano by Mr J. C. Julier, who was also very much involved with school music, in addition to teaching French. On every first day of term, we sang the hymn, *Lord, behold us with Thy blessing, once again assembled here*. At the last assembly of term, it was *Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing. Thanks for mercies past received*. School enjoyed what was known as a "Merit Half-Holiday" each term: an afternoon's holiday, but denied to any boy who had transgressed or who had failed to apply himself to his studies.

'During my final year - 1938 to 1939 - senior boys were, as a new measure, required to do PT exercises at morning break, under the supervision of House Praefects. I have always thought that this might have shown foresight, as many of those boys, on leaving, found themselves in one of H.M. Services and needed to be reasonably physically fit. I think that there were those in responsible positions in school who had experienced World War I, and who were deeply concerned after 1938 and "Munich" about the real possibility of another war with Germany. (I know, from experience, that "Beta" Philips was so concerned.)

'I left school at the end of the Summer Term, 1939, and joined the staff of the Kent Education Committee (KEC) at Springfield, Maidstone, until October 1941, when I volunteered for service in the Royal Navy for five years - mainly in anti-U-Boat operations. I returned to KEC in 1946, eventually retiring in 1980 when I was Assistant Divisional Education Officer for the Medway Division of the county.

'My wife, Daphne (née Burdge) and I met at Springfield and were married in 1944. We have two sons, Michael and Stephen, both of whom attended MGS.

'I think that only a few of my contemporaries may still survive, as I am now 90 years old.'



Bill Fullagar (1950 to 1958) lives in Woking, and wrote to say that he owes a great deal to the school, and is grateful to the OMS for keeping him in touch. Unfortunately, work will prevent him from attending the Annual Supper, as it did the Carol Concert.



Graham Hocking (1949), who is now 78, wrote to say that he has had two minor infarctions, four angiograms, two stents, one carotid artery cleaned out, a complete renal failure, four months on a catheter and a plastic bag for his urine! This was followed by a 'turp' (trans urethral resection of the prostate) which wasn't quite right, so it was done again within a year, and now he is recovering with big heaps of antibiotics after he was left with a pretty savage urinary tract infection as a parting gift from the hospital.

He has come to the rather obvious conclusion that interference with the internal plumbing system, with electric drills, cauterising hot bulbs, chipping machines, TV cameras and tiny LED's is fraught with very bloody outcomes, and he very much resented the fact that, unlike the angiograms, he wasn't allowed to watch the procedure on the TV screens. He was fully conscious, albeit numb from the waist down, and all he could think of were the many worried fathers and boy friends, fiancés etc., who wished that he had been so on some occasions many years ago!

(Ed: *It's good to know that Graham still enjoys such excellent health!*)



Tony Hocking (1955 to 1962) wrote from Bandon, County Cork, Eire, and sent his best wishes to all Old Maidstonians. He continued,

'You asked in the last issue for a few memories of days at MGS, so herewith a *potpourri* relating to my time at the school.

"Beta" Phillips the Deputy Headmaster called me over somewhat imperiously after I had been at the school all of two weeks: "You boy, come here!" Oh my God what had I done wrong? Which of the many new rules had I infringed?" Now boy, don't tell me your name. Mmm...Ah yes, it's Hocking, isn't it?" "Yes sir." The degree of terror can only be imagined. "Yes I thought so. Taught your brother" (Graham 11 years my elder) "and your father for that matter" (Cyril 40 years older than I). "That's all boy, on your way!" PHEW what a relief. Years later however I came to realise the value of the continuity in MGS, shown up by those few words.

'The excellent Stamp Club was run by 'Killer' Kemp in his classroom. I think this was one of the two wooden classrooms just beyond the toilets, which were allegedly a leave-over from the First World War. The Stamp Club came with good advice and books of 'approvals', where seemingly rare stamps could be purchased at keen prices, and all transactions were done on trust - as you might expect at MGS!

'Making a small gunboat in woodwork classes: (why was the woodwork room at the other side of the canteen and miles away from civilisation? As I recall both were bounded on one side by derelict allotments.) The fairly basic motor torpedo boat was finished and sometime later I took it to the lake in Mote Park for a maiden voyage. In order not to lose it I attached a piece of string. Once the launch was successfully completed and my creation could be admired in its natural habitat it was time to pull her in. However the string had become waterlogged and sunk to the bottom. I tugged on the line to haul her towards the bank but it must have become entwined around a rock, alas

and alack she did a passable imitation of a submarine's crash dive, never to be seen again. Possibly my craftsmanship still lies there.

'When the school was to be extended in the late 50s a "consultation" exercise took place, with plans and architects present. The new classrooms, library and 6th form private study rooms were to be contained in a flat-roofed building. Ah, but don't flat-roofed buildings roofs leak? Oh no, with modern technology we can now overcome the problems. Once completed not only did the roofs leak but the wall panels had shrunk and thus let in cold draughts and a modicum of snow. However the desks did have white plastic ink wells (unlike the Bakelite ones in the older buildings). These were never used for ink but did make splendid projectiles which bounced off the wall with a satisfying "thunk".

'The dilemma one faced when one was about to be late for a class: do you run and thereby run the risk of punishment? Or do you walk, arrive late and get a certain punishment? I don't think I ever managed to square that circle.

'Being summoned to the praefects' room for the third time in one term: this would normally involve a certain "slippering" from the praefect. To my good fortune (and perhaps to reflect the rarity of my appearance in the praefects' room) he had not checked up on my number of visits and thus I escaped that particular form of retribution.

'On a cross-country run my custom was to run just out of sight and then stroll, usually with friends Paul Oldham (1962) and David Griffiths (?), at a reasonable pace around the course through Mote Park, enjoying the peacefulness of the scenery. One time we got it wrong. We must have taken a bit too long as the master checking at the bridge chose to walk back to school around the front of Mote House. However we had chosen to go exploring around the back and therefore we missed him. On arriving back at the school we were accused of cutting the course short and had to run round the course again. As I recall, it was a nice day...

'Nick Rose, Gardner Crawley, Marshall Vine and I decided in one of the new sixth form study rooms that the British Transport Commission's intention to close the Light Railway from Tenterden to Robertsbridge was all wrong. Clearly we knew better than the people in the BTC. I hasten to add that this was about a year before another and better known OM, Dr (later Lord) Richard Beeching took over the running of the nation's railways. Anyway, letters were sent to the railway press and the local papers, setting out our plans which eventually did lead to the preservation of the successful Kent and East Sussex Railway. However our letter was seen by Froggie Newcombe, who at that time was Head of the Lower School as well as an excellent English master. We were summoned into his exalted presence, where he informed us with all the authority of his standing that our proposal would lead to the closure of the Talylyn Railway of which he was a member. We should therefore desist. Enlightened self-interest perhaps. Rather bravely we took no notice and the rest is history. And the Talylyn Railway is still running...

'Running for the Corporation brown and cream trolleybus to whisk me reliably and almost silently back home to Sutton Road: not as you might imagine from the Barton Road stop but -via the back streets - to the Waterloo Street stop and the certainty of a seat!

'My father once said to me that my school days would be the best days of my life. I can remember thinking that the rest were going to be pretty miserable then. However, now with the advantage of hindsight, maybe Dad was not entirely wrong. He should have said they would be some of the best days of my life.

'Good to see that Tony Bishop and Gardner Crawley from my time are committee members.'



Richard Panton (staff, 1949 to 1953) wrote from Shrewsbury to say that waves of nostalgia had overcome him when speaking on the telephone to our Treasurer. MGS provided his first teaching post, and all of the staff set high standards. 'As far as playing music was concerned, one had a rich choice of Ted Julier, Noel Long, several OMs like Jimmy Clinch, and Nancy White (a peripatetic 'cello teacher). I remember with special affection Ken Sawdy, who introduced me to German *Lieder*. Bob Rylands became a close friend, especially after he retired to Shropshire.



The funeral of **Frank Sando** (1942 to 1949)an Olympian, was attended by Past President **Anthony Hayward** . Anthony met Frank's widow and their two sons. He knew already that Frank had worked with his father at Reed's Paper Mills, now Aylesford Newsprint, and that Frank's wife had acted as secretary to a number of his father's colleagues. (These were known to him as 'uncles' while he was at Aylesford Primary School.)



Roy D.Simper (1956) was prompted by the newsletter article by John Garner about C.P. Holyman, add his own comments concerning 'that wonderful man'.

'I, too, had the privilege of being taught by him, at the same time as John, but, as he said, all our records, alas, went missing. Fortunately for me I kept all the Maidstonian magazines of that era, so I do have proof of our participation! John and I performed many times together at the school chamber music concerts and in the school hall. Our highlight was singing solo parts in Handel's oratorio, "Samson". I was (and still am) unable to read music so I committed my part to memory, much to the horror of the orchestra conductor. I also have the *Kent Messenger* review of the oratorio, which was far more complimentary to John than it was to me! By the time I left school, singing in public began to hold no fears and this was due entirely to CPH and his kindness and tolerance. Regretfully I did not pursue my singing but I remember quite clearly the pleasure of those wonderful experiences and the confidence I gained due to CPH.

'After leaving school with good 'A' Levels, I wasted two years of my life doing National Service. Boy, what a mistake that was. At the time I was undecided what to do next, so I thought this would clarify my mind a bit. I then went to Birmingham University to study dentistry. After qualifying, I worked in practice for a few months but found that it did not suit me, so I joined the Army as the forces were offering some very attractive terms. I found that Army life suited my wife and me, so I stayed for almost twenty years. During this time we spent time in Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Borneo, Berlin and finished up in London. After such domestic turbulence we decided to dig some roots. In 1983 I managed to get a job as a lecturer back in Birmingham Dental School and my wife was able to continue her nursing career, which had been curtailed. I developed an interest in forensic dentistry and in 1985 completed a year's study at the London Hospital Medical School. I was soon overwhelmed by work from the Coroner and the police, identifying disaster victims and reporting on bite marks. I subsequently became President of the British Association for Forensic Odontology and later President of the International Association. I lectured in many countries in this period. I decided to take things a little further and studied for a Master's degree in Medical Law and Ethics at King's College, London. This took me into the world of medical negligence, where instructions from solicitors, nationwide, began to flood in. I appeared in court on many occasions as an expert witness where I was both humiliated and praised! The word skills of some of the barristers were quite humbling.

'After about fifteen years of grisly crime and adversarial confrontation, I decided to retire. Since then I have written a couple of novels, learned to play the guitar, which I do in a R&R band! What joy! However, I look back with the utmost pleasure on my Sixth Form days, when I was lucky enough to be tutored by Harry Steels, Eric Newman and Douglas Pratt. I have much to thank those wonderful teachers for.'



Stuart Partis (1958) says that he will be over in the UK again in May. This promises to be a wonderful year for him, as in April he will be taking his show, 'Polly in the Outback', in which he plays John McDouall Stuart, Australia's most successful explorer, to Alice Springs to perform at the Old Telegraph Station. He has just booked a car full of scenery, props and keyboard on to the Ghan train for the trip. In addition, as a result of his participation in the annual 'Every Generation' Festival in Adelaide, he was invited by the Lord Mayor to move into central Adelaide, and, as he supports the Festival in deed as well as word, has secured a penthouse studio apartment with a Kawai grand piano... 'due to the grounding I received at MGS. *Sempiterna floreat.*'



Robert Stevenson (1939 to 1947) says that he still enjoys reading about what is going on at MGS, and about news of other OMs.



Dr John Tebbutt (1983 to 1988), who is still based in Newcastle under Lyme, is sad to have spent only five years at MGS, 'having wasted two years at a comprehensive!'

His father is Norman Tebbutt (1936 to ?), who was born in 1925, and still lives within 400 yards of MGS; John says that anyone wishing to make contact with him should do so through John via email or telephone. His brother Paul (1976 to 1980) is also contactable via John.

Also, John has uncle (**David Boyes**), who also attended MGS, and who is still alive, being aged 80+. John's nephew is currently in Year 11, so the family has had five members at the school.



Laurence Waters (1992 to 1997) has noticed that he is the non-striking batsman in the cricket picture on one of the notelet cards which are available from the MGS Archives (see page 18).

OBITUARIES

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



Brian Cannell (1947 to 1952) died in November, aged 76. He studied at Maidstone College of Art, and then worked as an art teacher and senior master at Senacre Technology College. Apparently, many of the Maidstone trolley 'bus postcards and greeting cards which can be found were Brian's work. He had played cricket for West Farleigh, and worked as a guide at All Saints' Church.

Dr David Parker died on 2nd February, at the age of 72. He was a well-known Dickens expert, and curator of The Dickens House Museum in Doughty Street, London, from 1978 to 1999. The following information appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*.



'During his 20 years at the Museum... Parker supervised the restoration of the drawing room to the exact state it had been in when Dickens lived there, its style falling "between the lightness and elegance of the Regency period and the heavy, dark, stuffy atmosphere of the Victorian period". He also provided generous advice and assistance to scores of Dickens scholars and devotees from around the world.

'He helped the actress Miriam Margolyes when she was planning her 1989 one-woman show *Dickens' Women*; encouraged Claire Tomalin to write her acclaimed biography of Dickens's mistress, *The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens* (1991); and helped George Newlin publish

his three-volume *Everyone in Dickens* (1995), covering every character Dickens wrote of in his published works.

'Parker's own books, written after the end of his Dickens House career, included volumes on Dickens's Doughty Street novels and his impact on the way we celebrate Christmas. While Dickens did not "invent" Christmas, Parker argued, his *A Christmas Carol* (1843) gave the festive season a "deep emotional charge". "What Dickens demands is that Christmas is the operation of memory, thinking of the past and its joys and sorrows, its good and bad fortunes," he explained.

'Parker himself observed all the Dickensian Christmas rituals and took great delight in making his family's Christmas dinner, a process that could last several days, with no intruders allowed into the kitchen.

'David Parker was born at Maidstone, Kent, on May 28 1940. After Maidstone Grammar School for Boys he read English at the University of Nottingham, later taking a PhD at Sheffield University. Before becoming curator of the Dickens House Museum, Parker taught English Literature at the University of Sheffield, and at the University of Malaya, where he spent seven years. In addition to his work at the museum, he was a part-time tutor and counsellor at the Open University from 1976 to 1984.

'As well as his works on Dickens, Parker was the author of numerous papers on English literature, ranging from a study of *Verbal Moods in Shakespeare's Sonnets* to *The Great Gatsby: Two Versions of the Hero*.

'He travelled the world lecturing, broadcasting, curating exhibitions and addressing conferences on such issues as *The Topography of Great Expectations* and *Charles Dickens: The Science Fiction Writer that Never Was*. Though his knowledge of Dickens was encyclopaedic, he was no purist. Of Alfonso Cuarón's updated film version of *Great Expectations* (1998), he observed that Dickens was "big enough to take whatever Hollywood throws at him", adding that, while he had not seen the movie, "Gwyneth Paltrow nude sounds rather hopeful."

'After retiring from the Museum, Parker was appointed honorary research fellow at Kingston University. He was president of the Dickens Society in 2005-06.'

HEADMASTERS OF MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Continuing series by **Roger Brown** (1977)

Number 13 - **JOHN LAW** (1664 – 1691)

Monarch(s) on the throne of England:

- 1660 - 1685: Charles II
- 1685 - 1688: James II
- 1689 – 1702: William III

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

Notable events during the HM's tenure:

- 1666 (05 Sep) Great Fire of London
- 1668 (07 July) Isaac Newton receives MA from Trinity College, Cambridge
- 1678 (28 Sep) 'Pilgrim's Progress' published
- 1682 (04 Sep) English astronomer Edmund Halley sees his namesake comet
- 1686 (19 Dec) Robinson Crusoe leaves his island after 28 years

Location of School: Corpus Christi Hall

Having had a stop-gap appointment for a couple of years the next headmaster needed to be somebody who would bring order and stability to the school. The 1664 selection of John Law, M.A., out of Brasenose College, Oxford, was anything but that ideal. Indeed, the town's Corporation seemed to have a feeling that this gentleman might become a problem and just four years into his tenure they issued their first 'admonishment' for the breach of educational rules: frequenting ale houses and taverns. Law's contacts somehow gave him some protection and he continued in office for a total of 27 years: it's a pity that nothing seems to have been recorded about his actual day-to-day efforts for MGS.

Following the Revolution of 1688, with a new government in post, the Maidstone Corporation made a further effort to sort out Law. In October 1689 a complaint was made, charging him with several crimes and misdemeanours done contrary to Orders and Constitution applicable to his appointment. He was ordered to appear before the Town Council but when one of the Sergeants at Arms went to summon him, it was found that the headmaster was 'not at home'. On 4th May 1691, John Law was discharged from his office, owing to a long period of absence which had meant that he had neglected the school and that many of the students had excused themselves from the need to be present.

Obviously, MGS continued but how much damage had been done to its reputation is unknown. What of the other staff; did they enjoy the situation of having an absent boss or was his coming and going disruptive? If the Corporation thought matters couldn't get any worse, think again. The selection of a new headmaster occurred and the Reverend Cannan was appointed. Quoting from Streatfeild's history of the school, 'the said Mr Law is obnoxious and liable to the law for the murder of Mr Thomas Wyatt* and now fled for the same.' Five days after Cannan took the headship it was found that 'Law was in possession of School House and refused to quit.' The Council commenced proceedings to have him removed, but the court system did not move very quickly and it was not until 1695 that the matter was finally resolved. He had been convicted of manslaughter and was in prison, but his connections had again come to his assistance and he was released on bail.

Nothing of his personal life is known: birth and death dates are not recorded, and it seems unlikely that he married.

**This Thomas Wyatt was the eldest son of Edwin Wyatt (Sergeant at Law – MP for Maidstone 1685-88 – Recorder 1688-90) and great-great-grandson of his namesake who led the Kentish Rebellion. It should be pointed out, to avoid confusion with the 'Peasants' Revolt', 'Wat Tyler's Rebellion', or the 'Great Rising' of 1381, that Sir Thomas Wyatt the younger became involved in the 'Kentish Rebellion' against Queen Mary in 1554, for which he was executed.*

AND ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Here are some examination answers from the budding scientists and mathematicians who will ensure that the UK continues to be a world leader in technology.

Question: Explain why phosphorus trichloride (PCl_3) is polar.

Answer: God made it that way.

Question: What type of attractive force or bond holds the sodium ions and chloride ions together in a crystal of sodium chloride?

Answer: James Bond.

Question: The water of the Earth's oceans stores lots of heat. An engineer designed an ocean liner that would extract heat from the ocean's waters at $T_h = 10^\circ\text{C}$ (283°K) and reject heat to the atmosphere at $T_l = 20^\circ\text{C}$ (293°K). He thought that he had a good idea, but his employer fired him: explain why.

Answer: He slept with his employer's wife.

Question: Tracey said, 'I think that if you square an irrational number, you always get a rational number.' Explain why Tracey was wrong.

Answer: She's a woman.

And a true story about two chemistry undergraduates at Oxford. These young men were due to sit a crucial examination on a Monday morning, so they went away for the previous weekend, in order to revise together quietly at a friend's house. Unfortunately, the excessive consumption of alcohol intervened, and on Monday, they were not in a fit state to drive back to the university, finally arriving there on Tuesday.

They were hauled in front of their professor, and they explained that a tyre had burst whilst they were on the motorway, and due to the traffic conditions, it had taken a very long time for a breakdown vehicle to reach them, thus delaying their return. The professor agreed to let them sit their examination late, on the following morning. When they arrived, they were put into separate rooms, opened their papers, and found that the first question was, 'Which tyre?'

The churches are not devoid of humour, of course. Here are some announcements from various bulletins.

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

And finally, in these economically-troubled times:

Q: What's the capital of Iceland? A: About £3:50.

Q: How do you define optimism? A: A banker who irons five shirts on a Sunday.

Q: What's the difference between an investment banker and a large pizza? A: The Pizza can still feed a family of four.

Q: What's the difference between an investment banker and a pigeon? A: The pigeon can still leave a deposit on a new Ferrari.

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Books

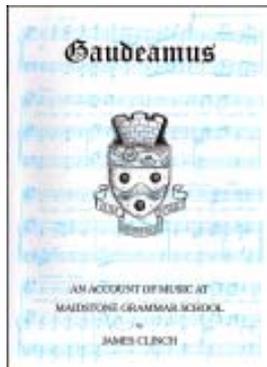
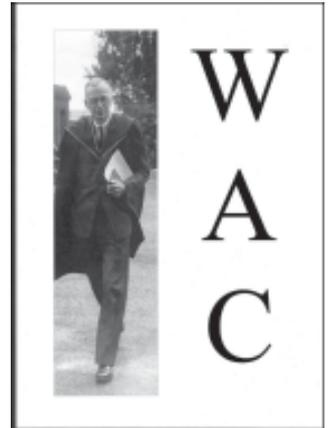
There are several books which have been produced by former teaching staff and which can be obtained through the Society.

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



Gaudemus: 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



STILL AVAILABLE!

"College - type" Scarves
69" long and 10" wide

Still modelled by Marilyn because no prettier OM has come forward for the job!

Payment

Facilities are 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.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE

Your editors are concerned that we are receiving contributions from OMs who left MGS in the '50s and '60s, but thereafter it gets a bit thin! I can't believe that our younger members have nothing to say, so please let us hear from you - even if it's only to complain about the Newsletter it would let us know you are out there somewhere! Your MGS anecdotes, 'letters to the editor' or career details would be very welcome.

How about a contribution or two from current students? Do sixth formers write short stories any more? If so, we would be delighted to see them - the best short story in 2013 gets a free place at next year's Annual Supper. (That's a promise from me.)

Peter Weaver

SALES FROM THE MGS ARCHIVES

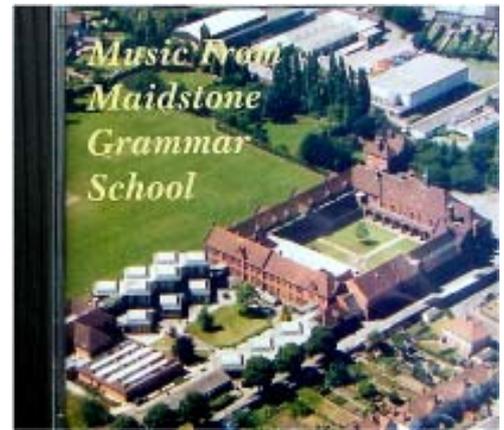
Original spare copies of The Maidstonian for most, but not all years, from the beginning are available. First come, first served - when they are gone, they are gone.

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



Notelets

N.B. Payment

Payment for ARCHIVE ITEMS should be made by cheque to: **"Maidstonian Grammar School"** and sent to the school (not as for OMS articles which should be paid for as indicated on page 17).



The Old Maidstonian Society Newsletter

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We Would Like to Hear From You Copy date for next edition: June 15th, 2013

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.

