



Old Maidstonian Society

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1989

HON SECRETARY

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Once again the news of what old boys are doing seems to be drying up but no doubt somewhere an O.M. is busy creating a new toy for the 1990s or developing a vaccine to cure all diseases. Information does still arrive and I hope that this edition includes details of some of your contemporaries. If not, make a new year resolution to come in March to the Annual Supper at the School.

With the recent changes in the Soviet Union it was pleasing to learn that the Society's President 1987/88, Geoffrey Hosking, was invited to submit this year's Reith Lectures. He is a Professor of Russian History at the University of London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies; his interest in Russian affairs started nearly thirty years ago whilst at M.G.S. No doubt the lectures, originally broadcast on Radio 4 will be repeated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's A.G.M. will take place on Friday 27th January, 1989, in the staff room at the school commencing at 8.00pm. All members are welcome to attend.

ANNUAL SUPPER

The Annual Supper will be held on Saturday 18th March, 1989, in the main Hall at the school with doors open from 7.00pm and the meal at 8.00pm.

Tickets can be purchased from the treasurer at £8.50 each - please see section at back of this newsletter.

W. J. C. C. . . . signing off?

When the last academic year finished in July it also brought down the curtain on the career of one of the school's longest serving masters of recent year's...even decades. John Caley has come and gone through the school gates for more than 30 years and I am sure that all O.M.s since the mid 1950s cannot fail to have been inspired by this man's attitude to his job.

John Caley's career started at M.G.S. in 1955 after finishing his History and English studies at Clare College, Cambridge, and an Education Certificate at Durham University.

Throughout his 33 year life at Barton Road he was a member of the English department. Early on John also taught some History and Divinity although these duties were relinquished when teachers specialising in these subjects were recruited. For many, Room 16 on the lower corridor (now renumbered) will be remembered as the careers library as well as an ordinary classroom.

John will be remembered as a strict but fair master who could be approached by any pupil seeking guidance whether it be on the grammatical construction of a sentence or the qualifications needed to be a nuclear scientist. When it came to examinations here was a man who probably knew more about how one should be prepared; another of his annual achievements was the administration of public exams at the school.

Besides instructing in the classroom he spent the first six years at the school with the scouting group, in the main as Scoutmaster. This was 'work' he had done before coming to Maidstone. Camps were arranged both in the U.K. and on the continent and the initial training programme that he helped set up led the way to the high reputation the troops have maintained to the present day.

It may have only been a short stay with that group but many Old Maidstonians will recollect his presence with the C.C.F. sections. Starting under George Keast's leadership in 1958 seven years later he took over as Commanding Officer - a post he has filled until the present day. Like the scouts, the C.C.F. units built up an excellent reputation and in 1977 his unstinting work was rewarded by the receiving of the Silver Jubilee Medal.

Although taking retirement early his service to the school has not been terminated entirely. He has kept the command of the C.C.F. and will, no doubt, be present at many functions put on at M.G.S.

John has a fairly full life outside the classroom. In particular his scouting duties where he is secretary of the Maidstone District committee. Both he and his wife are bell ringers at their local church and travel far and wide to take part in ringing meetings. With a little more time on his hands a new part-time job has been undertaken. Promoting the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, especially to the younger generation, will now be under his direction.

The Society, on behalf of all O.M.s and staff both past and present, wish John and his wife Diana a long and happy retirement.

MICHAEL PRUDENCE (1985) is now working for Hewlett Packard as a Research Technician in Bristol after obtaining an Hons pass in his degree course at Manchester in Computing.

D. J. SCOTT (1985) is now in his third year at Nottingham University Medical School and has been elected President of the University Medical Society.

W. J. SCOTT (1981) is now a Licensed Commodity Broker and Applications Manager, Office Systems, for Merrill Lynch Europe.

DAVID THOMAS (1986) intended to going into banking when he left M.G.S. but there were no vacancies and so he got a job with Kings Estate Agents. Two years later he has been appointed manager of the firm's Coxheath branch, near Maidstone. When time permits, David plays cricket for The Mote and soccer for Madginford Park Estate.

TERRY WOOD (1986) lives in London and works for Lloyd's in the city.

ROB WRIGHT (c1965) is the Officer Commanding No IX Squadron. The Squadron fly Tornado aircraft from R.A.F. Bruggen in Germany. He has served in Bahrain, the USA and three tours at Bruggen. It was at this station where he met his wife, Maggie, who was also serving as an officer. They have two children.

LETTER

The following letter was received by Dr Pettit from the Reverend S. T. Hutchinson, a former master at the school, who recalls several other teachers some O.M.s may remember.

"While looking through my treasured possessions recently I came across photographs of the M.G.S. 1st XV which I myself coached as gamesmaster in 1934.

I taught classics as a main subject together with some French and scripture. I played rugger for the Old Maidstonians as an honorary member from 1931-35. I went on to be a resident housemaster at Loreto School near Edinburgh where I was in charge of cricket.

I was appointed Headmaster of Larchfield School, Helensburgh (on the Clyde coast). I taught for 48 years non stop and hung up my gown in 1974 at age 70.

I was ordained priest in the Episcopel Church in Scotland in 1972. I am now 84 and living in happy retirement.

I met Mr Clayton at the Headmasters' Dinner (Guest Night) at R.M.C. Greenwich some years ago - about 1952. I think I have many happy memories of M.G.S. where I was for four years (1931-35). I lived in digs at 53 Hastings Road quite close to the school entrance. Sargent Bennett (Scots Guard) was janitor, Philipps was Second Master - now deceased.

Morton was i/c Classics - committed suicide

Cocker was i/c French and German

Hodges was i/c Geography

Mannimg was i/c Mathematics

Matthews was i/c Science

Gould was i/c Woodwork and Metal Workshop

Richmond was i/c History

Ashdown was the Groundsman

Most of that lot are now probably dead. I wonder, however, if any of them still alive will remember me?"

Rev. Hutchinson of 3 Yeaman Street, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7AU.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

PAUL ANTRUM (1942) made his first return to Maidstone since leaving the school. He retired last year and now resides in Scarborough after finishing his career at G.C.H.Q. in Cheltenham.

SAM BRIDGE (1935) wrote to say that both he and his wife are still thriving down in Devon. Still plays some very competitive bowls in the mid Devon League. Sam continues to act as a consultant and chairman of B.S.I. committees meeting in London.

RICHARD COOKE (1978) has been ordained and is now vicar of a parish in Rugby. He is married with two children.

ERIC DIXON (1985) has been presenting a number of programmes on Radio Kent recently. Whilst a cub he often made reports for a regular feature on what was Radio Medway and when at M.G.S. would assist with phone-in sessions. At present Eric is reading English at Lancaster University but gets onto the air during the vacations when other presenters are away.

IAN DUNKLEY (1970) entered the merchant navy on leaving the school. He now works for the Mercantile Marine Association. He has gained his Master's Certificate and is Captain of the "James Hanway" which is a training ship based at Gravesend.

JACK FOLEY (c1948) is now the Kent County Cricket Club scorer following the retirement of Claude Lewis.

IAN GADSDON (1986) left Waitrose in May 88 after being the Assistant Fruit and Vegetables Manager for six months at the Sevenoaks branch and joined T. R. Miller and Son Ltd., an Insurance Broking Firm, in London. He still lives in Ditton with his parents.

ANDREW GIBBONS (1979) After qualifying at Guy's Hospital Dental School, he stayed at the hospital for a year in two Junior House positions. After this he obtained a Senior House position at Edgeware Hospital and then joined the R.A.F. In 1987 Andrew obtained his Primary Fellowship of the R.C.S. and this May received his Full Fellowship - taking the exam at Edinburgh. In fact, he has been awarded the Dean's Medal for 87/88 as the most outstanding candidate in the exams for dental surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

JON HORBURY (1986) is at Oxford University and is involved in Hospital Radio and a play group for the under-privileged in London.

PAUL KEMP (1986) lives in London and works in the city.

NORMAN MCKIE (1948) was seen buying items at the Recent Parent's Association Christmas Fayre. He has worked as a chartered surveyor for the Kent County Council since qualifying.

GRAHAM MORGAN (1986) works for Morgan Grenfell in their Asset Management department.

DARREN PACKMAN (1987) is working as a journalist for Maidstone Borough News.

RICHARD PEEL (1978) has moved to South Wales and is working for an electronics firm.

PETER PENNINGTON (c1984) graduated from No. 1 School of Technical Training at R.A.F. Halton during the summer. He now holds the rank of Junior Technician and has been posted to R.A.F. Coningsby in Lincolnshire. In addition to gaining a BTEC Higher Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering, he was awarded the British Aerospace Tornado Award for Best Overall Performance, including airmanship qualities, trade proficiency and educational achievement.

DOWN UNDER IN AUSTRALIA (cont)

The summer edition carried the first part of Paul Young's study trip to Australia as part of his medical degree course. His base was centred around the Mount Isa Base Hospital.

"My flight out to Australia was on a British Airways' 747. One of the most arduous parts of the journey was getting the Underground from Victoria Station to Terminal Four, Heathrow. The flight was 28 hours with 24 hours actual flying time. There were two stops en route, in Abu Dhabi and Singapore. Sitting in the same seat for this long may sound a bit dull but there are things to do like eat, read, sleep, eat, watch film, eat, sleep and eat! There is no way anyone could go hungry on that flight. In the 28 hours we were served two breakfasts, two dinners, one lunch and a 'light snack'. The plane landed at Sydney and then flew onto Brisbane where I got off. I flew up to Mount Isa the next day by Australian Airlines.

Accommodation was provided for me in the Nurses' quarters at the hospital. For food occasionally I braved the hospital canteen but mostly it was down to the local supermarket (Woolworths) - the same as back home.

For the first three weeks of my elective two German medical students were also at Mount Isa on electives. For these three weeks I rotated with the other two students doing a week of paediatrics/obstetrics, a week of surgery then a week of medicine. These 'attachments' involved the usual ward rounds, outpatients, assisting in the operating theatre, etc. For the rest of the elective I had the hospital to myself and could do what I wanted.

As part of providing medical care for the surrounding population the hospital sends doctors to other small towns to run clinics. I went on several of these trips and in doing so gained an appreciation for the difficulty in providing medical services to such a widely spread population, where the distances involved are so large, compared to the U.K. Weekly, a doctor drives from Mount Isa to Dajarra, a round trip of 200 miles. Dajarra has a population of 220 and the doctor will see about 15-25 people each visit. A nurse lives in Dajarra and deals with day to day medical problems, with anything serious sent up to Mount Isa by the ambulance, driven by the nurse's husband.

All the time I was in Mount Isa I tried to get on a Flying Doctor flight. I eventually got one in my last week which involved an air ambulance trip to Townsville, taking a patient with head injuries from a road accident for a CT scan. I nearly got on a clinic flight to the north but when we were sitting at the end of the runway the pilot did the normal engine checks and found that the left engine was not as it should be. We taxied back to the hanger and changed to the smaller aircraft meaning that I could not go. This is the problem with trying to go on a trip with the Flying Doctor. The planes are just big enough to carry a doctor and nurse with space for a patient if they need to hospitalise someone seen in a clinic.

The medicine practiced in Mount Isa is, in general, similar to that I have seen in Southampton. The Aborigines do have slightly different problems that can, in part, be associated with their lifestyle. The problem of health care for the Aborigines is complex and in six weeks I only grasped the nature of the situation. The overall impression I got was that greater health education would improve things.

One specific white Queensland medical condition is sun-related skin cancer. Outdoor workers are particularly affected. Cattle station workers, for example, work outside from sunrise to sunset and their faces are exposed to the strong sun like this for many years. Removal of melanomas or basal cell carcinomas from faces or arms of middle-aged men (and women) was a regular weekly activity for the surgeons. I am told that the Queensland population has the highest incidence of sunlight-related cancer in the world.

Outside of work hours there was a reasonable amount to keep me occupied. Going out in the evening was limited to Mount Isa as the next town of any size is 75 miles to the west. For the weekends I often went on trips into the local country with friends from the hospital. It is only when you drive that you appreciate the size and emptiness of the outback. An impressive sight is looking up at the night sky when you are away from the town's lights. The stars are brighter than I have ever seen before and together with the absolute quiet makes for a very peaceful pastime."

The third and last part of this report will appear in the Summer 89 newsletter.

DEGREE RESULTS

The following left in either 1984 or 1985 and notification has been received by the school from their university/polytechnic of the degree achieved.

Giles Legood	Kings London	Theology 2:2
Ian Fenn	Kings London	History 1
Lyndon Norley	Kings London	History 2:1
Nigel Spencer	Kings London	Classics 1
Kevin Latham	Oxford	Chinese 1 (went to read geology)
David Webb	Bath	Electrical Engineering 1
Graham Livesey	Sheffield	Maths 2:2
John Wooden	Brunel	Government/Politics 2:1
David Sleight	Liverpool	Law 2:2
Paul Batchelor	Warwick	Maths/Business 2:2
Simon Lau	Warwick	Philosophy 2:2
Brian West	Warwick	History 2:2
Mark Whitbread	Lancaster	French/Accountancy 3
Chris Andrews	Durham	Economics 2:1
Chris Porter	Durham	Geography 2:1
Ben Vestever	Essex	Government 2:2
Paul Watson	Goldsmith, London	French 2:2
Philip Nixon	Newcastle	Economics/Accounting 2:2
Michael Prudence	Manchester	Computing (Grade unknown but rec'd prize for o/s achieve.)
Kenneth Campbell	Sussex	Chemistry 2:1
Paul Walter	Warwick	Maths/Business (unknown)
Brian Anthony	Warwick	History (unknown)
Simon Kam Fai	Warwick	Philosophy (unknown)

Robert Webb (Heriot Watt Univ.) and Chris Bourlet (Reading Univ.) have been given Army Undergraduate Awards sponsored by the Intelligence Corps and the Queen's Regiment respectively.

Nicholas Glosier (1985) has been promoted to an Exhibition at Magdalen College, Cambridge.

There are, of course, many more O.M.s who have completed their studies but not all Higher Education Institutions let the school have the appropriate information.

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that the Society records the death of the following two O.M.s

WILFRED C. RAWLING, M.B.E., was on the school staff from January 1930 until July 1936, starting at Tonbridge Road and moving to its present location in April 1930. He was known as 'Plugs' and taught mathematics which, unfortunately, was a subject not easily grasped by most young pupils in those days. He taught with considerable skill backed by firm discipline.

When he left Maidstone, the Christmas '36 issue of the 'Maidstonian' said that he would be much missed for his hard work in the classroom and also his loss would be felt on the playing fields and on the parade ground. To quote "his untiring energy and unflagging enthusiasm has had its reward in the general efficiency of the O.T.C. in recent years, and, what is more, he is leaving it at a greater strength than since the School was at Tonbridge Road.

A few years after moving away he was appointed Commander of the Tavistock Home Guard, a town where he taught at the local Grammar School after leaving M.G.S. After the Second World War he was elected to the, then, Tavistock Urban District Council, where he served for sixteen years including two periods as chairman. His dedication to the town was rewarded in 1952 when he received the M.B.E.

Among his other interests was membership of the Tavistock Operatic Society and a choir member of the town's Wesley Church. He played rugby for Plymouth Albion in his youth and later took up bowls. One of his greatest loves was soccer and Plymouth Argyle; few people took their supporting more seriously than Wilfred.

PHILIP HOLMAN departed on June 17th peacefully. He lived in Stokenham and had worked for the Department of Trade and Industry.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

For members who wish to take advantage of this scheme, the following amounts are payable:

£30 up to 30 years of age
£20 from 31 to 50 years of age
£10 over 51 years of age

The annual subscription is £1 (January to December)

SCHOOL NEWS

NUMBERS...

Despite falling rolls in the Maidstone area, M.G.S. remains the popular selective Boys School. A full intake of 180 at 13 plus and the largest number of transferees at 16 plus ever recorded. The lower sixth form has its' greatest number of pupils.

This year, the 360 places in M.G.S. and Oakwood Park G.S. are competing for about 250 boys - parent's selection is awaited with interest.

RE-ORGANISATION...

Parents of primary age children have been invited to express a preference for mixed selective education. A significant, although not overwhelming, majority were in favour. It was not the policy of M.G.S. governors to agree to such an alteration should it have reached a formal proposal. However, the sharing arrangement between all selective schools in the town will continue for minority 'A' level subjects such as Music, R.E., Politics, Sociology, Spanish. Interestingly, M.G.S. would be the cheapest such school to convert to mixed education in terms of physical facilities.

Views of O.M.s welcomed.

EXAM RESULTS...

GCSE grade C's or better were, at 7.4 per candidate, a better total than ever recorded for 'O' level exams. Notable increases were recorded in Modern Languages and English Literature and smaller improvements in Maths and Science (against the national trend). The number of 'A' level passes was also very high compared to previous years although top grade marks were somewhat lower.

LIBRARY...

Mr Richardson has taken over the library and a reforming spirit is abroad. If any O.M.s have used books in good condition then the school would be grateful for donations to the shelves.

SPORT...

Plans are under way for a second rugby tour to Portugal in 1989.

STAFF NEWS

In addition to those staff mentioned in the last newsletter, one further member to depart before this academic year commenced was John Warner who has moved to be associate professor at University of Panagsta.

The following people have taken up teaching duties at Barton Road:

Mrs W. Balmer (Maths) returns after teaching at the school on a part time basis a few years ago

Miss M. A. Beck (English) transfers in from Vinters Girls School

Mr J. G. Cameron (Art) arrives from the Cayman Islands

Miss J. Fotheringham (Maths) comes from Ridgeway School, Tunbridge Wells and Mascalls School, Paddock Wood

Mr B. D. Holness (Physics) comes from teaching at Sheppey School and completing a diploma course at Kent University

Miss A. J. McCool (Languages) transfers in from Sandown School, I.O.W.

Mr A. D. Moth (Economics - Head of Dept) transfers from Judd School

Mr D. Papadopoulos (Maths/Physics) from Addington High School

Miss S. E. Tamplin (History) comes to Kent from Maesteg School

Mr D. Walton (Politics) starts teaching after finishing a diploma course

Mr I. Wilson (Physics) transfers in from the Fort Pitt School, Rochester

Mrs F. Miles (French) will be teaching on a part time basis to cover Mme Sanfourche who is away on maternity leave

Herr R. Caston is the German assistant

Mlle C. Sarrazin is the French assistant

Three members of staff - Graham Walker, Peter Cookson and Philip Richardson - have all married during the summer.

The periodic election of governors took place at the beginning of term with various new rules and regulations applying. Among the four parents who were elected was the Society's secretary, Bernard Mee (1960).

Gordon Earl, who was the Old Maidstonian Foundation Governor, moved away to Cornwall during the year and had to relinquish his duties. The committee duly elected Richard Ratcliffe (1962), the current O.M. President, as a replacement and he has been honoured by being appointed chairman of the governors.

TEAR OFF SLIP

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO: ROGER BROWN: 82, RECOLVER WALK;
SENACRE; MAIDSTONE; KENT ME15 8QT.

SUBSCRIPTION

I enclose the sum of £.... being my subscription for the year(s).....
(£1 per annum)

I enclose the sum of £.... to cover the cost of life membership

CRESTED TIE

I enclose the sum of £.... for the purchase of.... tie(s) @ £3 each

ANNUAL SUPPER

I enclose the sum of £.... for the purchase of.... ticket(s) @ £8.50
each for the function on Saturday 18th March, 1989.

FROM:.....YEAR OF LEAVING.....

ADDRESS:.....
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