



The Old Maidstonian

The newsletter of the Old Maidstonian Society

No. 40 – Spring 2023

Your Committee 2022 – 2023

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John Clayton

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 - The current School Vice-Captain (ex-officio)
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From the President

It is hard to believe that my year as President is reaching its conclusion; as they say 'time flies when you are enjoying yourself!' I think that I am the 113th President of the Old Maidstonian Society, the first one dating back to 1884, so I feel privileged to have played a part in such a distinguished and historic institution.

When I took over as President in March 2022, the hope was that we could return to some degree of normality after the relative isolation and unsettling period caused by the pandemic. The society has welcomed the return of face-to-face meetings and social gatherings. For example, in late March 2022, the inaugural 'Super Sports Saturday' was held where many Old Maidstonians returned to play in, or watch, the football tournament and rugby matches. They enjoyed experiencing the tremendous new sports facilities and impressive Ron McCormick Pavilion. Also, the London Gathering of OMs at the George Inn by London Bridge in November 2022 was a very entertaining evening, with over 40 OMs, spanning six decades, exchanging memories and anecdotes. Hopefully the 2023 Annual Supper will return to its pre-pandemic level of support.

The OMS has re-launched its 'Inform and Inspire' mentoring scheme to assist current and future MGS generations with their subject, university, and career choices. Nearly 100 OMs have already offered their assistance; some helped publicise the scheme to MGS students in assemblies during January 2023 and a number have been invited to assist with the school's planned careers fair. It is to be hoped that these foundations can be built on, so that the scheme can make a significant contribution to MGS. We have nearly 2,500 OMs with such a wide array of talent and experience, so it would be great if more of you could get involved (look for the details and link on the OM website).

It gives me a deep sense of satisfaction that I was handed the OM President's chain of office by Nancy Powell, whom I taught in the 1990s, and that I will be handing it on to another former student, Daniel Abnett, who I had the pleasure to teach in the 1980s. I wish him all the best for his tenure as President, as the school builds towards celebrating its 475th anniversary in 2024.

I would like to send my best wishes to all OMs; I have been very fortunate to meet so many talented, positive and fun people during my long association with MGS and more recently the OMS. I sincerely thank the dedicated OM committee for their constant hard work and support, and as I will be continuing my position as Treasurer, I look forward to maintaining my links with the School and Society.

Graham Walker

From the Chairman

The Committee has contributed much time and effort this year to the successful re-launch of the Mentoring Scheme and has helped to provide speakers for some recent launch Assemblies. We believe this is a huge step forward and this a very real way in which the Society can help younger Maidstonians in their career paths. I am writing this on 10 March, two weeks prior to this year's Annual Supper, followed by Super Saturday when people attending will notice that a second floor has been added to the Ron McCormick pavilion, to house the Modern Foreign Languages department.

A key focus now is to work with the School in planning the celebrations of the 475th Anniversary in 2024, which Headmaster Mark Tomkins covers in his article below. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for all their input over the winter. We are all volunteers and enjoy our various roles, our collective aim always being to support our school and the membership of the Society.

In particular I must thank Graham Walker for his year as a very proactive President and member of the committee, as well as holding down the role of Treasurer. I also welcome incoming President Dan Abnett who has already attended the committee and taken a keen interest in what we do. If you would like to join the committee, please contact the Secretary in the first instance for more information.

John Clayton

From the Headmaster

Springtime is approaching, but at MGS, we are looking ahead to next year and the start of the School's 475th anniversary. Building projects to improve the learning environment and support a growing school are about to begin, recruitment of staff for the new academic year is well underway, plans for the anniversary have already begun, and our 'Inspire to Learn Inspire to Belong' agenda is forging forward constantly on our radar.

The building projects include a complete refurbishment of the lecture theatre, opening up some of the classrooms above the War Memorial Library, and knocking down some walls between some of the classrooms in the 1980s building. All of these projects are to create a number of larger spaces for teaching and study that we desperately need. Work begins at Easter and will continue throughout the summer terms.

With regard to recruitment, the significant driving force is the need to replace Robbie Ferguson, one of the two deputy heads, who has successfully gained his first headship at another school in Kent. It is fantastic news for him and his new school, but it also provides an opportunity for MGS to restructure a few things and bring some new ideas to the table. The process to find a new deputy head has already begun.

Next year is a significant birthday for MGS as it celebrates 475 years since the Royal Charter was granted back in 1549. Plans for a week of celebration in April 2024 have been drafted, and now the hard work begins to turn those plans into reality. From Friday 19 April to Saturday 27 April 2024, MGS will be acknowledging the important milestone through a number of different events, which will include a CCF dinner, a Parents' Association event and of course an Old Maidstonian Supper. Please look out for more details over the next 12 months.

Over the last few months I have been meeting a number of members of staff to understand their lived experiences of working at MGS. We regularly, as part of our quality assurance processes, speak to students about their lived experiences, so between November and January I met 20 members of staff to hear what they had to say. The opportunity to sit down with my colleagues and understand their day-to-day experiences was incredibly valuable and has subsequently helped me shape the next few years at MGS.



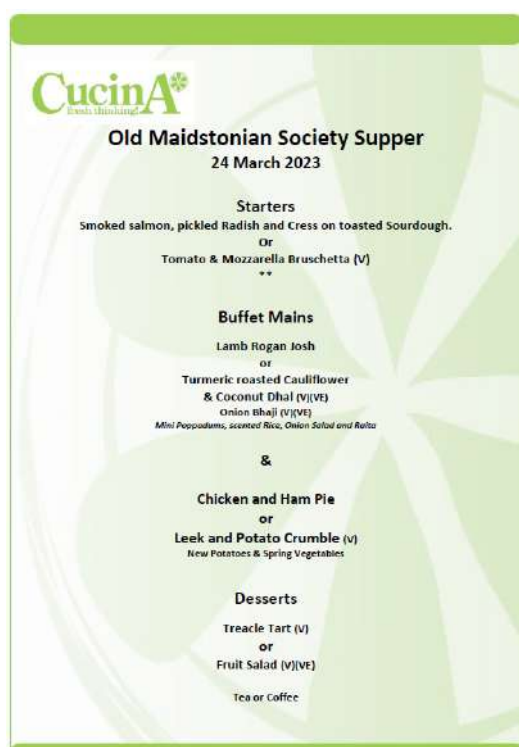
Finally, and following on from those lived experience meetings, I have recently given a 'State of the Union' speech to the staff about the next seven years as we look beyond Vision 475 and consider Barton 100. In 2030, MGS will have been on the Barton Road site for 100 years, so this milestone is a good one to use as a focus for the future. Many things are on the agenda, including recruitment, public examinations going online and creating a more sustainable school, but running through them all is our now well-established 'Inspire to Learn Inspire to Belong' philosophy. Everything we do will fall under these two 'pillars', and so far, since we launched them three years ago, they are having a significant impact in the daily lives of all Maidstonians.

Mark Tomkins

MGS and OMS EVENTS

If necessary, the school can be contacted on 01622 752101, or by e-mail at school@mgs.kent.sch.uk

Please provide us with confirmation of your attendance/payment/starter choice by no later than midnight on Wednesday 23rd March. Any requests received after this point are very unlikely to be accommodated.



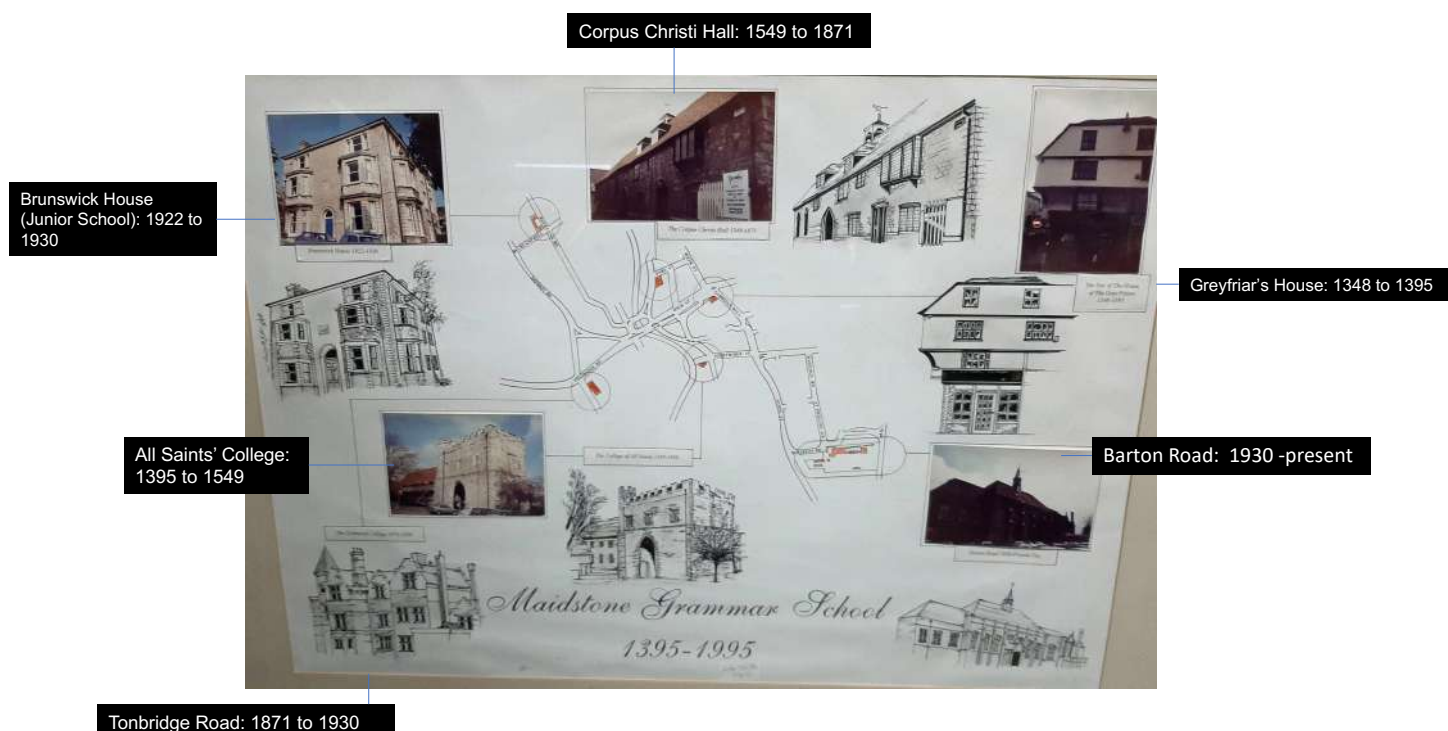
The winner of the Ted Clifford award, David Porumb, will be unable to attend the Supper, so our President, Graham Walker, will make the presentation at school in the near future. We hope to publish a photograph of the occasion in our next edition.

Musings from the Penthouse

Recently, I have been assisting my wife in the administration duties relating to the closure of George Cornell & Sons Limited in Maidstone. A brief history is that George Cornell was her great-grandfather and it was he who started the business in Bank Street before moving to the Gabriel's Hill site. The jewellery business was sold off just after the end of WW2. Cornell's was the second oldest shop in Maidstone,

only pre-dated by the Golden Boot. It is a shame that historic names disappear from the list of businesses and trades but that is the way of life. I am sure that many of you will remember Sharp's toffees, Fremlin's brewery, Smythe & Drayson's timber wharf, Hubble & Freeman's shop, etc., and many businesses which were started by Old Maidstonians. George Cornell did not rank as an old boy of the school, but some of his descendants did have that privilege. So why does Cornell's rank as a subject for *Musings*. It partly follows because of some investigation by a Facebook writer about the crypts at the top of Gabriel's Hill.

I am sure that all of you must be aware that the school was situated at Corpus Christi Hall in Earl Street, but where was it before that? In 1995, a talented MGS artist, John Wotton, made the following display board, illustrating the premises and giving their locations on a map.



A valiant crypt-explorer, Simon White (not an OM), has been looking at the crypts under the two shops on the opposite sides of Gabriel's Hill. (You may have seen his interview with *South East News* recently). This area is marked on some maps as having been the site of a priory, although there are few historical documentary records. However there are various mentions of the existence of a Franciscan Priory, part of which later became a private residence and the other part a home for the Greyfriars First Order.



The Greyfriars maintained a school which was to be the foundation school from which MGS was conceived. There would only have been a few pupils taken from the sons of the wealthiest tradesmen and from the homes of self-sufficient gentlemen of the town. The earliest record in the archives of the number of pupils is in 1818 where there



were only 25 boys, all fee-paying, so in the late 14th century, with a smaller town, I suspect that there would have only been a dozen scholars at most.

The school will be celebrating its 475th anniversary next year, but if the above facts are correct then we should really be celebrating 676 years. That is some outstanding record, I'm sure. In



view of the anniversary, I anticipate that the OMS the school would appreciate some extra input of memories, especially from the older Old Maidstonians.

(All crypt photographs are reproduced by kind permission of Simon White.)



Old Maidstrivia

1932

- The Swimming Pool was opened (ready for those freezing swimming Sports Days), and coincidentally, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was also opened. (Just a coincidence?). Later on, the school did receive a complaint from one of its neighbours, in that if this lady stood by her bedroom window she could see boys in their swimming trunks standing on the high dive board. Was that a pair of binoculars I saw between the curtains?

1935

- A trial experiment to stop homework was begun. It was obviously short-lived as I had plenty of homework to do. It was also short-sighted as it did not foresee that fact that so many people today work from home.
- The whole school was taken to see the Mayor's zoo at Cobtree Manor. The Elephant House can still be seen at the park today. (It was just as well that the parking was free, as the world's first parking meters were introduced in Oklahoma City, U.S.A.)

1936

- Mrs. Foster Clark gave the school two acres of land adjoining the original site. This area was used for the old Woodwork Shop and Dining Hall prior to the erection of the building of the Refectory and the Graham Walker building ('Australia House').
- The Officer Training Corp visited the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment depot to experience use of the Gas Training Chamber. The Crystal Palace, London burnt down and the Spanish Civil War started. Hopefully no connection!
- The whole school listened to the 'wireless' broadcast of King Edward VIII on his accession and the BBC launched its first live broadcast of a sporting event.
- Old Maidstonian, P.A. Howe, made a gift to the school of the Cock House Cup, to be awarded to the school house that was first in the year's competition. The cup is now missing.

Wishing you all well for the summer and beyond.



A new Co-editor?

Having edited *The Old Maidstonian* for over ten years, Brian thinks that it is time for him to hand over his job as Co-editor to someone else, in order to 'ring the changes' and get a different perspective on things.

If you are interested in the possibility of taking on the job (which is not too onerous and quite fascinating), please send an email to oms@oldmaidstonians.org.uk

The Grammar School – my moulding

This is the third in a series of article by **Peter Evans (1950 to 1958)**

Senior Scouts

Age prompted my elevation into the Senior Scout troop at 16, into the Raleigh Patrol.

Things got tougher, because we were all expected to become Queen's Scouts. This involved heaps of tests for badges and other awards, which because our scoutmasters were all teachers, we were expected to pass at very high levels. It was like doing 'A' Levels at school. Eventually, with a few roadblocks, particularly having to swim 25 yards in clothes which delayed me for over a year, I got there.

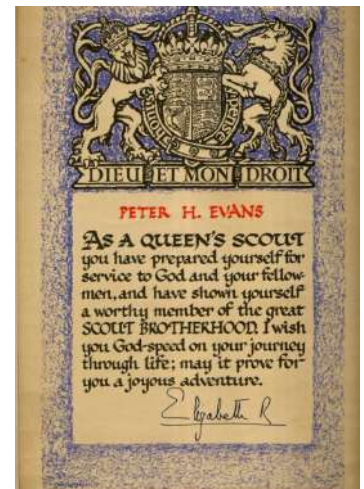


While the local District Commissioner gave us our badges at a small ceremony at MGS, together with two others, Alan Knell and Jim Atkinson, I went for a splendid weekend to receive my award from the hands of the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan. He was most imposing in his kilt, so must have been a Scot I suppose. The event was held at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, a magnificent building.



1955

As befitted our greater strength and endurance, instead of annual camps the Senior Scouts went on expeditions, meticulously planned by the leaders. The first one I went on in 1955, was a mammoth trek, encompassing the Lake District, Hadrian's Wall and the Scottish Border along the Cheviot Hills.



The troop (Alan Blake mainly) had designed a special cart, so we could carry all of our gear for three weeks. It was similar to a wheelbarrow, but with the single wheel centrally located under the platform. The handles could be slid through, so that two or four people could carry the cart like a stretcher over rough ground, and two ropes were clipped to the front for four people to pull the cart on flatter surfaces. Going downhill, the people on the ropes could go to the rear to provide braking. The Trike Cart was a great invention: it was flexible and allowed us to cover native bush one way or another.



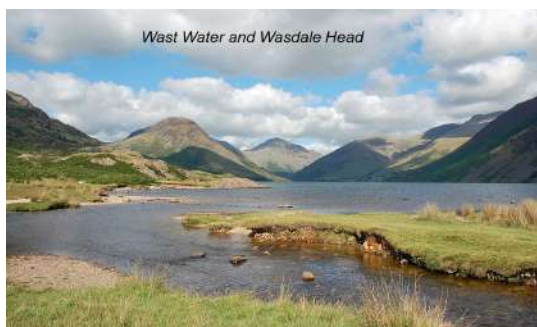
We detrained at Bowness on Windermere having gone for the last part on the branch line train, and I could envisage myself as one of the children in *Swallows and Amazons* (my favourite children's book series by Arthur Ransom), as they saw for the first time the lake of their adventures from the same train. We walked round the head of the lake to a small tarn, Loughrigg, where we camped for the first night. Alan Knell and I climbed Loughrigg Fell after camp had been set up: the first time we had climbed a 'real mountain' as it was just over 1,000 feet high.



The next day we penetrated further, along the Langdale Valley passed increasingly large mountains and climbing two steep passes, Wrynose and Hardknott. They had

multiple hairpins and were very steep.

Descending from Hardknott, we rested on the site of a Roman fort at the village of Boot. (It was an easier journey when I drove over there 32 years later.) We finally arrived at our destination, having passed Wast Water and its famous screed slopes, which was a farm at



the head of Wasdale, where we camped for several days to



explore the area. This included climbing the mountains surrounding us: Scafell, Scafell Pike and the beautifully symmetrical Great Gable. Our conquering of Scafell was sadly brought to a conclusion as one of our number, 'Boggy' Marsh, slipped in a gully and cracked his skull. He had to be brought down by a mountain rescue team as he was unconscious, and was taken off to hospital.

The trek continued, up Sty Head Pass on the slopes of Great Gable, and down the other side to Derwentwater. We caught a train to Carlisle, then on to a small town, Bampton, at the west end of Hadrian's Wall. Our camp was at Lanercost, beside a ruined priory and a slow flowing river. I was thrilled to watch a couple of beautiful blue kingfishers working to catch dinner.

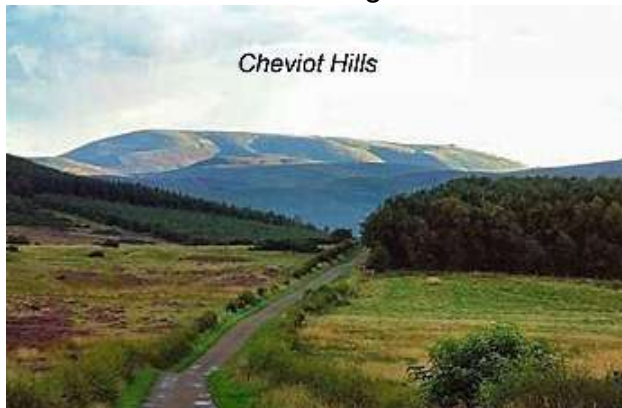


Next day we set off for three memorable days walking alongside, and for stretches right on top, of the Wall. I'm sure we got much closer than would be allowed now, and some of the views were superb. We visited several fort and camp sites and a Mithraic temple. Finally, we camped at Hexham, near the surviving eastern end of the Wall. Then came the physically toughest day of my life (to date). While a few remained to



pack up camp and put our heavy gear onto a truck, the rest of us were carried back west to Haltwhistle, whence we hiked virtually due north to join the motor party at Carters Bar, close to the Scottish border. Our hike was through the Kielder Forest, a vast plantation of pines created by the Forestry Commission. It was actually being planted at that time and we were hiking by compass bearing across vicious landscapes where the soil had been cut and turned over so that pine seedlings could be planted on the upturned undersoil. The ridges were usually across our line of march, and were at a width which didn't fit our length of pace so we were unable to keep a rhythm. This continued for 20 miles, and was tough going. We finally got into camp after finishing the journey in the dark, up the main road, which had its own dangers. We had covered 36 miles in the day!

Then on to the 'roof of England'. We hiked along the crest of the Cheviot Hills.



England was down to our right and Scotland, looking much wilder, to our left. With not a tree in sight on those limestone hills it was quite strange. Finally, we descended to the small town of Alnwick and caught the bus into Newcastle upon Tyne, and the train home.

To be continued...

Roger Jewell says that he echoes Peter Evans's admiration for **Alan Blake** who was a truly remarkable man. 'As well as organising in great and successful detail trips of about three weeks for Scouts and Senior Scouts to all manner of places, he also invented and had made an all-purpose trek cart to enable all camping goods to be pulled or carried over any terrain at all. I saw him lose his remarkable equanimity on one occasion only, when on the first night of a trip to Scotland, he asked David Hendrick to pass the curry powder so a teaspoonful could be added to the dinner. David, being a cricketer, lobbed the drum across the cooking area, the lid came off and three weeks' supply of curry powder was lost. No words were said but the facial expression was enough to melt ice!

'I too was at the How Caple camp – my first (I was third from the right in the front row of the photograph in the last edition) – and the only memory I have is of all of the troop's Dixie cans being washed away by a surge in river levels when all we wished to do was to hasten the setting of jellies in the Dixies! Such memories.'

News of Old Maidstonians

Doug Rose (1955 to 1963) writes, ‘I read with great interest the article about the School Song in the winter newsletter. It brought back many memories. I learnt it off by heart at MGS and still remember it word for word – sometimes it even becomes one of those annoying songs that go round and round in your head for days on end! I, like most OMs, was unaware of the existence of the National Anthem-like ‘extra verses’ that have lain hidden and unheard for so many years. What a refreshingly broad and enlightened view of education they represent: no mention of exam results, passes, failures, league tables, national curricula, Ofsted, etc, etc ... Instead, just the ingredients which constitute the ideal of *mens sana in corpore sano* – a healthy mind in a healthy body.

‘Every year, the school sang its Song on Speech Day and during the week before the great event, rehearsals were required. We would gather in the Assembly Hall under the baton of Mr David Cutforth, or Davy as we knew him, and perform rousing renditions of the song until eventually the desired standard was arrived at. By the time we reached the sixth form we had become rather bored with the whole affair and felt put upon at having to waste our time while our younger brethren learned their lines and melody. As a result, we, especially the non-praefects who sat in their small gallery upstairs at the back of the hall, would amuse ourselves with small acts of subversion.

‘Firstly, we were the only section of the congregation who had collapsible wooden chairs, so we would make our presence felt whenever we were invited to stand, by slamming the seats against the chairbacks thus making the devil of a clatter. Furthermore, as we approached the end of a session we would, at a given signal, begin to extend and emphasise the “s” sounds in the words. At the end of the verse: “*Forsan olim meminisse, Nos juvabit et vixisse, Dignos illis quos fuisse, Gloriamur socios*” the pupils below the gallery were reaching for their umbrellas. To crown it all, for the final run through, the creatively courageous, or courageously creative, among us would substitute the word foreskin for “*forsan*”. We always managed to get away with it because our little contribution was more or less drowned out by the main choir. We were, of course, very pleased with ourselves but, looking back on it, I am convinced that Mr Cutforth was actually using the well-tried and valuable teaching technique of selective hearing. All the time he was chuckling to himself saying, “Carry on boys, you’re actually refreshing your own memories and teaching the youngsters the song. Anyway, I know full well that you will not dare or even want to make a mess of things on the day.”

‘My final public rendition of the Song was at the end of the 1963 Leavers’ Concert. The cast belted it out with great gusto and repeated the last “*Sempiterna floreat*” preceded by the line: “Get orf me barrer!” A bit subversive but not too disrespectful. (Incidentally, the Webmaster has a copy of this concert.)

‘I also remember Mr Cutforth as a kindly, patient and highly talented music teacher. He taught me the violin with, among others, Steve Newman, in a little room in the bottom corridor, looking out on the quad. He was conductor of the Maidstone Music Club and he once engineered an invitation for a group of us ‘musicians’ to attend a rehearsal of one of the Club’s performances. I was leader of the Junior String Orchestra at one time and later performed with the Second Orchestra in the annual combined concert with the Girl’s Grammar School. A not-too-tall Canadian conductor with a spotted tie and a gentle sense of humour made an excellent job of melding us

all into a viable group which produced quite a high musical standard. Anyway, the audience appreciated our efforts and we enjoyed and profited greatly from this, for me unique, experience.

'Interestingly, the DofE Award scheme, mentioned in the newsletter, featured in the concert. Andy Hosking had recently achieved the Gold standard after much hard labour and had, in the words of Roger Fuller, the MC of the show, volunteered to rerun the 17-mile section of the test. Roger started him off with a whistle and stopwatch in the manner of the head of PE and Games Mr Alec Stewart, or Uncle/Nunc/Tisher, as he was variously known. Periodically, Andy, increasingly fatigued, would reappear and struggle across the stage to cheers of encouragement and be given his section time as he set off again. Inevitably, with success nigh, he crawled onto the stage only to hear Roger blow the whistle and call out, "Sorry, Hosking, time's up".

'Several cast members were mentioned in the Blue Cap letter. I myself worked there on both shifts and pocketed some very useful summer holiday funds. I was introduced to the place by Peter Doyle, Head Boy 1962-3, whose aunt, as I remember, was a senior manager there. It's not what you know but ...

'I was sorry to hear of the death of Ron (Matt) Dillon. His contributions to recent editions of the magazine were very entertaining. He was a few years above me at MGS but I have vague memories of him as a tall, jolly, rounded figure who played cricket. I think that I opened the bowling with him on one occasion, but I can't remember if it was for a school or house team.'

(Co-editor's note: Doug asked whether the writer of the 'Blue Cap' letter is known to us. He says that it must have been written by one of his contemporaries, but in the January 1965 issue of The Maidstonian, where it appears, it is simply signed by 'O.M's Blue Cap'. If anyone can identify the writer after all these years, we will be very grateful.)

Tony Webb (1971 to 2000, and Deputy Headmaster for 19 years) has sent us news of his two offspring, who both attended MGS: **Eleanor Webb (1993 to 1995)**, and **Richard Webb (1990 to 1996)**. Tony asks whether they are the only brother and sister to figure in gold paint on the walls of the Big Hall.

Eleanor was one of the first female senior prefects, and she has recently been promoted to Captain RN - one of only a dozen female captains who join the one female admiral. She has a three-year-old toddler, thus proving that having a young child is no bar to having a career. She takes up a post as Chief of Staff to the Admiral Director of Naval Services, known vulgarly in the service as the 'odds and sods' man, because everything that cannot be fitted into other departments lands on his desk.

Richard has recently been head-hunted by *Nature Magazine* from *New Scientist*, to become the editor of this prestigious magazine, which announces scientific breakthroughs to the world.

Tony says that he doesn't mind the world knowing that he has cancer on top of acute arthritis. His mobility is much impaired, but he has been commended by his Macmillan nurse for his unfailing cheerfulness. *(Co-editor's note: I am sure that all OMs will want to send their good wishes to Tony.)*

Obituaries

The society offers its condolences to the families and friends of all of those Old Maidstonians who have died recently

Brian Mace (1960 to 1968) wrote to add to the obituary of **David Cutforth** which appeared in the Winter 2022 edition.

He says that In addition to the choral works mentioned, at MGS (usually in partnership with MGGS) David conducted many performances including Purcell's *King Arthur*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen*. The MGS Orchestra performed Bach's *Double violin concerto* and *Double piano concerto*, Dvořák's *D minor Serenade*, Mozart's *Clarinet concerto*, Corelli's *Christmas concerto*, and Schütz's *Christmas Story*.

In the town, he directed an ambitious programme of performances by the Maidstone Orchestral Society/ Symphony Orchestra including works by Beethoven: *Symphonies Nos 2 and 9*; Shostakovich: *Symphonies Nos 1 and 5*; Berlioz: *Symphonie Fantastique*; Mahler: *Symphony No 4*; Khachaturian: *Violin concerto* and Schumann: *Cello concerto* (with soloist Amaryllis Fleming).

Also, in May 1960, David led some of the earliest performances of Britten's *Noyes Fludde*, involving many local school children as well as professional soloists. Performances took place in All Saints' Maidstone, Rochester Cathedral and St Nicholas's Church, New Romney.

Brian says that those are just the performances that he can remember, but that there were many more.

The daughter of **Keith Hearnden (1949 to 1957)** has informed us about his death. He went to Bristol University, where he graduated with first class honours in English and philosophy, and after 16 years in industry, in 1976 he became a tutor in the Department of Continuing Education at Loughborough University, where he remained until 1996. At Loughborough, he pioneered postgraduate security and risk management education, writing several books and papers on the subject of business security.

A keen cricketer at Maidstone, Keith continued to enjoy a wide range of sports throughout his life. He was also an excellent photographer, a lover of fine wines, and enjoyed classical music and travel, especially in France. He is survived by his wife, Mavis, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tim Jennings (1967 to 1975) has informed us that **Mike Saunders (1967 to 1975)** died about three years ago in the Far East. Tim is unsure of the circumstances and the date of Mike's death.

Colin Rea wrote to inform us about the death of one of the oldest OMs, **Robert Stevenson (1939 to 1947)**. Robert lived in County Tyrone, and sadly died in a house fire on Wednesday 30 November 2022: he was 94 years and 5 days old. He was not married but outlived all other close relatives, and Colin is an executor of his will.

One of the press reports of his passing included reference to his education at MGS and stated that 'he competed against and beat Frank Sando who went on to

represent GB at the Olympics' He appears to have been a tower of strength in NI athletics and was awarded an MBE in June 2009 for his voluntary service to athletics, hockey and scouting in Northern Ireland. More information about Robert appeared in our newsletter of Summer 2014.

'Something for nothing' donations to our charity

If you buy goods or services online, many retailers will make donations to charity. This costs the buyer nothing, while the charity gets income. The Society and its registered charity, the Old Maidstonian Trust, has for some time participated in 'Easyfundraising', a scheme which is used by many retailers. Please help us by using this scheme. Funds donated go to support the school and its current and immediate past pupils, including through the Society's Awards. (For details, see the Society's website, <http://www.oldmaidstonians.org.uk> .)

'Easyfundraising' is the UK's largest charity shopping fundraising site. About 7,000 retailers participate and to date they have donated over £31 million. In our first year in the scheme, with only six OMs signed up, we raised over £120. Note that as well as making donations on your normal purchases, 'Easyfundraising' circulates special offers on goods, and opportunities for enhanced donations.

To join 'Easyfundraising' is (unsurprisingly) easy. Visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, and click on 'Find a cause'. Type 'Old Maidstonian Society' into the dialog box. We should come up as the first choice: click 'Support this cause' for us. Then fill in the form to create an account. It's very simple to complete. Make sure that you can remember your password! To help you to remember to use the scheme whenever you buy from participating retailers, you can download Easyfundraising's 'Donation Reminder'.

(The Amazon Smile scheme has just been discontinued.)

For additional information, contact the Society's webmaster, Malcolm MacCallum, at webmaster@oldmaidstonians.org.uk or visit the Society's website's Fundraising page.

Many thanks for reading!

