THE O.N.

The Newsletter of the Old Newportonian Society

President 2015/2016       Alan Mills [1950-55]
Honorary Life Vice-Presidents       Fred Thompson [1937-75];
                                      Keith Huddlestone [1964-02];  Eric Gentry [1944-50]
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E MAIL ADDRESSES AND POSTAL ADDRESSES:
Please inform the Secretary if you change your email address and/or your postal address. It is important for the secretary to have both an email address and a postal address. If the email address fails then there is the postal address to fall back on. Please note that email addresses will NOT be passed on to anyone else. They will only be used to send out the newsletters and any other important information which needs to be sent to the whole of the Society membership.

This Year’s President: Alan Mills [1950-55]
Alan Mills entered Newport in September 1950 from Bishop’s Stortford. On leaving Newport he had a very successful career in the world of Insurance. Since retiring in 1998 he and his wife have travelled extensively all over the world. He writes the following about himself.

I attended Northgate Primary School in Bishop’s Stortford as did both my Mother and Father before me. In fact one of my teachers, Miss Stratton, also taught my parents. During one of my years at Northgate Jack Mason was my teacher. He taught at Northgate for a short time after the Second World War before moving on to Newport where he taught English.

My first day at Newport started by leaving home around 8.00am and walking about a mile and a quarter to Bishop’s Stortford Station to catch the train [in those days pulled by a steam locomotive] to Newport. On reaching the station I met up with two other former Northgate pupils, Archie Angus [50-57] and Norman Good [50-57], who like me had passed the “Eleven Plus” examination and so, we travelled together to Newport. Other Newport boys who travelled on the train with me were John Ransom [50-58], Geoff Markwell [49-54] and David Paterson [48-52].

Before starting at Newport in September 1950 I remember wearing my new red/yellow/blue Newport school cap while on holiday with my parents in the Scottish Highlands.

We looked very smart in our new school uniforms (short trousers) obtained from the outfitters in Saffron Walden complete with cap, tie and badge. I was allocated to Class 2A. My class comprised boys from as far as Nazeing in the South to Great Chesterford in the North and from Great Sampford in the East to Great Chrishall in the West. It all seemed so different – it was as if we were starting school all over again. Our Form master was Wilfred Sing who also taught French. I remember that we were all rather terrified by his appearance. When he was clad in his gown he...
gave the appearance of what we thought the devil might look like to us young impressionable boys. Over the next five years I do not think we changed our minds very much on this first impression. Some of his favourite comments to me were “Mills, why do you always close your eyes to the bare facts” and “Beware Mills otherwise I will beat your bare legs”

We slowly settled down to our new way of life adhering to our timetable. After Assembly we had two 40 minute lessons before mid-morning break (15 minutes) followed by 2 further lessons to take us up to lunch. We had 3 lessons after lunch finishing at 3.10pm which enabled us to catch the 3.33pm train to Bishop’s Stortford. Occasionally we would have to stay on at school for an extra 40 minutes for a sports fixture or some extra-curricular activity.

The highlight of the train journey for me would be on rare occasions when my uncle, who lived in Stratford, was the engine driver. This meant that I could get into the engine cab and actually drive the school train – great fun.

I have had a life-long interest in cricket and first played for Bishops Stortford in the early ’50s when at that time two of my uncles played and another uncle was groundsman. Spud Taylor played cricket at Bishop’s Stortford for many years and actually captained the 1st XI in the mid 50’s. I was fortunate enough to play for the Under 14s at School for 3 years and then the 1st X1 for 2 years until I left school. Playing for the 1st XI could be very traumatic particularly when we played Soham Grammar School. This meant that Spud would umpire at one end with his brother Peter umpiring at the other and woe-betide anyone who dropped a catch. The Taylor brothers were good cricketers and both played cricket for Cambridgeshire. After losing against Soham, instead of keeping very quiet one of our team tried to explain to Spud that cricket was only a game. At this point I thought Spud would explode – “Game? Game? It’s a …… Religion!!”

Spud, apart from being Sports Master, was also Biology Master. Biology for my first two years at Newport in the Summer term often involved rolling the cricket pitches. “Don’t dig your heels in!” was a favourite expression. I have to thank Spud Taylor for unwittingly introducing me to alcohol at the age of 14. After a cricket match he gave three of us a lift home to Bishop’s Stortford. We went via the village of Arkesden because he had to pick up a lady friend of his there. As she was a bit late Spud took us over to the “Axe & Compass” pub and asked what we wanted to drink. The other two who were much older than me replied “Half of bitter please sir!” I had no idea what “bitter” was but on being asked what I wanted I thought I had better say the same. At the time I thought the taste was awful – now given the choice, bitter is my favourite drink (pints not halves).

There is one quite poignant memory of my time at Newport. It occurred when I was in my second year. I was a member of Saxie House. At a Saxie House assembly in February 1952 we were told that King George VI had died. The room where the assembly took place overlooked the front of the school and I well remember the Head, Maurice Willmore walking down to the flag pole and setting the school flag at the half-mast position.

I left school in July 1955. I began work at Lloyds Insurance Brokers in London on 8th August 1955 at a starting salary of just under £3 per week. The annual train season ticket to London from Bishop’s Stortford at the time was £36 compared with over £4,000 today.

I was called up for National Service in October 1958 and completed basic training at Catterick in Yorkshire with the Royal Signals. Early in 1959 I was posted to Brighton to take a Cipher Operator course. I then had the choice of spending the next 18 months in either Hong Kong, Singapore, Nairobi or stay in Brighton. I chose Brighton so that for 2 summers I could go home and play cricket for Bishop’s Stortford every weekend. On reflection I probably should have chosen Singapore or Hong Kong where I would still have been able to play cricket on their excellent cricket fields – foolish me!

After completing National Service I returned to Lloyds and had an enjoyable and interesting career in Marine Insurance. I travelled extensively in Canada and USA as well as Europe including Scandinavia, before retiring in 1998.

Since retirement my wife and I have spent a lot of time travelling to visit friends in North America. We have visited countries in Asia such as Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. In South America we
have been lucky in being able to visit some unusual holiday destinations such as Bolivia and Colombia.

I am deeply honoured at being President of the ON Society for 2015/6. I hope that many of my contemporaries are still around. It would certainly give me a lot of pleasure to see old friends and reminisce about years gone by. I look forward to my year in office with much enthusiasm and to meeting as many ONs at various occasions during the year, culminating with the Annual Dinner next October.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. Sunday 24\textsuperscript{th} January 2016, 11.00am: Church Service at Newport Church to Commemorate the Founding of the School in 1588: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

This will be the seventh such service to be held at St. Mary’s Church, Newport to commemorate the Founding. The previous services have been a great success and very well supported by Old Newportians. As usual the service will be part of the Newport Parish Church’s normal 11.00am service of Morning Worship. This service is being advertised to everyone connected with the Academy [Pupils, Parents, Staff, Governors as well as Members of the Society]. There will be some refreshments after the service. The Vicar of Newport, the Rev. Neil Macleod and the PCC are very much in favour of this service and of supporting links between the Academy and St. Mary’s Church so the committee hopes that as many members of the Society who are able to attend will do so. It will only be a success provided that members of the Society come in good numbers to support it.

2. Friday 19th February 2016: 20.00 onwards; Gathering of ONs at the Coach and Horses, Newport

Numbers attending this event have fallen in recent years. The committee have tried to find an alternative date but this has not proved possible. The President Alan Mills and the committee hope that as many ONs as possible who are in the Newport/ Saffron Walden/ Bishop’s Stortford area on 19\textsuperscript{th} February will try to get to the Coach and Horses to support this occasion.

3. Saturday 23rd April 2016: Annual Football, Hockey & Cross Country Matches v the Academy

As in previous years there will be two Hockey Matches. The Women's Hockey Match will start at 9.30am and the Men's Hockey Match will start about 10.45am. The Football Match will start at 10.15am and the Cross Country Match is at 11.00am. If you wish to take part in any of these matches please email the ON Secretary [ckh1941@hotmail.com] or telephone the Academy [01799 540237] and leave a message. As usual Di Reed will organise the ON Society Hockey Teams. If you wish to play in any of the hockey matches please contact her by email [muffin51@ntlworld.com] or telephone her on 01799 502360. This occasion has now become a major event in the Society’s and the School’s calendar. Apart from the players many other ONs [as well as parents of students who are playing for the school] also come along and support the matches. Refreshments will be served in the Club House [next to the cricket pavilion] after the matches.

4. Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th} June 2016: Annual Mixed Hockey and Cricket Matches against the Academy

The Mixed Hockey match will start at 11.30am and the Cricket Match at 2.00pm. If you wish to take part in either or both of these matches please contact the ON Society secretary by email ckh1941@hotmail.com or by telephoning the Academy [01799 525275] and leaving a message. Arranging for the mixed hockey match to be played in the morning and the cricket match in the afternoon makes it possible for ONs to take part in both matches if they so wish. Tea, to which everyone is invited, will be taken between the two innings of the cricket match at about 4.30pm in the Club House next to the Cricket Pavilion. Di Reed will organise the ON Society Hockey team. If you wish to play in the mixed hockey match, please contact Di Reed by email [muffin51@ntlworld.com], or by telephoning her on, 01799 502360.

The PE and Games Department at the School is very supportive of both the above events for which the Society is extremely grateful.

Please make a note of the two above dates and try to support the occasions either by taking part in one of the ON Society teams or by being a spectator.

5. Saturday 1st October 2016: AGM at 6.00pm: Annual Dinner at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Please make a note in your 2016 diary of these two most important events. Further details will be given in the next newsletter which will be sent out in July 2016.
Reports
1. AGM: Saturday 3rd October 2015 at 6.00pm
This took place at the Academy and was attended by 21 members of the Society. Minutes of the 2014 AGM and the secretary’s report for 2014/15 were distributed shortly before the meeting. A statement of the audited accounts for 2014/15 was also distributed to all those present. The Treasurer, Christopher Szaj explained the salient points and informed the meeting that the statement of accounts clearly showed the Society’s finances to be in a very healthy position mainly due to the continued great success of the 100-Club.

The following elections were made for 2015/16:
President: Alan Mills [1950-55]; Treasurer: Chris Szaj [64-70]; Secretary: Keith Huddlestone [64-02]
Assistant. Secretaries: Di Reed [69-2012]; Rick Reynolds [1993-2011]; Lee Gamble 2005-
Auditor Richard King [70-77]. President Designate, Gordon Farquhar Principal of the Academy

2. Annual Dinner: Saturday 3rd October 2015:
This was as usual a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. 55 people attended. This is a somewhat lower number than usual as several ONs had to cancel at a late stage for pressing personal reasons. The toast to Dame Joyce Frankland was proposed by the Head Boy, Spencer Hill and the toast to the Old Newportonian Society was proposed in a very able manner by the Head Girl, Maire Curran. Simon Price-Whittle gave a most entertaining speech in proposing the toast to the Academy. The Principal, Gordon Farquhar in replying to this toast thanked the Society for all their support and then gave a very positive report on the progress the Academy is making currently.

3. The Old Newportonian Society 100-Club: As reported in the July newsletter, 2015 has been another highly successful year for the 100-Club. 228 membership tickets were sold which is a record. The committee is most grateful to all ONs who support the 100-Club which enables the Society to support the School in a number of different ways as well as ensuring that all the necessary administration costs are covered. Current membership of the 100-Club will end on 31st January 2016. The committee very much hopes that all those who purchased tickets this year will renew their membership for 2016. The cost of one ticket is £12 and there is no limit to the number membership tickets anyone can purchase. If you wish to join as a new member then please complete the pro-forma on page 6 and send it with your cheque to the ON Society Secretary at the Academy. Please make cheques payable to the ON Society 100-Club. The closing date for entry into the first draw of the New Year is 28th February 2016. Those ONs who are already members of the 100-Club will, as usual receive a separate invitation by post to renew their existing membership. Those who wish to join [or rejoin] the 100-Club please use the pro-forma on page 6.

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New Members since the last Newsletter
The following have been elected to the Society:- Joseph Webster-Davids [07-13]; Juliet Snow, Jack Garrett, Oliver Anderson [all 2010-15]; Andrew Draper, Lily Brown, Alex Roke [all 2008-15]; Roy Levers [1954-58]

Deaths
The following deaths have been reported to the secretary since the last newsletter:

William Page came to Newport from Ware. His father was also a former pupil of the school [1909]. On leaving school he worked in the family Corn and Coal business. He died on 23rd August 2015.

Peter Pegg entered Newport from Fawbert and Barnards School in Sawbridgeworth. He played football for the 1st Team and was Junior and Intermediate Athletics Champion. He served in the Merchant Navy for three years before embarking on a career in Civil Aviation. He regularly attended Church Service at Newport to commemorate the Founding of the School. He died on 30th September 2015.

John Perrett entered Newport from Bush End Church of England School at Takeley in 1930. He played cricket for the 1st Team. He served in World War 2 and became a Captain in the 1st Suffolk Regiment. After the war he had a career with Guardian Royal Insurance, becoming a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institution. He died on 19th September 2014.

David Sylvester came to Newport from Hatfield Heath Primary School in 1947. On leaving Newport in 1954 he had a very successful career in Medical Laboratory Science. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Science and worked in the Pathology Departments at both the Herts and Essex Hospital in Bishop’s Stortford and St Margaret’s Hospital in Epping. With Dr Leiper he started up the Cytology service at the Herts and Essex Hospital when Cytology was introduced as a new service throughout the Country. He was a very fine musician and played the trumpet on a semi-professional basis. At various times he conducted the Bishop’s Stortford, Epping and Harlow Brass Bands.

Update of the School History: As reported in previous newsletters the updated school history, written by Malcolm White [1961-68] has now been published. Although a lot of copies have been sold there are still some available from the initial printing run of 300. If anyone would like to purchase a copy please contact the ON Society Secretary at the school either by email or letter [see contact details above]. The cost is £5.00 per copy or £7.50 to include postage and packaging. Cheques should be made payable to the “O.N. Society”

This updated history of the school which covers the period from 1988 to 2013 has been very well received by all those who have purchased a copy. It is of A5 size and consists of 60 pages with a large number of photographs many of them in colour including a fine aerial picture of the whole school site.

Prints of the Academy and Notelets
In 1988 Martin Tomlinson [64-69] produced a limited number of copies of a pencil sketch of the Academy for the 400th Anniversary appeal. All of these were sold very quickly. At the instigation of the Committee, Martin [who was President of the Society last year] agreed to produce another such sketch which can be purchased as well as notelets which have the sketch on them. He has written the following about this.

As a reminder of your days at the Academy, you can now buy a limited edition print of a pencil etching which I was pleased to be commissioned to do. The A4 print is mounted on a hand-cut mount and is limited to just 250 individually signed and numbered prints. Strictly sold on a first come first served basis the cost is just £19.00 each including postage and packaging. In addition, you can buy a set of 10 printed notelets [with envelopes] which feature the drawing. These cost £8.00 per set of 10 which includes postage and packaging. If you wish to purchase prints or notelets please use the pro-forma on page six of this email.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE O.N. SOCIETY 100-CUB FOR 2015/16

[Those who are currently members of the 100-Club should receive a separate invitation to renew their membership. This pro-forma is for those who are not currently members of the 100-Club]

The cost of annual membership is £12.00. There are no restrictions on the number of tickets any member can hold. Cheques should be made payable to the O.N. Society 100-Club.

I wish to apply for [please print in words]___________________ticket[s] for membership of the O.N.Society 100-Club.

I enclose a cheque for £_____Name [Block Capitals] ________________________________

Address [Block Capitals]__________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Post Code____________________________________Tel. No.____________________

Email Address____________________________________________________________________

Please return the completed form with your cheque to the Secretary of the ON Society at the school [Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3TR]

PROFORMA FOR PURCHASING PRINTS AND NOTELETS

Please send me_________ print[s] [cost is £19 per print]

Please send me_________packet[s] of 10 printed notelets [cost £8.00 per packet]

I enclose a cheque for ___________ pounds made payable to the ON Society

Name [Block Capitals]__________________________________________________________

Postal Address [Block Capitals]__________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Email address____________________________________________________________________

Please send this order to Martin Tomlinson, 21, Greenacres, Duxford, Cambridge CB22 4RB