THE O.N.

The Newsletter of the Old Newportonian Society

President 2018/2019: Chris Szaj [1965-70]
Honorary Life Vice-Presidents: Keith Huddlestone [1964-02]; Eric Gentry [1944-50]
All correspondence to:
The Hon. Secretary
Mr. C.K.Huddlestone
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport
Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3TR
Telephone: 01799 540237 Fax: 01799 542189
Email: admin@jfan.org.uk

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. The Secretary thanks those members who have recently sent him emails who in the past have had the newsletter sent by post which is a great help. The committee are sure there are still members who have an email address but who still receive the newsletters by post. If you are one such member please consider helping to ease the administration of the ON Society by sending your email address to the Secretary who is happy for you to use his home email address [ckh1941@hotmail.com] if you wish to rather than using the email address above.

This Year’s President: Chris Szaj [1965-70]

I arrived at Newport Grammar School in 1965 from St Joseph’s, RC School in Bishop’s Stortford having passed my eleven plus. During my time at Newport I was more practical than academic. I preferred Woodwork, Metal work, Technical drawing and sport to the more academic subjects.

I played a lot of sport representing my house – Franklands. I also played Rugby for the School.

My claim to fame at Newport was taking part in the “Frolic” in 1966, Newport Grammar School’s equivalent to today’s Britain’s Got Talent. There was me playing a ukulele banjo, Greg Leavers on 5 string banjo and Richard Bubien on guitar. We brought the house down with our renditions of ‘On Top of Old Smokey’ and ‘Way down upon the Swanee River’! Unfortunately Simon Cowell was not there to recognise our talents and sign us up!

I enjoyed my time at Newport and thank the School and all those who taught me for making sure I learnt discipline, respect and manners.

After leaving Newport, I started a Day Release Course at the Mid Essex Technical College and School of Art where I studied Building Construction and Technology. The College today is known as The Anglia Ruskin University, so in today’s terms I left Newport to go to University.

I started my working life as a Land Surveyor, then a Building Technician with the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board. After the water board, I joined the Health Service as a Buildings Officer at the
Herts and Essex Hospital Bishop’s Stortford, then at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. In 1986 I left the Health Service as I felt it was becoming too political. I started my own Building Consultancy and over a number of years worked with various Health Authorities. In 1992, I took up a full time position as Building Manager at St Katherine’s by the Tower. After four years there, I was head hunted by an old friend who I had known as the Hospital Engineer at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. He was the Buildings Officer at the Queen Mary and Westfield College which is part of the University of London situated in the Mile End Road. I joined him as the Deputy Buildings Officer.

In 1999, my wife and I decided to move to Norfolk, to plan for our retirement. I found a position as General Manager with a Building Contractor/Joinery Manufacturer in Norwich. My next position was at Norwich Airport as Airfield Grounds and Building Manager. I left there in 2009 having had a heart attack and triple by-pass. In the same year, my wife was diagnosed with a form of Leukaemia. She had numerous hospital visits. On several occasions she had to stay in hospital. She underwent a course of chemotherapy, and eventually had a bone marrow transplant. In spite of all the treatment she received she suddenly passed away in January 2010.

I do have a daughter called Joanna. She worked as a Ward Sister on the reconstructive surgery ward at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. She now works as a Practice Nurse in her local Doctors Surgery at Sawtry near Peterborough. I have a 7 year old grandson Thomas and he is a very keen footballer playing football for Sawtry Colts.

Having fully recovered from my Triple Heart By-pass operation I started working again as a freelance Building Surveyor. In 2011, I met with an old flame, Carol who is now my partner. We first went out together when I was 19 and she was 15! Carol and I decided to live together so I returned to the Bishop’s Stortford area and in 2013 we set up home in Stansted. Although I reached retirement age last year I still work part time as an Estimator for a local Building Company.

After being Treasurer of the ON Society for several years I was asked by Keith if I would like to become President. I was surprised and delighted to have been asked and immediately agreed to take up the offer. I can now add as my major achievement at Newport to be the First in my year to be President of the Old Newportonian Society. I should also point out that my elder brother Martin [President in 210-11] and I are only the second set of brothers to become President. The first set of brothers were Malcolm White [President in 1997/8] and his identical twin brother Geoff who was President in 2012/13.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
1. Sunday 27th January 2019, 9.30am: Church Service at Newport Church to Commemorate the Founding of the School in 1588: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME.
   This will be the tenth 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 Newportonians. All previous services have started at 11.00 am. This time the service will start at 9.30 am.
   As usual the service will be part of the Newport Parish Church’s normal Sunday morning service. 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 hope that as many members of the Society who are able to attend will do so. Because the time of the service has been changed to 9.30 am may well mean that some ONs who have attended in the past and travelled a considerable distance to do so will not be able to attend. This is perfectly understandable. However, the committee would urge as many members as possible to attend if they can possibly do so.

2. Friday 15th February 2019: 20.00 onwards; Gathering of ONs at the Coach and Horses, Newport.
   Although only a few ONs were able to attend this year it was still a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. It is extraordinary that every year someone turns up who has never been before. If you are in the Newport area on the evening of Friday 15th February 2019, please try to drop into the Coach and Horses if only for a short time.
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. This occasion has now become a major event in the Society’s and the Academy’s calendar. Apart from the players many other ONs [as well as parents of students who are playing for the Academy] also come along and support the matches. Refreshments will be served in the Club House [next to the cricket pavilion] after the matches. Anyone wishing to take part in any of the matches please inform the Secretary of the Society by email [ckh1941@hotmail.com] or by contacting 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 contacting the Academy. 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. The PE and Games Department at the Academy 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. If you wish to take part in any of the above matches on either 27th April or 23rd June please contact the Secretary by email [ckh1941@hotmail.com] or the following member of the PE and Games Department at the Academy:- Dan Grindrod: d.grindrod@jfan.org.uk Alternatively telephone the Academy [01799 540237] and leave a message

5. Saturday 5th October 2019: AGM at 5.00pm: Annual Dinner at 6.00 for 6.30pm.
Please make a note in your 2019 diary of these two most important events. Further details will be given in the next newsletter which will be sent out in July 2019.

Reports
1. AGM: Saturday 6th October 2018 at 5.00pm
This took place at the Academy in the Chris Bowditch IT/Photographic Suite which is part of the new block of class rooms completed and handed over in June. It was attended by 22 members of the Society. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and the secretary’s report for 2017/18 were distributed shortly before the meeting. A statement of the audited accounts for 2017/2018 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 2018/19:
Auditor Richard King [70-77]. President Designate; Lee Gamble [2005-].

2. Annual Dinner: Saturday 6th October 2018:
This was as usual a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. 74 people attended. The toast to Dame Joyce Frankland was proposed by the Head Girl, Jasmin Parkin and the Head Boy, Regan Nicolaou proposed the toast to the Old Newportonian Society. Jack Lee [58-66] gave an informative speech in proposing the toast to the Academy pointing out the changes which had occurred since he was a pupil. After proposing the toast he presented the Head Boy and Girl with an Academy Crest which he had etched himself. The Interim Principal, Duncan Roberts in replying to this toast on behalf of the Academy thanked the Society for all their support and gave a very positive report on the progress the Academy is currently making pointing out the very good GCSE and A Level results achieved this year.

3. The Old Newportonian Society 100-Club: As reported in the July newsletter, 2018 has not been quite as successful a year for the 100-Club as in recent years. Nevertheless 187 membership tickets were sold, which is still a very good result. The committee are 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 2019.** The committee very much hope that all those who purchased tickets this year will renew their membership for 2019 and also that those who are currently not members will consider taking up membership. 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 2019. Those ONs who are already members of the 100-Club will, as usual, receive a separate invitation by post to renew their existing membership.

**Winners since the last Newsletter**

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**New Members since the last Newsletter**
The following have been elected to the Society:- Samantha Gunn and Millie-Anna Moulder both 2011-18

**Deaths**
The following deaths have been reported to the secretary since the last newsletter:-
Sydney [Syd] Hasleton [41-46]; Timothy Allen Osborne [81-88].

**Syd Hasleton** came to Newport in 1941 from Birchanger Church of England Primary School. He was a founder member of the school orchestra. On leaving Newport he attended Walthamstow Technical College where he achieved his ONC and HNC in Mechanical Engineering. He subsequently became a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. After a number of positions in Design Engineering he became a Research Design Engineer at the Research Laboratories of Tube Investments. He died on the 15th July 2018

**Timothy Osborne** entered Newport in 1981 from Great Easton Primary School. He had a career in Business and eventually became Managing Director of Moody’s Corporation based in New York. He died on 16th September 2017 after being caught in a riptide whilst swimming off Long Island, New York.

**New Academy Building:** This has now been completed and was handed over to the Academy in June. Students started to use this new building, which has nine classrooms, from September. All who have seen this new building agree it has been constructed to a high standard boasts many excellent resources.

**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 Academy 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 in 2013-14] 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 6.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE O.N. SOCIETY 100-CUB FOR 2019/20

[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 [BlockCapsitals]______________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

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