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 their newsletters 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 and costs 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 so wish rather than using the email address above.

The Covid 19 Crisis has highlighted the great advantage for the Society to have the email addresses of as many of its members as possible. At the start of the “Lock Down” period the Committee had to cancel all the sporting events this year [see under Reports and Results] due to the crisis and was able to inform all those with email addresses immediately and at no cost. Due to the costs involved [65p for a 2nd Class Letter] it was not possible to inform those members for whom we only have a postal address [about 180]. A similar situation is going to arise with the AGM and Annual Dinner on 3rd October [see forthcoming events]. The decision whether to cancel or not will most probably have to be made after this July newsletter has been sent out. The decision will be delayed as long as possible. Once made, it will be very easy and quick to inform those with an email address. If the number for whom we just have a postal address is well below 100 it would be feasible to contact them by post.

It is fully realised that some ONs do not have the facility to set up an email address. This is well understood. Some such ONs very kindly send postage stamps to the Secretary to help with the postal costs and this is greatly appreciated. As stated above it will be a very great help to the Society [especially the Secretary] for those ONs who do have an email address but receive the newsletters by post to please pass on their email address to the Secretary [ckh1941@hotmail.com].

THE BOX OF DELIGHTS

This year the Academy has benefited by several thousands of pounds from the sale of the “Box of Delights”. The “Box of Delights” was owned by Dr Philip Marriott ON [1958-65] who below tells the extraordinary story behind it and how he came to own it.

Some ONs may have read my story, “Learning secrets of the ‘Box of Delights’ “in the Walden Local on the 8th March this year. It was beautifully crafted by two pupils from the Academy who interviewed me early in the Spring term. But here, at Keith’s [Secretary] suggestion is my first-person account of the last 58 years. 58 years because it is almost the precise anniversary of the start of this story which occurred just before the start of the Easter school holiday in 1962. Some of my classmates in “Spud” Taylor’s biology lesson, the first after lunch may still remember the moment, I was summoned to see the headmaster (sic ‘the Doc’). I wasn’t to see any of my friends in class again until the start of the Summer Term.

Nonplussed I was led not to the Doc’s study but rather to the sitting room in his house. He and his wife lived on site in those days. I was met by two familiar faces from the Harlow Town Council with Dr and Mrs
Elcoat. And it was the moment when the news was broken to me that there had been a road accident involving my parents on the A1, on their way to Newcastle to catch the overnight ferry to Stavanger where they were due to join in town twinning celebrations. My mother I was told, had been killed at the scene, and my father was in hospital with serious head injuries form which he died a few days later.

The next few weeks passed in much of a blur. I was supported for much of the time by an aunt and uncle, but I was sure that despite many such kind offers I wanted to stay with what I knew, my friends and Newport Free Grammar School. And it was at this point that a local doctor in Harlow made an offer which was to change my life and experience. Dr Herbert Bach (abbr. HEB) and his wife wanted me to join them. HEB and I shared the experience of loss. He was a refugee from occupied Austria in 1938 just 25 years earlier where I learned that he had lost his mother, unable to escape and it would not be until around 2010 that she was traced to her death in Riga in 1945.

So many people supported me, HEB with his life stories and encouragement and Geoffrey Elcoat and all the staff at the school in allowing me to formulate what I wanted to do and become, and of course my contemporaries. My ambition had always been to study medicine. I can’t say when I became totally focussed but with support from so many people and more especially with the encouragement of Dr Roy Goulding ON [28-36] won a place at Guy’s hospital and a place at Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge.

My life was a new life with such a broad experience. I learnt about Herbert Bach’s family and his uncle Dr David Josef Bach (abbr. DJB) with whom he had escaped to England. HEB was particularly proud of his uncle who had been a journalist and newspaper editor in Vienna involved with arts, music and literature from 1904 to 1934. A childhood friend of Arnold Schoenberg, a member of the Freud circle and impresario of contemporary orchestral music in that period, he had received a Festschrift from colleagues in August 1924 on his fiftieth birthday. He passed this to HEB when he died in 1947, and Herbert guarded it carefully. I arrived in Cambridge and spent my 3 years with eyes down and then went on to Guy’s graduating to my first house job in the Autumn of 1971 where early one morning on my ward round, I received a phone call from a close friend in Harlow and learnt that HEB had been discovered dead in bed. A sudden and unexpected death always leads to a Coroner’s post-mortem where it was discovered he had taken a huge overdose of sleeping tablets. Such a suicide was not uncommon amongst refugees like HEB.

His widow needed a lot of help to sort out HEB’s things amongst which was his Uncle David’s (DJB) library of more than three thousand books brought out when he escaped from Austria. Largely in German Gothic script of course, where should they go? I suggested Caius college library and they were pleased to accept them, sort and distribute them. Caius kept for their library about two hundred volumes including a first edition of Einstein’s original papers. The rest have since gone to the University of Cambridge library forming the Dr David Josef Bach collection.

HEB’s widow, Millicent, gave the rest of DJB’s papers to me for safe keeping including the Festschrift in its wonderful snakeskin box made by Josef Hoffman and signed Wiener Werk Statte. Within it contained ninety autographed drawings, musical scores and literary dedications. Some were familiar to me including John Galsworthy, Bela Bartok, Schoenberg, Kokoschka, Eric Korngold, Heinrich Mann, Webern, Alban Berg to name a few. What I could understand of them, they seemed to represent a cultural history of central Europe as the world changed around the First War.

But I was a busy young doctor with a growing family. I did not have the skills to take it further and the Box was deposited in the bank for safe keeping.

And so, things remained until 1999 when a retired musician and polymath friend, Jared Armstrong, gave me one of those old video cassettes to watch, a film about the developing Schoenberg. A biopic made in the States where of course Schoenberg had emigrated. One brief scene showed a scene with a DJB character, instantly recognisable from pictures and photographs describing their childhood together. And this awakened my grief about the years past and a regret at not having done more with the Box.

But at Christmas that year my then partner, Valerie suggested we had a Boxing day party, invite Jared and get the Box out of the bank as she would like to see it. And so, we did. Jared in his seventies was recovering from a stroke and could no longer play the piano. He was amazed by what he saw and made us promise not to put the Box back in the bank. He bought his first computer and learnt IT to add to his skills. And the rest, as they say, became history.
We were in touch with academics around the world. Colleen Toomey wrote an article for the Sunday Times colour supplement on 13 May 2001 with fabulous colour photographs and so the “Box of Delights” was christened.

* 

Valerie and I were married in early 2002 and considering the future we realised the Box would have to be protected. I was clear in my own mind that morally it was not mine to sell and benefit. It had been brought to this country and cared for by political refugees who lost their country. I remembered my losses and the loss of Joyce Frankland. I was aware of historical continuity and recalled the Will of Joyce Frankland read out every Founder’s Day with Dean Alexander Nowell’s exaltation to her, “Comfort yourself, good Mrs Frankland, and I will tell you how you shall have twenty good sons to comfort yourself in these sorrows”, and so began our school. Joyce Frankland had been perhaps the greatest Benefactor of Gonville and Caius college in the first Elizabethan era. Caius had looked after me in the second Elizabethan era. And so, this seemed the right destination for the Box with a linked gift for the present Joyce Frankland Academy. Thus, the story, my connection with the Box and its provenance will be maintained in the future. And I add that in many ways this story has become in large part of handling my grief through the years.

For those of you who may be interested in further reading, see
David Josef Bach on Wikipedia (last edited 01,2020)
The England of Elizabeth by AL Rowse (1950)
“The Rights of France” in History Today (2020) 70, issue 4, 70-81

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. **Saturday 3rd October 2020: 17.00 Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner**

Most unfortunately the AGM and Annual Dinner have to be cancelled this year due to the CoronaVirus Crisis. The School has decided that no groups of more than 30 people can occupy the main Hall until the end of October when the situation will be reviewed. As far as the AGM is concerned the committee have decided the best course of action is to keep the present committee membership as it is until the AGM in 2021 but with Michael Wheelhouse [President Designate] taking over as President on 3rd October. It is felt that this is the only viable course of action under the present circumstances.

2. **Sunday 24th January 2021, 9.30am: Church Service to Commemorate Foundress Day:** This service has now become an established part of the ON Society calendar. It has always been strongly supported by members of the society, Newport PCC and those who attend St. Mary’s Church in Newport. The vicar of Newport, the Rev. Neil Mcleod is highly supportive of this service and very keen to get current members [staff and pupils] of the Academy involved. Further details will be given in the December newsletter when the date will be confirmed.

3. **Friday 12th February 2021, 8.00pm onwards:** Gathering of ONs at the Coach and Horses, Newport. It is always a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and worth making the effort to attend if only for a short time.

4. **Saturday 24th April 2021: Annual Football, Hockey and Cross Country Matches against the School:** The Football Match will start at 11.00 am and the Cross Country Match at 11.00 am. The men’s hockey match will start at 9.15 am and the women’s hockey match at 10.45 am.

5. **Sunday 27th June 2021: Annual matches against the School:** 11.00am Mixed Hockey; followed by Netball at about 12.30pm and 2.00pm Cricket.

Further information and confirmation of dates about all the sporting fixtures between the Academy and the ONs in 2021 will be given in the December Newsletter.
Reports

1. Sunday 26th January 2020: Church Service to Commemorate Foundress Day: This was very well supported by ONs as well as the regular attenders at the 9.30am morning service at St. Mary’s Church, Newport. A group of Academy students were very much involved in the service. They contributed to some of the musical parts, when they sang beautifully, and also presented a historical drama about how the Academy was founded by Dame Joyce Frankland and how it has developed over four centuries. At the end of the service the President, Lee Gamble presented a cheque for £100 to the Vicar, the Rev Neil McLeod as the Society’s contribution towards the refurbishment of the church. Coffee, Tea and biscuits were provided at the end of the service which enabled those ONs who attended to meet up with each other and with the students who took part in the service.

2. Friday 21st February 2020: Gathering of ONs at the Coach and Horses, Newport: Although only a few ONs were able to attend this year it was, nevertheless, a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. There were a number of ONs present who had never attended before.

3. Saturday 25th April 2020: Football Match; Men’s and Women’s Hockey Matches and the Cross Country Match against the Academy; Sunday 28th June 2020; Annual Cricket Match, Mixed Hockey Match and Netball match against the Academy. Nobody will be surprised that all the above matches unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis. It is very much hoped that these annual sporting fixtures between the Old Newportonian Society and the Academy will resume in 2021.

4. O.N. Society 100 Club: This year [2020] 196 membership 100-Club tickets have been sold which is a small increase on last year and so the prize structure will be the same as in 2019:- March and October prizes are 1st £100; 2nd £50; 3rd £40; 4th £30.

For the other 10 Months the prizes will be:- 1st £30; 2nd £25; 3rd 20. The committee is sincerely grateful to all those ONs who have become members this year. Their memberships will enable the Society to support the Academy in various ways and also help to keep the Society’s finances on a sound footing. It should be pointed out that the 100 Club, which has been running since 1992 is the main source of income for the Society and so it is most important to ensure it continues to thrive.

100 Club Winners since the last Newsletter

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DEATHS:
The following deaths have been reported to the Secretary since the last newsletter: Don Monk [39-46]; John Hale [58-65]; Andrew Thurley [65-72]; Graham Harding [69-74]; Colin Bazley [49-54]; Alan Saggers [60-88]; Bart Robinson [1936-41]; Roy Ingham [74-81]

Don Monk entered Newport from Molehill Green Primary School in 1939. He was a member of the ATC and played cricket for the 1st Team. On leaving the school in 1946 he did his National Service in the Royal Navy as a Telegraphist. Having completed his National Service he went to the Bognor Regis Teacher Training College and obtained his Education Teaching Certificate in 1951. Having a strong interest in Teaching PE and Games he attended the Carnegie College of Physical Education from 1951-52. He subsequently achieved a BA with Honours from Middlesex Polytechnic in 1972. He was appointed Head of PE and Games at the Barclay School in Stevenage in 1952. He was promoted to Senior Master in 1962 and then as Deputy Head in 1968 a position he held until his retirement in 1988. Don Monk was a regular attender of the Annual Dinner for many years. He died on 17th February 2019.

John Hale came to Newport from Cooks Spinney Primary School, Harlow in 1958. He was a regular player for the 1st XI Football Team. On leaving Newport in 1965 he attended St Peter’s Teacher Training College at Saltley in Birmingham. He became a Primary School Teacher eventually being appointed Head of the High Barn County Junior School in Royton, Oldham. He died on 15th December 2019.

Andrew Thurley entered Newport in 1965 from St Michael’s Primary School in Bishop’s Stortford. On leaving Newport in 1972 he became a Systems Analyst for a Computer Programming Company eventually becoming the Project Leader. He was a regular attender of the Annual Dinner together with a number of his contemporaries. He died after a short illness on 15th December 2019.

Graham Harding entered Year 9 in 1969 from Latton Bush School in Harlow. In 1973 he attended Bath University and studied Architecture. He eventually set up his own business [Copyscene] as a Graphic Designer and Events Manager based in Saffron Walden. He became a very active member of the Old Newportian Society frequently playing for the Society against the School in both the football and cricket matches. After a few years as a dedicated committee member he became President of the Society in 2003/4.

Immediately after he completed his year as President he was elected Treasurer of the Society and served with great efficiency in this office for several years. In 2000, using the excellent copying equipment he had for his business, he took on the task of printing and binding the Photographic History [1900 to 2000] of the School entitled “From Tradition to Technology” and which was published by the Society. For many years he also printed the Society’s twice yearly newsletter and also the menu cards for the Annual Dinner. As well as all that he did for the ON Society he was for many years very much involved in helping with the School’s Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In 2018 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer which he fought with great courage and resilience. In 2019, in spite of his illness he managed to complete the Cross Country Course in the Annual Cross Country Match between the ONs and the School. Being the oldest member of the ON team who had not been awarded it before, he was awarded the “Old Buggers Cup”. He died on 6th January 2020. He is a great loss to the Society.

Colin Bazley came to Newport in 1949 from Clavering Primary School. He was a very good sportsman playing Football and Cricket for the School’s 1st Teams. On leaving School in 1954 he was employed by a local Estate Agents and Auctioneers Business eventually becoming one of the senior partners. He was a long time member and great supporter of the Society and was a regular attender at the Annual Dinner. He regularly played Cricket for the Society in the Annual Match against the School. He served on the
committee for quite a long time and became President in 1983/4. After his year as President he became Treasurer of the Society, an office which he held with distinction for some six years. He had great commitment not just to the Society but also to the School as shown by his agreeing to become a Trustee of the Joyce Frankland Trust, a position he held for several years. In recent years he did not enjoy the best of health. He died on the 4th March 2020.

Alan Saggers was appointed to be Head of PE and Games at Newport in 1960. Prior to his appointment he had been a PE & Games Teacher at a school in Cambridge. He quickly became an established member of the teaching staff. He was a good cricket and football coach as shown by the number of excellent teams he produced in both sports at junior as well as senior level. As he had developed a very good rapport with the younger pupils, he was appointed Head of the Junior School in 1973, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. From the time he became a member of the teaching staff he became closely involved with the ON Society. He made all arrangements for the annual football and cricket matches between the ONs and the School until he was appointed Head of Lower School. After his retirement he continued to take an active interest in all the various Society events. He never missed the sporting occasions between the ONs and the School and always attended the annual dinner. He was elected President of the Society for the year 2001/2. He died in hospital after a short illness on 20th March 2020. He will be greatly missed by the School and the Society.

Roy Ingham entered the School in 1974 from Newport Primary School. He was a member of the School’s Rugby 1st XV. On leaving Newport he studied for a BEd at Homerton College Cambridge but eventually decided not to enter the teaching profession and embarked on a career in accountancy. He died on 21st March 2020. He was the third and youngest of three brothers who attended the school. The other brothers were Keith Ingham [63-69] and Bruce Ingham [69-76].

Bart Robinson entered the school in 1936 from Stansted Primary School. He proved to be a very good sportsman and played football and cricket for the 1st Teams. He was also a member of the ATC. Having obtained his school certificate he left in 1941 and became a Signal Man in the Royal Corps of Signals during the World War 2. He was sent to Hanslope Park a classified Government Facility attached to Bletchley Park and helped to develop a new British Military messaging system called Rocex. In 2019 he was invited to join the Bletchley Park’s 80th Anniversary celebrations. In 1964 he set up his own Building and Plumbing Company. He also joined the Robinson Family Undertaking Business, becoming a Director and eventually Chairman of the Company. He was a long-time member and great supporter of the Old Newportonian Society of which he became President in 1969/70. He was a very generous benefactor to both the Society and the School and regularly attend the Annual Dinner. He was very much involved with extending the Cricket Pavilion in 1969 and had the necessary architectural plans drawn up at his own expense. He also very generously supported the 400th Anniversary of the School Appeal Fund in 1988. He died on 2nd May 2020 at the age of 96. At his family’s request a number of Old Newportonians stood on the front lawn of the School as Bart’s funeral cortège passed on its way to the Cam Valley Crematorium and applauded. The Society and the Academy have lost a great supporter and very generous benefactor.

A Nostalgic Cricket Note from Rev Michael Crow [46-53]
The reports of the death of the late great West Indian cricketer Sir Everton Weekes on 2nd July at the age of 95 brought back to me a wonderful cricket memory. The former Biology and Games Teacher at the School, H W F [Spud] Taylor took a group of pupils to watch the 1950 West Indian Test Side play the Cambridge University 1st XI at Fenners, the University Cricket Ground. Weekes was a key member of the West Indian Team and was on his first tour to the UK. By that time he had a formidable reputation as a very powerful batsman. The West Indian side batted first and made slow progress, losing a few wickets. Shortly after 6.00 pm Weekes came into bat and by the end of play was 64 not out. It was a great privilege to see this magnificent batsman in full flow. He eventually went on to score 304 not out. ONs who were there and who are still alive may remember this. If so I would be pleased to hear from them. Email me using:- micthevic@gmail.com.
Keep safe & well. Best Wishes Rev Michael Crow [46-53]
Prints of the Academy
Martin Tomlinson [64-69] still has prints of his pencil sketch of the Academy available. The cost is £19 which includes postage & packaging. If you would like to purchase a print please complete the pro-forma below.

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PROFORMA FOR PURCHASING PRINTS

Please send me __________[s] [cost is £19 per print]

I enclose a cheque for__________pounds payable to the ON Society

Name [Block Capitals]__________________________________________________________

Postal Address______________________________________________________________
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Email Address _________________________________________________________________________