This Year’s President: Michael Wheelhouse [2009-2016]
In what has been undoubtedly the strangest year in my living memory, it is an honour to be able to keep the long-standing tradition of the President of the Society writing a few words about themselves in the December newsletter. It makes it even more of a remarkable feat that this is the one hundred and twenty fifth year of the Society, only possible due to the continued involvement of all of you who are reading this piece. It has been Several Years since I completed an A Level in English Language, so I apologise in advance for any of grammatical errors in this piece.

I began my schooling career in Bishops Stortford at a Primary School known as Manor Fields. As I was very local to the school I still have fond memories of my younger self making the early morning walk to school with my Brother, whom is two years my elder, and of my Mother frequently having to remind me to look both ways before I crossed the road, somewhat important in the middle of a residential estate as you can Imagine! However, as my Brother approached Secondary school in 2004 my Parents’ made the decision to move from Bishops Stortford to the quaint village of Widdington, moving from a bustling estate to the utter serenity of the countryside. I didn’t immediately leave my schooling in Bishops Stortford; it wasn’t until I reached Year Five that I moved to a little school of ninety-two pupils in Rickling! This was quite a shock at the time, as I went from a year group of circa sixty students to an entire school that my year alone would have made up two thirds of! At Rickling my year was made up of twelve pupils, five of whom eventually made the journey, as well as myself into Secondary School at Newport.

I remember my first introduction to Newport Free Grammar School, as it was known back then, as if it were yesterday. It was on an “introduction to Secondary school” day where pupils who were due to be joining Year Seven in the coming September spent two days finding out what life was like at Newport. Perhaps unsurprisingly to those who know my family well, I was late. I remember
sneaking into the back of the Main Hall where an Assembly was being held and frantically trying to find out which Form I was in by searching the posters which had been put up at different locations throughout the hall. It was then Ms Jackson, who I have no doubt many of you will remember, who came over and told me that I was in Saxie, which apparently meant you got a tie with yellow stripes (I would argue they are Gold in representation of the best form, but that is neither here nor there.)!

My first few years were relatively uneventful, as I meandered through School life much like the rain did when it created a river between E block right the way across the road to the A block! Which is in stark contrast to some of the interesting stories that have been written in this space down the years! I became the Sports Prefect in Year Ten, before becoming a Prefect in Year Eleven. After completing my GCSEs, I decided to stay on at Newport, as it had become more like a home than a School with the continually evolving sense of Community that the (now Academy) created. I became the Deputy Head Boy in Year Thirteen and left Newport with A Levels in English Language, Business Studies and Economics. It was at this stage that I joined the Old Newportonian Society and was invited to join the Committee which I was pleased to do. Although, joining the Committee was not my first introduction to the Society. I had long been familiar with the Sporting events, having competed in each of the events (Cross Country, Football, Hockey and Cricket) at one time or another throughout my time at the Academy as well as speaking at the annual Church service in 2015. How did I end up as President? Well, I remember an off the cuff comment from Lee Gamble before he began his year as President saying, “if I become President you have got to be President after me, is that a deal?” to which I accepted. It was only then a Year later when I was reminded of the agreement that I was elected as President designate which takes me to where I stand, well sit, today.

When I reflect on my time at the Joyce Frankland Academy, I am eternally grateful for one thing in particular. In a time where the majority of Sixth Form Students were being advocated to go to University, I chose to pursue something slightly different in the form of a Higher Apprenticeship with Barclays. The three-year scheme which gave me the opportunity to work full time whilst completing a full-time degree seemed like the perfect opportunity to start my career into the working world. With the support of my teachers, I was successful in my application and there began the next chapter of my life, as a fully full time worker and member of the Old Newportonian Society. How hard is it to complete a full-time job at the same time as a full-time degree? From my experience I can definitely say it is very hard. Nevertheless, it taught me a very poignant lesson that sticks with me to this day, despite being rather cliché. Anything is possible when you set your mind to it. Throughout my time on the Apprenticeship I completed a variety of roles which gave me a great insight into life in the financial services sector. At the time of writing, I have just secured a new role working out of our Head Office and at the same time coping with all the restrictions caused by the Covid Pandemic Crisis.

Last year Lee Gamble set out the agenda to increase the Diversity of the membership of the Old Newportonian Society Committee. I am keen to ensure that this agenda remains at the forefront of the Society’s Committee to safeguard the future of the Old Newportonian’s and make sure that the decisions we make are representative of the entire membership. If you are interested in joining the Committee or simply want to understand in more detail the role we play, please do get in touch with the Secretary.

Michael Wheelhouse [2009-16]
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. Sunday 24th January 2021, 9.30am: Church Service at Newport Church to Commemorate the Founding of the School in 1588: Due to the uncertainties caused by the Covid Pandemic Crisis, in consultation with the Vicar of Newport, this Service has been postponed to a later date in the year. As soon as restrictions are eased sufficiently so that a definite date can be arranged with the Vicar then the members of the Society will be informed. As much warning as possible of the new date will be given.

As usual the service will be part of the Newport Parish Church’s normal Sunday morning service. The service will be 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 when the new date has been fixed as many members of the Society who are able to attend will do so.

2. Friday 12th February 2021: 20.00 onwards; Gathering of ONs at the Coach and Horses, Newport

This “Gathering” will not take place as it is very doubtful that the Coach and Horses will be open on Friday 12th February due to the restrictions caused by the Corona Virus Crisis. The “Gathering” is always held on the nearest feasible Friday to the traditional date of the Founding of the School-20th February. Therefore, it will be most unlikely to be able to hold this event in 2021.

3. Saturday 24th April 2021: Annual Football, Hockey & Cross Country Matches v the Academy

There is a much greater expectation that these matches will take place next year given the strong possibility that by Easter [Easter Day is on 4th April] successful vaccines will ensure that daily life will be back to normal by then. If the matches do take place then, as in previous years there will be two Hockey Matches. The Men's Hockey Match will start at 9.15 am and the Women's Hockey Match will start about 10.45am. The Football Match will start at 11.00 am and the Cross Country Match is at 11.00am. 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. 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.

4. Sunday 27th June 2021: Annual Mixed Hockey, Netball and Cricket Matches against the Academy

Again, there is a great expectation that these matches will take place. Because there could be a lot of building work in the immediate vicinity of the Ryder Field during the summer, the cricket match may have to be held on this occasion at a different location. If this is the case as much prior notice as possible will be given as to where the match will be held.

The Mixed Hockey match will start at 10.45 am, the Netball Match at 12.00 noon and the Cricket Match at 2.00 pm. If you wish to take part in any of these matches please contact the ON Society secretary by email [ckh1941@hotmail.com] or by contacting the Academy. 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 24th April or 27th June please contact the Secretary by email [ckh1941@hotmail.com]. Alternatively telephone the Academy [01799 540237] and leave a message.
5. Saturday 2nd October 2021: AGM at 5.00pm; Annual Dinner at 6.00 for 6.30pm.
Please make a note in your 2021 diary of these two most important events. Further details will be given in the next newsletter which will be sent out in July 2021.

Reports
1. AGM: Saturday 3rd October 2020 at 5.00pm; Annual Dinner 6.00 for 6.30 pm
As reported in the July Newsletter, both the AGM and Annual Dinner had to be cancelled this year because of the Corona Virus Crisis. The Committee agreed at a Zoom Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September that the committee membership for 2020/21 should remain the same as for 2019/20 with the exception that Michael Wheelhouse be President and because of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the Corona Virus Crisis will remain President until the AGM in 2022.

The following elections were made for 2019/20:
Simon Price-Whittle [62-66] was then unanimously co-opted as a Committee Member.

3. The Old Newportian Society 100-Club:
As reported in the July newsletter, 197 membership tickets were sold for the year 2019/20 a small increase on last year. This is a very good result and 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 2021. The committee very much hope that all those who purchased tickets this year will renew their membership for 2021 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 of 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 2021. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Amount</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Aug 20</th>
<th>Oct 20</th>
<th>Nov 20</th>
<th>Nov 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>E Tetlow</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>G Rhodes</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>P Milledge</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Dodd</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>K Dalley</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A Lightning</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>A Mills</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>£100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E Tetlow</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>R Bedford</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Dodd</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>E Tetlow</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>£40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A Bubien</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>P Gallimore</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J Schoop</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D Cramphorn</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>P Marriott</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


New Members since the last Newsletter:
The following have been elected to the Society: Oliver Wilkinson [2016-20]; Benjamin Scott [2013-20] were unanimously elected to the Society

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


Geoff Bass entered Newport from Thaxted Primary School in 1944. He was a member of the school orchestra. He left in 1950 and did his National Service in the RAF. He subsequently became a Regional Sales Manager for Bassetts Confectionery. On retirement he spent several years living in Cyprus but returned to the UK some four years ago and lived in Somerset to be near his daughter. He died in September 2020.

Ian Chalk came to Newport from the Perse Prep School in Cambridge in 1945. He was a member of the School’s Cricket and Football 1st Teams. He was a member of ATC at the School. On leaving the School in 1949 he did his National Service in the RAF and then started work at Spicers in Sawston. He gradually worked his way through various managerial positions and eventually became Managing Director of the Company. He was a great supporter of the Society and extremely generous in supplying free of charge all the paper required for the printing of the four Society publications. For many years he played for the ON team against the School in the Annual Cricket Match. He was President in 1984/5. Ill health prevented him from attending Society events in the last few years. He died on 31st August 2020.

Barry Wiseman entered Newport in 1946 from Potter Street School in Harlow. He proved to be a very fine all-round sportsman. He played in the School 1st teams for both Cricket and Football and was Athletics Champion in his final year. He was also a member of the School’s ATC. On leaving Newport in 1951 he read science at London University. After graduating he became a Polytechnic lecturer in science. He was a long-standing member and supporter of the Society. He died on 16th November 2020.

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”

Prints of the Academy: 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 pencil sketch and these can still be purchased. The cost of a print is £19 to include postage and packaging. Please see the pro-forma on page 6.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE O.N. SOCIETY 100-CLUB FOR 2020/21

[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] at £12 each for membership of the O.N.Society 100-Club.

I enclose a cheque * for £_______ Name [Block Capitals] ______________________________________

Address [BlockCapitals]____________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

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]

* ALTERNATIVELY please email the details above to   ckh1941@hotmail.com
and pay online to ON SOC 100 CLUB  sort code  30 97 24  a/c  00447983

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROFORMA FOR PURCHASING PRINTS

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

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