Gordon Scott was appointed as a Deputy Head of the School in 1985. He was educated at Bancrofts School, Loughton and Trinity Hall Cambridge. He is a very keen Hockey player and very quickly involved himself in all aspects of Hockey at the School. From his early years at Newport Gordon has been a great supporter of the ON Society. He attends the Annual Dinner and has played for the ON Cricket team against the School for the last 20 years and with Di Reed organises the ON v School Hockey Matches. He writes the following:

A few weeks ago I was talking to a colleague from another school who it transpired had started teaching at the same time as I did and he pointed out that I was just about to knock up another century. Unfortunately this was not at Lords as I might have dreamt but my 100th term of teaching which I shall complete at Christmas! It is also a salutary thought that those I first taught A level to must now have passed their own half century!

I was brought up in Chingford in north east London and went to the local junior school. My favourite subject at this stage was arithmetic. As a result of the 11+ I was awarded a place as a direct grant student at Bancroft’s School where I spent seven very enjoyable years –even though we had lessons on Saturday mornings. In my first term I was taught mathematics by the headmaster and the only thing that I can remember was when a couple of pupils were late for a lesson he pointed out that if every lesson started one minute late then we would waste 8 minutes a day, 40 minutes or one lesson a week, 13 lessons per term, 39 lessons per year, 240 lessons or a whole half term in our 7 years in the school and all from being just one minute late!!

The standard of teaching varied enormously and I was a student who responded well when I was interested and motivated but tended to switch off a little when I either did not see the point or found the subject dull. Certainly the most consistently interesting teachers – to me at least – were those who taught geography and history and I found it difficult to decide which I wanted to study further.

When it came to applying to university I was very surprised when the headmaster suggested that I should have a go at Cambridge. I was pleased because as a family we had always watched the boat race on TV and my father and I had always supported Cambridge whilst my mother and brother had always supported Oxford. No one in my family had been to university before but I was pleasantly surprised to find that this was not the case. The opportunities were enormous and I represented the college at
hockey, cricket, swimming, water polo and bridge as well as being involved in the Christian Union. I studied geography for two years with some inspiring teachers. I then decided that I really wanted to follow up my interest in American history that had been generated by a Mr Mermagen when at Bancrofts so switched and took Part 2 of the history tripos. This also enabled me to study African history and the Tang dynasty of China both fascinating subjects. Lectures on Chinese history were given at 5pm by Professor Twitchett who was editing the Cambridge histories of China in about 20 volumes! He would arrive without any notes at 5pm and at 6.30pm would still be going strong – half an hour after the supposed end.

Following Cambridge I moved to Bristol to do my PGCE course. Then a post was advertised at Bristol Grammar School wanting a geographer who would also coach hockey and cricket! It was a great place to start a teaching career. Amazingly we had just one staff meeting a year and no other meetings at all and yet the school seemed to function extremely well. I spent five years there before moving to Churchill School, a large comprehensive to the south of Bristol as Head of Geography. Six years later I applied to Newport Free Grammar School and was appointed as deputy Head in January 2006.

I have always believed that education goes far beyond the classroom and one of the great strengths of Newport Free Grammar School has been the wide range of extra curricular activities that have been provided and the enormous amount of time that staff have put into them. As many of you will already know hockey has been a major interest of mine. When I first arrived at Newport and indeed for many years afterwards we had Year 11 games on a Friday afternoon (so that nobody had to teach them in a classroom at the end of the week) and we used to play hockey on the tarmac at the back of E Block. From there we somehow acquired some goals and took to playing on the outfield of the cricket ground and started having a few boys’ fixtures against other schools. Then 14 years ago in conjunction with Saffron Walden Hockey Club we were able to get grants for over £220000 to build an all weather pitch and the school has not looked back since. Over the past few years there have been a number of moments that I shall never forget: the first time that we won a County tournament with the U13 girls in 2000; reaching the semi finals of the U16 girls National Indoor Finals in 2004; the tours to South Africa (including turning around a fully laden 747 when taken ill on the way home); the U16 boys knocking the Perse the National Champions out of the U16 tournament in 2006 and the U16 girls winning the National Plate in 2007 being among the most memorable. The students have been great to work with and many of them have in turn helped to coach the next generations.

The Old Newportonian Society gives a wonderful opportunity to keep in touch. I still hear regularly from a number of the tutor group that I had for five years at Churchill. For teachers it is always interesting to find out how those that one has taught have progressed over the years. A couple of years ago when David, our younger son, was going to get married we went to the Baptist Church in Saffron Walden and the new minister was a Simon Mattholie. I said to Geraldine, my wife, “I remember that name, I must have taught him.” After the service I spoke to him and asked when he had left Newport but he replied that he had not been at Newport at which I was somewhat surprised. However, it transpired that I had taught him geography way back in 1982 when he was in Year 9 at Churchill School in Somerset – when I got home I even checked up in my old mark book.

It was a surprise when Keith Huddleston asked me if I would be the 77th President of the Society. I have thoroughly enjoyed the 22 years that I have been at the school. There have been many changes over that time and enormous developments. I have worked with many really dedicated colleagues. I sometimes wonder whether I might have pursued some other career but the rewards in seeing young people develop and achieving their goals have always given me great satisfaction. It is the contact with the students both in and out of the classroom that gives the greatest pleasure rather than the interminable paperwork.

National Success for the Six-a-Side Football Team in 1965
In the last newsletter [July 2007] there was an article about the Newport Under Sixteen Girls Hockey Team which won the National Schools Championship Plate on 13 May at Nottingham. This was the first National Hockey Championship the School had won but not the first time the School had achieved National Success in a sporting competition as Alan Saggars [1960-88] was quick to point out.

In 1965 the School Six-a-Side Football Team was entered for the Public Schools’ National Six-a-Side Football Competition. The School team was knocked out in the first round by Bradford Grammar School [the eventual winners] and therefore took part in the Plate Competition for those schools eliminated in the first round. The School Team beat Ardingly College 2-1 in the first round of the Plate, they beat Eton College 4-0 in the semi-final and defeated Dulwich College 4-2 in the final. The following played for the School Team [including reserves]: David Brown [Captain]; Alan Beadle; Jock Ferguson; John Hale; Malcolm Sawden; Stephen Hardy; David Little [goalkeeper].

There is a photograph of the highly successful 1964/65 First Team Squad in Volume Two of Fred Thompson's Sons of Joyce Frankland [the Register of all those who entered the School between 1945 and 1975].

This photograph shows everyone who took part in the Six-a-Side Competition as well as the trophies they won that year including the Plate.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. Friday 22 February 2008: 20.00 onwards; Gathering of ONs at the Coach & Horses, Newport
The committee hope that as many ONs as possible who are in the Newport/Saffron Walden area on the evening of 22 February 2008 will try to drop in to the Coach & Horses at some time during the evening. This is always a most enjoyable occasion and frequently brings together ONs who have not seen each other for a long time. The date of this “Gathering” [always a Friday] is chosen to be as close as conveniently possible to Foundress Day which is on the 20 February. The 20 February is Foundress day because Dame Joyce Frankland’s will was dated 20 February 1586. Her will made provision for a School to be founded at Newport.

2. Saturday 26 April 2008: Annual Football, Hockey & Cross Country Matches v the School
As in 2007 there will be two Hockey Matches. The Woman’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 10.15 and the Cross Country Match at 11.00am. If you wish to take part in any of these matches please complete the enclosed proforma and return it to the O.N.Society Secretary at the School. This occasion has now become a major event in the Society and School calendar. Apart from the players many other ONs [as well as Parents of students who are playing for the school] come to watch and often meet some of their contemporaries whom they have not seen since leaving School. The usual Refreshments will be served in the Club House [next to the pavilion] after the matches. Please make a note of the date and try to come along on 26 April 2008. There will be two Hockey matches

The Mixed Hockey match starts at 11.00am and the Cricket Match at 2.00pm. If you wish to take part in either or both of these matches please complete the enclosed proforma and return it to the O.N.Society Secretary at the School. 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. The Annual Cricket Match will be the usual limited overs game [40 overs per side]. Tea, to which everyone is invited, will be taken between the two innings at about 4.30pm in the Club House next to the Pavilion. Di Read and Gordon Scott will organise the Hockey Teams for the matches on 26 April and 6 July.

4. Annual Golf Match between the Society and the Saffron Walden Golf Club: Friday in either September or October 2008. The actual date will be given in the July 2008 newsletter. Anyone who may be interested in playing and would like more information please contact Don Hirst, 1 Highfields, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2AD; Tel, 01799 502244

5. Saturday 4 October 2008: AGM at 6.00pm: Annual Dinner at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Please make a note in your 2008 diary of these two most important events. Further details will be given in the next newsletter which will be sent out in July 2008. Please also note that the AGM will start at 6.00pm. The change of time has been requested by ONs who wish to bring their partners to the dinner. The later time of 6.00pm will mean that ONs can attend the AGM and their partners will not have a long wait before the start of the dinner. To ensure that the AGM ends in good time minutes of the previous AGM will not be read [which usually takes 15 minutes] but will be circulated to those present.

REPORTS AND RESULTS

The Saffron Walden Golf Club retained the Fred Thompson Trophy by easily winning the match four games to one game. The trophy was presented to the winning captain by Fred Thompson who was present at the dinner after the match. The match as usual was a most enjoyable occasion and the hospitality of the Saffron Walden team was again excellent. The following played for the O.N.Society team:
Thanks must go to all those ONs who took part. Especial thanks must go to Don Hirst who, as usual undertook all the hard work in arranging the match with the Saffron Walden Golf Club and getting the O.N.Society team together. His task was made more difficult this year as the Saffron Walden Golf Club had to change the date of the match [from the 5th to the 31st October] at a very late stage.

2. AGM: Saturday 6 October 2007 at 5.00pm
This took place in the Memorial Library and was attended by 19 members of the Society. Before the meeting started the Secretary reported the death on 25-9-07 of Alec Selby [1956-85] a former Deputy Head of the School. All those present stood in silence for a few moments in his memory [see obituaries]. The Treasurer, Graham Harding presented the audited statement of accounts for the year ending 31 May 2006 copies of which were distributed to all present. He 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.
The following elections were made for 2007/08:

3. Annual Dinner: Saturday 6 October 2006
This was held in the main School Hall. 78 people attended. There were a number of ONs present who were attending for the first time as well as some who had not attended for a very long time, The Deputy Head Girl, Abigail Thurgood-Buss proposed the toast to the Pious Memory of Dame Joyce Frankland Keith Huddleston [64-02]] proposed the toast to the School to which the Headmaster, Sean O'Hagan replied. In his response the Head said that the School is in very good heart and continues to make excellent progress. The 2007 A-Level results were especially pleasing and placed the School in the top 5% of all Secondary Schools in the country.

The Old Newportian Society 100-Club
As reported in the July newsletter 2007 has been a record year for the 100-Club. 205 membership tickets have been sold. As a result of this magnificent response well over £1000 has been raised to support the School and help run the Society. The committee are extremely grateful to all those Ons who have become members of the 100-Club this year and much appreciate their generosity. Some of the money raised by the 100-Club will be used to place a transparent [perspex or the equivalent] sheet over the pavilion clock to prevent it from being continuously damaged by footballs. The pavilion clock was presented to the School in 1992 in memory of two former deputy Heads, Harry Mitchell[31-68] and Ken Yates [55-84].

Current membership of the 100-Club ends on 31 January 2008. The committee very much hope that all those who purchased tickets this year will renew their membership in 2008. The cost of one ticket is £12 and there is no limit on the number membership tickets anyone can purchase. If you wish to join as a new member then please complete the relevant section of the enclosed proforma and send it with your cheque to the ON Society Secretary at the School. Please make cheques payable to the ON Society 100-Club. The closing date for entry into the first draw of the new year is 31 January 2008. Those Ons who are already members of the 100-Club will, as usual receive a separate invitation to renew their existing membership.

Winners since the last Newsletter

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<th>Prize</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<td>July 07</td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>W.B.Johnson</td>
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<td>£20</td>
<td>J.A.Smith</td>
<td>193</td>
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<td></td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>D.Steel</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>August 07</td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>J.Ransom</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>£20</td>
<td>T.R.Green</td>
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<td></td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>A.Bush</td>
<td>159</td>
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<td>R.Bedford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>D.Monk</td>
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New Members since the last Newsletter
A.M.Des Clayes [05-07]; J.Ingram; C.Chandler; J.Matthews; A.Thomas; J.Brown; J.Bone [all 2000-07]; E.Deary [01-06]; R.Warren [02-07]; R.Montague [58-62].

Deaths
The following deaths have been reported to the Secretary since the last newsletter: J.E.Pocock [25-28]; B.Parkin[40-45]; A.L.Selby[56-85]
John Pocock, who was one of the oldest members of the Society died in 2005. The news of his death was only reported to the Secretary in August this year. John Pocock was with the London Fire Brigade during the Second World
War eventually becoming a Bomb Disposal Officers and an expert in explosives. After the war he was an Executive with British Leyland.

**Bernard Parkin** briefly worked for British Rail before joining the National Westminster Bank where he worked until his retirement.

**Alec Selby** was Educated at Loughborough College and appointed Head of the Woodwork and Metalwork Department in 1956 [He succeeded Ken Lampard who died earlier this year]. In 1975 he became a Deputy Head of the School a position he held until his retirement in 1985. He was a great supporter of the Society and rarely missed the Annual Dinner.

His cremation took place at Cambridge and was attended by several members of the Society as well as former teaching colleagues. All those who attended the Annual Dinner this year stood for a few moments as mark of respect to someone who had been a force for good throughout his time at the School.

**Email Addresses**

If you have an email address but do not receive the newsletters via email please send your email address to the ON Society Secretary at the School. If you have sent in your email address but still receive the newsletters by post please let the Secretary know.

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**Proforma for taking part in the Sporting Fixtures against the School**

**Saturday 26 April 2008**

Football_______________;        Cross Country_______________;

Men's Hockey Match_______________;        Woman's Hockey Match_______________;

**Sunday 6 July 2008**

Cricket_________________________;         Mixed Hockey___________________________;

Please tick on the appropriate line

Name [Block Capitals]

____________________________________

Address [Block Capitals]

____________________________________

____________________________________Tel No.

Email Address

____________________________________

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**Application for membership to the O.N. Society 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]

____________________________________

____________________________________Tel. No.

Email Address

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