

welcome but it is suggested that a call to John Wilson on 0121 475 3700 would be advisable to ensure that others will be present.

London & South East Section

The Section has had a busy start to the year with the Annual Dinner attracting an attendance of 55 old boys, spanning OMs who left School in the 1940s to those who left last year. Details of the Section's summer event will be released on the the OM website over the next few weeks. Other dates for the diary include a pub evening on Thursday 14 October from 6.30, and the AGM on Wednesday 10 November. All OMs are encouraged to join the Section, or the thriving London Universities sub section, and are welcome to all events. Details from the secretary Nicholas Gartside at nicholas.gartside@schroders.com

South West Section

Our next event is the annual Commemoration Service in Exeter Cathedral on Sunday 27 June. We attend Matins in the Cathedral at 11.15am and this is followed by the short commemoration service by Hugh Oldham's tomb. We then move to the nearby Southgate Hotel for lunch after which the High Master gives his annual address.

All Old Mancunians are most welcome to attend this event and should contact John Smith, the SW Section Secretary, for more details. Tel: 01275 843349 or email: johningsmith@chyanmor.wanadoo.co.uk

20/30 Club

Our 2010 chairman Geoffrey Stone gave us a fascinating talk about "A schoolboy in Nazi Germany" in February. We were joined on this occasion by guests from MGS (OMs and current pupils) and also several visitors with no school connection. After our March lunch, John Harvey entertained us at the piano, pointing out links between some of the composers and the music he played. He had been introduced to several of the pieces as a

youngster without realising there were any connections until much later.

We return to our regular watering hole off Deansgate for lunch in May, and visit School again on Monday 14 June for our buffet lunch. For further details contact the secretary at alex_wells@tiscali.co.uk

Since the last TOM we have been advised of the recent deaths of the following OMs:

P M Webster (60-67) M T Horwich (33-39)
 I L Simms (56-63) H F G Gwyther (45-54)
 W R Riley (34-41) B N Lonsdale (44-49)
 E M Halon (36-40) J S Harvey (57-63)
 B Wilkins (22-25) J Rubins (57-64)
 G J Furnival (42-45) D K Hawley (47-52)
 J A Calvert (49-51) G W Hamer (31-36)
 D E Greenwood (48-54) P H Owen (36-40)
 P C Brittain (32-37) G A Davenport (41-49)
 A C Wilson (41-48) R C Whitnall (23-30)
 M I Jacobs (49-55) S Cohen (67-74)
 A Rothwell (21-26) A Crawford (42-44)
 A J Arthur (45-49) D T Gee (39-46)
 A C Dutton (47-52) J T Berry (33-39)
 H Platt (33-38) P D F Higginbotham (54-61)
 P Schofield Pupil (46-48) and Staff (54-94)
 J A M Sturch (62-69) R R Bromley (36-39)

We would welcome offers to supply brief obituaries or memories for *Ulula*.

Correspondence to Julie Wright at MGS, Old Hall Lane, Manchester M13 0XT (j.wright@mgs.org) 0161 224 1746 or to John Horsfield at School. Closing date for the next edition is 4 September 2010.

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April 2010

The Old Mancunian

Edition 34

EDITOR'S NOTES

MGS has been very fortunate over the years in the calibre of its medical officers and in the way in which they came to identify the school. One has in mind Dr Mumford who during the Great War attempted the only comprehensive history of the school so far. Then there are Dr Brockbank whose superb collection of cricket literature now reposes at the John Rylands Library in Deansgate and Dr Fisher who treasured his time serving MGS and being a member of the Common Room. Now there is Dr Mackay, a nonagenarian, no less, who continues cataloguing work in the MGS archives.

Reminiscences of MGS treks and camps naturally evoke their arduous nature. Not all MGS forays abroad have been so character testing. I recall the gourmandising and drinking on the 1954 MGS tour of Provence. Our base was the Grand Hotel Toppin in Cavailon. The masters on the coach trip included Corbett, Tenen, Bell and Hewitson. Of my fellow sixth form travellers I only recall off hand Christopher Druce. The main physical challenge was to be ready in time for the next morning's coach trip! I do not recall the cultural aspect of the venture but I do remember the bidet in the middle of the hotel bedroom which I thought at the time was a container for flowers. In retrospect, this July tour was a very pleasant farewell to MGS school life, for within a month of it ending, I was starting basic infantry training at Preston.

Just as guests make a party so do readers make a magazine. A number of you have furnished us with most informative memories of Dobson and Young, the war time broadcasters. You have furnished, too, good memories of Arthur Booth. Inevitably not all

the memories you provide have a golden glow. Barry Posner (1934-41) and Ron Naylor (1949-56) have unpleasant recollections of Billy Hulme, and they are by no means alone in this. I will focus on him in our next issue.

John Horsfield

FROM THE HIGH MASTER

Dr Christopher Ray

Last Saturday my wife and I attended the funeral of Harold Gwyther (MGS 1945-54) at Mellor Church, which was overflowing with family, friends, former colleagues and OMs remembering him with deep affection and huge admiration. For many years Harold (nicknamed poi by the classicist Simkins) had been a stalwart member, later joint leader, of Scout Troop 1 which has some very distinguished alumni, including Sir Ben Kingsley, Robert Powell, Sir Howard Davies and Maurice Watkins. Maurice, who is our current Chairman of Governors, also attended the funeral.

When OMs think back to their school days, so many remember their lives outside the classroom and the impact that men like Harold had upon them. That extra-curricular life remains very much central to the life of the School. The scouts may no longer be a part of the MGS world, but our boys are nevertheless fully engaged in the immense number of activities and sports (129 at the last count) offered. We are certainly proud of the twenty-plus boys currently in the school who have won international honours in a wide range of sports. But we are also desperately proud (for example) of each one of the 350 members of the rugby club, most of whom play for pure enjoyment through which many lasting bonds of friendship are forged. The deadline for submission of articles to

this edition of TOM is the last day of the Lent Term, now a special day in our calendar. On this day the annual Phil Wade (MGS 1994-2001) Memorial Rugby Match is played. Phil, a former 1st XV captain, was tragically killed in a car accident just a year after he left MGS. Former pupils and members of staff form the two sides which do amicable 'battle' in his memory for a trophy presented by his family. Phil was unable to fulfil the huge potential that he had demonstrated during his time at MGS. However, like Harold, the positive impact that he made on those around him was palpable and, again like Harold, he is remembered with deep affection.

But they are just two OMs amongst so many whose lives enriched our own.

OM LETTERS:

Roger Williamson 1951-58 writes:

I am puzzled by the views expressed by the High Master in the September edition of the Old Mancunian. He is a strong and unashamed advocate of selection for schools such as MGS (I disagree with him but that's a different argument).

How can this be squared with the opening of the new Junior section of MGS? Attending this school is equivalent to being given a 30 metre start in a 100 metre race when it comes to selective entry to MGS at age 11.

This is exactly the reason why Eric James, who also believed in selection but wanted it to be based as far as possible on ability, disposed of Sale High School and the other prep schools.

I'm baffled.

Linda Hamilton Head of Junior Section writes:

Dear Mr Williamson

I would like to clear up some possible misconceptions relating to your letter of 9 October 2009.

The boys in the Junior Section are not prepared for the entrance examination, as they

move automatically into the Senior School at age 11. Moreover, no preparation is needed for the Junior Section assessment as we're looking for raw ability and potential, irrespective of previous educational experience. Boys are assessed within a small group over a day, observing their individual talents in imaginative lessons and group work. A written assessment follows each lesson and demonstrates how quickly a boy can pick up and adapt new ideas. We have found this to be a very successful and fair way of testing.

Over the past year and a half I have given lots of tours to Old Mancunians and I would be delighted to extend the invitation to anyone wanting to know more about our new venture.

John Green 1960-68 writes:

One sad memory of Speech Day at the Free Trade Hall. I was in the school orchestra and we had played a couple of pieces as part of the ceremony. David Cawthra was Head of Music and conducted the orchestra. At the end of the proceedings he told us all to remain in our places and he announced that he was leaving MGS; I think he had accepted a post at Exeter University. He was a very popular teacher and we were stunned to learn he wouldn't be there the following September. He then came round and shook hands with every single member of the orchestra. It was a very emotional moment! This must have taken place in 1965.

Rev John Hartley 1968-75 writes:

I was sorry to read of Peter Mason's death, for I have referred to him (without mentioning his name, of course) in my sermons for many years. In my teenage years my picture of God was rather like my picture of the High Master. It was his job to run the school and raise the money to keep it going, and it was my job to learn my lessons and keep the rules: but actually I never spoke to him personally before it was time for him to write a reference for me to go on to University - and

grounds of MGS. Tickets are priced at £15.00 and includes a drinks reception, a light supper and entertainment. For further details contact Rosie Ames-Greenall at rosemary@ihs.u-net.com or 07768 093703.

OMA MEMBERSHIP

Why not join the Old Mancunians' Association? You will receive *Ulula* and the *Annual Report*, as well as support various projects at School. Membership is just £12 per year. You can download the membership forms from www.oldmancunians.org. Paper copies are available; contact Julie Wright at school.

VISIT US

The tours organised for OMs have been very successful. We suggest you book a tour during term time when boys are at work and play! Telephone or email Jane Graham in the Development Office to reserve your place.

OMA SECTION EVENTS

Chess Section

The Chess Section's activities resumed after a break of two-and-a-half years with another tournament pitting teams of Old Mancs from different eras against each other and the School. After three successes for the School from 2001-2003 in this format, the "Oldest" (1970s entry) Mancs (Goodger, Richman, Webster) won in 2004, followed by successes in 2005 and 2006 for the "Old" (1990s entry) Mancs (Shaw, Fish, Izod), and in 2007 for an "all-age" team (Goodger, Webster, Izod, Harthan). The 2010 event took place in the School Archive Room on Monday 22 March.

There was some debate at the end of the event as to whether there was a clear winner. It had been agreed at the start that if two or more teams ended up with the same number of match points and game points, "board count" would also be used to break the tie. Normally, this method is applied only to matches between the teams in the tie, in which case the board count would have been 1-2 in favour of the Oldest Mancs. The Old

Mancs (with two barristers on their team) sought to argue that it should be applied to all the matches in the event, and suggested that this would break the tie in their favour. Having reserved judgment on these submissions, it still seems to me that the tie-break is in favour of the Oldest Mancs. To read the full report go to www.oldmancunians.org.

Three days after the event, the Chess Section held a private dinner at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, at which Oldest Mancs captain Martyn Goodger was formally presented with the Clements Cup by its sponsor, Duncan Clements.

We hope to organise another event in London, and to arrange to meet in Manchester on Sunday afternoon for a social ahead of the next match against the School on a Monday. The Old Mancunians Association Chess Section has a Facebook group where photos from our recent events are posted: do join and keep in touch. Peter Webster, Secretary at peter@thea.ltd.uk

Midlands Section

At a recent meeting of the committee the Chairman for 2008-2009, Dan Binnion, tendered his resignation which was received with regret. The following appointments for 2009 -2010 were also made:- Chairman and Secretary – John Wilson, Treasurer- Roger Taylor, Membership Secretary – Michael Kennedy and Auditor – Chris Diggines. Michael Kennedy assisted by Chris Diggines will be taking steps to contact as many OMs as possible in the Midlands area with a view to increasing the membership numbers of the Section. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to know anything further. The AGM and Luncheon will take place on Sunday 14 November and a Summer function will be held at a date yet to be confirmed but will appear in a future edition of TOM. A small number of us still meet at the Old Joint Stock, Temple Row, Birmingham on the first Tuesday of the month. Any OM is

Oxford, only possible because of the support and expertise MGS provided. I'm a kid who was given a chance. That's what the bursary scheme provides. That's what changes lives. At present we are able to support almost 250 boys, a remarkable total, but some worthy candidates are sadly turned away each year. Further details are available on request from the Development Office (0161 224 1746) or at www.mgs.org (choose *Our Future*, then *Leaving a Legacy*)

Ian Thorpe, Director of Development



The major building works to the theatre and the adjacent drama studios have now been completed and the new fly-tower stands proud on the school skyline. Mechanical and electrical work continues in the expectation that the new facilities will be handed over during the summer. We are planning a drama festival for the autumn and will be writing to all our donors to invite them to attend as our guests.

It's still possible to sponsor a seat – for details, and to see photos of the transformation taking place, see www.mgs.org.

MGS ARCTIC NORWAY TREK

It is now '45 years on' and I am trying to contact old boys who went on this trip. I met Colin Mortlock recently & we talked of having a reunion & putting together a very belated expedition report, viewing the film etc to be held at the school. Only a few mem-

bers seem to be on the OM register but others may be known to some who are. If you know anyone or you were one of the 'adventurers' please contact me at kevin.bradbury@w3z.co.uk or Holt Wood Cottage, Lea, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 5GN, Tel: 07860 272290 or 01629 534341 Kevin Bradbury 1955-61

LET US KNOW

We are always pleased to hear news of Old Mancs. Please share your (or your OM friends') achievements with us – email old-boys@mgs.org or phone (0161 224 1746) or write to us in the Development Office at School.

1990s REUNION DINNER

In May 2011 we will be holding our first 1990s Reunion Dinner. Old Boys who joined the school in the 1990s will be invited to come along for their very first reunion dinner. A chance to see what has changed and what surprisingly has stayed the same! An opportunity to meet up with old friends and teachers and enjoy an informal dinner at school.

I will shortly be looking for a group of OMs from the era to make up an organising committee. If you could get into school for four or five evening meetings between December and May and are interested in getting involved please contact Jane Graham at j.graham@mgs.org

OM PUBLICATIONS

Roy Sudlow 1941-46

I Remember It Well - Memoirs of an Ordinary Man

THE CARPENTER'S SON

If you have a copy of this publication written by John Berry who taught Divinity at MGS 1966-80 and would be willing to pass it on or to loan it out please contact Julie Wright at school.

MGS PARENTS' SOCIETY SUMMER PARTY SATURDAY 3 JULY

This event will be a fun evening in the

I accepted this as completely normal. So far as I could see he was a nice man and a well-organised administrator, and he ran an outfit which I very much appreciated. The idea that he might also have time to get to know individual pupils never entered my head, and it was, of course, quite unrealistic in such a large school. And that was how I pictured God as well: he ran the universe, I conformed, but the idea of a personal relationship with him did not enter my head. It was only when I went on to university that I met people who pointed out (among other things) that Jesus did not teach his disciples to pray "Our Head Teacher who art in heaven".

Bob Terry 1941-48 writes:

Yes, I remember Arthur Booth. He came to MGS when I was in the first XI and he supervised our net practices after school. This was in 1948. He was a small, wiry man whose face showed the worn lines of many years of sunshine on the cricket field. He took two of us, myself and Don Matthews to take part in a cricket match at Ruthin School in North Wales. I played against the Headmaster's XI which included a friend of Arthur's called George Tribe, the Australian test spinner. I had never before faced a bowler who was able to make the cricket ball spit and turn so much off the pitch and I didn't score many runs. (Incidentally, the opposition also included a very young Bob Barber who later opened the batting for England.) Don did well and took some wickets with his accurate pace bowling, which he delivered with his very smooth, attractive bowling action. He and I later played cricket for Birmingham University and then we went our separate ways.

James Muckle 1948-55 writes:

In response to the editor's reference to Sir Ernest Barker in Edition 33 - His chapter in 'Father of the Man' on MGS in the 1880s or

thereabouts is splendid. When I was teaching teacher-trainees at Nottingham University, I used it - along with Stefan Zweig's account of education in a Viennese grammar school at the same time in 'The World of Yesterday' - to stimulate discussion about the aims of education and related matters. It is a splendid piece, and it was Jack Rivers who thrust it into my hands when I was in Modern Sixth and thus introduced it to me. Of course, Barker's 'elitist' attitudes did not please all modern teacher-training students, but most could see past that to the truth behind it. I remember an OMA dinner at Cambridge in 1958-59 when Barker had just died and we stood in his memory. Quite right too! He deserved it.

Tony Drake 1960-67 writes:

Re: Arthur Booth. I had one season in the cricket 1st XI (1967) as a "bits and pieces" player (though I did go on to captain Wadham College 1st XI at Oxford). I have good reason to remember Arthur with affection. I had been orphaned the previous year in a horrific car crash and, although I was well looked after in my final year at MGS by the families of fellow MGS students (Andrew Wallace and Paul Rose), there were times during the school day when I needed to be alone with my thoughts. Arthur allowed me to sit in his groundsman's/coach's hut on the field, when the need arose. He also gave me, from his own stock, a cricket bat (Peter May autograph!) because he knew I could not afford my own.

In the wider cricket world, Dennis Silk* once told the story of captaining an MCC touring side which included the Yorkshire and England left arm spinner Don Wilson. As often happens on cricket tours, late night drinking and conversation turned to speculation about matters philosophical and religious. Don, who had been dozing, suddenly woke up and said, "God? You must be talking about Arthur Booth...." Arthur had

helped Don in the early days of his career. For more about Arthur, read the chapter on him in "Purple Patches" by Ralph Barker (Collins 1987). Incidentally, Arthur once told me that his own favourite MGS cricketer was Alan Crossley, wicket-keeper/batsman, who went on to play minor counties cricket for many years for Oxfordshire.

*D.R.W.Silk, later Warden of Radley College.

Philip Parker 1939-46 writes:

In the January TOM, the High Master announces the planned return of "public Speech Days" after years of "largely utilitarian affairs" and he invites recollections of past Speech Days. My best recollection is the Speech Day of 1945, my last-but-one year at MGS.

Official records tell me there was no Speech Day in 1940, the first summer of the war. The following winter the Free Trade Hall was destroyed in the blitz and until it was rebuilt in 1951, Speech Day (Founders' Day too) could not be held there. In the following years of the war they were held in the school hall – no room for parents or guests.

But then, from 1945 until 1951, Speech Day was held in Manchester's Palace Theatre. It may, as an official record relates, have "lacked solemnity", but it housed an emotional event in the summer of 1945, the last year of the war, when MGS first held its Speech Day there. I remember a warm, sunny afternoon, a festive mood, boys and parents chatting in groups on Oxford Road before and after the celebration, which was directed, as usual, by "Dicky" Radford with the firmness, style and love of music which we brought to these events. As always we sang "Hugh of the Owl" and "Forty Years On" and a special song, strong, well rehearsed and moving – "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Even Dicky's croakers" seemed to find voices that day.

Barrie Quilliam 1947-52 writes:

In 1946 there was a Sale High School trip to Interlaken in Switzerland. We took the ferry to Ostend in very heavy weather and then crossed war torn Europe in a third class carriage. My memory tells me that we were on the train in Belgium and France for about 20 hours without food or water in a compartment with wooden seats, but transferred to a better standard of carriage in Switzerland.

1946 was the peak of food rationing in Britain and there was still a lot of bomb damage to be repaired. Switzerland was like a different world with no rationing and no war damage.

We discovered duvets, double glazing and Toblerone. On the first day we walked into town and bought chocolate. Of course we threw the wrappers on the ground. A Swiss lady reprimanded us saying "We do not do that in Switzerland."

There was also a party of girls from a school that I think was called Manchester Central High or something similar. We fraternised and went on some trips with them, but I do not think any relationship was consummated with even a kiss, despite our hopes.

At the end of the week we had an afternoon of free time. As usual, a friend and I got up to mischief. With a third boy, we climbed up the track of a disused funicular, although this had been specifically forbidden. The third boy fell from the top and broke his arm. We were grounded.

THE PLOT THICKENS

In response to the enquiry made in the last edition as to the whereabouts of the missing features from the plinth of the MGS Book of Remembrance, Warwick Burton 1966-73 advises that they were brass angels and it was announced in the Memorial Hall circa 1970 by the Second Master at that time, Mr Stone, that one of the angels had been stolen. It would appear that the angels were in place to rest the wooden doors of the display cabi-

net when open. The fate of the other angel is still unknown.

DOBSON & YOUNG

A huge thank you to all who responded to enlighten us about this musical duo who were very well known broadcasters throughout the war with programmes such as Music with a Smile. Here are a selection:-

Mike Broadbent 1944 –50 writes:-

I don't know a lot about Dobson and Young, but I clearly remember going to MGS one evening to listen to them in a crowded school hall with my mother and father. As a keen amateur musician my father had often listened to D & Y on the radio. It must have been in 1944/45 because a memory has suddenly sprung out of nowhere of the then High Master, Douglas Miller, getting a laugh by inadvertently introducing them as "Barker & Dobson" - well-known manufacturers of confectionery.

D & Y were classical musicians who made their name not by playing but by lecturing on many aspects of their art. Walter Dobson gave the tongue-in-cheek lectures while Walter Young played illustrative recordings on 78 records on a wind-up gramophone. They were very well-known broadcasters throughout the war.

James Muckle 1948-55 writes:-

These were a couple of popular intellectuals who tried during the War and afterwards to introduce classical music (mainly, but not exclusively) to the masses. They were popular on radio (wireless, we called it then!) as there was no such thing - or very little - as television. I do not remember them coming to MGS, but I did meet Walter Dobson in 1956 (by which time, I think, Young had died, but I may be wrong) when he came to a meeting in Manchester of the Society of Recorder Players. He and Young were keen educators, both of youngsters and adults. I remember he (1) accused us of very poor playing, (2) worked very hard to get us to

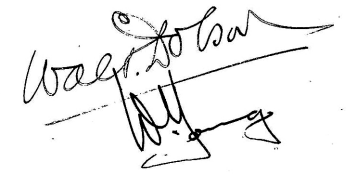
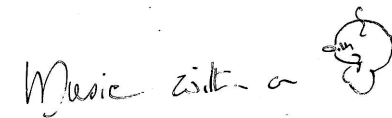
improve and (3) absolutely wowed the old biddies and me (I was on leave from National Service in the RAF) with his insults and encouragement - in equal portions. A splendid man, and I've no doubt he wowed the MGS-ites when he and his partner came.

David Pearce 1939-45 taken from a copy of his essay written in October 1944:-

He started by telling us why he was giving this talk and what his task was when he was talking to the forces. What he wanted to make sure of was that we were all getting the best out of music. He said we were all experts on music, we had all been listening to music for many years, we were listening to music before we could talk. It is because we were all experts that we must make sure of getting the best out of music.

Mr Dobson said "Everyone has his own particular taste and will have one favourite type of music, but he should not refuse to listen to other music and should make sure he is getting the best out of his music."

Roy Lawrence 1943-50 sends us from his autograph book:-

LEGACIES

We are very grateful to all those who have responded to last year's request to include MGS amongst the charities they intend to support in their will. Bequests to MGS are exempt from Inheritance Tax and help us to extend access to MGS to clever boys who come from less well-off backgrounds. Sam Wheeler explains: *I'm currently studying at*