

OM NEWS



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CONNECTIONS AT MONMOUTH

This is the Club's online service for those who have an association with Monmouth School, where you can register, book and pay for events, search for contemporaries and make donations securely.

www.monmouthschool.net

The Club is also on FACEBOOK and LINKEDIN



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LOOK OM NEWS

Increasingly, we are making small changes to improve our distribution of news - about our social events and what you, the membership, are up to.

Our website has taken on a more modern appearance and we are pleased to launch our new look newsletter, which will be produced twice a year. It will, hopefully, become more 'chatty' and I trust will encourage more and more Old Boys to bring us up to date with their activities and achievements.

The Club is now in its 130th year and continues to grow from strength to strength,

moving forward hand in hand with the School, supporting it and the boys whenever it can. This has included giving money towards a new boat, an electronic scoreboard, wicket covers and supporting scores of tours, which have added to the boys' enjoyment and experiences whilst at school, often helping those who would otherwise be unable to benefit.

The Club's charitable arm - the Monmothian Charitable Trust gets ever stronger under the guidance of Sir Frank Davies. The Club and the Trust are committed to maintaining the wide range of high-calibre boys from all

walks of life attending the School...injecting another substantial amount of money into the Bursary Appeal.

I like to think that we are, in some small way, continuing William Jones's generosity in supporting an establishment that has become one of the UK's leading independent boarding and day schools, nationally renowned for its academic, sporting, artistic and musical achievements. There are some great examples of Monmouth's success featured in the following pages.

Anu Mohindru
President



YOUR OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Anu Mohindru (86-93)

VICE PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY

Ray Blight (77-82)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Roger Atkins (49-57)

TREASURER

Ian Bowen (45-50)

OM NEWS & THE MONMOTHIAN

There are currently 3,476 members of the Club, of whom approximately 700 are Gift-Aided members who receive the School magazine. The unit cost of The Monmothian is now such that, with packaging and the ever-increasing postage charge, it is a considerable drain on Club funds. It is proposed that we now distribute two newsletters annually – probably April and October/November – to the entire membership, and only send the magazine to those who request it and are happy to pay an optional, subsidised donation of £18 to defray costs. If you wish to continue receiving The Monmothian on that basis, please advise Sharon Finch by 31st July so that the School can determine the overall print run.

We wish to improve communication between the Club and its members and feature Old Boys more prominently in all literature. Please email information for inclusion to: info@platform-one.co.uk

NB, text may be edited or modified at the discretion of the editor, David Evans

WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please let us have your email address and social media contact information so that we can keep in touch more efficiently.

We would also like to know if you would be happy to receive the newsletter in electronic form, which will further assist our administration and postage costs.



FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

REGISTER online at www.monmouthschool.net to receive Newsletters by email and update your contact details on the website. Most events are bookable online.

MAY

Friday – Sunday 27th – **OM Reunion**, Monmouth Regatta.

OM DAY 2016

JUNE Saturday 25th

A popular date in the Club events is **OM DAY**, held at Monmouth School from 11am. The day starts with a Chapel Service led by the current Chaplain, followed by coffee and a School tour for you to see all the changes that have been made since your day. This is followed by a superb lunch in the Hitchcock Pavilion with a special **farewell to John & Rhiannon Bevan**.



'John and Rhiannon Bevan, New House Monmouth School Memoirs'. As a special memento for John please supply to Sharon any snippets, memories or personal messages for inclusion in the booklet that we intend to present to John.

Please ensure we have your email – a Survey Monkey will be sent out covering: Recent photo of yourself, Name/Nickname at School, Memorable House Moments, Hobbies, Where is Home, Personal challenges/achievements since leaving School, Aspirations over next 5 years, Other notable facts you might like to share.



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd

Henley Dinner, from 7pm.

LAST CHANCE to enjoy a superb evening at the Henley Leander Club, organised by Mike Mounsdon OM49-56. Mike is retiring from this post after a very successful 20 years.

OCTOBER

Friday 14th – **London Dinner**, Haberdashers' Hall from 6.30pm

NOVEMBER

Friday 18th – **School Challenge Dinner & Quiz**, East India Club, 16 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH, £30pp. Includes buffet style dinner and a quiz as part of Gordon Woods' 80th Birthday celebration.



JANUARY 2017

Friday 16th - **Cardiff Dinner**

Cardiff & County Club, details tbc

MONTHLY

Monmouth in London first Wednesday of the month: check website for details.

CAREER ADVISORS

Students can benefit greatly from the advice and experience passed on to them by Old Boys. Whatever your career path, there will be someone hungry to benefit from any words of wisdom you might be able to share.

If you are interested, please sign up at www.monmouthschool.net or email Sharon Finch Old.Monmothians@monmouthschool.org

WELCOME TO OM DAY FROM THE HEADMASTER



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to Old Monmothian Day on Saturday 25th June 2016.

We are keen to welcome OMs, and their friends and family, who wish to visit their old school. This year we mark the retirement of Mrs Elaine Thomas, Head of The Grange for the last nineteen years, and her husband Kevin, who has been involved with Grange Chess for the last twelve years. Mrs Sue Wilderspin retired at Christmas last year after twelve years of teaching at the Grange, and as Deputy Head for the last ten.

We will be saying farewell to Mr Paul Hunt, Housemaster of Wye House since 2001. Mr Hunt has taught music at Monmouth School for the past thirty-three years. Also, we will mark the retirement of Mr John Bevan, Housemaster of Buchanan House for the last three years; previously Housemaster of New House for twelve years prior to that; and Religious Studies teacher. He has been our master in charge of Rugby for the last three years and our 1st XV Rugby Coach. We will also wish farewell to his wife, Rhiannon Bevan who has worked enthusiastically alongside him in the boarding houses.

Dr Andrew Daniel

OM SNIPPETS

ROWING SUCCESS

Jamie Brown (2015), in his first year reading English at King's College was selected at 3 in the Cambridge boat for the Lightweight Boat Race on March 19th, which was easily won by Cambridge.



JAMIE BROWN

TERRY JONES

NEWAPPOINTMENT

Terry Jones (85-93) will take up the post of Director General to the NFU in April. He has a strong background in agriculture and food, having previously worked for the NFU and, more recently, as Director General for the Provision Trade Federation.



RICHARD PARKS - A SHINING EXAMPLE OF DETERMINATION

Richard Parks (88-95), the former Wales and Newport rugby star, is embarking on an expedition that will push him physically and mentally further than he has ever been before. In May, Richard will attempt to become the first person in history to collect a blood sample and muscle biopsy from the summit of Mount Everest. He will also climb the highest mountain in the world without using supplementary oxygen.

Project Everest Cynllun is a collaborative British research expedition, the focus of which is to explore the mechanisms underpinning cognitive decline and dementia.

In 2011 Richard became the first person to conquer the highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents and stand on all three poles, within seven months, in his 737 Challenge. In 2014 he became the fastest Briton in history to ski solo and unsupported from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole.

A shoulder injury forced Richard into early retirement from rugby: his newly-published book, *Beyond the Horizon*, charts his spiral from the verge of suicide to a re-awakening.

OLD BOYS REVISITED - a regular feature

LIFE THROUGH THE LENS - ROYAL APPOINTMENTS



AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER JACKSON OM
Photographs© Getty Images and Chris Jackson



CHRIS JACKSON

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny

**WHAT WERE YOUR YEARS AT
MONMOUTH?**

1992 - 1998

WHAT WAS YOUR HOUSE?

St James and then Chapel House

**IN WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU MOST
EXCEL?**

Excel?! Not sure about that. I certainly enjoyed Art and put a huge amount of effort into my GCSE 'resource book'. I remember being pretty devastated when it was taken apart to be put on the wall. I seemed to do well in all the things I didn't take for A-Level, like Art and Geography. I went on to take A-levels in things I was distinctly average in – Biology, Physics and Chemistry. I think I felt at the time that I should choose subjects that were more of an investment in my future rather than topics I was good at – funny to see the way things turned out! The Sciences were great fun though – I had some fantastic teachers who were really passionate: we always loved a practical demonstration from Mr Hardwicke!

**WHAT WERE YOUR MOST
MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT
SCHOOL?**

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award provided some of my most salient memories. Expeditions (run by the then 'Revd Rambo') inevitably involved rain, rain and more rain. I distinctly remember one particularly miserable trek for my Gold assessment, in the Brecon Beacons, when I was in a tent blown flat by what was technically a hurricane, willing it to be over. Chapel

House; I loved living there: a beautiful old building with stunning views over the river and fields beyond. Pillow-fighting in St James'; we must have been the constant bane of the young assistant housemaster's life! Cello lessons once a week with Mrs Delloyd; her constant exasperation at my lack of practise was evident but we hugely enjoyed that hour every week. Rugby and music were two things that didn't mix particularly well at school! Also, I can't really forget cross country; it was my 'sport' and despite being relatively good at it I would get sick with nerves days before a race. I particularly remember some of the tougher ones in the Malvern Hills but, as my rugby teacher at the time famously said, "It's only pain laddie!"

AT WHAT POINT DID YOU REALISE THAT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

Funnily enough, despite my interest in Art, it was not until after school during my first year at University that I got into photography. I spent the vast majority of my first term's Student loan on a very expensive camera and lens. I suddenly realised I had no money left and had to start a basic photography business in order to fund all this expensive gear! Eventually, I ended up with a dark room in the (very dingy and dusty) cellar of my student digs. Whenever my fellow flatmates walked through the hall above, dust filled the air and settled on my developing photos – I've probably been permanently damaged by the chemicals and lack of ventilation!

WHAT COLLEGE /UNIVERSITY DID YOU ATTEND AND WAS IT TO STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY?

I attended the University of Wales, Cardiff and studied Physiology/ Psychology BSc (Hons). It was actually very fortunate that the University had a fantastic Students' Union (one of the best in the country) as well as an extremely good Student Newspaper – the *Gair Rhydd*. As the 'official photographer' I ended up illustrating some of the big stories occupying students at the time, such as the plight of 'Rubbish on the Streets of Cardiff', 'Internet Porn' and 'Red Bull Cancer Scare'. I regularly roped in my friends and fellow flatmates to model for me. On a serious note, the buzz of seeing my images in print on the 'university news-stands' really gave me the excitement that, after hundreds of front pages of National Newspapers, I still don't tire of today!

WHAT/WHERE WAS YOUR FIRST EMPLOYMENT?

After seeing a leaflet in the Careers Centre at Monmouth I spent an incredible GAP year with a company called Africa Venture, where I taught at a school in Western Kenya. It may sound a cliché but I never could have imagined the lifelong friends and adventures that led from that decision to head out to Africa. It was an incredibly challenging but ultimately incredibly rewarding experience. I paid for this by working from home in Wales, doing anything from bar work to fruit picking and, at one point, found myself packing fertilizer!

A period temping in London followed, where I turned my hand to everything to pay my rent - from envelope stuffing to working in the post room; it was an eclectic mix of experiences. Eventually, I was given a fairly long-term contract at Marks and Spencer Central Office, working with a lovely team of people on testing a new computer system. It basically aligned to their graduate scheme and I think they were keen for me to move into this. However, I was sure I wanted to pursue my dream of working as a professional photographer. The M&S guys were great and allowed me to take time off to complete work experience. I managed to secure placements at Reuters and the Press Association, as well as meeting up with as many people 'in the business' as possible. I remember the first time I showed my images to the picture editor at the PA and he basically said "These are rubbish". A baptism of fire but it taught me there were no shortcuts or bull#@" in this industry!

HOW WERE YOU RECRUITED BY GETTY?

I was actually determined to get a job at Getty and the plan was to work my way in from there – I was never going to be a photographer to start out as I had no professional experience. Instead, I was able to secure a position as an 'Account Executive' within the company. This effectively meant I was liaising with clients and keeping a track of the many images coming in from our Getty Images photographers around the world, communicating with the newspaper picture desks about them. I found it fascinating and exciting. At that time images were dropping in from some extremely talented photographers in hotspots such as Iraq – it was exciting and sometimes traumatising to be the first person to witness these events ahead of the general public and it taught me a lot about the newspaper industry. After a few months I managed to secure a graduate loan (on top of the student loan I hadn't even begun paying off!) and bought all the equipment I needed to work as a photographer - camera, lenses, laptop etc. After assessing my work, Getty eventually gave me the opportunity to submit my photos. I shot before work, after work and at weekends, covering jobs other photographers were not able to do or even suggesting my own projects.





This enabled me to build up a body of work that the editors at Getty were able to assess. Through more luck than judgement I actually won a 'News Photographer of the Year' award. It was a much-needed boost and really 'kick-started' my career. I cheekily wrote an extensive letter, outlining my photographic work, and sent it to the then head of the company – basically pitching myself in for a staff photographer job. This pretty much did the trick and I secured a position as a Getty Images Staff photographer.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A TYPICAL WEEK?

Again, it's a cliché, but there is no typical week. I travel a great deal for my job and have been lucky enough to visit some pretty incredible places: Papua New Guinea, the Galapagos, Peru, Brazil, the Arctic Circle, Sierra Leone, Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands to name a few. In the past I even got the opportunity to climb Kilimanjaro a couple of times

with a familiar group of people - the staff at Kensington Palace, Clarence House and the Royals themselves. They also gave me the chance to travel, but in a fairly structured way. Trips are planned in advance so the impact on 'home life' is not as great as more unpredictable news photography.

IS THERE ONE AREA OF ASSIGNMENT THAT GIVES YOU THE GREATEST ENJOYMENT?

You sacrifice a level of creativity in some respects working on a royal story. My way of remedying this is by working a great deal with many of the Royal Charities. It enables me to shoot interesting photojournalistic stories whilst sticking to the genre I work with. More importantly, it enables one to make a difference and highlight the great work these charities are doing. The younger Royals are extremely passionate about the work they do with charity. Over the years I've worked in Africa with Prince William's anti-poaching charity



and document celebrity challenges. It sounds great and it really is a privilege to travel to these places, but each trip takes a huge amount of planning and preparation and often you find yourself working so hard when you get there you don't take a moment to look around and appreciate it all. Royal Photography became my 'thing' about ten years ago. It really fitted the bill for everything I enjoyed about the job; the travel and the buzz of photographing iconic and historic figures was amazing. Celebrities and politicians come and go but images of people such as the Queen live on. I also enjoyed working

Tusk Trust, documenting events such as rhino translocations to Tanzania, as well as the Royal Foundation and Prince Harry's work with Invictus and 'wounded warriors'.

I have done a huge amount with Prince Harry's incredible charity 'Sentebale' in Lesotho. It's run by a fantastic team who do sterling work helping the vulnerable and HIV positive children of this barren mountain kingdom in South Africa. Recently, I teamed up with Fuji to bring some cameras to the children and run photography lessons. The 'Lesotho photography



project 'was something I've been very proud of as seeing first-hand the effect that having the opportunity to create images had on the children was very special. I've always been very lucky that Getty has been so supportive with



these endeavours and I am hugely appreciative.

WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS?

Life goes quickly when you travel and every year is always jam-packed with trips, commemorations and events. I always try to look for the next exciting project to conceive or be involved with. I suppose being a photographer is

not like being an accountant or lawyer; you don't get promoted to the next rung of the corporate ladder; more you build a reputation though the projects you shoot, pictures you take and experience you gain. Experience is invaluable in this career and I'm constantly learning. The minute you stop learning and settle is the time you should stop.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS?

The industry is changing a huge amount – the way people consume images is changing. Many staff photographers

at newspapers have been made redundant and it's a difficult market for freelancers. I'm very aware of how lucky I am to work with a company looking to innovate in the market and diversify. Social media and citizen journalism are things that effect the industry I work in. There will always be a place for the still image but the way in which it is being used is changing. Being open to new ideas and flexible to technological advancements is incredibly important. I hope that in ten years I will still be making a decent living out of photography and I look forward to the challenges the next





decade brings! In the meantime I have a hectic year to look forward to with Royal visits to Nepal, Bhutan and India - just in the next month!

FAMILY AND HOME LIFE?

My girlfriend and I love living near Wandsworth Common in South London. Mum and Dad live near Brecon/Hay on Wye; I absolutely love this part of the world and we regularly head home to relax. I definitely find walking in the Beacons or Black Mountains my favourite way of unwinding after a busy trip/period away. My brother, Alex, also went to Monmouth and is architectural director of the global member's club 'Soho House'. We often find ourselves in places he worked on, such as 'Farmhouse' in Oxfordshire or the 'Electric' in Notting Hill. Travel is important to both of us and last year we ended up driving around the South of France for the second year

running – both of us love the simplicity of throwing all the bags in the car and heading off on the ferry without the hassle of getting on a plane.

DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR HOBBIES/ WHAT TYPICALLY ALLOWS YOU TO UNWIND FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES?

I've always run; wherever I am in the world I try and get out there. I rarely have time for 'sightseeing' in a new place and it's a great way of experiencing as much as possible in such a short time. It keeps me

feeling fit, balanced and relaxed – but I normally take my iPhone and do tend to get a little distracted by some of the photo ops I see along the way!

We'd like to hear from any OMs interested in being interviewed for future editions. Please email your contact details to the Editor, David Evans info@platform-one.co.uk





OM Squad: Andy Thomas (c), Elgan Alderman, Joe Aldridge, Luke Aldridge, Matt Aldridge, Joe Bird, Torin Hillman, George Johnson, David Monk, Harry Rodney, Jordan Spear, Ludo Thomas, Josh Weeks, Rhys Williams, Ben Zorab.

RUMINATIONS ON A FOOTBALL MATCH

Old Monmothians vs Monmouth School 1st XI

Some are born great: some have greatness thrust upon them: some people just play football. It was with these wise words ringing in our ears that the Old Monmothians and the Monmouth School 1st XI took to the field on 5th March. With the recent election of Gianni Infantino as President of FIFA and his intention to clean up football, it left a sour taste in the OMs' mouths that Mr Tamplin's young charges had been using performance-enhancing methods, such as "training".

As the OMs learnt each other's names, erstwhile disputes were put to bed. Thomas L. and Weeks shook hands, putting to one side the bad blood caused by Thomas' 7 goals for The Grange against Weeks' St John's side in 2004, and enabling them to combine to deadly effect on the field.

The start of the game saw the OMs firmly on the front foot. Alderman, Johnson and Aldridge Sr. in defence resembled the Maginot Line, if not quite to scale. Williams, Hillman, Aldridge and Weeks between them patrolled the middle of the park with ruthless efficiency, while Spear and Bird rekindled memories of Severn House camaraderie and added pace on the wings. Thomases A. and L. were a constant threat up front.

Chances for either side were not forthcoming early on in the encounter, as the middle third saw the majority of the action, but the OMs quickly began to turn the screw. Thomas L. rattled the post with a scuffed corner, before another gilt-edged chance went begging as the 1st XI goalkeeper stayed strong in a one-on-one.

It was from the OMs' next corner that the afternoon's first goal was scored: it was such a shame that it was into our own net! The 1st XI broke with tremendous speed from a clearance, leaving the OMs severely outnumbered at the back. As a cross was whipped in, Hillman lunged with intent

but, unfortunately, the touch took it past Aldridge, and the scorer was at last troubled. 1-0 to the 1st XI, and against the run of play.

Changes were needed and swiftly followed. Rodney entered the fray at left-back, with Zorab just ahead of him on the wing. At this juncture, disaster struck. Aldridge suffered a damaged collarbone so Thomas A. did the honourable thing as captain and donned the gloves. The remainder of the first half continued with the OMs on the up, but goals still proved elusive.

The second half started as the first had finished. Both sides were putting on pressure but it was still the OMs who looked more like scoring, with Thomas A. proving a natural in between the sticks. But then came the turning point. There are some moments in life when those in the midst of greatness understand precisely the importance of what is unfolding around them, and this was one such moment.

Thomas L. found himself through on goal after some loose 1st XI defending. As he and the goalkeeper approached the ball in the corner of the box, hearts were in mouths. Thomas got a flick to the ball first, and the committed goalkeeper could only watch in youthful horror as the onrushing Thomas fell to the ground. His years at Cheltenham College had not eroded his pace, even if the cynics might suggest they had eroded his integrity, but there was no doubting that this was as stonewall as a wall made of stone.

Weeks was given the role of penalty-taker. He looked confident, and struck the ball sweetly. It pains one to say that the bar rudely obstructed the passage of the ball, but still there were questions - questions such as "Had the ball crossed the line?", "Will the referee give it?" and "How long, ref?" All we needed was Kenneth Wolstenholme and the drama would have been truly complete. In the end, the referee ruled, neither with age nor beauty in mind, and the 1st XI got away with it.

Monk, who had turned up in a fetching coat but without rudimentary sporting attire, was summoned to take over in the OM goal, allowing the skipper to assume his role in midfield and lead his team in search of an equaliser, and then maybe, just maybe, a winner.

Though the 1st XI besieged the OM goal, the experience of the former pupils was keeping them in the game and, as the clock approached 80 minutes, the tie was very much in the balance.

Those of us who were educated in the chemistry classroom of Mr Jefferies know that the world has but two rules of note. Firstly, energy can be neither created nor destroyed. Secondly, if it can go wrong, it will go wrong. The OMs sought to prove the latter, while disproving the former. The zest of yesteryear disappeared from the haggard legs, and the tie took on an unfair gloss.

The 1st XI scored their second from a delightful finish that would have had Messi purring. A third followed swiftly after, via Alderman's left shin at the far post. As time passes and details grow less factual, they will say that it was going yards wide, rather than clipping the outside of the post which it may probably not have clipped. Alderman himself blamed the Umbro shin pads that were older than the current 1st Form.

Unfortunately, goal 4 followed in double quick time, and there may even have been a goal 5 as the post-match Carlings and rumoured Peronis entered the minds of the OMs, and the scoreline flattered the 1st XI. With a missed penalty and two own goals in the scorebook, realistically the OMs won the match. At least a good time was had by all. Man of the Match was awarded to Thomas L. for his probing runs into the opposition half, and for generally looking like he had his wits about him.

We'll win it one year.

THE ARTS - THEATRE



50 years ago OM **Richard Carwardine**, the eminent American historian and presently President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, shared the stage with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Already Hollywood superstars, the couple took part in Oxford University Dramatic Society's production of *Dr Faustus* with

Burton playing the lead, an agreement he had made with Professor Nevill Coghill who had encouraged his acting during Burton's short spell studying English at Exeter College, 20 years earlier. Carwardine played Cornelius and the Pope and recalls how Burton took him under his wing during the production and how much jockeying there was among the male undergraduates to see who could get closest to Elizabeth Taylor. Quite

extraordinarily, the students were flown to Italy during the summer of 1966 to take part in a film version of Marlowe's play, which was co-directed by Burton and Coghill and went on general release.

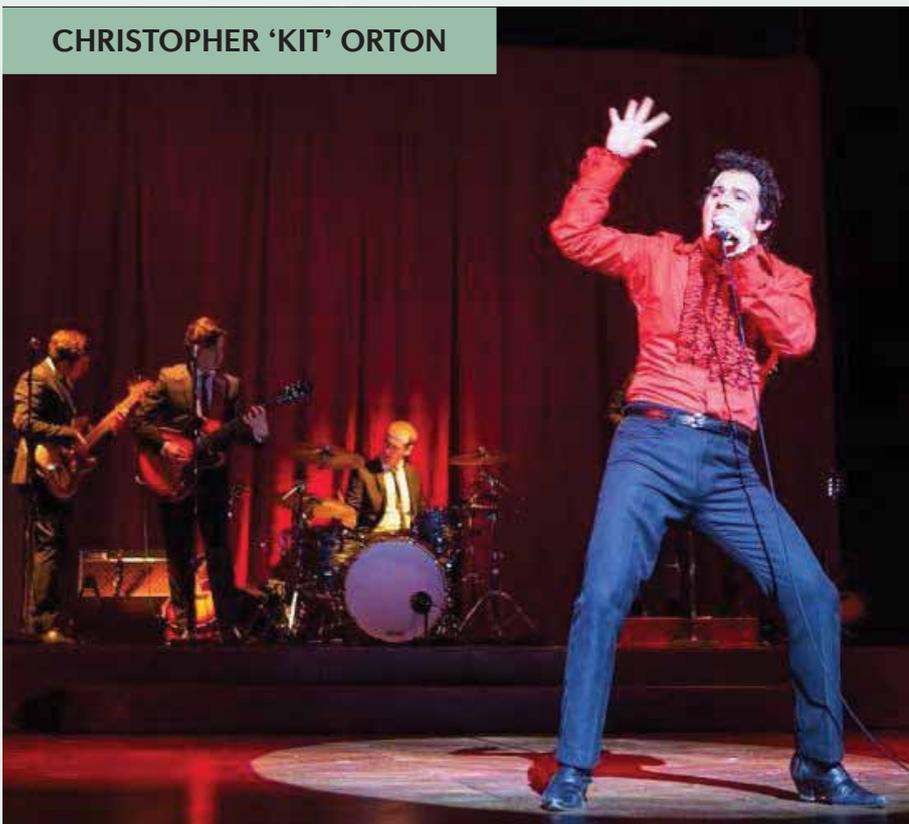
Whilst Richard Carwardine turned his back on a stage career, two more recent OMs are currently creating names for themselves in the professional theatre.

DANIEL LLEWELYN-WILLIAMS



As previously reported, **Daniel Llewelyn-Williams** last year starred in the West End production of *The 39 Steps* and won The Wales Theatre Award for Best Male Performance in the English Language for Clwyd Theatre's *Not About Heroes*. He will be touring this play and his own one-man show *A Regular Little Houdini* in the UK and America during 2017. Dan has also set up Flying Bridge Theatre Company, with the ambition to deliver new pieces of theatre to non-traditional theatre audiences. He has been commissioned to write a large-scale play, with the working title of *The Chartists and the Lament of George Shell*, which had its first reading to an audience on March 5th at Newport's Riverfront: a number of leading Welsh actors took part.

CHRISTOPHER 'KIT' ORTON



Christopher (Kit) Orton has embarked on a nationwide tour of *A Story of Tom Jones – The Musical*, in which he uncannily captures the voice, movement and stage presence of the legendary Welsh singer. During its opening week at the Wales Millennium Centre, the show was a sell-out – to the extent that an extra performance had to be slotted into the schedule. After 2 hours on stage, Kit somehow still managed to belt out 'Delilah' and 'Sex Bomb' with an energy and authenticity that had the near 2000-strong audience on their feet. In addition to musical theatre (he has previously appeared in *Spamalot* and *Martin Guerre*) Orton formed The Flyboys, a male vocal quartet presenting songs from the 30s and 40s swing and jazz era. He also established Without a Paddle Theatre Productions with Robert Gould and has co-written five musicals, including *My Land's Shore*, based on the 19th century union activist Dic Penderyn.

MUSICAL SUCCESS

Nick Wright (2012) is Vice-President of the Cambridge Union and, having gained a Double First from Trinity College Cambridge, is now engaged on an MPhil at Peterhouse in International Relations, after which he hopes to study Law at City University. **Ollie Hudson** (2014) is President of the Cambridge University JCR and halfway through his degree in Political Sciences. **Jordan Wong** (2015) has begun his degree in Classics at Jesus College, where he is also Organ Scholar, and **Ben Butt** (2014), halfway through his degree in Natural Sciences at Homerton (where he is a Choral Scholar), has been offered a summer placement at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology with **Gerry Crossan**. **Tim Gray** (2009), having done his first degree at Exeter, is now



reading for a PhD at Jesus College in the Political Culture of South Wales 1640-1654 and **William Underwood** (2015) has just begun his degree in Mathematics at St. John's College, Oxford, where he also sings in the Chapel Choir.

The School today

Dr Andrew Daniel is enjoying a successful first year as Headmaster of Monmouth School, full of victories across all areas.

Musical highlights have included the annual school concert at Wyastone Concert Hall, which featured 250 musicians from Monmouth and HMSG. Soon afterwards, every boy from The Grange Monmouth Preparatory School tackled an ambitious community opera with help from local musicians, performed at the Blake Theatre. Pupils retold the story of Noah's Ark through Benjamin Britten's multifaceted show, *Noye's Fludde*. On St David's Day, 18-year-old Gareth James, who is at Monmouth on a music scholarship, sang for David Cameron at No. 10 Downing Street with Welsh choir, Only Boys Aloud.

In sporting news, 11-year-old Theo from The Grange beat France's top player in his age range at a tournament in London. And OM Hallam Amos, who played for Wales in the Rugby World Cup, was called up to represent his country in the Six Nations against Italy. The Innovation Awards, sponsored by the Department for Innovation, saw Oliver Stokes win first prize for the A level category, along with the competition's coveted overall top prize for his portable soda stream, Gas2Go.

Eight boys from Monmouth are stepping up their revision to secure conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge universities.

The state-of-the-art William Jones Building opened in 2014 and extensive refurbishments have transformed the dining hall and boarding houses.

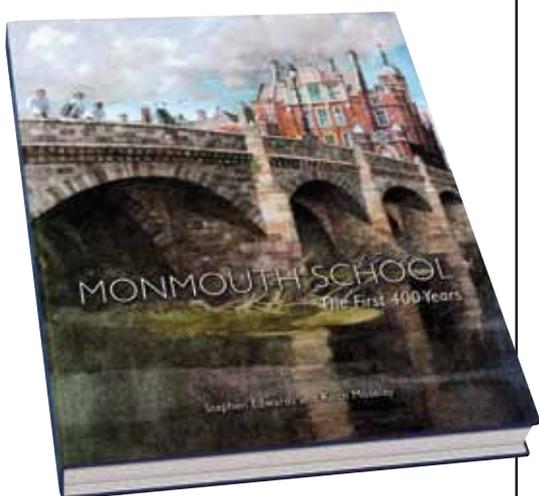


School concert at Wyastone Concert Hall

We have a series of Open Days throughout the year, the next being on Saturday, May 7. The School would love to see you there.

MONMOUTH SCHOOL - THE FIRST 400 YEARS

Still Available



This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the School up to the 400th anniversary of its foundation.

It examines the enigmatic figure of the School's founder, William Jones, before sketching the early years of the School up to a point where, towards the end of the 19th Century, its Headmaster was invited to join the Headmasters' Conference.

The major part of the book chronicles the growth period from the late 1800s, through the two world wars, other crises the School has had to face and, in particular, the achievement of pupils, past and present, in a great many walks of life.

Edited by Monmouth School teacher Stephen Edwards, the book was launched on 20th June 2014 at an exhibition in Monmouth's Shire Hall – part of the quatercentenary celebrations.

It is available at a reduced cost of £32.75, in hardback, size 280 x 240mm with 192 pages.

OBITUARIES

DAVID J GRIFFITHS

OM76-83

Hereford House, known as "Weg" to most of his friends, sadly died on Tuesday 12th January after a short illness, aged 52.

IAN (CEDRIC/SEDGE) SEYMOUR

OM70-74

Funeral took place 5th January. Ian was very well known and respected as a rugby player and coach after leaving School, notably for Berry Hill, Cinderford and Monmouth. He was a member of the winning 1st VII at the Rosslyn Park Schools' Festival in 1974 - a gentle giant off the field. He sadly lost his battle with cancer at the age of 59. The former Berry Hill Club Captain enjoyed his most successful playing years during the 1980s when he shared in the glory of famous matches against greats such as Bath, Harlequins, London Welsh and London Scottish.

Known locally as "Sedge", the father-of-two continued coaching at Berry Hill while working on his farm, in Edge End, despite being diagnosed with prostate cancer in early 2013.

"... he had a farmer's natural strength – a player's player and a real forward thinker."

He leaves his partner, Kathryn, and his two sons, Adam and David.

ORMOND ROYCE BOWEN

OM32-40



The photograph was taken, with his granddaughter, on 29th September 2012, the last time he attended one of the Old Boys' reunions. They were both the oldest and youngest guests on the day!

(called Royce, so the school records show 'R.O. Bowen') was born in 1922 in Brockweir. He lived a tremendous life, winning a bursary to Monmouth where he excelled both academically and on the sporting field. He played in an unbeaten rugby side, and represented

the School in tennis, cricket and even boxing.

Royce won a scholarship to Oxford where he read chemistry, leading to a career with British Nylon Spinners and ICI. He and his wife Maureen lived between Cape Town and Brockweir for many years.

STUART A. DOWLE

OM55-62.

Stuart, brother of Maxwell (OM49-56) died 9th July 2015 in University Hospital Wales, Cardiff after a long and very brave fight against cancer. A member of Hereford House, he represented the School with distinction at Rugby and Cricket, then pursued a very successful career in accountancy. Unfortunately, he just missed the 1955 Joiners' Reunion held in September 2015, championed by his fellow OM David Dowle (55-62). Stuart is survived by his sons Rudge and Tim, and 4 grandchildren, Jessica, Amelia, Emma & Will.



PAUL LANGFORD

OM 57-64

Renowned former Professor of Modern History at Oxford University, and Rector of Lincoln College for 12 years, died at the age of 70 on 27th July 2015. A Memorial Service will be held on at 2.30pm on 30th April 2016 at Lincoln College Oxford.

GRAHAM BRADLEY MARSHALL HANCOCK

OM45-51.

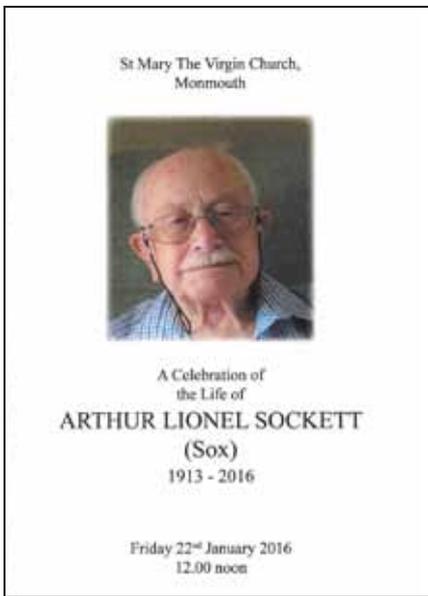
Graham sadly passed away suddenly, aged 82, on 13th February 2016. A pupil of New House, he looked back on his time at Monmouth School with great affection, recently attending both the War Years Reunion and Henry Toulouse's Retirement Lunch.

Graham was a loving husband to Joyce, Dad to Simon & Roger and Grandfather to Amy.

IAN SADLER

OM 55-61,

Passed away on October 23rd 2015. Unfortunately, he was unable to join the 1955 Joiners' Reunion because of the progression of his final illness. Always keenly interested in the news of his friends and contemporaries, Ian was very sorry not to be able to catch up with everybody at this special occasion.



An Appreciation of Mr A L Sockett - "Socks"

by Keith Underwood (OM 1946-53)

"Algy", as we boys called him, or "Socks", as most people knew him familiarly, was an inspiration to us during our time at Monmouth School. He seems to have appeared on the staff by the summer of 1950, as form master of 3A. By the autumn he was in the now-vanished Bricknell Library, with 5A as his form. By the summer term of 1951 he was with the Classical 5th, where he stayed for some years. His knowledge of Greek and Latin was without equal. I remember him being very touched as he recounted an anecdote of a former pupil coming back to see him and reciting a passage from Ovid or Vergil he had learned by heart. I failed to remember the whole passage but "nox erat, et placidum carpebant fessa soporem (corpora per terras)" has stayed in my mind.

Archaeology was his other consuming passion, an interest that greatly commended him to the Headmaster, the Revd CHD Cullingford, who was keen to broaden our education beyond the academic curriculum. The digs on The Doward became very popular and I made drawings of his cherished potsherds, something I later recalled when drawing for a Cambridge project for the late Joyce Pullinger.

One morning he came into the form room beaming, to tell us of his recent acquisition in a general sale in the town. It was a genuine Greek vase, in terracotta, white and black, which he held aloft to show it proudly. It appears he was obliged to bring away a tin bath and other paraphernalia as part of the lot. Dr Naylor Firth and I remember the next moment vividly -in slow motion! He placed the pot carefully on the shelf behind him, a shelf I knew as a junior librarian to be unsafe. It slowly tipped forward to send the treasure crashing onto the dais, reducing it to many fragments. Poor Socks' face was a study! Boys can be cruel on such occasions, but it must have been a measure of our respect for him, that there was utter silence and we left the room greatly subdued. However, typically, he stayed up all night and pieced it together with supreme skill, proudly holding it aloft once more the next morning! I shall always remember the pleasure of seeing him at meetings and outings of the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association and again as an increasingly rare familiar face at Speech Day, along with the wonderful Stephen Bucknall. No doubt characters of a different kind will emerge from the present generations,

THE PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

MONMOUTH SCHOOL SONG:
Words by A.L. Sockett, M.A. (Oxon), tune by M. G. Eveleigh, 1957

Carmen Monemutense

Viola
Arthur Sockett Michael Eveleigh

BLESSING

Nunc Dimittis
Sung by the Choir

but it is hard to believe that there can ever be again such personalities as Mr Elstob, Mr Davenport, Taffy Philips, the Revd Joseph, Stephen Bucknall and, of course, Socks. He will be greatly missed.

Lekston, 1936

Followed by a private family cremation.

The family wish to thank everyone for being with them today and invite you to join them for light refreshments at The Priory after the service, where they will join you upon their return from the crematorium.

Donations to Agn Cymru are being received by Funeral Directors David Stockwell & Co, 16 Glendower Street, Monmouth NP23 5DG. Tel: 01600 712750



CLUB DONATIONS

DONATIONS REQUESTS

The Club uses members' subscriptions to help the School and current pupils in the following ways:

MCT AWARDS						
YEAR END	YTD'16	2015	2014	2013	2012	TOTAL
Rowing	1,600	3,048	15,800	2,400	-	22,848
Rugby Tour	2,600	-	-	3,000	6,000	11,600
Fund 400 & Bursary	13,800	22,000	25,000	-	5,000	65,800
Travel Award	1,000	250	400	-	450	2,100
GB Softball	-	-	250	-	-	2501
Classics & Languages	1,500	-	1,500	1,750	-	4,750
Football Tour	-	-	4,250	-	-	4,250
Raffle School Charity	-	-	100	-	-	100
Cricket Scoreboard	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Arts & Science	-	-	520	-	2,000	2,520
Outdoor Pursuits	-	2,200	-	5,615	2,750	10,565
Music	-	3,600	-	3,500	1,000	8,100
MS Pupil Awards	1,500					1,500
Total MCT Awards	22,000	31,098	52,820	16,265	17,200	139,383

OCCASIONAL ANECDOTES FROM ROBERT DAVIS (OM 1955-61)

...ON MEMBERS OF STAFF

R A Piddington (Pid) was a charismatic French master, best remembered for "We'll have that man on the bench" and subsequent upward stages, from chair to desk and even window sill. He would enter the classroom apparently talking to himself but, in reality, addressing the whole class in French, covering relevant topics, such as the weather, then perhaps conduct some French dictation or set a crossword puzzle.

He detested intrusions to the peace of his lessons and on one occasion despatched R.H (Squirrel) Price to investigate a noisy tractor left running outside the classroom.

"Did you get his number?" "Yes, Sir"
"Well, what was it?" "Please Sir, he had two different ones, front and back!"
"Ah, good – a second offence! Well done, Price!"

Rev W T Joseph "Holy Joe" - Divinity - was Rector of Rockfield parish, and although he had a car, generally arrived at school astride "The Rockfield Rocket", a stout bicycle fitted with a BSA Winged Wheel engine, and a rear carrier to carry a dozen eggs in a tray.

He ran a marking scheme with letters only, and never kept a marks book. No one ever failed Divinity under Joe. As a vicar and as a master, Joe was much liked and appreciated. He could defuse almost any anxious situation with a joke, or by taking out his gold pocket watch and breathing over it, making the cover open and strike the quarters and the hours.

...ON FELLOW STUDENTS

Some boys had a great interest in explosives and munitions. "Cyanide Sid" **Seaton R. M.** brought in homemade gunpowder which never worked on account of the hygroscopic nature of certain ingredients. Boys from The Forest were prevailed upon to purchase 6d. paper bags of miners' lump carbide, from Immins of Coalway, to achieve more satisfying results.

John Evans J.F. had a great interest in munitions. I took two cutaway demonstration hand grenades, from my grandfather's house (his brother had been a WW1 munitions instructor) and John asked if he could borrow them. He skipped attending a First XV home match, and laid them out on washbasins in the New House toilets. All was quiet. To John's utter horror, he mishandled one grenade – the pin fell out, the lever flew round, the percussion cap went off with a loud snap, and the fuse started hissing and smoking. He knew he had only a few seconds before something rather serious would happen. Quickly, he threw it across the floor, under the closed door of a toilet cubicle, then bolted outside before the priming charge exploded with an impressive bang! Twenty minutes later, with the coast still clear, John ventured back inside. There was a strong smell of cordite, the cubicle door was open, and there was no sign of either hand grenade. Whoever survived the blast obviously was happy with their windfall!

Old Monmothian Club GIFT AID DECLARATION

THE MONMOTHIAN CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1129186

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

*Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Please complete the details below

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DECLARATION

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to the Old Monmothian Club or The Monmothian Charitable Trust.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

DONOR'S REQUIRED DETAILS

Title ___ Full Name _____ School Years _____

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Sort Code ___/___/___ Account Number _____

BENEFICIARY: The Monmothian Charitable Trust

Bank: Barclays Sort Code: 20-00-85 Account Number: 23477916

Please Pay £ _____ (_____ POUNDS in words)

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On the First Business Day in _____ UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Commencing from

Date ___/___/___ Signature _____

Please notify the charity if you:-

- Wish to cancel this declaration
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- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

* GIFT AID DECLARATION HMRC has recently published new model gift aid and declarations to be applied from 6th April 2016 for single and multiple donations. The MCT/OMC Gift Aid declaration can be found at <http://oldmonmothians.co.uk/gifts>. If you already Gift Aid your donation, there is no need to complete an additional form - this only applies to any NEW gifts. Thank you.

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Please make cheques payable to Monmouth School Enterprises Ltd.

The following items are available: price excludes post and packing.

OM Club Ties – Silk £25.00

Monmouth School Cufflinks - featuring School Crest £20.50

Bow Ties - Silk £30.00

Wall Shields - the School Crest with Monmouth School emblazoned on the scroll - £41.00

School Prints - £6.00

(A) From an engraving by the late **Marcus Holmes**, a former art master at Monmouth, of the School from Wye Bridge in 1926. The illustration, in dark brown, measures 9 inches x 13.5 inches and is printed on cartridge paper measuring 15 inches x 18.5 inches.

(B) From original pencil drawings - a set of 4 prints from pencil drawings by **Darren Ray**, who left school in 1989 and is pursuing a career in Fine Art. They were acquired for the School with money generously donated by Mr G R Fox, Master of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers (86-87), for the purchase of works of art by boys at Monmouth.



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