

# OM NEWS



## WELCOME TO YOUR 2019 OM NEWS

THE OLD MONMOTHIAN CLUB



Dear Fellow OMs,

I am delighted to update you, having been elected President last October, on the Club's activities in the past year in supporting the School.

One of my first tasks was to confirm to the Headmaster, Dr Andrew Daniel, the Club's decision to commit £50,000 to the School's Bursary fund with the creation of two "OM" Sixth Form scholarships for those boys who show academic ability in science, and also who might contribute musically or in a major sport. We have supported a number of boys selected to represent Wales at the Home International Regatta in Ireland and made financial commitments to support a forthcoming Rugby tour. With deep gratitude to the late Leslie Howells OM, we have been able to put in place the Leslie Howells OM Travel Award, available every year to assist current Sixth Formers in developing their pioneering spirit as they transition from schoolboys into young men.



Our other key objective is to foster a social setting for OMs and in late November 2018, eighty OMs gathered at Haberdashers' Hall for the annual London dinner, once again organised by Steve Norris (1985-92). If you are a regular to the dinner, or yet to attend, we hope that you may be able to join us this year. More recently, over 150 OMs met for a wonderful day, firstly naming the new state-of-the-art School Eight "John W Hartland", followed by a dinner brilliantly organised by the current master of rowing, John Griffiths, and his wife Sue, in Ross on Wye. By all accounts it was the largest gathering of 'choccy' blazers in decades!!

These events are entirely social in nature and the Club does not overtly talk to our financial supporters on these occasions. But, over time, our roster of Club donors has fallen and with the impact of inflation the task of supporting boys at the School becomes ever more challenging, so if you are able to support the Club in any way, we would be extremely grateful.

Please keep your updates coming in about any reunions, career updates or notable achievements such as births and marriages and sadly, if we lose any OMs. David Evans (1957-64) at Platform One is always keen to add to the newsletter so please do send your material in. [info@platform-one.co.uk](mailto:info@platform-one.co.uk)

With very best wishes from the Club for the year ahead, **Simon George** (1982-89)

**CONNECTIONS AT MONMOUTH** 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](http://www.monmouthschool.net) Please follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **LINKEDIN**

## YOUR OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Simon George (1982-89)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Steven Raikes (1975 - 82)

### HON MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ray Blight (1977-82)

### HON SECRETARY

Andy White (1996 - 2001)

### HON TREASURER

Steven Raikes (1975 - 82)

### HON DEPUTY TREASURER

David Evans (1957-64)

An online copy of OM News is available on the OMC website, Latest News page (<http://oldmonmothians.co.uk/latest-news/>).

Although we appreciate that quite a number of you like to receive the newsletter in printed form, moving towards online publication reduces our expenditure and ensures that your Club's funds go towards valuable OM activities and to the benefit of current pupils of Monmouth School.

Please keep in touch; let us know your news, or change in contact details to continue receiving E-news and OM News keeping you up to date with events and School projects .

## 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](http://www.monmouthschool.net) or email

[Old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:Old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org)

## FUTURE EVENTS

REGISTER online at [www.monmouthschool.net](http://www.monmouthschool.net) to receive Newsletters by email and update your contact details on the website. Most events are bookable online.

### JUNE

#### OM Day

Saturday 22nd June 2019

Contact: [old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org)

### JULY

#### 150th Row Past & Pimms

O'Clock Saturday 6th July.

#### BOOK NOW

OLYMPIC superstar Sir Steve Redgrave has invited MSRC to celebrate its 150th anniversary with a celebratory row past at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta.

Sir Steve, the chairman of the world's most famous open rowing event, personally wrote to Monmouth School Rowing Club to invite them to mark their 'huge milestone'.

MSRC 1st squad of 1969 are rowing over the regatta course – and a second VIII, comprising mainly OM Henley winners, is

also looking likely. This will take place during the Luncheon Interval.

"Pimms o'Clock" will be available in the Monmouth School gazebo, pitched on the Cricket Ground during the Tea Interval – £10pp to cover catering costs. Entry via special commemorative badge.



#### PS Veterans' Shoot, Bisley

Wednesday 17th July

Colin Waldron  
[colin.waldron1@ntlworld.com](mailto:colin.waldron1@ntlworld.com)

### SEPTEMBER

#### Henley Dinner Leander Club

Saturday 7th September at 7pm. Open to ALL OMs, OGs, partners & friends  
[jamie\\_oldroyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jamie_oldroyd@hotmail.co.uk)

The Development Office is also organising events to which OMs are cordially invited.

### MAY

**Monmouth in Oxford** to meet new Headmistress Jessica Miles, Monday 20th May 6.30pm-8.30pm. Open to anyone with a connection to the Haberdashers' Schools living/working/studying in the Oxford area.

**Monmouth in London** on Wednesday 5th June.

### JULY

**Henley Royal Regatta** Monmouth School from 11am Wednesday 3rd July. The Headmaster, Dr Andrew Daniel invites all OMs to join him for lunch(1pm) or tea (4pm) at the school gazebo pitched at the Henley Cricket Club.

**Speech Day** Saturday 6th July. The Headmaster is delighted to extend an invitation for OMs to attend this year's event to celebrate the achievements of the boys and to hear inspirational guest speaker, Lord Hastings. To apply for a place in the marquee please contact the Headmaster's PA, Ms Claire Howes [howes.claire@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:howes.claire@habsmonmouth.org)

Contact [anning.clare@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:anning.clare@habsmonmouth.org)

## OM DAY 2019

## WELCOME TO OM DAY FROM THE HEADMASTER



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to Old Monmothian Day on Saturday 22nd June 2019.

We are as keen as ever to welcome as many former pupils and their friends and family who wish to visit their old school as possible. This year's OM Day programme commences with a Chapel service at 11am, which will include a presentation by members of our Sixth Form on OM Angus Buchanan VC, and shed light on the history of the 'choccy' blazer.

### OM Day programme:

11 - 11.30am Service in the Chapel

11.30am Coffee in the foyer of the William Jones Building

11.30 - 12noon Conducted school tours from the foyer

12.15 - 12.30pm Pre-lunch drinks in the Hitchcock Pavilion

12.30pm Lunch in the Hitchcock Pavilion, followed by coffee

From 11am Cricket v Colston's School - 1st XI, U15A & B and U13A & B

After lunch we shall celebrate the longevity of service of our special guest, Mr Kingsley Jones, who is retiring from the Common Room in July after 22 years of outstanding service.

Tickets are £20 each, which includes a pre-lunch drink. To reserve a place please book and pay online, using the web page below:

OM Day bookings:  
<http://oldmonmothians.co.uk/omday2019/>

Alternatively, please book your place by telephoning the Headmaster's PA, Claire Howes, on 01600 710420.

Payment should be made by cheque to the OM Club as soon as possible, or at the latest by Friday 14th June.



For your convenience, parking will be available in Weirhead House car park in addition to the Hitchcock Pavilion. Lift access is also available in the pavilion.

I would be delighted if you, as well as your family, could join us for this very special day and I look forward to seeing you at this hugely enjoyable occasion in the summer calendar.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Daniel

## OM NEWS IN FOCUS

### OMs' STORIES

THE OLD MONMOTHIAN CLUB



**Max Weeden** (2014-16) has been finding fame with *Semi-Toned*, Exeter University's all-male a capella group. In addition to being a singing member, he is the tour manager for the choir, which regularly performs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and tours in the USA. In 2017, they travelled across the Midwest and Western states and last April returned to play a number of gigs on the East Coast. This year, they embarked on a UK tour and Max 'returned home' when they played The Blake Theatre on April 6th.



### William Henry England

(2007 - 14) has been an Apprentice Haberdasher since leaving school, where he was Head Boy. His apprenticeship has been completed and at a ceremony where Lord Moynihan sponsored him, William was made a fully-fledged Haberdasher and Freeman.

Two Old Monmothians revisited the School to share their experiences at university with Sixth Form historians. **Harris Webb** (2009-16) (Robinson College, Cambridge) and **Lewis Devonald** (2014-16) (Lincoln College, Oxford) are both in their third year and preparing for Finals but came back to describe how they had chosen and researched their dissertation topics. Both are busy but enthusiastic historians and spoke eloquently about their recent work on the characters of people who worked for the East India Company and on the influence of an English jurist on the writing of constitutions of individual American states.



### A Soldier's Life... 1914 and 2018

The Third Form (Year Nine) spent a day discovering the role of two local regiments in the Great War. They gained a vivid insight into the contributions of territorial soldiers from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) with those of the regular soldiers of the South Wales Borderers, via visits to the museums in Brecon and at Monmouth Castle. In Brecon, they were also invited into Dering Lines by **Captain Rick Longley** (2001-06) to learn something of current training in tactics and weaponry, in an illuminating contrast. It was a very thought-provoking and enjoyable day, which contributed to their knowledge of the Great War.



**Warren East** (1973 - 1980) was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Engineering by the University of Bath in July 2018. Warren is the Chief Executive Officer of Rolls Royce Holdings plc having studied Engineering at the University of Oxford and later a Masters in Business Administration at Cranfield University.

Warren officially re-opened the School Science Block last November. Whilst on campus, he was presented with an OM tie by Steve Raikes and Simon George.



### Patrick Worsnip (1959-66)

At the age of 22, and having just spent five years acquiring a BA, I decided I'd seen enough of the inside of academic walls and decided to join the "real world". I got a job, in 1971, as a journalist with Reuters, which seemed to be a poor but honest news agency. Little did I know that in just over a decade it would become a very big business, but in more than 40 years with the company I remained a reporter, except for a few years as an editor at head office in London. I was posted variously in Italy, the Soviet Union, Poland, Iran, Lebanon, the UK and the United States (Washington, where I covered the State Department, and later New York, where I covered the United Nations). In all, I calculated when I retired in 2012, I filed stories from 87 countries.

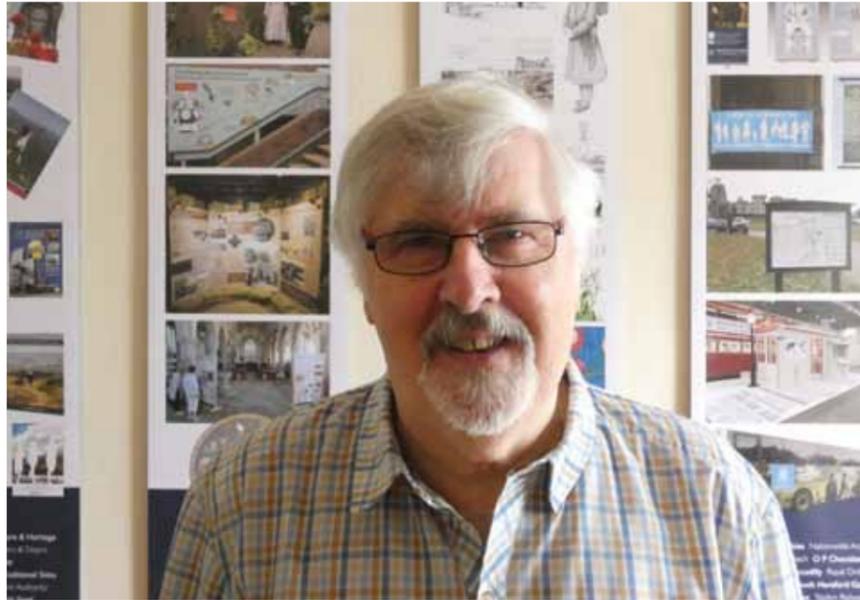
The most dramatic, and certainly the most frightening, years were spent in the Middle East. Unlike some of my colleagues, I had no particular penchant for being a war correspondent, but being (at the time) single I got sent to trouble spots. Thus it was that in late 1979 I arrived in Tehran, still in chaos 10

months after Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution. It was the period of the American hostages crisis - more than 50 US diplomats were held for over a year by Islamic militants. And just when you thought things couldn't get worse, they did. War broke out between Iraq and Iran and I found myself on a battlefield for the first time. After serving in Iran's stressful conditions for about a year I was rewarded by being sent to Lebanon, where a three-year lull in the conflict between rival religious factions was just coming to an end. Things went from bad to worse, and in June 1982 Israel invaded, laying siege to mainly Muslim west Beirut, where I was living. There were many hairy moments before I left the country the following year.

I did, of course, spend most of my time in peaceful countries. People often ask me which was my favourite assignment. Rome, where I had postings in the 1970s and 1980s, was certainly the most pleasant place to live, but not the easiest place to work due to the authorities' reluctance to talk to foreign media. The most satisfying was probably Washington, from where I frequently took trips across the world on the secretary of state's aeroplane and had a sense of being close to decision-makers. I also spent a lot of time on planes while working as London-based Diplomatic Correspondent in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The most unique experience, I think, was working in Moscow from 1974-77. Under constant surveillance by the KGB, we seemed to be living in a sort of parallel world, with completely different rules from the West, yet, strange to say, not wholly disagreeable. Faced with the secrecy of the Kremlin, I got to know interesting alternative sources of information such as the human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, which led to me once being cited in a confidential Politburo memo. Today, Putin's Russia has recreated some elements of the old Soviet Union and the recent chemical attack in Salisbury has created an eerie feeling of déjà vu, that I can't get away from those Cold War conflicts.

By the time I retired, it was the real world that I'd had enough of. As the hopes I and many others had entertained when the Cold War ended slipped away one by one, I made a clean break with journalism and devoted myself to, of all things, the translation of poetry. My recently published first book, a version of the Latin poet Propertius, is in a sense a return to my roots at Monmouth, where then Headmaster Robert Glover steered me into the Classics. My Classics teacher was "Sox" Sockett, and not long before he died I informed him of my project through his son Mike. I heard back from Mike that he was "most interested in your new venture".



During the course of a discussion between Simon George and **David Evans** (1955-64), it transpired that, in addition to their alma mater they had something else in common: both had worked for Bass – Simon as part of Sales & Marketing, and David as a supplier of their graphic design requirements. This year, David is celebrating 50 years as a professional designer and Simon is Managing Director of Budweiser Budvar UK Ltd.

So, the Club President quizzed the Newsletter Editor on his career.

**Did your School years inform your career decision?** I benefited from an inspirational art teacher in Otto Maciag, who encouraged my ambition, helped me hone my skills and win a place at art college.

**What are your best memories of MS?** I enjoyed most of my time at the School. Whilst I was not an exceptional scholar, I was able to pursue my interest in singing – as a chorister; became a House Prefect; was promoted to Colour Sergeant in CCF; and had the pleasure of being a member of an unbeaten 3rd XV.

**How did you get into design?** Post A-Levels, I did a Foundation Course at art college followed by three years studying Graphic Design up to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

**Why did you choose to become self-employed?** I think my MS education informed me that life isn't about being pigeon-holed so I resisted the

idea of working in an advertising agency. We were at the end of the swinging, optimistic Sixties and it seemed perfectly natural to give it a go, even though I had little money and my parents had great trepidation about my plans. If I hadn't struck out on my own I would probably never have worked for companies like Bass – and that relationship lasted for 15 years.

**Any memorable moments?** One of my proudest is possibly having my name writ large over the Post Office marquee at the International Eisteddfod as a result of me designing a pictorial aerogramme for Wales.

**Any unusual experiences?** I was commissioned by 'Prince Lvov' to develop the Imperial Russian Museum at St Arvans near Chepstow, only to discover in the fullness of time, that he was actually a Glaswegian by the name of Reg Blaine, who had previously posed as an eminent brain surgeon!

**Looking at some of your designs I see you worked in the Emirates.** Yes, we were invited by Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage to tender for a programme interpreting aspects of their history, wildlife, gastronomy and traditions. We spent a fascinating 18 months working with their management team and archaeologists to produce leaflets, maps and graphics.

**Why are you 'Platform One'?** For 15 years, I traded as David Evans Design Associates but a move of

the studio to Abergavenny railway station prompted a change of name to Platform One, which has served us well ever since.

**What have been the challenges?** I've lived through two recessions – and design was some way down the priority list when the economic climate was bleak: even now, the uncertainty of Brexit is impacting on the progression of a few prospective projects. Staying 'relevant' and constantly conceiving new ideas is always a challenge.

**What effect has technology had on your industry?** For the first twenty years of my career, the layout of visuals and finished artwork was produced by hand, on drawing boards. The introduction and rapid expansion of digital technology changed everything – the way we get artwork ready and, to a great extent, the way it gets to the printed form. I find exciting the possibilities presented by IT provided it is seen as a 'tool' not a substitute for ability.

**It must be nice to work for your old school** Yes, it's a privilege I never take for granted. In the 20 years that we've worked with the Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools, we've seen many changes, but I think we're always aware of the legacy. It was great to do so much for the 400th anniversary and I'm proud to have the timeline I designed installed in the William Jones Building.

**Who or what inspires you?** There are many artists and designers for whom I have huge respect. David Gentleman, perhaps best known for his stamp designs, has always inspired me and he's still working at the age of 89. Travel, theatre, the history of art, literature, film and the world around us are always sources of inspiration.

**You told me Platform One is one of the oldest independent design studios in Wales. Do you have any ambitions left for the future?** I want to go on working so long as I have the capability and health, and my head is full of ideas yet to be realised. I didn't really have a plan when I started and I'm still happy to be led down roads that look interesting.

**Would you do it all again?** In a heartbeat!



**Dan Rosser** (1992-99) hails originally from Pontypool and was a member of School House. He coxed the 1st VIII and won a bronze with the crew at the National Schools Regatta in 1999. From Monmouth, Dan studied at Portsmouth University graduating as a Master of Pharmacy (Mpharm). He trained in London with H A McParland, for around two years, to achieve registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council and then took the brave step in 2006 of purchasing 12 Church Street, Monmouth which first opened as a dispensing chemist in 1831. Dan continues a near-200 year-old unbroken history as only the sixth owner of the business.

Asked to recall any unusual professional experiences, he cites the time when, still working in London, a customer who had been banned from

every other pharmacy and surgery in the area demanded a metered-dose inhaler. When Dan refused to oblige without the necessary prescription, the lad threatened to "bring a few mates down and do him over" adding, "My Dad owns a Wimpy!"

His one-time ambition was to own a string of 20 shops - he has a pharmacy in Bristol as well as Monmouth - but says that now he is focused simply on earning enough money to be happy. His recreational pursuits include skiing, scuba diving, music and walking.

Dan's advice to others considering a similar career: "try to give everyone time - they will invariably appreciate it". And his prescription for life: "never take 'no' for an answer; don't be down-hearted; and if you're going to do it, just get on with it!"



**Keith Metcalfe** (1986 - 1993) has been appointed Headmaster of Malvern College.

A member of Hereford House at Monmouth, Keith graduated from Downing College, Cambridge then started at Harrow School as an NQT straight after teacher training. He worked his way up through Resident Tutor, Assistant House Master, Head of Department (Geography), House Master and Senior Management Team before becoming Deputy Head.

Asked about his most memorable experiences he reported that, as a teacher he was accosted (mugged!?) by a group of youths whilst on a Geography field trip in an inner city area of London. "They roughed up a couple of boys in my group, took a boy's rucksack, a camera and then my phone when I told them I was about to call the police; but after talking to them for a while, they gave me all the stuff back before leaving us alone."

As Deputy Head, Keith co-ordinated the teams in putting on major school events, such as the five yearly 'Harrow Songs' at the Royal Albert Hall, and a recent performance of *Twelfth Night* at The Globe. He met some "very interesting people and enjoyed the real job satisfaction when a major event runs smoothly with thousands of people going away happy."

Keith's new role at Malvern is outward facing, but he is still planning on teaching some Geography and helping out with activities where possible, for example continuing to referee rugby and soccer.

He cites his ambitions to be "an inspirational and collaborative leader who draws the most from his team, thus providing an excellent and fulfilling education to the students at Malvern College, as well as effectively promoting educational excellence and an enhanced reputation for Malvern through Malvern College's family of Schools, in the UK and internationally."

Keith's leisure activities include participating in and watching sport and outward bound activities, as well as really enjoying musical concerts and trips to the theatre.

His advice to Leavers/Undergraduates is "to find the subjects and activities that you really enjoy: get the balance right but then be willing to commit time and effort to the things you want to achieve, persevering when necessary."

Keith is married to Clare, a photographer and primary school teacher and they have three children, aged 10, 8 and 6.

## SHOOTING

### REPORT FOR THE 2018 SEASON

The OMSC has completed its 9th full year cycle, with an AGM of The Club held on the veranda of the North London Rifle Club on the evening of Ashburton Day. The health of the School and absent colleagues was toasted, followed by the fostering of the spirit of the Club's objectives - to support target shooting as a sport at the School, within the OM community, and facilitate its reintroduction at the School when practically possible. An excellent dinner at the NLRC followed, thanks to Richard Singleton.

A few more OMs have this year joined our fraternity; a special welcome to Justin Durrant, ex school VIII captain, Peter Strong, Martyn Vaughan at full-bore, and Guy Watkins who plugged the gap in the BSSRA (smallbore) competition. This year's training sessions were restricted once more to a Club Champions day held at Bisley. Colin Waldron was expected to be handicapped by a single shot rifle but still managed, once more, to win the Championships (Tom's Tankard) over the rapid-fire, magazine-fed rifleman. David Peace came a closely-run second - accuracy still pays over speed, and the art of sniping continues to thrive. The practices are continuing to pay dividends on "The Day" of the Public Schools Veterans, which sadly continues, every year, to see a depreciating number of schools participating.

We once more fielded three teams of 5 for The Public Schools Veterans match, a sound indication of the continued interest in the sport by OMs. Fifteen OMs attended and, with a supporting entourage, made quite a throng on the firing point, with 15 actually shooting, captained and coached by Colin Waldron and Alan Barrell.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind readers that the shooting club is open to membership for Old Girls, an opportunity that they may not be aware of. Colin would welcome them making contact.

Back to the PS Vets: the elements behaved once more with a hot evening of sunshine and a light wind which tended to vary and cast a few too many shots out of the bullseye. The traditional humour and "sledging", rivalling a good cricket match, crept in to the day, neither of which led to any records being broken this year. Dedicated coaching and some seriously strong shooting led the A Team to 236.25 (232.16 2017) placing us 29th (25th) out of 47 (46) teams entered. In the aggregate we were placed 5th (10th) out of 7 (10)! We should once more be proud to note that we were one of the top seven schools in the country capable of fielding three teams. The B team performed admirably, with a score of 224.10.

The top gun score, now named the Brian Margrett Award, was taken by Alan Barrell, coached by Colin, with a PS Vets' Best of 48.4. Colin went on to add bars to his NRA Medals in the ensuing Imperial Meeting and to make his 10th consecutive contribution to the esteemed National competition, against the old foes of the Home Countries. Colin was awarded Welsh Caps for the Elcho Competition (long-range match rifle 1000, 1100 & 1220 yds), the Mackinnon (long-range Target rifle 900 & 1000yds) and The National (300, 500 and 600 yds). This is a lifetime best achievement, of which he is rightly proud. Colin and Alan will be touring Canada with the Welsh Rifle Association in 2019 and we wish the squad 'bob chance'.

A few stalwarts once more appeared at the Oxfordshire open meeting in October, led by Chris Jones, who has excelled in the prize lists. Phil Jones topped the Tyro first leg (second leg to be shot in October). The associateship with the South Wales County Rifle Association has yet to be taken advantage of, but it is hoped that, with Tony Byrne returning to the fold, this may change, since it is now possible to achieve shooting practice closer to home for many of our members.

The small-bore story continues, with excellent shooting in the BSSRA small-bore postal championship for The Fletcher Cup, where we once more fielded two teams. The

challenge to the Secretary once more was to get all the cards back on time, which we achieved without hassle! The result of the A team score of 474 (476 last year) placing us 5th (5th) out of 11 (12) entrants and the B team with 456 ranking 10th. Again, the medals eluded us, but congratulations must go to the whole squad. This year's entrants are about to be selected. The results have been added to the website <http://www.bssra.org/vets.html#11>.

Marcus Ehresman continues to excel at the small-bore disciplines at International level, representing Wales in many competitions. Living in London and an active member of the NSRA, Hendon and East Barnet Clubs he is to be regularly seen on the small-bore ranges with 100/100 (known as a "Possible" = Highest Possible Score) becoming rather a regular event.

Richard Wilson advises that he is again endeavouring to organise a Vets vs The School shoot. There is the continued spark of interest for some members of the School to attend our full-bore practice sessions and we are continuing to explore all possibilities of assisting the furtherance of the sport at the School. With the Lucas family now also being represented at three generations and a change of shooting master it is hoped that the interest can be rejuvenated. Since attaining Home Office approval for a Club Firearms certificate, we have acquired two full-bore rifles for the use of members, providing newcomers with the facilities to continue the sport and further their shooting career. Contact Colin if you wish to utilise this equipment.

We once more wish to acknowledge the continued support of the OMSC by the OM Club.

Finally, it is with pleasure that we can announce that David Peace has accepted the AGM's wishes to become President of the Shooting Club, following in the footsteps of Brain Margrett.

For further information please contact **Colin Waldron** on [Colin.Waldron1@ntlworld.com](mailto:Colin.Waldron1@ntlworld.com)

## ROWING

### MONMOUTH SCHOOL ROWING CLUB 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Monmouth School Rowing Club 1869 celebrates its 150th anniversary during 2019: the days are getting longer and before we know it, Henley will be here!

Master in Charge of Rowing, John Griffiths Griffiths (John@habsmonmouth.org) is championing a number of special social events open to OMs, parents, Old Girls, friends and family. Please follow this link <http://oldmonmothians.co.uk/150th-anniversary-celebrations-msrc/> for details of the events planned for this year. Please share and email details with fellow Old Monmothians you are still in contact with.



On Saturday 6th April at MSRC Boat House, naming of *John Hartland VIII* was followed by the Anniversary Dinner at The Chase Hotel, Ross on Wye with OM Charlie Wiggin (69), Olympic bronze medallist in 1980, as guest speaker. This social event was the largest representation of chocolate blazers to date, with some 150 OMs in attendance.



Tony Roberts and John Griffiths were photographed holding this silver "House Fours" cup which has been in Tony's family for the past 132 years. His grandfather and great uncle were in the winning four several times between 1881 and 1887. Their father, the Rev'd Charles Manley Roberts, was the Monmouth School headmaster (1859-1892) when the School Rowing Club was started in 1869. Tony was himself at Monmouth between 1948-52 and rowed in the 1952 1st IV.

If you have any memorabilia or photos to share with fellow OMs: contact Sharon Finch [old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:old.monmothians@habsmonmouth.org)

### Henley Royal Regatta Picnic and Row Past Saturday 6th July.

The 1st VIII of 1969 are honoured to be allowed to row over - we are hoping to get a 2nd VIII to row over with them - please contact John Griffiths if you wish to get back into an VIII.



## IWAN HADFIELD (current pupil - 6.II)

### MY GAP YEAR

The OM Club awarded £400 for assistance with the Welsh Home Internationals held last July 2018 and an additional £1,500 towards the GB Trials, totalling £1,900. This is Iwan's acknowledgement.

At the start of November, we had our first water-based assessments of the GB trials calendar. I completed the 5km time trial in Boston, Lincolnshire in a single scull and was very pleased to place 7th out of 140 singles entered.

This successful performance at the November trial gained me an invitation to a GB training camp for a week in Spain. This led onto the next water-based trial, again in Boston, where the same 5km was rowed but this time in a pair. As there is nobody else in the school trialling for GB I chose to train with a partner from Abingdon School, near Oxford, whom I met on the GB training camp in Spain. Out of the 40 pairs there we had the aspiration to come in the top 7 and were overwhelmed when we

found out that we came 2nd overall! This gained me an invitation to Spring Assessments, which involved a pretty relentless load of seat racing and pairs trials in order to establish crews' selection for Munich International Regatta in early May. Following the four days spent in Nottingham at spring trials I was selected to row for Great Britain at this event - my first international GB vest!

I will also be training in Abingdon in the Pair this Easter with high hopes of winning the pairs regatta in late April which is the last water-based trial, as well as heading to Varese in Italy for a week on a training camp with the School.



### MSRC at HIR

Five Sixth Form rowers represented Wales at the Home International Regatta in Cork. Iwan, Robbie, Georg, Ben and Tony met new rowers from all over the country, at the training camp and strong bonds were made. With 2 to 3 outings a day, a lot of progress was made in a short amount of time even with the news that Monmouth's cox, Jack, had moved on to bigger things in the GB squad, leaving the crew to find a hasty replacement. When they got to Cork they had just one training



outing before going back for dinner and team presentations.

The next day saw flat racing conditions. Unfortunately, illness within the squad prevented the 4+ from giving the performance they knew they could and after leading till 1000m they were pipped from the gold medal by England. The 8 also led off the blocks but were eventually squeezed out by England. Both were very gutsy races and a dominant performance against Scotland and Ireland showed them what Welsh rowing was about. The two 2nd places were among the best performances of the day throughout the entire Welsh squad.

Overall, it was a great experience and hopefully the first of many caps for these rowers.

The rivalry with England will continue next year.

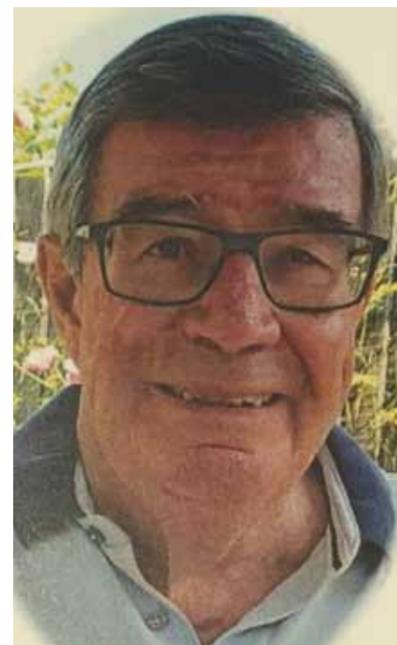
## CHARITY EVENT

Louis Robinson (2006-17) advised that over the summer he and a group of Old Boys are going to complete a 150km row to raise awareness and money for Minds Matter and Mental Health. As they are mostly at university they will struggle to do fundraisers, so they will completely rely on donations and people sharing their campaign.

If you would like to donate, please visit

<https://www.gofundme.com/150km-row-for-mental-health>

## OBITUARIES



**Iain Alexander** (1956-63) has died, after a short illness, at the age of 72. A boarder in New House, Iain played rugby and cricket for the School. He took a degree at the London School of Economics and was a merchant banker in the City and in Australia, before becoming chairman of an oil exploration company.

In retirement, Iain, of Great Bookham, Surrey, was known as a bon viveur with eclectic tastes in literature and music. He was a fine golfer and played at St George's Hill, Weybridge, until shortly before his death.

Many club members joined family and friends at a service of thanksgiving at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham. In attendance was another Old Monmothian, R.J. Watkins (1955-62) and his wife, Carol.

Iain's brother, Rod, delivered the eulogy and his other brother, Gordon, read Rabindranath Tagore's poem *Farewell, My Friends*, and a piece from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

Iain left a widow, Glenys (née Jones), a former pupil at Monmouth School for Girls, a daughter, two adopted sons and two grandchildren.

**J.M.R Irving** (1939-46), known to all as Mike, died on 8th October 2018 at the age of 89. Michael was born and brought up at Monmouth School in 1929, the second son of Housemaster William Ross Irving.

He became a much-loved General Practitioner, joining his Maidenhead practice in 1958. He was a passionate boatsman, fisherman, fell walker and bon viveur.

Mike was the victim of a devastating stroke in 1998 and thereafter lived his life courageously, close to his daughter's family in Burford, Oxfordshire. His ashes were interred at Dixton Church, Monmouth.

**Edward Robbins** who was a pupil at the School in 1946, sadly passed away in August 2018.

A Scholarship boy from Ross-on-Wye, he was given immense support by Brian Stevens (History Staff) and won a place at Jesus College Oxford, where he studied Modern History.

Edward underwent teacher training at Exeter and gained an MA at Warwick. He became Senior Lecturer, Special Needs, at Sheffield Hallam University.

**James De Sousa Stayton** (2006-17) It was with enormous sadness that we learnt about the death of James, aged just 19, who attended Monmouth School from 2006 to 2017. He went on to read a degree in History at Queen Mary University of London.

His funeral took place on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at St Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth. A number of James's friends are undertaking an event to raise money and awareness of the charity Minds Matter and Mental Health - see panel opposite.

**Peter Nickells** died at the age of 81, in hospital after a short illness. Peter joined the Common Room in 1966 as Comptroller and worked at the School in this role and as Assistant Bursar until his retirement in 1998, after 32 years of continuous service.

As Assistant Bursar, his role included coordinating the small army of backroom staff across the Canteen, the Maintenance teams and Contractors which brought him into contact with a great many people who will remember him for his willingness to listen about whatever the daily challenges were, as well as being a hugely practical man.

All three of his sons were employed by Peter during the summer



holidays as part of the maintenance teams, which gave them a strong work ethic and "knowing how to hold a paintbrush!" When he first joined the School, he involved himself in school sports and even had the pleasure of coaching Eddie Butler in the Bantams. His love of sports was passed down to his children, who played rugby and cricket in the Firsts.

Many past pupils will remember Peter for the years he spent running the school RAF section every Friday, attending RAF camps and air experience flying: he was affectionately known as 'Blimp' after the eponymous WW2 cartoon character.

Peter's love of the outdoors meant that he was happy to be involved in running numerous Ten Tors campaigns, supporting Adventure Training, School skiing trips and D of E. He was also very fond of choral and classical music and over his time at the School was heavily involved in concerts and other productions; his enthusiasm for building stages would have made him a great roadie.

Peter is survived by his wife Susan and his children Paul (73-80), Helen (HMSG 74-84), Phil (77-85) and Rog (78-86).

We were sad to learn of the passing of **A W 'Bill' Griffiths**, who was a much respected member of the teaching staff at Monmouth from 1962 to 1993.

Before embarking on a teaching career, Bill was Scientific Technical Officer with the National Coal Board. Between 1954 and 58, he studied at University of Wales, University College, Cardiff and took up his first post at Abbotsholme School, Staffordshire as a General Science and Maths master. After a year, he moved to The High School for Boys in Trowbridge, where he taught Chemistry and Physics.

When Bill arrived at Monmouth, the town became his home. The School immediately benefited from his love of rugby when he took charge of the 3rd XV. Within a year he had coached his squad to an unbeaten season, a feat achieved again two years later. His 1963 players remember that he took them all to celebrate with an afternoon tea at The King's Head hotel.



The 1965-66 Unbeaten 3rd XV

In September 1969, Bill was made Assistant Tutor in Tudor House and in the following Summer term became Housemaster of St James' House, a position he held until August 1982. In September 1985, he took the position of Housemaster of Hereford House,

where he remained in charge until his retirement 5 years later. Bill, with his wife Doreen, was an enthusiastic member of Monmouth Operatic Society and, subsequently, Monmouth Music Theatre. He is survived by Doreen and his children Andrew (OM) and Lizzie (HMSG).

## OM MERCHANDISE

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(A) From an engraving by the late **Marcus Holmes** of the School from Wye Bridge in 1926. Size 9" x 13½" on cartridge paper 15" x 18½".

(B) From original pencil drawings - a set of 4 prints by **Darren Ray**.

150th MSRC Anniversary pin badge £10



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