

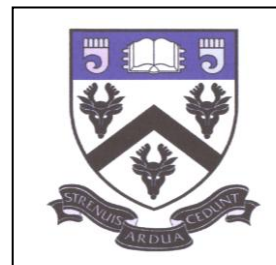


OMA.

Newsletter No. 76 December 2009

President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRI

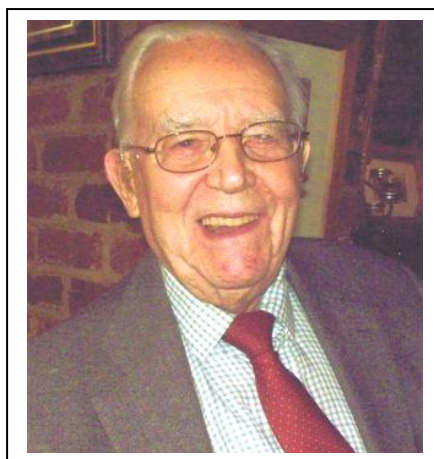
Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

Philip John Badnell (1921/27) – Old Maidonian

100 Not Out



We congratulate Philip on achieving his 100th Birthday, in July 2009. We believe that Philip is the oldest Old Maidonian ever, but if you have information to the contrary please let us know. He is certainly the oldest OMA member ever.

The Badnell family owned a gravel producing business in the area while his parents owned a grocer's shop in Maidenhead High Street. He was a member of the St Mary's Scout Group and also of the School's Cadet Corps. He is able to name all the members of Staff during his years at school and has vivid memories of moving stones to help make the first cricket pitch (the Julian pitch). In spite of not liking Latin as a subject at school, Philip is able to decline the verb *amar* (*amo, amass, amat, etc*) and to conjugate *bellus, bella, bellum, etc*. He recalls that School detentions took place on Saturday mornings!

Philip had always wanted to be a motor mechanic and trained at Hewens Garage, Bridge Street, remaining there for 50 years, apart from war service, eventually becoming Service Manager.

Always a keen Scout he ran the Scout troop at the 1st Cookham for some years before his marriage and later was an active supporter of the 1st Burnham and Hitcham Scout Group and their Gang Shows.

Annual Dinner
Friday 26th March 2010 at
6.30pm
for 7.45pm
At Maidenhead Golf Club

Booking form on back page

Chairman: Grahame Fisher, Bramleigh, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead SL6 2PZ (01628 625555)

Hon. Sec: Mrs Betty Collin, 18 Badminton Road, Maidenhead SL6 4QT (01628 626349),
e-mail: bettycollin@oldmaidonians.org.uk

Hon. Treas: Andrew Bond, 28 Sandringham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7PN,

Committee: Colin Cutler (President), Mrs Helen Duncombe, David Horton, Tony Lehain, Andrew Linnell (Head Teacher), Christopher Nunn, Ian Sutherland (Head Boy), Robert Weston.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 Philip joined the Royal Ordnance Corps (later to become the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)) and was sent to France in the forward area with an Army Field Workshop.

In May 1940, during the retreat to the coast, his unit was ordered to destroy all its vehicles and equipment. The unit managed to make its way on foot to the coast and then to Dunkirk. After two days in the dunes, under constant air attack, he was able to embark on a Dutch barge. Once on board the hatches were closed and the journey back to England was completed in darkness, but with the comforting sound of the slow thump-thump of the single-cylinder diesel engine.

Philip was sent to Nairobi to train local troops and then to the Somaliland Camel Corps, equipped with armoured vehicles and machine guns, and served with them in Sri Lanka, India and finally in Burma. He holds the Burma Star. By the end of the war he was a Warrant Officer.

Philip has happy memories of OMA Annual Dinners in the School Hall, and remembers especially the occasion when he won two tickets for the *Phantom of the Opera* in the raffle. His wife died twelve years ago. He has two sons (an architect and a sheep farmer) and a daughter, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In his earlier days he was a pipe smoker. He still enjoys Manns' Brown Ale (difficult to get these days, according to Philip) and an occasional sherry.

Philip lives on his own in his large bungalow in Taplow. Although somewhat unsteady on his feet, blind in one eye and slightly hard of hearing, Philip is hale, hearty, with a good memory and a great sense of humour. He lives at 27 Lent Rise Road, Taplow, Maidenhead SL6 0JP: tel 01628 661265 – yes, he is in the telephone directory!

OMA Committee News

OMA Website Further to the announcement in our last issue, the website www.oldmaidonians.org.uk is now in operation and you are invited to view it. It is linked to Desborough School's website www.desborough.org.uk. The website designer and webmaster is **Chris Raymond (1962/68)** and all matters relating to the site are dealt with by OMA Committee member **David Horton (1958/65)**

The OMA policy is that the current and the previous issue of the OMA Newsletter will not be available on the website. Earlier issues have been edited to remove all contact details of members so there has been no need to proceed with password protection.

Committee membership During the year **David Horton (1968/75)** (see *News of Old Maidonians*) was welcomed on to the Committee and quickly brought to a successful conclusion the preparations for the OMA website. Head Boy, Ian Sutherland, replaced his predecessor, Ed Paine,

and at the AGM **Colin Cutler (1936/43)** (see *News of Old Maidonians*) was elected President, to succeed **David Eyre (1963/70)**, who had held the office for the last eight years. When David started his term of office he was the Head Teacher of Desborough. In 2005 he was took up the Headship of Brighton Hill Community College, near his home in Basingstoke. He is currently on secondment as Head of

a school in the Portsmouth area, with the responsibility of raising its performance.

The Wilfred Upson Prize was set up by **Bishop George Appleton (1913/20)**, in memory of the unique services to the Association of his brother-in-law, **Wilfred Upson (1910/19)**, to honour the Old Maidonian bringing most honour to the School during the year. The Prize has been awarded in most years and last year was awarded to two Old Maidonians, **Colonel Matthew Holmes DSO RM (1978/83)** and to **Peter Jones CBE (1977/82)**, both of whom donated their prizes to charity, in Matthew's case to a Royal Marine charity.

Wilfred Upson's sister, Miss Geraldine Upson, has very kindly and generously donated £3,000 on behalf of the family, to top up the Prize fund, for which we express our gratitude.

Committee activities In addition to agreeing to funding the costs of setting up the OMA website and to its overall design and content, the Committee also made grants towards the cost of the School's 1st XV rugby tour to Paris in February 2009, towards the costs of a geography field trip in 2009 and towards the cost of a School expedition to Tanzania in 2010 which will endeavour to help in the development of educational facilities in an isolated community.

Annual Dinner – Friday 26th March 2010 will take place at the Maidenhead Golf Club. There will be no guest speaker and other speeches will be kept to a minimum to give those attending more opportunity to converse with other Old Maidonians. The ticket price will be £20 for paid-up members and £22 for Old Maidonians who are not members of the Association. Those joining on the night will be refunded the £2 difference in ticket price. For those who would like to visit the School there will be an opportunity of making a tour at 5 pm, starting at the School's Reception

Changes of addresses/email addresses Please remember to let us know if you change your address or email address. After each issue we lose contact with a number of our members, with Newsletters and emails being returned as undeliverable.

Overdue subscriptions If you have received notification that your subscription is due for renewal or is in arrears, we would ask you to please give this matter your attention before it slips your mind.

Email addresses If you have received this Newsletter by post and are now on email, we ask you to let us have your email address (by sending an email to omanewsletter@aol.com) so that we can send future issues by email, thereby cutting delivery time by some 10 days and reducing our postage costs, currently borne by our sponsor.

News of the School

We acknowledge with thanks the following contribution from Mr Andrew Linnell, Head Teacher.

2009 has been a hectic year for Desborough School. In this period the School successfully extended its designation as a specialist Language College and also extended the International School Award from the Department of Children, Schools and Families. The School has also been awarded an extension to our Investors in People status as a sign of the very positive approach to staff development. The School has also achieved the Sportmark as a result of the strength of sports and games provision.



There was a full OFSTED Inspection of the School in May 2009. In this the various strengths of the School were recognised (our inclusive ethos, the care and guidance of pupils and pupil behaviour and attendance were particularly praised) and issues identified to help us with our continuing work to improve the School further. The report can be accessed from the School's website (www.desborough.org.uk) and I would encourage all Old Boys to look at our website regularly to get a flavour of what is happening in school. In particular, please click on the regular newsletters to see more details of various school events.

On the 23 November 2009, I attended the Prince's Teaching Institute Programme Mark Launch at Clarence House. At this event, HRH the Prince of Wales awarded 73 departments from 51 schools the Prince's Teaching Institute's first Schools' Programme Mark.

The Prince's Teaching Institute was founded 7 years ago and has the objectives of: encouraging state schools to develop their academic subjects, to motivate teachers to deepen their subject knowledge and celebrate the school departments that are engaged in curriculum improvements and projects that will result in better subject provision. Participating schools have access to various professional development events and become members of a network of like-minded schools.

Desborough School has been involved in the Institute for four years. The History, Mathematics and Science Departments are members. It is the Science Department, under the leadership of Mr Ed Brockett, which have been

awarded the Prince's Teaching Institute Mark. This was for:

- Increasing challenge within the curriculum;
- Further enthusing pupils with activities beyond the curriculum;
- Developing the staff's own specialist subject knowledge;
- Developing subject-based links outside school.

On the Prince's Teaching Institute two projects are particularly commended. One was a Master Class on "Air" for gifted and talented science pupils in schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This was run with the Chemistry Department of the University of Reading. A second project involved staff training and the teaching of A-Level Biology practical sessions on electrophoresis techniques. This was run with a member of staff from Royal Holloway University of London, Safina Khan, who is also a member of the School's Governing Body.

There are 8 separate professional development activities for participating schools in 2010 on topics as diverse as:

- The site of the 2012 Olympics;
- Hamlet – serial killer?
- The history of mathematics;
- The history of medicine;
- Making astronomy engaging;
- The contemporary novel;
- Parliament and Monarchy in the reign of King Charles I.

Desborough School is delighted to be part of the Prince's Teaching Institute Programme and that three departments in the school have been chosen to participate.

I would like to thank Colin Cutler and members of the Association for their continuing support of the School. Colin and Betty Collin attended the School's Celebrations of Remembrance. As the School Hall is not large enough to have all the students and pupils there simultaneously, these occasions have to be repeated three times. This gave an opportunity to remember the contribution made by Old Boys in particular in various conflicts.

Andrew Linnell
Head Teacher

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

36th Annual Match v School – 6th April 2009

The School won this event by 4.5 to 3.5 matches. Playing for the OMA were Michael Clyde (1955/61), Dayne Ferrar (200/07), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), Peter McNicoll (1967/74), Chris Raymond (1962/66) and Roy Squire (1945/50).

35th Competition for the Brooks Cup – 27th July 2009

18 players took part in this event on a fine but windy day. The winner was John Weavers (1974/81), with 36 points,

on a countback. John is the first three-times winner of this event, having previously won the Cup in 1989 and 1999. He had not played since the Brooks Cup last year. Runner-up was Ryan Akehurst.

The leading results were:-

		Handicap	Points
Winner	John Weavers	16	36
Runner-up	Ryan Akehurst	22	36
3 rd	Mike Clyde	10	34
4 th	Henry Oldershaw	24	34
5 th	Chris Raymond	15	34
6 th	David Langley	5	33

Fixtures for 2010

Match v School – Monday 12th April 2010

Competition for the Brooks Cup – Monday 26th July 2010

Both events will take place at Maidenhead Golf Club. If you are interested in taking part please contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130): colincutler@oldmaidonians.org.uk

Rugby

The OMA v School rugby match, due to have taken place on December 16th 2009, had to be postponed due to the frozen pitch.

Weddings

Christopher Dugdale (1987/94) married Alexis in Annapolis, Maryland, USA, in June 2008 (pictured on the right), after which there was another wedding celebration in Windsor, Berks.



Tom Meynell (1993/2000) married Claire Villis in August 2009 in Streatley. The couple spent their honeymoon in Kenya. They had met during their first year at Cardiff University. Tim is an accountant and Claire is a teacher. Best man was **Anthony Norton (1993/2000)** who had travelled from Shanghai.

News of Old Maidonians

The Association is always pleased to hear from Old Maidonians and acknowledges with thanks the news they have provided about themselves and about other Old Maidonians and invites members to send in their news. Please give dates of joining and leaving School to assist in identification.

James Ashby (2000/05) had planned to take up acting as a career after attending a Reading drama school and appearing as an extra in three Harry Potter films. However, he is now a guitarist and singer with *The Quotes*, a rock band formed with three friends from Reading. *The Quotes* have appeared with legendary singer Nick Heyward, and have taken part in the Cookham Festival and at other venues.

Bill Aylward (1943/48) On leaving School, Bill emigrated to the USA where he served in the US Army and later with the National Guard, retiring as a Lt Colonel. He had a career in TV as a news anchorman in New York and Washington, later becoming a TV programme producer. He also did some acting in films and TV for which he gives some credit to Frank Hammersley (Head of Music for many years).

Bill tells us that he keeps busy writing and doing some independent production. He considers he has done his part in keeping up the population level, with five children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bill lives in Reston, Virginia.

Nick Baldwin (1981/88) tells us that it has been close to a decade since he sent an update to this Newsletter so he has kindly brought us up to date with the following contribution.

*I am still based in the East End of London but moved from Stepney Green to Mile End in 1999 and now have the pleasure of seeing the Olympic Park grow on a daily basis, only a mile away as the crow flies. My brother **Peter (1983/90)** shared the house with me for many years but then last year, he decided to move up in the world and moved to Balham with his fiancée Kathryn. Pete and Kat got engaged during the summer of 2009 whilst on holiday in the old homeland, Sweden, but they have yet to set a date for the wedding. I share the house in Mile End with my girlfriend Nicola and a Norwegian lodger. Nicola hails from Zimbabwe and has recently left life at Ford Motor Company, as an engineer making crank shafts, to set up her own interior design company.*

Workwise I have spent most of the last ten years working in Telecoms. Until January of 2009, I was at IDT, an American telecoms carrier and pre-paid

calling provider. For many years, I worked with all aspects for pre-paid calling cards, everything from setting up new offices to producing new calling cards and ensuring that quality levels remained high so that our customers could make their weekly calls home to Mum. When that sector got a bit stale, I moved in to the world of mobile phones and started to work with setting up MVNOs, mobile virtual network operators. Whilst at IDT, I was given the chance to take a 6-month sabbatical and I jumped at the chance! Nicky and I set off on an amazing world trip that started in Tanzania and Zanzibar, went via Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and finished off in Singapore. The trip included scuba dives with whales sharks and manta rays, a 6000 km drive across Australia and seeing the fabulous temples of Angkor Wat - for anyone wanting to read the full story and see the pictures, check out: <http://bit.ly/8Ck1DA>. I would heartily recommend such a trip to anyone who has the urge.

Upon our return in May 2008, it was clear that things were not going too well at IDT. I was unfortunately made redundant at the end of January 2009, but was extremely lucky to get a new job within the same industry 4 days later. I started at Lebara at the beginning of February 2009 and had a six month contract to help them with setting up a new MVNO service in a new market in Europe. Lebara are a very exciting company to work for and are probably the leading company in the world in the sector of pre-paid MVNOs offering very cheap international calls. Unfortunately the role at Lebara did not work out as I had hoped so I now have the luxury of taking some time to try and figure out what the next great career move in my life should be - definitely open to suggestions!

During these last few years, travelling has definitely become a great hobby, with one of the highlights being Pete's and my trip to the 2002 World Cup in Japan, where we followed both Sweden and England. Handily they were drawn in the same group and we were overjoyed to see both countries qualify out of "The Group of Death" on top of both Argentina and Nigeria. We travelled to all the matches in our Swengland shirts and Swedish and English silk suits and oddly enough, were often stopped to be photographed by the locals. We also ended up being interviewed for English, Argentinian, Japanese (twice) and Swedish TV. Aside from the travels, American football has been a fluctuating passion and I spent several years volunteering with London Monarchs Gridiron team, and was even the stadium commentator at Stamford Bridge for one season.

In terms of contact with fellow Old Maids, I was in touch with **Paul Kehoe (1984/88)** and **Russell Latham (1974/79)** but those contacts seem to have lapsed but I do see **Nick Smith (1981/88)** now and then and his latest news is that he and his partner Christina recently had twin girls. It is however good to see what people are up to on Facebook.

I would welcome contact from any old friends via email or Facebook. It would be great to see any of the old crowd at the OMA Dinner and I hope to be there for 2010.

David J E Butler (member of Staff 1960/65), who retired in 1996 after 22 years as Devon County Science Adviser, has moved to Roundswell, Barnstaple.

John Caton (1946/52) has lost his two brothers, **Mark (1948/55)** and **(Roger (1951/57)** within the last two years. He has kindly provided the information about them published in the *In Memoriam* section. The following is his own account of his School days and his subsequent career.

My father was demobbed at RAF White Waltham in 1946 and was offered a job on the spot. The family abandoned Wakefield, Yorkshire and moved to Maidenhead.

I started at the beginning of the summer term in 3A. 'It might be a bit rotten at first...' my form mates at Wakefield Grammar School had warned me. It wasn't. On account of my strange accent 3A concluded that I must be a demon spin bowler and thrust me straight into the weekly contest with 3B 2nd XI. I spent the rest of my career trying to justify their assessment. Eventually I captained the school XI.

For exactly the same reason, Mr Eagling decided that since Androcles was a Greek whilst the rest of the cast for 'Androcles and the Lion' were Romans, my accent would be right for his production of Shaw's play. I made my debut at the old Town Hall and remained seriously stage struck.

*In my final year, **Barry Hatch (1945/52)** was School Captain, whilst I filled the role of what Golding insisted on calling 'Captain of Vice'. Chemistry at Reading University came next, followed by the RAF.*

*I then spent most of my working life in the Plastics industry, at Welwyn Garden City, Wembley (when I returned for a short time to the Maidenhead area), then Kirkcaldy in Fife and Blackburn in Lancashire. After a break, teaching physics, it was back to Fife to run a manufacturing company in beautiful Cowdenbeath. We remained in Fife after I retired, where I remained active with the St Andrews Play Club at the Byre Theatre. It was here that I met **Alan Tricker (1960/67)** and not knowing his background, discovered one evening in the bar after rehearsal that we were both doing imitations of Gus Dean.*

These days I keep myself occupied, and the wolf from the door, by designing and maintaining websites, mainly of an educational nature.

Peter Couch (member of staff 1985/2008) has retired and has now settled in Spain. He would welcome contact from former pupils and members of staff. He and his wife, Vivien, live Alicante, Spain.

Colin A R Cutler (1936/43), elected President at this year's OMA AGM, joined the OMA Committee in 1966. He gained a degree in Chemistry, Physics and Radio at Reading University and then served in the RNVR on aircraft carriers as a Sub-Lieutenant specialising in radio/radar. In 1947 he joined Shell, in their chemicals business, and remained with them for 37 years of which some 25 years were dealing with the marketing of plastics raw materials. He was elected a governor of Desborough School in 1973 and served as Chairman from 1978 to 1996. He was Chairman of the 18th Maidenhead (Desborough school) Scout Group for 10 years, District Commissioner, Maidenhead, for 10 years and County Secretary for 15 years. .

He is Chairman of Shoppenhangers Road Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. A keen but poor golfer he started the OMA Golfing Section in 1974 and has organised the matches ever since. He lives almost opposite the school. Married to Doreen, a former Wren, their two sons attended the School. **Michael (1965/72)** is now senior partner of Colemans Solicitors, Maidenhead and **David (1967/74)** is an accountant living near Denver, Colorado.

The Dugdale brothers

Chris Dugdale (1984/91), who, as reported above was married in 2008 in the USA, gained a degree in psychology and is now an internationally acclaimed close-up magician, appearing in many countries around the world, where his fluency in French and German has been beneficial. He has made over one hundred appearances in the Monte Carlo Casino in Las Vegas. He is the only magician to have been invited to a command performance at the United Nations in New York and to perform for Her Majesty the Queen in the same year.

Chris has completed recording a TV magic show that is currently being promoted to the industry for release in 2010 or 2011. He has also been the star of a successful stage show at the Hammersmith Riverside Studios. The show also ran at the Windsor Arts Centre in December 2009 and has been rebooked for a 4-week run again at the Riverside Studios in 2010.

Will Dugdale (1987/94), Oxford golf Blue and former golf professional, completed a PGSE at Cambridge in June 2009, where he won another golf Blue – and we congratulate Will on being the first golfer to represent both sides in the Golf Varsity match since 1910.

Will is now teaching German at The Latymer School in North London. He has recently got engaged and now lives

in London

Barry Hatch (1945/52), a former School Captain, studied civil engineering at Imperial College, London, gaining First Class honours. During national service in the Royal Engineers he was sent to Singapore to supervise civil engineering contractors at an RAOC depot. In the course of his career with major international contractors he worked on a number of civil engineering projects in various countries, including the Maldives Islands, building an RAF base, Malta, building tunnels for fresh water supply, and Ghana, surveying the route for the Accra to Tema motorway. He also handled projects in the UK, ranging from a flood relief scheme, in the Wirral, a power station and a breakwater in Wales and finally the last section of the M6 motorway in Birmingham.

Barry then joined the building firm started by his father, and later, after the death of his father, he and his two brothers, **Colin (1941/46)** and **Keith (1943/48)**, formed Colin Hatch Ltd. The business did well and was eventually sold in 1992. Colin died in November 2008. Barry is a long-time member, past President and currently Secretary of the Rotary Club of Maidenhead Thames. He now lives at Dunsden Green, near Reading.

Kevin Herke (1982/89), a star tennis player at School, gained a Sports scholarship to the University of Charleston. He is currently the Director of Tennis at the River Creek Club in Leesburg, Virginia, USA. He is married to Cheryl, who comes from Tennessee and is the reason for his residence in the USA. They have two daughters, Afton aged 2.5 years and Darby aged one year. Kevin tells us – *“I almost fell off my chair a few years ago when I turned on the TV and saw Peter Jones in his show ‘The American Inventor’. Having played tennis against Peter while at Desborough I did not expect that the next time I saw him he would be a television star”*.

Kevin was interested and surprised to learn that Desborough was now admitting girls into the sixth Form and says his wife was wondering if it was possible to book a place in 2023. He is still in touch with two of his contemporaries **Philip James (1981/89)** and **Paul Ringer (1982/82)**.

Dave Higgs (1956/63) has kindly donated to the Association a copy of the School rules booklet of 1961, 20 pages of it. The booklet has been scanned into the OMA website, along with the much more succinct current School rules which are on a card the size of a credit card.

Don Higgs (!976/83) has moved from Wilton to Talaton, Exeter

Nick Hornby (1968/75), best-selling author of *Fever Pitch*, *About a Boy*, *High Fidelity*, *How to be Good*, *A long way down* and *Slam*, has now written *Juliet*, *Naked*,

published in September 2009. He is also the adaptor of the script for the forthcoming film, *An Education*, based on a short story by Lynne Barber.

Dave Horton (1958/65) joined the OMA Committee earlier this year. He has worked closely with **Chris Raymond (1962/68)** in the development of the OMA website and is responsible for any input/changes to the website. He has provided the following resumé of his career for which we thank him. *"After the old Grammar School, I did a degree in chemistry at Queen Mary College, London, which was a big mistake, as I certainly wasn't cut out to be a scientist. However, I joined the paper manufacturer Wiggins Teape as a chemist, and then changed over to sales and marketing after 7 years, where I stayed for another 13 years with the same company, firstly in Canterbury (where I married my first wife), then in Romford, Essex, then in Basingstoke, where I married my second wife in 1988.*

After that I worked for various companies in the paper, printing and furniture industries, moving to Maidstone, and then settling in Woodley (Reading), finally taking early retirement in 2004, and buying a music shop in the Bishop Centre, Maidenhead. This was originally "Sound Of Music", but I changed it to Mr Music. I sold it after 3 years, and retired properly in 2007. I am now a buy-to-let landlord, play in and run two bands (see website www.backbeat56.co.uk and www.thehiredhamnds.co.uk), own a classic car (Jaguar XJS), am learning and loving bridge, and I still have managed to avoid the decorating. I seemingly can't resist working, since I have recently joined two voluntary organisations: the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists), where I am a trustee, and the Old Maidonians' Association, as a committee member. Luckily my wife Stevie is still working!"

James Jacob (1988/96) studied Geology at Portsmouth University after which he worked for a marketing agency in Thame. He now works for one of the leading marketing agencies. While at university he met his future wife, Anne-Marie, who was on the same course as James and who went on to study for a PGCE to become a primary school teacher. They were married in Ireland in 2002 and now live in Aylesbury. James says that he plays golf as often as he can.

Chris I Jones (1974/81) Further to the report in our last issue, Chris took part in a trip to Nepal earlier this year. In the group were **David Dunning (1970/77)** and Tim Cadle, a former Venture Scout Leader of the 18th Maidenhead (Desborough School) Scout Group. The group trekked for 200 miles and spent some days in the Chitwan National park on elephant-back before returning via Kathmandu. The

highlight of the trip was a very gruelling day crossing the Thorung La pass at 5,416m in unexpected snow. The group is planning their next trip. Chris lives in Appleshaw, Hants:

Peter Jones CBE (1977/82) We congratulate Peter, entrepreneur and one of the stars of the TV programme *Dragon's Den*, on being awarded a CBE in the 2008 New Year Honours List, for services to business and young people. We were not able to include the announcement in our last Newsletter but were able to advise those receiving the Newsletter by email

John Keys (1944/48), who retired from Westland Helicopters as Assistant Chief Flight Engineer after a career of 33 years, now lives in the Isle of Wight.

Les J Lawrie (1933/36) and his wife, Bessie, have moved from Twyford to the Forest of Dean, Glos. They now live in the specially built annexe of the house belonging to his son and daughter-in-law. Les has always been a keen sportsman. He played soccer for the Old Maidonians when their home ground was in Sandisplatt Road, with a large pitch, and he recalls that when the leather ball became waterlogged it was impossible for corner kicks to reach the goal area. By 1955 he was the Hon. Secretary of the Club. A copy of the 1955/56 fixture card can be found on the OMA website, www.oldmadomians.org.uk

He played cricket for Boyn Hill and played in the Old Maidonians' teams from 1947 to 1966, captaining them ten times, including the teams that won the Julian Cup in 1952 to 1956, 1958, 1961 and 1962. We acknowledge with thanks the photograph of the 1952 team that he has donated to the Association. Les informs us that the 1962 team and the 1964 winning team captained by **Derek Woolford (1944/48)**, contained three sets of brothers, **Ian (1951/56)** and **Stuart (1952/55) Langley**, **Les and Ken (1947/53) Lawrie**, and **Derek and Barrie (1951/59) Woolford**.

Les was also a keen golfer, playing at Sonning Golf Club, and in 1986 won the Brooks Cup. For many years Les and Bessie were leading bowls players and their one regret about their move is that the 50 mile round trip to play has become too much for them. They live in Cinderford, Glos

Tony Lehain (member of Staff 1965/96 and subsequently as a supply teacher), a long-serving member of the OMA Committee, still runs the Staff football pools syndicate. He has recently moved to Charvil, Reading

John H Moses (1953/58) has moved within the Guildford area to Hill View Cottage, Westwood Lane, Normandy, Guildford, Surrey GU3 2JJ

George Natriss (1961/67), rugby player extraordinaire has sent us the following summary of his career. *I left the school in 1968 to work at the Prudential in Holborn, Central London, where I spent almost 25 years working on their IBM mainframe computers.*

Then I did some temping and contracting for a year including at British Rail at Crewe. From 1994/97 I worked at Unichem in Chessington and from 1997/2001 at Compuware in Slough (technical support for FileAID).

My last job was with Experian, working on the Claims Underwriting Exchange and the Motor Insurance Database. In Feb 2008 I took voluntary redundancy. I am now retired from work but not from rugby!

I still play regularly (well make up the numbers) for the Veterans rugby team at Redingensians, where I am also the Fixture Secretary. I celebrated my 900th game for Redingensians last season and also played in the Old Maids v the School game last season - 40 years after leaving!

I enjoy walking - exploring the local footpaths, running to keep fit for rugby and travelling abroad.

Zena and I married in 1975 and we have two children - David 30 and Rebecca 27. We still live in Twyford in our 3rd house in the village.

Luke Over MBE (1944/48), who has written several books about Maidenhead and its history, has now produced a new book, 'Villages around Maidenhead', in which he covers their history, firstly as manors and later as extended settlements. Luke lives at 40 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead SL6 4DE.

Eddie Pearce (1984/89), Advertising manager of the Baylis Media Group, publishers of the Maidenhead Advertiser, has been elected President of the Maidenhead and District Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Pearson (1967/74) has moved within Denver to 2001 Lincoln Street, Apartment 1911, Denver, Colorado.

Vince Purton (1970/77) read English and History at Jesus College, Cambridge, after which he went to Japan for 18 months, returning to Jesus for a post-graduate course in History. He then joined a Japanese investment bank, Daidwa Securities, in the City. He is now Managing Director of the company.

Vince has six sons from two marriages, the ages of the children ranging from 18 years to 2 years. He lives with

his second wife and their three children in Twickenham. In March 2009 he and some of his contemporaries from Maidenhead Grammar School met up for a reunion.

Phil Radjuschko (1962/69) We congratulate Phil on completing 40 years with John Crane UK, Slough, where he is in outside sales covering London and a large part of the Home Counties. He lives in Twyford.

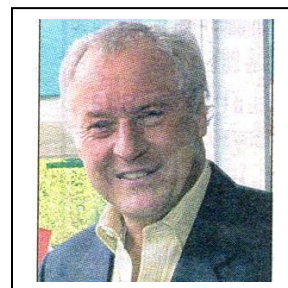
R W Stanley (member of Staff 1961/84, Vice-President and former Chairman of the OMA) has moved from his Marlow home to a residential care home in Cookham where he is comfortably ensconced in a room overlooking the river. He would welcome contact from former colleagues and pupils. His address is Cookham Riverside, Berries Road, Cookham, Maidenhead SL6 9SD: tel 01628 810557.

Gareth H J Thomas (1991/98) graduated from Bournemouth University with a marketing degree. He took the decision to move back to his family roots of South Wales where he met his partner Eleri in the quiet town of Ystradgynlais, near Swansea. They were married last year, with **Mike Hudson (1991/98)** as his best man and **Toby Bartlett (1991/98)** as usher. Over ten Old Maids made the journey down the M4 to attend the wedding.

Gareth has worked in various marketing roles, for the airline bmi baby, and for the real estate organisation McArthurGlen. He is currently working for GVA Grimley in a property development role in Ebbw Vale. Gareth still plays rugby for a side in Wales and says that he still spends time reminiscing about the famous Desborough Rugby Tour to Canada in 1998, where some lifelong friendships were made.

Next year promises to be a busy year with Gareth and his wife expecting their first child in April and settling into their new home, in Ystradgynlais, Swansea

Ian Thomas (1960/68) has been awarded a Philip Harris Fellowship by Maidenhead Rotary Club. The Fellowship is the highest award that the club can confer and is in recognition of Ian's outstanding work in the club and in the community. A former president of the club, he was also its treasurer for 11 years, raising over £250,000 for charity. He is managing director of Cordwallis Commercials Ltd, Maidenhead.



Will Torrent (1997/2004),

winner of the Upson prize in 2007, continues to gain national recognition in



his chosen career. In June 2009 Will was named the Young Chef of the Year at a glittering event, the Craft Guild of Chef Awards, held at the London Hilton, Park Lane. The presentation was by royal patron, Sophie, Countess of Wessex. Speaking at the event Will said "It's fantastic to be recognised by chefs and for a pastry chef to win Young Chef of the Year makes it even more sweet and I still can't believe it. The evening was made even more special with Heston Blumenthal winning the special achievement award, as my first week in a kitchen was with him at The Fat Duck when I was 15".

At the end of November 2009 Will was awarded the prestigious 2010 Acorn Scholarship, that will give Will the opportunity to work alongside some illustrious figures in the industry as mentors during the next year. Will was chosen from 11 other finalists. He impressed the judges with his presentation and with his ambition and passion for his career plans that including opening his own patisserie within the next five years.

Will gained a 1st Class Honours BSc Degree in Culinary Arts Management at Thames Valley University in 2007. In November 2007 he represented the UK in Confectionary Skills, in the Culinary Arts section of Worldskills 2007, in which he won the Medal of Excellence in the Confectionary event.

Will, son of Desborough's Director of Music, Peter Torrent, is currently pastry chef at Bachmanns Patisserie and Chocolate Creations, Thames Ditton. his website is [www. willtorrent.com](http://www.willtorrent.com)

Duncan Trigg (1974/79) We apologise for giving the wrong dates for Duncan in the last Newsletter, making him some 25 years older than he is. After leaving School, Duncan took an OND in Hotel and Catering Management at Reading Technical College and then did a two-year hotel management course with Concord Hotels, following which he spent 11 years in hotel management in various locations including Oakley Court, Windsor. He then moved into sales in various sectors, including concrete floors, hotel consumables, capital equipment and currently Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles. He has sent us the photograph showing him with his Warwick (made by Peerless Cars in Slough) as described in the contribution by **Ernie 'Ozzie' Austin (1948/51)** in our Newsletter No 74.



John Weavers (1974/81), who won the Brooks Cup for the third time this year, studied Economics at Warwick University and then had a spell teaching English in Brazil. He then gained an MSc in the Economics of Latin America at Queen Mary College, London. John has worked in the City for over 20 years, most recently as a journalist with Reuters, covering emerging markets in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

John says that he has been inspired by his contemporary, **John O'Farrell (1973/80)**, to become an occasional comedy writer and his first sitcom, *Blue is the Colour* (a tale of working class and upper class Chelsea fans) has been optioned by the BBC. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Fulham, South West London

Light Relief

THE CLASS REUNION (American style)

Every ten years, as summertime nears,
An announcement arrives in the mail,
A reunion is planned; it'll be grand;
Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met;
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there.
It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined,
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses
And how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The jocks who were there had all lost their hair,
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd
Who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon;
Or poor little Jane, who's always been plain;
She married a shipping tycoon.
The boy we'd decreed 'most apt to succeed'
Was serving ten years in the pen,
While the one voted 'least' now was a priest;
Just shows... you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys
Who seemed to have aged the least.

Another was given to the grad who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture
Of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini;
You never saw so many thighs.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their classmates or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

It was held out-of-doors, at the lake shores;
We ate hamburgers, coleslaw, and beans.
Then most of us lay around in the shade,
In our comfortable T-shirts and jeans.

By the fiftieth year, it was abundantly clear,
We were definitely over the hill.
Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed,
And be home in time for their pill.

And now I can't wait; they've set the date;
Our 55th is coming, I'm told.
It should be a ball, they've rented a hall
At the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;
My pacemaker's been turned up on high.
My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been boiled;
And I've bought a new wig and glass eye.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.
It'll be lots of fun; But I just hope that there's one
Other person who can make it that night.

Author Unknown

Supplied by **Richard Pearce (1956/61)**

Table Plan for Annual Dinner 27th March 2009

Table 1

Betty Collin
Dick Edwards
Grahame Fisher
Colin Hurley
Cllr Dorothy Kemp
Maureen Kenney
George Nattriss
Len Reynolds
Ian Thomas

Table 2

Julian Barry
Nick Bielby
Angela Bradshaw
Helen Duncombe
David Evans
Nick Lee
Rachel Leedale
Martin Nicholas
Chris Nunn
Hazel Pickett
Steven Reed
Wayne Stewart
Mark Turner
Mike Vaughan

Table 3

Dayne Ferrar
Steven Howells
Tony Lehain
Jack McElligott
Tom Oldershaw
Ed Paine
Elliott Trussel

Table 4

Peter Brown
Arthur Cox
Malcolm Cutler
Colin Edwards
Tony Johnson
Derek Woolford

Table 5

Bob Alan
Michael Clyde
Roger Flemington
Tony Grant
Derek Harris
Christopher Maltin
John Powell
Bart Sams
Mike Wilkey
Barrie Woolford

Table 6

Ray Clark
Frederick Hearman
Tony Hearman
Richard Hildreth
Paul Mills
John Moses
John Nash
John Stacey

Table 7

Graham Bridges
Richard Burfitt
Richard Bush
Patrick Folliard
Douglas Hamilton
Robert Heaver
David Horton
G Jones
M Keating
Martin Lyne
David Revell
David Scott
John Smith
Mike Willoughby

Table 8

Andy Bond
Michael Carr
Doug Courtney
Malcolm Kempton
Alan Kent
Roger Keys
Alistair Price
Mark Shimmin
Paul Sugden
Steven Wray

The Association gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of the postage for this issue by

***Purnell Fisher Child & Co.,
Independent Financial Advisers,
8 Waltham Court, Milley Lane, Hare Hatch,
Reading, Berks RG10 9AA
Tel: 0118 940 5600
Email: Graham.Fisher@pfcltd.co.uk***

In Memorium

We regret to report the deaths of the following Old Maidonians and extend our sympathies to the families:-

Cyril O G Burdett (1933/38) died in November 2009 at the age of 89. At School he played in all the sports teams and held the School High Jump record from 1936 to 1962. He also held the record for throwing the Cricket Ball until the event was discontinued. On leaving school he joined Nicholson's Brewery (while remaining teetotal) before joining the RAF, firstly in the Military Police and then as aircrew as a flight engineer on Lancaster Bombers with 514 Squadron operating out of Waterbeach, north of Cambridge. He took part in many raids over Germany including operations in support of the Rhine crossings in January 1945. He was also involved in "Operation Manna" in late 1944, dropping food supplies to the starving Dutch people. He was loaned out to Coastal Command and took part in the repatriation of troops from Italy to the UK.

He went back to Nicholson's after the war but only stayed there a short while as Mr Nicholson said he couldn't stay unless he shaved off his beard.- the beard stayed! He continued to play sport, playing hockey for Maidenhead and Bray 1st X1 and the Hairy Goats in the '50's and '60's. He was also a member of Maidenhead Rowing Club and was in the eight that won the Maidenhead Cup in 1952. In the late '50's Cyril became a film extra, playing the part of a footballer at Maidenhead United's York Road ground in "The Card" starring Alec Guinness, a 1900 period film needing bearded and moustached characters.

He worked for Citroen Cars and The Rheostatic Company and in 1956 joined Metal Colours where he was Sales Manager until retirement in 1990. With a friend he bought and raced an early go-cart and at 70 was still driving his MGB GT V8. In the '70s and '80's he took up new pursuits, Scuba diving, golf and flying light aircraft, obtaining his Private Pilots Licence. He was flying and Scuba diving till he reached 80 and continued to play golf until earlier this year!

Graham Bridges (1967/63), who has provided much of the above information, adds that Cyril lived life with great determination and gusto, always a fighter, never a quitter and that another side of Cyril was his compassion for the elderly and infirm whom he visited conscientiously.

Major General Peter John Bush OBE (1934/41) died in May 2009 at the age 85. His funeral took place at Stubbings Church. In October a memorial service for him was held at the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, attended by very many senior officers who



had served with him or who had been trained by him, and by members of the OMA.

At school he excelled at sports and athletics, becoming captain of all the teams as well as Head of School House. He took a two-year teacher training course at Cheltenham before joining the army in 1943 as a trooper in the Royal Horse Guards. He was commissioned into the Somerset Light Infantry and saw war service in Italy as part of No 9 Commando. After the war the Somerset Light Infantry was sent to India, with Peter Bush as a young battalion adjutant. After partition they were the last British troops to leave India.

He then served in Germany and afterwards in Malaya for which he was mentioned in despatches. After service at Bristol University, training officer cadets, and then in Germany, he was appointed Chief Instructor at Sandhurst Military Academy where he was a major influence in the training of officer cadets. He was then given the role of forming a new TA battalion at Shrewsbury after which he was awarded the OBE.

He was then appointed, as a Brigadier, to command the 3rd Infantry Brigade in 1971/3 serving in Northern Ireland covering the border areas. The house that he and his wife were due to occupy was blown up a few days before they were due to move in. His next appointment was as the Deputy Commandant of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. His final appointment, as a Major General, was with NATO in Brussels. On his retirement in 1975 he became Controller of the Army Benevolent Fund and served in that capacity for a further 7 years. He was for some years Colonel of the Light Infantry. He was a natural leader and a noted trainer of army officers. He was caring and compassionate, with a great sense of fun.

In retirement, Peter took an interest in wildlife, fishing and coursing, becoming Honorary Life President of the Whippet Coursing Club. He was a member of the Old Maidonians' Association Committee and served as its President in 1992/3.

Peter married his wife, Jean, in 1947, and they came to live in Maidenhead in 1973. Jean died in 2006 and Peter is survived by his children, Nicholas, Margaret and Jonathan and 7 grandchildren.

Mark Caton (1948/55) died in February 2008 at the age of 70, as announced in our last issue. We thank Roger's brother, **John (1946/52)**, for the following summary of Mark's life.

Mark's family moved from Wakefield to Maidenhead in 1946. Mark started at Ellington Primary School where he "forgot" his accent but not his Yorkshire roots. He arrived at the County Boys' School in a vintage period for sport at the school. Contemporaries included David Bannister and Alan Silver who were both to become England Junior football internationals. Mark went on to represent the school at football and hockey and was captain of cricket. He was also a powerful sprinter, specialising in the punishing 440 yards event. He was School Captain in his final year. At this time, he met Angela, who was a V11th former at the County Girls'

School. They married in 1958 and had three daughters and seven grandchildren, most of whom have kept up the family sporting tradition.

Mark was active with the Old Maidonians' Association during his remaining time in the area and was a member of the Old Maids XI that won the Julian Cup in 1958.

After leaving school, Mark joined Barclays Bank where he worked for four years. He then decided that his true vocation was in teaching and trained as a Primary School Teacher. He received early recognition when he was appointed as Head of Burghfield Primary School at the age of 29. He was told he was the youngest person to be appointed to a Headship in Berkshire.

After three years at Burghfield, he was appointed Headteacher of College Town Junior School in Sandhurst for a further three, before moving as Headteacher to Midhurst Intermediate School, which was the largest Middle School in the South. At Midhurst, Mark remained a keen club cricketer. In proper Yorkshire style, he was a determined batsman, never easy to shift, and passed the 100 mark on more than one occasion.

In 1981 he had a sabbatical year at Southampton University and graduated with a Masters degree in Education and became an Advisor in West Sussex. Mark was appointed as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors in 1984 to the Midland division. His next move was to the West of England when he became Divisional Staff Inspector after only six years as an HMI and, again, he was told that he was the first Primary person ever to be appointed. Kenneth Clark then brought in OFSTED to replace HMI and so Mark took early retirement and became an Educational Consultant.

Since full retirement, Mark had been very active as Treasurer of his Church for nine years, Chairman of The Friends of Old Sodbury Church, Probus President, Chair of Governors of Old Sodbury School, and lastly, the first Chairman of the University of the Third Age in his area. When there was time, he and Angela travelled widely to visit friends and family.

Roger Caton (1951/57) died in July 2009 aged 69. We are grateful to Roger's brother, John (1946-52) for the following appreciation. Roger's family moved from Wakefield to Maidenhead in 1946. Roger started at Ellington Primary School and then followed his elder brothers, John and Mark, to the County Boys' School. Here he met his lifelong friend, **Tony Grant (1952/59)**. They both represented the school at rugby and hockey and Roger was a fine athlete. Tony remembers him winning the cross-country championship, on one occasion crossing the finishing line 'foam-flecked like a racehorse'.

After leaving school he and Tony were members of the Thames Valley Rugby Club for two years before moving on to Maidenhead & Bray hockey club where Roger played for several years in the 2nd XI with occasional 1st XI appearances. He took full advantage of the social activities available, practised his satirical talents in a regular article for the club magazine and was club

Roger began his working career at Barclays Bank, which did not constitute his dream job. Neither did his next post as purchasing officer for the Southern Electricity Board. He found his niche working for Jerry Anderson at 'Supercars' where he supervised merchandising. He moved on to work for Lew Grade at ITV, again in charge of merchandising. Roger's greatest asset was his ability to get on with people of all sorts, essential in the merchandising industry that ran largely on a person-to-person basis. He particularly enjoyed the annual toy fairs in Harrogate and New York where he set up merchandising deals for TV shows like Space 99, Rupert Bear, and the Smurfs. He was responsible for a record publishing deal for the book associated with the film 'Jesus of Nazareth' and was credited with the conception of the Muppet Show Album.

In due course Roger moved to the BBC, only to be left high and dry when they abandoned in-house merchandising. For a time he worked for smaller companies before setting up on his own. Unfortunately, this failed eventually through the collapse of an American business deal. Like many others at that time, the merchandising industry was becoming institutionalised. The freebooting days when deals were struck on the basis of personal trust were over. Roger made several attempts to revive his career but they never quite succeeded. After reaching retirement age his health declined steadily but his friendship and sense of humour survived to the end.

Roger was married to Kate Burton in 1970. The marriage was dissolved but the couple stayed friends. To the delight of both, their daughters, Juliette and Sophie, have both achieved successful careers in professional theatre.

John L Darvell (1939/1944) died in June 2009 at the age of 81. He served in the RAF from 1945 to 1948, working on Lancaster bombers and, later, on flight development and inspection procedures at the Aircraft and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down. He then worked for an agricultural improver in Maidenhead before joining Vandervell Products as a machine operator, eventually becoming acting manager of the company. After leaving Vandervell in 1964 John worked for a packaging company in Windsor, before setting up his own company, John Darvell Packaging Ltd. He continued to be involved in the company, now based in Medmenham, until his death.



John was a keen sportsman. He played soccer for the OMA and hockey with Maidenhead and Bray. He joined Maidenhead Rowing club in 1948 and won a number of honours including the Maidenhead Town Cup in 1956. In 1977 he was selected to row in one of the boats escorting the Queen on her visit to Maidenhead during her Silver Jubilee year.

Peter Essling (1954/61) died in April 2009 at the age of 65. We acknowledge with thanks the following from Peter's wife, Sue. *Peter left school in July 1961 and started as a student apprentice at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He attained an HND in Electrical Engineering and following his apprenticeship he went to Kingston Polytechnic where he passed his 'Part 3' examination to become a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (MIEE). In 1972 he was successful in gaining an MSc in Business & Finance from London City University.*

He continued on this career path, also still as a Civil Servant, in the then Ministry of Aviation, which later became part of the Ministry of Defence. After several promotions, in 1984 he became an Assistant Director. In 1985 he was registered as a Chartered Engineer (CEng) and in 1986 he was admitted a Fellow of the IEE (FIEE) of which he was justly proud.

In the course of his employment, two projects on which he enjoyed working as project manager were: the United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment (UKADGE) & the Mid-Life Update of the Tornado aircraft.

After several years with varying symptoms Peter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 1991. This stopped any further career prospects but he was able to stop commuting to London and to work locally back in Farnborough. He was medically retired, aged 52, in 1996. He remained very cheerful and positive even though becoming progressively disabled until his death on April 21st. He leaves a wife, three children & six grandchildren. He was always pleased to have been a Grammar School pupil.

Donald Hamilton Fraser RA (1941/45) died in September 2009 at the age of 80.

He is regarded as one of the most distinctive, idiosyncratic and successful of the young Modernist painters of the immediate post-war generation, characterised by bold use of colour and simplicity of line.

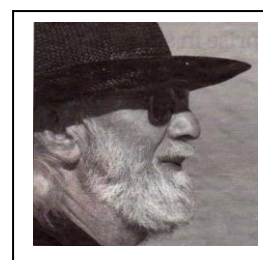


After leaving School Donald was a trainee journalist with Kemsley Newspapers but after national service he enrolled at St Martin's School of Art and was soon exhibiting his work, resulting in a French government scholarship to study art in Paris for a year. In 1954 he married Judith, a fellow student from St Martin's. In 1958 he became a tutor, one day a week, in the painting school at the Royal College of Art, a position he held for the next 25 years. He stood out among the rest of the staff, not only because he was extremely tall but also because he was always elegantly dressed. He was elected a Fellow of the College in 1970, and an Honorary Fellow in 1984.

Much of his work was landscapes and still-life: however, as a result of his love of ballet he met and painted a number of ballet dancers and published a book in 1969, 'Dancers'.

In 1975 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy and in 1985 he became a full member. He held over 70 one-man exhibitions both at home and overseas in his lifetime. He served on many exhibition panels and was a member of the Royal Fine Arts Commission for 14 years. He was a vice-president of the Royal Overseas League from 1986. He served on the council of the Artists' General Benevolent Fund and was its chairman for several years in the 1980s. Donald, who had lived for the past 40 years in a pair of converted cottages in Henley-on-Thames, is survived by his wife, Judith, and their daughter.

W (Bill) Jay (1952/57), who died in May 2009 at the age of 68, devoted his life to photography, as a historian, teacher and photographer, fields in which he achieved international recognition. He published his first article in *Practical Photography* at the age of 19 and became the first Director of photography at the Institute of Contemporary Arts and also the first editor of *Creative Camera* and *Album* magazines.



He moved to USA in the 1970s and after studying at the University of New Mexico he moved to Arizona State University where, as the first Professor of Photographic Studies, he set up the programme and for over 25 years taught history and criticism. He wrote over 400 articles and more than 20 books on photography, including *Photographers Photographed* and *Bill Jay's Albums*. **Derek Cook (1942/47)** tells us that he stayed with Bill at his weekend cabin in the mountains near Phoenix and also sat in on one of his lectures.

After retiring Bill went to live in San Diego, near the Museum of Photographic Arts, until moving to Samara, Costa Rica, in 2008, where he died. In retirement, Bill was a much sought-after lecturer in the UK, Europe and across the USA. He was an inspiration to many, who recall his wit and wisdom. More information about Bill and some of his photographs can be found on the website www.billjayonphotography.com.

Victor J A Kemp (1938/42) died in March 2009 at the age of 81. He was an architect and later, as a director of Ove Arup and Partners Ltd, helped to build several of the London skyscrapers. He took part in a number of the OMA River Cruises that ran from 1998 to 2004. He was also one of the organisers of the June 1939 Third Form reunion that took place at Maidenhead Golf Club in June 2006, as featured in our Newsletter No 73.

A (Tony) D Maher (1934/39) died in September 2009 at the age of 86. At School his nickname was

Tupp, short for Tuppence, being the then price of a Mars (pun on his surname!) Bar. He joined HMV (now EMI) as an Industrial Chemist in their Chemical Laboratories and later set up his own business, now called Welding Developments Ltd, designing and manufacturing automatic machinery for the high frequency welding of plastic materials. He and his brother **Jim (1928/34)**, took part in the OMA river Cruises that ran from 1998 to 2004.

John Tucker (member of Staff 1973/ 97) died in October 2007 but news of his death was not available when the last OMA Newsletter was published. Phil Clark, former Head of Maths and now Systems Manager at Desborough, writes as follows:

I first met John in September 1973 when we both started teaching mathematics at Desborough. This was John's first teaching post. Prior to this he had a very successful career with the RAF where he was a flight navigator and achieved the rank of Squadron Leader. John also had the role of "Schools Liaison Officer" and this prompted his decision to train as a teacher.

He thoroughly enjoyed his time at Desborough where he fulfilled a number of roles. These included major contributions to Careers and work experience as well as taking over the School's Finances. His enjoyment came from his contact with both students and staff and I mention Mr Lehain, Mr Labrom, Mr Wells and myself in this context.

John was a delightful character with a very good sense of humour and a wealth of anecdotes. He was also a source of both inspiration and help to all those with whom he dealt. He and his family were devoted to each other and although they were aware of the nature of his illness it was still a great shock to them when he passed away in October 2007.

Terry V M Wetherall (1930/39) died December 2008 at the age of .87.

Mark A Wheatley (1968/75) died at the age of 52 in September 2009. He studied Electronic Engineering at the City of London University and first worked for Racal Electronics in Maidenhead before moving to TNS, a market research organisation. He developed a device attached to audio and TV equipment that enables market researchers to monitor consumer preferences. He travelled to a number of countries supporting the marketing of the equipment.



Mark was a committed Christian and Churchwarden of St Mary's Maidenhead where he was very active with programmes for young people. At the Thanksgiving Service for Mark's life the church was full and there were

many in the overflow congregation in the church hall, an indication of the impact he had made on so many people. Mark is survived by his wife, Kate, a music teacher and a long time supporter of music and youth activities at St Mary's, and by their Children Ruth and Paul.

Mark died following a series of operations to replace his aorta, resulting from a genetic disorder, Marfan Syndrome, to which very tall people, and Mark was 6'6", may be liable. Mark had two brothers. His older brother, **Roderick (1968/72)**, a keen runner, ran in the Marathon de Reims (Champagne) to raise money for The Marfan Trust in October 2009. Roderick lives in France

Mark's younger brother, **Steven (1970/75)** has been a missionary in Cuamba, Mozambique, for the last 12 years.

Dick M Woodruff DFM (1921/28) died in December 2009 at the age of 97. Further details of his career and achievements will be published in our next issue.

The Old School Building

Roy Wilmott, a member of the History Department from 1955 until his retirement in 1981 (mostly as

Head of Department) kindly agreed to prints being sold of a painting he did of the Old Building, as seen from Shoppenhangers Road. Now that the Bell Tower has been removed, and the gate pillars are long gone, these prints are a valuable reminder of days gone by.

The price is £25 (including posting and packaging)

If you would like a copy please send your order to

Mr A.G. Lehain, Old Maidonians. Association,
Green Acres, Park Lane, Charvil
Reading, Berks RG10 9TR

Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 26th March 2010 at 6.30 pm for 7.45 pm

You are warmly invited to come to the above event in the cordial surroundings of Maidenhead Golf Club. This year there will be no guest speaker and other speeches will be kept to a minimum to give those attending more opportunity to converse with other Old Maidonians.

The ticket price will be £20 for paid-up members and £22 for Old Maidonians who are not members of the Association. Those joining on the night will be refunded the £2 difference in ticket price.

For those who would like to visit the School there will be an opportunity of making a tour at 5 pm, starting at the School Reception. Please mark the form below accordingly.

If you or any members of your party require a vegetarian meal, please indicate on the form below.

The bar will close at 11.30 pm and the Club will close at 11.45 pm.

Tickets will be available only from Mrs Betty Collin, although orders may be left at the School Office, care of Mrs Read.

All orders must be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. Tickets will be issued only for named Old Boys. Members wishing to make party bookings must name those on whose behalf they are purchasing tickets. Please use the booking-form and complete all requested details. **Bookings cannot be accepted if they arrive after Tuesday 23rd March 2010.**

To: Mrs Betty Collin, 18 Badminton Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QT (tel: 01628 626349: e-mail bill.collin@talktalk.net)

Name*.....Address.....

.....Tel.....

Email address.....

At School from to.....

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday, 26th March 2010 and I shall be in a party which includes the Old Maidonians whose names and addresses are listed below. I enclose a cheque (endorsed a/c payee only) drawn to the Old Maidonians' Association, **together with a stamped and addressed envelope**, for tickets as follows:

.....tickets at £20 each, ...tickets at £22 each. The total value of my cheque is £.....

(Signed).....

Years at School

Names* and initials of party

Address

from..... to

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

*Please include first name (or name known by) and initials

Numbers of vegetarian meals required

Names of those interested in touring the school at 5 pm

.....

Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary