

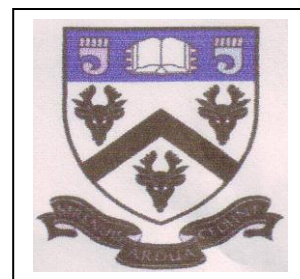


O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 77 December 2010

President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRI

Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

Financial contributions A pupil in Year 13, Henry King, had been accepted for a scheme whereby he would teach English in China, involving his learning Mandarin. The Committee agreed to contribute £500 towards the costs involved. Henry King has sent a report on his initial experiences of Beijing, of teaching and of getting to grips with the language.

The Committee also contributed to the costs of School Honours ties, presented to members of the senior teams in hockey, rugby and cricket.

The display of the history of the School has been taken down and is in storage due to the refurbishment and some restructuring of the Maudsley Building.

OMA Newsletter The Committee is seeking suggestions for the ways in which to improve and update the appearance of OMA Newsletters which have been in their present format since the early 1990s... Any ideas that members may have for ways to improve the heading, layout and style would be welcomed.

Female member of the OMA The Committee welcomes Caitlin Clark, who has left School after spending a year in the 6th Form, as the first female former pupil of the School to become a member of the OMA

World War 1 casualty The OMA has been informed that William Howe Bissley, a pupil at Maidenhead Modern School was killed in World War 1. His name will be added to the list of the fallen on the School's Memorial Board. Further details of William Bissley are given in the In Memoriam Section later in this Newsletter.

OMA website This has been a successful first year for the website, when there were 1041 hits (from 814 different people), the sources being 45% from search engines, 42% from the School website and 13% direct input.

Changes of addresses/email address 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 for which we no longer have a sponsor.

OMA Annual Dinner 2010 Over 70 were present at this event including members of Staff and a welcome number of members from the Desborough era. Special mention must be made of the fact that two of our members, John Caton (1946/52) and Alan Tricker (1960/67) made the journey from Fife in Scotland to attend the Dinner. Among those present was David Robinson (1933/43) who at the age of 85 still runs 20 miles every day! Photographs of two Year-group reunions are shown on page 2.

Annual Dinner

**Friday 25th March 2011 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, 60 Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead SL6 8DX (07879 426442)

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

More than a dozen members took up the offer of a tour around the School before the Dinner. They were all impressed with the changes that had been made since their time at School. The offer is being repeated for the 2011 Dinner.

We are indebted to **Dick Hewett (1958/65)** for the last three photos.

News of the School

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

I would like to thank Colin Cutler for asking me to make some comments about current School developments for inclusion in this Newsletter. It is a wonderful opportunity to keep former pupils up-to-date with major issues and successes.

The School was disappointed that the Coalition Government cancelled the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) when a large sum of money was to be spent transforming the secondary schools in Maidenhead. Desborough School has been given nearly £800,000 for capital items. We have decided to continue to renovate the buildings which in the BSF Audit came out as being the worse condition of the five Maidenhead secondary schools.

We have chosen to spend a large sum (£300,000) upgrading the science laboratories to make them into 21st century spaces for teachers and pupils. The science facilities are very out-dated and largely unchanged since many OMA members will have been pupils at the School. We hope to be able to renovate all the teaching space and give future visitors a real "Wow Factor" when they enter the area.

We shall also continue to replace poor windows in the Maudsley, renovate toilets in Brooks, English and Drama Blocks, renovate the Hall and improve the lighting in the Hall and Gymnasium. £70,000 has been spent on fencing the site to increase security and also provide lockable gates. £115,000 has been spent on re-roofing the New Main Building. £111,000 has been spent on renovating the Sixth Form Common Room. Over £55,000 will be spent in improvements to ICT hardware and software.

The Performance Tables were published in January 2011 by the Department for Education. The Coalition Government has introduced a new method of judging schools called the English Baccalaureate. This is a measure of the number of Year 11 pupils who have achieved good grades (C or better at GCSE) in five subject areas: English, mathematics, science, a modern or ancient foreign language and a humanity (either history or geography). At Desborough School 30% of pupils achieved this, which made us the second highest performing secondary school in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This result was twice the national average.

All the School's results in 2010 improved on the results in 2009 and there has been a marked upward movement over all of the last 5 years. More importantly the School makes sure all pupils progress equally well regardless of their ability, at both GCSE and A-Level. The Value Added Score at A-Level (that is how far students progress in comparison to all other schools



Reunion of pupils from the 1958 to 65 era
David Scott, Dave Horton, Richard Burfitt,
John Smith, Graham Bridges



Members of the Class of 1988 at the Dinner.
Left to right Steve Foister, Nick Baldwin,
Tim Craton, Nick Smith (front), Steve Dare (back),
Nick Day



Glyn Jones, Rob Heaver, Martin Lyne



Martin Lyne, Pat Folliard, Ken Pragnell

nationally) was the highest in the Royal Borough. The national system for measuring this is called ALPS and we were in the top 10% of schools nationally.

We have brought the Honours Boards up-to-date in the School Hall. Four boys in Year 13 achieved tremendous success in achieving prestigious university places in summer 2010: Tom Hudson (Cambridge University – Engineering); Amardeep Johal (Queen Mary, University of London – Dentistry); Alex Tracy (Oxford University – Medicine) and Sheraz Yasin (Queen Mary, University of London – Medicine).

Finally, I would like to thank the Old Maidonians Association for their continuing support to us and wish you all a successful and rewarding 2011.

Andrew Linnell
Headteacher



The above article refers to the new security measures that have been installed at the School. This photograph taken while the snow was still on the ground, and shows the 8ft high fencing and gates that have been erected

Two national celebrities were involved in the School's two prize-giving events in 2010. At the Junior Presentation in July the guest speaker was Sir Michael Parkinson who has a grandson at the School. Sir Michael spoke about the value of having heroes, with qualities to be aspired to. One of his heroes had been Sir Leary Constantine, a West Indian test cricketer who had later become an ambassador. The other celebrity was Martin Bell, OBE the former MP and UNICEF Ambassador who, after referring to the various trouble spots in the world urged the pupils not to take for granted a peaceful corner of the world like Maidenhead.

Old Maidonians Sport

Golf

37th Annual Match v School - 12th April 2010

The Old Maidonians won this event by 3.5 to 2.5. The OMA representatives were Michael Clyde (1955/61), Colin Cutler (1936/43), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), Peter McNicoll (1967/74), Chris Raymond (1962/68) and Nick Snell (1974/79).

36th Competition for the Brooks' Cup – 26th July 2010

13 players took part in this event in which Mike Clyde was a comfortable winner with 37 points. Mike has been in the top 3 in the last 4 years, having been a previous joint-winner and a runner-up. He is therefore now the second player to have his name three time on the Cup, joining John Weavers.

	Handicap	Stableford Points	Ranking
Mike Clyde	11	37	1
Geoff Ponter	16	31	2
Chris Raymond	16	31	3
David Long*	16	30	4
Miles Stuchbery	11	29	5
Roy Squire	15	27	6

Nearest the pin on the 13th Grahame Fisher
Longest Drive on the 18th Nick Snell

Fixtures for 2011

Match v School - Monday April 11th 2011

Competition for the Brooks Cup – Monday 25th July 2011

Both events take place at Maidenhead Golf Club at 2 pm. If you are interested in taking part please contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130):

colinarcutler@oldmaidonians.org.uk

Rugby

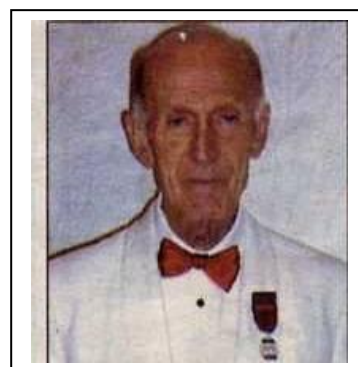
In the match against the School on 15th December 2010 the OMA team won by 42 to 26 points. The match was much closer than the score suggests as the OMA scored a number of points in the last phase.

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 in all communications, to assist in identification news of OMs.

Norman Austin (1945/47), who has had an illustrious career in the music industry, has recently been awarded a 50 year Gold Medal for dedicated service by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

Norman was a member of St Luke's Church choir



from the age of 8. He was a very gifted player at the opening of the Festival Hall. However an illness prevented him from reaching the top rank and led to him to take up conducting and to make a career in the record industry.

He became the conductor of the Maidenhead Operatic Society at the age of 19, a position he held until moving to Crowborough in 1965 when he was made an Honorary Life President. He now holds similar appointments with East Grinstead, Crawley and Kentainers Operatic Societies at Tunbridge Wells, having conducted 125 musicals, operettas and operas in this country and in Europe, as well as numerous symphony and choral concerts.

Norman played football for the Old Maidonians from the time of leaving school until the football section ceased in 1964. He was taught to play the organ by Frank Hammersley, the Head of Music at the school from 1936 to 1956, and at the age of 16 was organist and choirmaster at St Anne's, Dropmore, where Petula Clark was a member of the congregation. He did National Service in the RAF as a plotter in Fighter Command.

After setting up a record label for Rediffusion he decided to start his own labels. He produced the first recording of the BGs and went on to produce records for many artists across the music spectrum but mainly in classical music. He has also arranged music for films and television. For 16 years he controlled Supraphon records of Czechoslovakia during which time he received awards and medals from the Czech Government for his promotion of the music of Smetana, Dvorak, Suk, Janacek and Martinu. In the course of his career Norman has worked with many celebrities including Denis Brain, Leon Goossens, Elizabeth Schwartzkopf and Sir Charles Mackerras.

Among Norman's other interests are horse racing, and he has been a member at Ascot for 36 years, and, together with his wife has bred and shown Golden Retrievers to Championship Show standard.

Norman is married to Noël, who, as Miss Williams, was one of the first teachers appointed to Furze Platt Junior School on completion of its building.

Andrew Bond (1969/76), our Hon Treasurer, has moved to Maidenhead

Oliver Bridges (1929/33)

We congratulate Oliver and Dorothy on their Platinum Wedding on 28 December 2010. In the photograph Dorothy is holding the card of congratulations from the Queen. They were married in St Luke's Church, Maidenhead, and have lived in the town ever



since. At the time, Oliver was serving in the Fleet Air Arm, as a gunner, flying in Swordfishes. They have two sons, Melvin and **Graham (1957/63)**, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Alex N Cook (1995/2002) read

Economics at Nottingham and has stayed in the city where he works for Capital One (credit cards) as a business analyst. He plays rugby each week for a local side, and, to use his words, 'nothing too serious'.

Michael Courtney (1952/57), lives in Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

Colin Cutler (1936/43), OMA President.

We congratulate Colin and his wife, Doreen, on their Diamond Wedding. They were married on 23 March 1950 at St Mary's Church,



Hayes, Middx. Colin's career and interests were summarised in our last issue. They have two sons, **Michael (1965/72)**, senior partner in Colemans Solicitors, Maidenhead, and **(David 1966/74)**, an accountant working in the USA, and two grandchildren.

Julian Fowler (1986/91) is in Northern Ireland, reporting into the BBC in Belfast on local stories for their regional news programmes. His stories can be viewed on www.bbc.co.uk/newsline/west. He and his wife Jo live in Enniskillen and have 2 daughters, Annie who is two and a half and Eva, 10 months.

Alan Frampton (1957/62) commented recently on a photograph published in the Maidenhead Advertiser in 1970 of the successful Maidenhead Lawn Tennis Club Men's team of that year, of whom four were Old Maidonians. He said that of the six players featured, one **Peter Warren (1953/58)** had left on a coaching post in Wales, but that four of the other five were all active players and continued to represent the Club in the Berkshire Veterans' League at over-60 and over-65 level. Alan is now the Club Vice-President. The other OMs are **Bob Duncan (1953/59)** and **Cedric Egby (1954/60)**.

Rory Geoghegan (1995/2000) After reading PPE at Trinity College, Oxford, Rory worked as a strategy

consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers with a focus on the financial services industry, working for a number of global banks, wealth managers and leading private equity funds. In 2009 he moved to the Institute for Government where he worked on transformational change and service design in the criminal justice system. In January 2010, he started his own enterprise, specialising in the facilitation, design and implementation of new services that deliver better outcomes for less.

We are pleased that Rory was able to attend the 2010 Annual Dinner and that he was accompanied by former Brooks Cup winner, **Luke Anthony (1989/96)**.

Tony Grant (1952/59) served a 5-year articulated pupilship with J M Jones & Son, the major building company in the area at the time. He left to start up a building business with Harold Petrie, trading under the name H T Petrie Ltd, and stayed with the company until retirement. Tony has been a regular attendee of the Annual Dinners. Both his son, aged 28, and his daughter, aged 25, work for Barclays in the City. Tony lives in Ibstone, Bucks

Doug Hamilton (1958/65) read law at London School of Economics and then went to Guildford Law School. He started work in Local Government with West Sussex County Council at Chichester and then after qualification as a Solicitor he moved to Arun District Council at Littlehampton where he worked until 1998. Doug was mostly involved with 'contentious' work e.g. planning inquiries, prosecutions, court cases, disputes and giving advice to the Council. At various times, he ran Village Youth Clubs, was a local Secondary School Governor and its Chairman and was Clerk to two Parish Councils. He married Trudy in 1972 and they have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Doug had the opportunity to retire at 50 and moved from Arundel to near Guildford where he took up part time work in the local Council housing department. He retired fully in January 2009 and devotes time to garden and allotment, lots of travel, walks and books. He is currently researching and writing an historical biography of a man named Whitaker Wright who lived in the 19th century. He still follows Reading FC.

Peter Jones CBE (1977/82), of Dragons' Den fame, entrepreneur and chair of Enterprise UK has, in an interview, spoken about the two teachers who had most influenced him. The interview was published in the *Times Education Supplement* magazine of 29th January 2010. The first was **Mr John Woodward (member of Staff 1973/96)** who besides being the English teacher ran a flourishing tennis academy during the summer holidays. Peter played tennis for the county and started to help John Woodward at the age of 12. Besides being used to demonstrate coaching points that boosted his confidence he learned a lot from John and to quote his words 'I watched his every move, how he conducted himself with

clients, how much he charged for tennis lessons, which provided me with the basic knowledge I needed to start my own business'. Within a year of leaving Desborough Peter was running his own tennis academy. The second teacher to influence was Mr Langley, the Economics teacher at Windsor Boys School who inspired him in terms of his career.

Alan B Lidiard (1939/46) DSc FInstP FRSC, former State Scholar and former Head of the Theoretical Physics Division at Harwell is now retired and lives with his wife, Diana, in the small village of Hinton Waldrist, Oxon. He reports that the village made the news last year because guitarist with the Queen rock group, had published a book, with photographer Elena Vidal, entitled "A Village Lost and Found", about the village. Brian May had for many years been trying to identify the village depicted in a set of mid-Victorian stereoscopic photographs. Brian May described the eventual identification of the village as Hinton Waldrist as his 'holy grail'.

Nigel Longley (1973/80) After graduating from Portsmouth poly in German Studies Nigel spent 2 years working his way around the world before working in the City for a period before working for a year at the Berliner Bank in Berlin.

Nigel had to give up rugby due to injury and took up rowing 'for fun' in 1993. In 2001 he was in the crew that got to the quarter-finals at Henley Regatta in the 'Thames' club eights event. For the last 15 years he has been working in Germany as a stockbroker. In 1999 he became a born-again Christian and is now active in the Alte Nikolaikirche in the centre of Frankfurt. In 2002 he married Anette.

Martin Lyne (1958/65) now lives in Sussex having moved there in 1972 when he married. He is a chartered Accountant. He was a partner for 23 years in PriceWaterhouse, latterly PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Since retiring he has taken on pro bono work including treasurer of his local tennis club and governor and Chairman of Finance of Rodean School. His other interests are walking and DIY. He has three daughters, two of whom are twins.

Mr Brian McConkey (former member staff), former head of German, has moved from Maidenhead to Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Mr Stuart Morgan (former member of Staff) now lives in France at La Pleigne, France.

Simon Mountsey (1972/79) writes: *As requested, my potted history since Desborough is as follows – After three years at Manchester University studying Physics I*

did a photo-journalism course leading to a job on the *Barnsley Chronicle*. It didn't take long to realise I wasn't talented enough to make much of a living as a press photographer so left after just six weeks to pursue a more lucrative career in sales. For two years I worked as a medical representative for Princes Risborough-based Leo Laboratories before joining my parents in the recently-founded family publishing business as Sales and Advertising Manager in 1986. In partnership with my brother Andrew (Desborough 1975-1982) I took control of the Derbyshire-based business in 1999 until we separated into two companies in 2003. I continue to produce publications and reports for animal feed businesses and veterinary surgeons for my new company (www.simonmountsey.com). I also spend half the year as photographer for the Derbyshire Cricket Board (www.dcbcricket.com/photos) so, to some extent, the early training proved worthwhile in the long run. I married Sally Walburn from Twyford in 1986 and we settled initially in Loughborough before moving to Derbyshire the following year. Chesterfield has been home since. We have three sons Adam (1990), Tom (1994) and Matthew (1997).

It would be good to hear from any of my contemporaries.

Mark Mueller (1985/92) has been playing for Maidenhead Rugby Club for the last 14 seasons. He has had a spell as captain of the 1st XV and at 37 years of age he is still playing at lock for the 1st XV but admits that it is getting harder to train and to play week-in and week-out.

George Nattriss (1961/67), whose career was summarised in our last issue, has moved to his fourth house in Twyford.

Mrs Irene Newton (former member of Staff)

Adrian Palmer (1969/75) works for the Royal Bank of Canada. He lives in Weybridge, Surrey.

Tony Potter (1950/55) now lives in Auckland, New Zealand, and has, at our request, sent us this on his career after leaving school.

When Arthur "Boggy" Lee found I was going into journalism, he said "So, Potter, you're going to become a snoop. Are you?" I was, and for 50-odd years (some of them very odd) it was a fun time.

I started off in the Slough office of the Windsor, Slough and Eton Express where I did a five-year cadetship. In 1960, I entered National Service in the Royal Army Service Corps (also known, not inaccurately as Run Away Someone's Coming), ending up in the Berkeley Square

branch of the War Office as a shorthand writer/secretary to a brigadier.

After National Service, I came out to New Zealand and had two years as court reporter for the Auckland Star, the country's leading evening paper.

I returned to London and in 1965-66 worked for the Press Association, Fleet St, but . decided London wasn't for me and I returned to the Star where I became the industrial reporter during a time of much union upheaval. One week, I wrote a different front-page lead for each edition (four of them) from Monday to Friday.

From 1970 to 1975 I was the paper's chief reporter and went on to become a senior feature writer. In the 1980s I did a couple of years of consultancy work in the world of PR and helped write speeches for people like All Black Buck Helford, all-round cricketer Richard Hadlee and singer Kiri Te Kanawa. If you think some divas can be precious, try their husbands (or, in Kiri's case, ex-husband)

I then went to work for the tabloid Sunday News, becoming its news editor, before assisting setting up a broadsheet paper, the Sunday Star-Times which is now New Zealand's top-selling Sunday.

I took redundancy when Kerry Packer sold the paper to the Fairfax group, and while I still freelance for them, I mainly write short stories for a US publisher and edit a bi-monthly thoroughbred-racing magazine.

I am married to a New Zealander who has written about 40 romances for Mills & Boon under the pen name Susan Napier, and we have two sons, both of whom have represented New Zealand in athletics world championships. One is a physiotherapist, the other a detective with the New Zealand Police Force. Mr Lee would no doubt have described him as "a snoop."

Ken Pragnell (1958/65) writes: *I left the school in February 1965, to start a 5 year engineering scholarship with Southern Electricity Board. This included a 3-year BSc in Electrical Engineering at Imperial College and 2 years industrial experience.*

In 1970, I joined the computer manufacturer ICL, where I spent 11 years in a variety of roles involved with business computer applications, including engineering, manufacture and logistics. I then moved to Amersham International, a radiochemical/radiopharmaceutical company, and spent 20 years in their IT department. I managed a number of large projects, including the development and installation of a system to ship their goods around the world – quite a challenge when the goods are hazardous and are flying out of the country on the same day that they are ordered/produced!

In 1982, I met Lynn. We married in September 1983 and set up home in Rickmansworth the following year. We have tentative plans to move somewhere quieter but have still to decide where this should be. We have no children but are now on our third dog.

At the age of 55, a number of management changes opened up the possibility for me to secure an early retirement option. Lynn reduced her working hours and

we bought a narrow-boat to explore the inland waterways in our increased leisure time. We are just starting our 5th year of cruising and have covered a good part of the southern half of the country. Lynn is also very active with the University of the Third Ager (U3A), chairing one of the local branches.

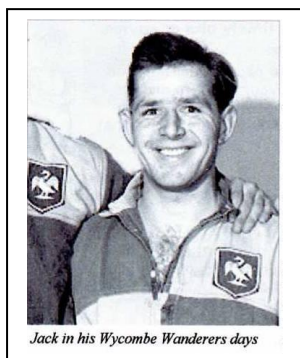
We both like to travel, although our current dog's health restricts us to the UK and (maybe) Ireland. Hopefully, one day, we'll get to fulfil our dream of taking a round world trip, via New Zealand and other exotic places on the way.

Greg Sadler (1982/89), who read Engineering at Swansea is a bond trader in the City focussing on banks and financial companies. He says that the last few years have been interesting! He also says that he was late to the marriage experience and that he finally married a wonderful girl, Vicky, in 2007. They now live in Farnham, Surrey, and have twin boys, lots of cats, dogs, pigs, chickens and hopefully some highland cattle later in the year. He would like to touch base with old School friends.

Michael Sanderson (1976/83) who graduated in music from Nottingham University is a founder, choir director and conductor of the locally renowned Renaissance Voices that celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2010. The group specialises in European choral music from the early 16th century to the age of Bach and Handel...Michael is a freelance baritone singer and baroque violinist and performs with several chamber groups specialising in early music. He combines his singing career with the part time post of Head of Student Music at Brunel University.

Michael W Smith (1977/83) graduated from Brighton in Maths and since then has been with Friends Provident where he is an Enterprise Architect, which he explains is nothing to do with buildings but with the structure of company systems and staff... he has moved from Dorking and now lives in Whiteparish, south of Salisbury, near the New Forest. Mike and his wife Sharon enjoy walking and the countryside.

S Jack Tomlin (1940/44) has been President of Buckinghamshire County Cricket Club for the last 4 years, having previously been the Hon. Secretary of the Club for 14 years. He was a member of the County side in the early 1960s. He has now been elected President of the recently-formed Wycombe



Jack in his Wycombe Wanderers days

Wanderers ex-Players Association. Jack had played for Wycombe Wanderers from 1951 to 1962 when they were in the Isthmian League. The Association is now some 150 strong and one of its functions is to entertain

sponsors, who enjoy the opportunity of meeting former players. The Association organises a number of social events including golf days and quiz nights and holds an annual dinner.

Jack is currently recovering from his second hip operation and hopes to be able to resume playing golf again soon, at Winter Hill Golf Club. He is a voluntary driver/helper at Elizabeth House, Cookham, helping with the elderly, a number of whom are younger than Jack. He lives in Cookham SL6.

David Tyler (1994/2001), a former Head Boy, who read Law at Birmingham University, is Managing Director of Tyler Sports Management, dealing with the representation for a number of leading athletes and sports people, events management, sponsorship and rights consultancy. David's athlete clients include Iain Percy OBE, double Olympic sailing champion, and Christine Ohuruogu MBE, Olympic 400m champion. Further details for the business are to be found on the website: www.tylersports.co.uk

David is a very talented hockey player having played for England at Junior level, and is currently playing for Reading HC. In 2011, he hopes to help Reading secure another European & domestic double. Live coverage of the Euro Hockey League can be seen on Eurosport this Easter. He is also looking forward to playing for the OMA against the School.

He has recently moved back into the area and lives in Maidenhead.

Nicholas K Wride (1983/90) Nick studied Medicine at Edinburgh and held appointments at University College Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital in London – and taught at St George's Medical School in Grenada before commencing his ophthalmic training. This started at The North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke, followed by appointments in Edinburgh and Newcastle. He completed his training as a Glaucoma Fellow at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. In May 2010 he took up the appointment as Consultant Ophthalmologist at Sunderland Eye Infirmary. He is looking forward to settling in the north-east.

We were glad that he was able to attend this year's OMA Dinner and wish him every success in his new role. Nick is married to Monica, a GP, and has three young sons, Theo, Alexander and Benjy. Outside work he enjoys listening to Blues music and escaping to the Alps where he indulges his passion for skiing, recently achieving his BSAI Level 2 Ski Instructor badge.

Light Relief

In our last issue we published a humorous piece entitled 'The Class Reunion (American style)' that had been supplied by Richard Pearce (1956/71). Richard has

kindly supplied a further contribution, (equally misleading!) on the same topic.

Reunions

A group of 40 years old buddies discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner.

Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waitresses there have low cut blouses and nice boobs.

10 years later, at 50 years of age, the group once again discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food there is very good and the wine selection is good also.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the group once again discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, the group once again discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant is wheelchair accessible and they even have an elevator.

10 years later, at 80 years of age, the group once again discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they have never been there before.

In Memoriam

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

Philip Badnell (1921/27) whose 100th birthday was featured in our last issue, died in February 2010, seven months after becoming a centenarian. He was the oldest member of the OMA ever. He had vivid memories of his days in Scouting and at School where he was a member of the Cadet Corps. He served throughout World War 2 in the Royal Ordnance Corps



and was a Dunkirk veteran, later serving in East Africa, Sri Lanka, India and Burma, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer. He trained as motor mechanic at Hewens Garage, in Bridge Street, and was with them for 50 years, retiring as Service Manager. Until the end of his life he had a good memory and a good sense of humour. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

William Howe Bissley (1888/1916), a pupil at Maidenhead Modern School was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme in August 1916, while serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. The fact that he was a pupil at Maidenhead Modern School had been drawn to the attention of the OMA by a researcher who had been trying to identify all the individuals on a photograph of an officers' training course in 1915.

William Bissley, who was 28 at the time of his death, had been a teacher at a school in London and had been about to sit for his BSc (London) finals when he was called up. He had been a gifted sportsman, playing for Maidenhead Cricket Club and Maidenhead Hockey Club. He also took part in local theatrical productions. He left a wife and a one-week-old daughter.

Bryan Crush (1943/45), who died in 2008, was a former Treasurer of the OMA. He had had several careers, the last of which was as the proprietor of a picture gallery and picture framing business. Bryan, who lived in Sittingbourne, is survived by his wife Diane.

David W J Evans (1948/53) died in December at the age of 73. His career in estate agency started at Dudley Clifton Estate Agents, Maidenhead, where he rose from a junior to manager interrupted by National Service in the RAF at Cardington. Thereafter he went as a partner to Edward Gray & Co., Marlow, for four years, followed by another four years at Harrods, London as the Estates Manager. He then moved to Cornwall, running an Estate Agency in St Austell before he established his own practice, in Fowey, David Evans & Son, with his son **Paul (1974/79)**. In 1991 David moved to Malton, North Yorkshire, to manage an Estate Agency before becoming a freelance chartered surveyor from which he retired in 2009. Throughout his life David had a deep interest in rowing. At School he joined the Rowing squad as a cox, becoming Captain of Boats. During National Service at RAF Cardington he coxed the RAF eight at Henley, reaching the semi-finals.

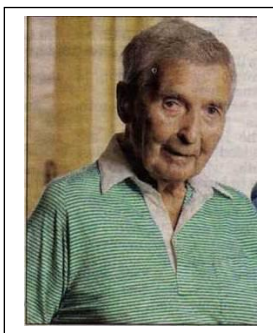
At school, David joined the rowing squad as a cox becoming Captain of Boats and maintained this interest throughout his life. During his National Service in the RAF at Cardington he coxed the RAF eight at Henley. He was a member of Maidenhead Rowing Club for 16 years and for a further 19 years was a member of Marlow Rowing Club where he was elected to the Steward's Enclosure and served as vice-captain. While in Cornwall he helped to found the Castledore Rowing Club on the

River Fowey. While there he took the Amateur Rowing Association coaching qualification and coached at Castledore for 12 years. When he moved to Yorkshire he took on the role as Head Coach for Leeds University, retiring after 12 years service, before volunteering to spend a final year as Head Coach at York St John University.

For his distinguished services to rowing, David was elected a member of the exclusive and elite Leander Rowing Club. At his funeral hundreds of people from across the country gathered to celebrate his life. The proceeds of the collection were sent to the Henley Stewards Charitable Trust, which helps to fund coaching for young people. Among those attending were his lifelong friends **John Keys (1944/49)** and **Laurie Keys (1949/54)**.

R (Dick) S Francis (1932/33)

died in 2010 at the age of 89. During World War 2 he was commissioned as a pilot and flew Wellingtons, Lancasters and Spitfires. As a professional jockey he won more than 350 races, becoming champion jockey in 1953/4. He achieved even greater fame when riding the Queen Mother's horse, Devon Lock, which, while leading, collapsed a few yards from the winning post. He then turned to writing, first as a correspondent for the Sunday Express and then as the author of 42 novels which sold more than 60 million copies world-wide. He was regarded as one of the greatest thriller writers in the world.



David Gibbard (1966/74)

died in December 2010 at the age of 55. After reading Psychology and Zoology at Bristol, David, who had always wanted to teach, qualified as a teacher at Exeter and held a number of teaching posts in Devon. For the last 14 years he had been Head of Dunster Primary School in Devon. In March 2011 the pupils at the school will be planting a bed of daffodils in memory of David, in completion of one of the development projects he had planned for the school. David and his wife Sheila had divorced and he leaves his partner, Claire, daughter Nicola, son Andrew, grandson Ewen, and the children from Claire's previous marriage, James and Claudia.



*Four generations of
Gibbards - Noel, David,
Andrew and Ewen*

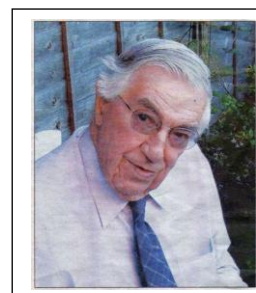
Geoffrey G Hill (1937/40) died in August 2010 at the age of 85 only a few months after being made a Freeman of the Parish of Hurley in recognition of his 50 years dedication to public service. He was a governor of

Burchetts Green Primary school for 20 years and served on various local committees.

During World War 2 Geoff had served with a Ghurkha parachute regiment, reaching the rank of Captain, acting Major. At the end of his service he was presented with his kukri, the ceremonial Ghurkha forage cap and a tankard. He gained an engineering degree at Sheffield University after which he joined British Rail, staying with them until retirement, as a Senior Engineer. Geoff is survived by his daughter Rhaina who now lives in Australia.

Ivan Ing (1941/44)

died in April 2010 at the age of 82. He left School to work at Miles Aircraft as a mechanic before joining his father's garage in Norden Road. After his father died he ran the business, building up its reputation until selling it in 1996. A keen golfer at Maidenhead Golf Club all his life, Ivan served as the Club Captain and then as Club President for a record 16 years. Ivan is survived by his wife, Lois, a daughter Susan and two grandchildren.



Leslie J Lawrie (1933/36) died in January 2010 at the age of 87. As described in our last issue Leslie was a keen all-round sportsman, playing cricket for Boyn Hill and for the Old Maidonians whom he captained ten times, winning the Julian Cup of eight occasion. He was a Vice-President of the Julian Cup Committee. He was an opening batsman and medium-fast bowler and was a county player. He played soccer for the Old Maidonians, later refereeing in the Isthmian and Corinthian Leagues. A member of Sonning Golf Club for many years he was a past winner of the Brooks Cup. He and his wife, Bessie, were leading bowlers at Desborough Bowls Club.

After service in the RAF Leslie joined British European Airways and after his retirement spent three years with Gulf Air in Bahrain.

Leslie is survived by Bessie and by their two sons, **Martin (1968/75)** and **Ken (1947/53)**.

J (Jim) Markham (1933/38) DFC died in France in July at the age of 87. In his later years at School he had wanted to join the RAF and re-sat the School Certificate in order to achieve the grade that would enable him to be accepted. He joined up on his 18th birthday and after training on a number of aircraft he was posted to Iceland in Coastal Command, 269 Squadron, flying Liberator 111s. While on anti-submarine patrol in October 1942 he sighted U-boat 619 on the surface, which he attacked with depth charges and sank. For this feat he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He later became a flying instructor, accompanying training missions, after which he was transferred to Transport Command, where, at the end of the war he was involved in flying personnel from the Middle East and India back to the UK. He left the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant and became a partner in his

father's furniture business in Maidenhead where he stayed until his retirement.

In his young days he was a member of St Mary's Scout Group and also sang in the choir at St Mary's, where the choirmaster and organist was Mr Frank Hammersley, the School's music teacher.

Jim's wife had died in the 1980s. In 2005 he moved to France to be with his daughter and her husband, firstly to Normandy and then to the Ile d'Oleron in the Charentes Maritime. He had previously completed a 4-year course in French at Reading and enjoyed regular meetings with French ex-Servicemen. During his last few years he completed two books, 'The Airman's Tale', a record of his experiences in the RAF, and 'My Memories of Maidenhead 1922-2005'. Copies of the limited editions were circulated to relatives and friends.

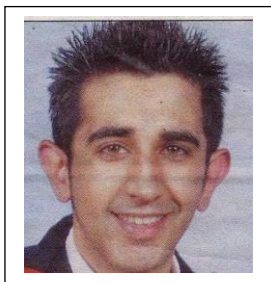
R (Bob) P Thorne (1934/41) died in October 2010 at the age of 87. He was an early member of the Home Guard, while still at school. On leaving school Bob joined High Duty Alloys, in Langley, attending Birkbeck College, London, in the evenings. He gained an external gained an external BSc (London) in Physics. He joined the Royal Navy but was then directed to government body working on atomic physics. In his subsequent career with the UK Atomic Energy Authority he worked at Windscale, Lancs and then at Winfrith, Dorset, involving the family's move to Poole where he spent the rest of his life.

Bob was an active member of the Institute of Physics and when he retired he organised a number of outings for the Retired Members Section.

Dennis Tomlinson (1943/47) died in August 2010 at the age of 78. He had grown up in White Waltham and wrote the book 'A Village at War – White Waltham 1939-45' which ran to four editions. Dennis pursued a career in journalism, starting as a trainee reporter with the *Maidenhead Advertiser*. For 15 years he worked on agricultural magazines in London before moving to Norfolk to join Farming World before becoming sub-editor of *Norwich Evening News*. During the last 17 years of his career he was Training Officer of the Eastern Counties Newspapers Group. Dennis is survived by his wife, Grace, two sons and two grandchildren.

Osman (Ozzy) Waraich (1997/2004) died tragically in a car collision with a bus in High Wycombe in February 2010 at the age of 23. Born in Maidenhead, he attended Ellington Primary School before coming to Desborough. He was a computer science graduate

from Aston University and had been studying part time for a Master's degree in IT project management. He had started work at Greens Ltd, printers and signmakers in 11



High Wycombe, only 4 months before his death. He was a very popular young man and over 500 people attended his funeral in the Maidenhead Mosque.

Dick M Woodruff (1921/28 DFM), as reported in our last issue, died in December 2009 at the age of 97. During his long life he had been a trainee butcher and



had worked for a fruit wholesaler before becoming a retained fireman with Maidenhead Corporation's Fire Service. When the war started, Dick was seconded to Southampton Docks, the target of many air raids. Although in a reserved occupation, he was eventually successful in being accepted by the RAF for aircrew training. Too short to be a pilot he became a rear gunner in 12 Squadron, equipped with Lancasters, surviving nearly 40 missions over Germany and France. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal and commissioned, continuing to fly as a Gunnery Instructor. His final appointment in the RAF was to command an RAF station in Scotland.

On his release he rejoined the Fire Service and in 1954 was one of the first in the country to receive the new Queen's Long Service Medal. By now his main role was with the Borough's Ambulance Service which operated out of the Fire Station in Cookham Road. His career progressed from being Station Manager at Maidenhead, to Divisional Officer for East Berks and then to County Deputy Chief Ambulance officer. During his last five years prior to his retirement in 1977 he was acting Chief Ambulance Officer for the Berkshire.

As a boy Dick was a Scout in St Mary's Scout Group. As a young man he enjoyed playing soccer and cricket. He played soccer for the Old Maidonians and cricket for Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead Corporation and the Old Maidonians. For his support of the Julian Cup he was made a Vice-President of the Julian Cup Committee.

Dick, whose wife died in the 1980s leaves a son, Stewart, and a daughter, Rosalind, who both live in the area.

Table Plan for Annual Dinner 26th March 2010

Table 1

Bert Bellworthy
Betty Collin
Colin Cutler
Colin Edwards
Grahame Fisher
Tony Grant
Cllr. Jesse Grey (The Mayor)
Len Reynolds
David Robinson

Table 2

Grahame Bridges
Richard Burfitt
Pat Folliard
Doug Hamilton
Bob Heaver
Dick Hewett
David Horton
Glyn Jones
Martin Lyne
Ken Pragnell
David Scott
John Smith

Table 3

Luke Anthony
Julia Barry
Angela Bradshaw
Helen Duncombe
Rory Geoghegan
Rachel Leedale
Martyn Nicholas
Hazel Pickett
Wayne Stewart

Table 4

Alex Brown
Deputy Head Boy
Colin Funnell
Henry King
Tony Lehain
Philip Palmer
Peter Revell
George Scott

Table 5

Peter Brown
Geoff Barnes
John Caton
David Curtis
Malcolm Cutler
Barry Hatch
Keith Hatch
Luke Over
Alan Tricker
Derek Woolford

Table 6

Nick Baldwin
Peter Baldwin
Tim Craton
Steve Dare
Nick Day
Steve Foster
Richard Marks
Nick Smith
Nick Wride

Table 7

Ray Clarke
Mike Clyde
Derek Harris
Fred Hearman
Tony Hearman
Richard Hildreth
Colin Hurley
John Moses
John Nash
Chris Raymond
Bart Sams
Barry Woolford

Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 25th March 2011 at 6.30 pm for 7.30 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 22nd March 2011.**

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, 25th March 2011 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).....

Names* and initials of party	Address	Years at School 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