



O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 79 January 2013

President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRI

Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

Changes at Desborough As Mr Linnell indicated in his article in our last Newsletter, changes taking place in the world of education for more independence for schools would affect Desborough. Desborough's application to become an academy, independent of the local authority, was successful and came into effect on 1st October 2012, with a change of name, to become Desborough College. In the meantime there were a number of changes at senior level. Mr Linnell, who felt that, with the forthcoming change to academy status, it was time to move on, left in May to be succeeded by the interim Headteacher, Mr Paul Frazer, while Mr Steven Reed, Deputy Headteacher, and Mr Wayne Stewart, Assistant Headteacher, left at the end of the school year. With the change of Desborough's name to become a College, Mr Paul Frazer's title changed to Principal. At the same time a new house system came into effect, with different coloured ties for each of the houses, Brunel, Constable, Dickens and Elgar.

Soon after the beginning of the Autumn term there was a Foundation Day at which all pupils and members staff received a Foundation Certificate and all pupils received their house tie.

OMA Committee News

Committee membership **David Horton (1968/75)** stood down from the Committee during the year. The Committee thanked David for his major contributions to the work of the OMA with the design and launch of the Association's website with **Chris Raymond (1962/68)** and for sharpening the Association's marketing approach. David will be continuing to organise members of his peer group to attend the Annual Dinner.

During the year, the Committee welcomed back **David Eyre (1963/70)** who had been a member during his Headship of Desborough. Please see further information on David in the 'News of Old Maidonians' section of this Newsletter.

Vice-Presidents The Committee invited two senior former members of the School's management to become Vice-Presidents, **Andrew Linnell** and **Steven Reed**. Both have been pleased to accept the invitation. As recorded above, Andrew was the Headteacher until May 2012, having joined the School in 2005, and kept OMA members informed of events at the School through his regular contributions in these Newsletters. Steven Reed, like his predecessor as Deputy Headteacher, Keith Walker, has worked closely with the OMA in the organisation of the twice-yearly golfing events involving the School and the OMA. Further background about Steven is given in the 'News of the School' section.

Annual Dinner – 23rd March 2012 This event was attended by some 70 members, and Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough and members of the Staff. During the Dinner the Wilfred Upson Prize for the Old Maidonian who had brought most repute to the School during the year, was awarded to **Michael Willoughby, (1958/64)** for his researches into the WW1 casualties of Maidenhead Modern School and Maidenhead County

Annual Dinner

**Thursday 21st March 2013 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 Eyre, Paul Frazer (Principal), Tony Lehain, Christopher Nunn, Joe Cox (Head Boy), Robert Weston.

Boys' School, in which he was able to confirm the names and details of 16 casualties not recorded on the School's War Memorial Board (further details below). Michael had also done similar research for Maidenhead and many of the villages in the area.

School War Memorial Board At one stage the Committee thought that there would need to be two separate Boards, one for WW1 casualties and the other for WW2 casualties, in view of the need to incorporate 16 new WW1 names that had come to light as a result of Michael Willoughby's researches. In the event, the work was undertaken by **Alistair Price (1971/77)**, owner of Bury Court Antiques, White Waltham, who came up with an elegant and much less costly design whereby the existing Board was restructured to incorporate all the new names and also the name of Maidenhead Modern School, without the Board becoming too large. The new board is now re-installed in the School Hall. At the senior school assembly for Remembrance Day, the Principal invited Michael Willoughby to read out all the names of the former pupils who had died in WW1.

The Committee feels that at long last recognition has been given on our War Memorial Board to all the young men who had attended our School in its earlier forms and who died in the service of their country in WW1.

The cost of the work was over £2200. Desborough have covered the cost of the VAT so the net cost to the Association is £1770. Donations totalling £500 have already been received and the Association would welcome further donations, which should be sent to our Chairman, Grahame Fisher, whose contact details are given at the bottom of page 1 of this Newsletter. A further appeal will be made at our Annual Dinner on 21st March when the Memorial Board will be available for viewing.

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.

News of the School/Academy

We thank Paul Frazer, Principal, for responding to our invitation to introduce himself to our members in the following article.

Well, first things first. Who am I? Where am I from? What are my plans?

I was appointed Principal on October 1st 2012, having worked at Desborough on an interim basis since May 2012, and I feel privileged to have been given the trust and confidence of the



Governing Body and The Education Fellowship, our school's sponsors. I am determined not to let them down and am enjoying the support that they are providing to ensure that our shared vision of an "Outstanding" Desborough becomes a reality in the near future.

Prior to my arrival at Desborough I have worked as a School Improvement Consultant and as principal of an academy in Yorkshire: Airedale Academy, a successful, mixed comprehensive school in Castleford. Coincidentally, one of my colleagues at Airedale, **Hugh Griffiths (1970/75)** (History and RE) was an ex-Desborough pupil. So, if you want to find out more about me then Hugh's your man! (*please refer to news from Hugh in 'News of Old Maidonians' section*).

Why have I chosen to relocate to Maidenhead? Three main reasons, the first of which is the boys themselves who are great fun to work with. They are invariably pleasant, polite and helpful, and have made me feel very welcome since my arrival. One of my jobs is to ensure that they reach their potential.

The second reason is the Governing Body, led by Nigel Cook, which invests astonishing amounts of time, energy and expertise into Desborough College, far more than any governors that I have previously worked alongside. The insight and varied experience that they bring to their roles, together with their commitment and determination that Desborough College will provide first-class educational experiences and opportunities for the community that our school serves, ensure that I feel challenged and supported in my role.

Our sponsors, The Education Fellowship, an Academy Trust created to deliver outstanding education, are the third reason. It was founded by Sir Ewan Harper CBE and Mr Johnson Kane to deliver an excellent education to children of all backgrounds. Their aim is to create excellence in every area: an excellence flowing from their underlying ethos and values, an ethos that "goes beyond the expected" and offers an unremitting service to young people.

Radley College, a major Independent boys' school near Oxford, is collaborating closely with us in raising academic standards and expanding our extra-curricular programme. Radley has already provided cricket and

rugby training for Desborough's first teams and their Department Heads have been paired with their counterparts at Desborough to help drive through improvement in the classroom. Radley has also opened its lecture programme to Desborough students.

Desborough College, as we are now called, came into being on 01.10.2012. Desborough School ceased to exist on 30.09.2012. Of course, those of you familiar with David Evans' excellent account of the history of our school, "One Hundred Not Out!" will know that a change of name and status (we are now an academy) is by no means an infrequent occurrence.

What I do find surprising is that in the entire history of the school there have only ever been twelve headteachers and as the latest in a line going back to 1894 I feel incredibly privileged. I can guarantee that I will not become the longest-serving headteacher in Desborough's history, however, because if I am to break Mr A.E. Brooks' record of twenty-eight years I will need to work until I am in my eighties. I am planning to pack in some time before then!

Paul Frazer
Principal

Mr Paul Frazer was born in Cumbria, where he attended Barrow County Grammar School, but regards himself as a Yorkshireman by adoption. He is a graduate in English and History. After teaching appointments at schools in Barnsley and Rotherham he went to Airedale High School, Castleford, West Yorkshire, as Vice-Principal in 1995 and was appointed Principal in 2005. During the following 7 years he led the school in a series of year-on-year improvements in all aspects of the school's performance, leading to the school's Ofsted rating being raised from 'satisfactory' to 'good with many outstanding features'. Ofsted rated Paul's own performance as 'outstanding'. The school received academy status early in 2011.

Paul resigned at the end of 2011 to become a School Improvement Consultant before being appointed Interim Headteacher at Desborough in March 2012, prior to his appointment as Principal when Desborough gained academy status in October 2012.

Paul's hobbies include reading (heroic fantasy; biographies), fitness (he is a member of the gym at The Holiday Inn), and sport (watching rather than playing these days, in particular rugby league and football).

Mr Steven Reed, who took early retirement in the summer of 2012, came to Desborough in 1989 as Head of the Science Department and was appointed Deputy Headteacher in 1995 since when he has been heavily involved in all aspects of the School's activities and organisation. During the Summer Term of 2005 he was acting Headteacher, between the departure of David Eyre and the arrival of Andrew Linnell



He has been a frequent attender, with other members of Staff, at our annual Dinners. When Mr Keith Walker retired as Deputy Headteacher in 1992, one of his roles, as master in charge of Golf, was taken over by Steve who continued to give the same high level of encouragement and opportunities for competition to all pupils who showed an interest in golf. Over the years he has seen a number of pupils reach a very high standard, including some who became professionals. One of his former pupils, Will Dugdale, gained Blues in golf at both Oxford and Cambridge. For 20 years he has fielded school teams in the School v OMA matches, with the School teams winning the majority of the matches. A number of his pupils have become winners of the Brooks Cup.

Steve is now an Open University associate tutor for PGCE students and is also an educational consultant with a company focusing on added value at A-level.

Steve has a daughter who is in her first year of teaching and two sons who are both currently at University.

Ms Julia Barry is leaving Desborough after 16 years service as an English teacher during which time she has been a curriculum leader for PHSE/Lifeskills, a Year Group pastoral leader and for the last 7 years Assistant Head of the Sixth Form. During a year's sabbatical she taught at Bangkok Patana International School.

David Course Memorial Match 2012

The sixth annual match between Desborough and Claires Court was played on the new artificial pitch at Maidenhead Rugby Club and resulted in a win by Claires Court by 15: 12, levelling the series. The match is played as a memorial to **David Course (1966/73)** who joined Claires Court teaching staff as a Maths teacher and Rugby coach, becoming Second Master in 1981. The funds from the David Course Memorial Foundation are used for the coaching which members of Claires Court give to disadvantaged children in South Africa in biennial tours initiated by David. All coached by David will remember his belief that *'In all sport you should be gracious in defeat, humble in victory and always behave as true sportsmen'*.

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

39th Annual Match v School – 2nd April 2012

The Old Maidonians won this event by 4 games to 2, although the School were missing their two strongest players, one off scratch and the other off a handicap of 2. The OMA team were **Michael Clyde (1955/61)**,

Colin Cutler (1936/43), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), David Long (1975/77) and Chris Raymond (1962/68).

38th Competition for the Brooks' Cup – 24th July 2012

Only 9 players were available to play in this competition. The previous year's winner, David Langley, was unavailable and we are pleased to report that he was successful in gaining entry at an US university on a golf scholarship. The Brooks' Cup was won by 6th former Myles Stuchbery with a very creditable 40 points off a handicap of 9.

The leading scores were:-

	Handicap Points	Stableford	Ranking
Myles Stuchbery	9	40	1
Chris Raymond	16	36	2
Michael Clyde	12	33	3
David Long	17	32	4
Barrie Woolford	21	31	5

This event would be the last appearance for the School of Steve Reed who, as reported above, would be retiring at the end of the term as the Deputy Headteacher and who had been master-in-charge of golf at Desborough since 1992. Tributes were paid to Steve for the support and encouragement he had given to many young golfers, a number of whom are been particularly gifted. As an Honorary Member of the OMA he would be welcomed to take part in future for OMA golfing events

Fixtures for 2013

Match v School Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Brooks' Cup competition Wednesday 24th July 2013 (the last day of the School term).

Rugby

The annual OMA v School Match took place on 19th December 2012 and resulted in a narrow win for the OMA by 15 points to 12. The match took place under floodlights on the newly-installed artificial pitch at Maidenhead Rugby Club, after which some 45 players, members of staff and supporters enjoyed a sit-down meal. Afterwards, Mr Stephen Jones, Sunday Times rugby correspondent who helps coach the 1st XV with Gareth Andrew-Jones, made presentations to members of the squad in recognition of their performances.

News of Old Maidonians

The Association is always pleased to hear from Old Maidonians, 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.

W (Bill)_Aylward (1943/48) In our last issue we published the words of the School Song, that was used from the 1940s to the 1960s. Bill remembers a somewhat different version of the first verse being sung by Frank Hammersley ('Hambone') from that given in our last issue. Both versions are as follows:-

	<i>from last issue</i>
Laudemus nunc praeteritos	Laudemus nunc praeteritos
Et omne bene meritos	Et omne bene meritos
Hic filium memoriam	Nobilium memoriam
Hic pendent cedri floria	Et scholae huius gloriam

A (Bert) J Bellworthy (1941/46) Before his retirement from business at the age of 65 in 1995 Bert was heavily involved in the growth of the composites industry, i.e. resin systems reinforced with carbon fibre, aramid fibre, glassfibre etc. The company he founded, Lightweight Structures Ltd, supplied aerospace products around the world but was primarily recognised for its large impedance-matched dielectric space frame radomes.

In 1963 he presented a paper on developments in the UK at the Society of the Plastics Industry USA Conference in Chicago following which substantial transatlantic relationships were developed with several companies there. As well as being a director of several companies in the UK, Bert was also a Director of two companies in Spain and one in Belgium.

When the Composites Processing Association was formed in 1982, he was elected its inaugural Chairman and was made a Life Member in 2002.

Although carbon fibre was developed at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, during the 1960s, the most dramatic recent development has been the manufacture of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. The impregnated carbonfibre fuselage has weight savings of approximately 30% over the metal one.

Bert received a special invitation to the opening by Vince Cable, Minister for Business, of the new British National Composites Centre in the Bristol & Bath Science Park in 2012. He is currently providing the Centre with information and photographs to assist in the "Time -Line" history of composites in the UK.

Bert has a remarkable record of service to the local community. He is a former Borough Councillor and Mayor of The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, a former Chairman and President of Maidenhead United Football Club, a former Chairman of Maidenhead 41 Club and a former President of Pinkneys Green Cricket Club. Bert is also a former President of the OMA and commissioned the Association's President's badge of office. He is currently a Vice-President of the Association.

Ashley Bryant (1969/76), who read Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham University, founded VTOL Technologies Ltd in 2002, a high-tech research and development company, concentrating on the development of low-cost, flexible search and surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), using intellectual property patented by Ashley. UAVs have uses in the military, policing, security and environmental monitoring. The company, based at Reading Enterprise Hub, Reading University, is currently working on UAVs that would be used by energy and water supply companies for surveillance of their cables and pipelines. The company's website is www.vtol-technologies.com.



Ashley's two brothers were at the School, **Graham (1968/75)** who died in 1998, and **Philip (1978/85)**. Ashley lives in Taplow, Bucks.

Stephen Cole (1972/79) Steve and Lindsay Cole moved to Ross on Wye in 2011, where Steve continues to run his training business, Pivotal Sales Training, and also does a part time sales and marketing role in a company that exports to Africa. This has involved a number of recent trips to Kenya, Ghana, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Liberia, all of which he found very interesting.

Both Steve and Lindsay remain heavily involved in Scouting in Ross on Wye, the various roles between them including Scout Leader, Cub Leader, Training Advisor and Group Scout Leader, keeping them very busy. Their son Charlie is now 12 and a very keen cricket player. Steve continues to enjoy fishing, cycling and rugby.

Their new address is 14 Sugarloaf Crescent, Ross on Wye, HR9 5JB.

Matt Daly (1995/2001), one of the stars of Great Britain's hockey team, came to Desborough from Canada at the age of 14. After his international debut in 2005 he has played for England and for Great Britain in numerous matches including the 2008 Olympics in Beijing where Great Britain were Bronze medallists, Matt having scored three goals in the competition. Matt played In the 2012 London Olympics where Great Britain finished fourth, being beaten by Australia in the Bronze medal play-offs. Matt is a member of Surbiton Hockey Club and lives in Long Ditton.



David Eyre (1963/70) We congratulate David on his election, in May 2012, as a Councillor for the Brighton Hill South Ward of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council where he gained the seat for Labour from Liberal Democrat, with a substantial majority.



David, who was Headteacher at Desborough from 1996 to 2005, took an active role with the OMA Committee. He left to become Headteacher at Brighton Hill Community School, where his three daughters had been pupils. In 2009 he was seconded as Executive Headteacher to Staunton Community Sports College in Leigh Park, Havant, where his experience was needed to raise standards. David retired from the teaching profession in 2011 and was welcomed back on to the OMA Committee, joining two former members of Staff, Tony Lehain and Chris Nunn, and current Head of Sixth form, Mrs Helen Duncombe.

David has three daughters, Lizzie working as Head of House at a school in Cambridgeshire, Laura undertaking her PhD at Anglian Ruskin University in Cambridge, and Annabel who has qualified to teach secondary PE.

David tells us that his next target is to win a seat on Hampshire County Council in May 2013.

Stuart Fisher (1960/67), a Life Member of the OMA, has given us the following account of his career. *Having produced somewhat underwhelming sporting achievements at School, other than mountaineering with the School's 18th Maidenhead Scouts, I was pleased to graduate three years later as Scottish canoeing champion and with the first full blue awarded by Aberdeen University for canoeing in 500 yards. I later became a member of the British water racing team for several years. I went on to make a few solo flights in gliders in the late '70s before marrying in 1981 and starting a family.*

Having graduated in civil engineering, I joined Costains, helping to build the M4 in the Reading area. Subsequently I joined the Road Research Laboratory (now the Transport Research Laboratory) at Crowthorne before moving to a consultancy in public health engineering with what is now MWH in High Wycombe, during which I had some short spells in the Middle East.

*Government cutbacks resulted in a career change in 1983. Despite having done sciences at school, as I hated writing essays, I edited and published single handedly **Canoeist**, a monthly magazine on the newsstands. I was never able to afford staff, not even the school's Head Boy who applied speculatively for a post. In 2003 I won the inaugural Periodical Publishers' Association Achievement Award, by far the smallest company ever to win a PPA award and the only sports journal to do so that year. Although still published online occasionally, it ceased to be commercial in 2005, since when I have*

worked on guidebooks on the coast, rivers and canals, both as an author (who has got over his aversion to school history) and laying out books for other publishers (further commissions welcomed). Stuart lives in Corston, Malmesbury, Wilts.

Dr Martin Gibson (1939/46) MA DPhil, Open Scholar, Exeter College, Oxford 1946, details of whose career were published in our last issue, has now moved to 3 Towering Heights Blvd, #206, St Catherines, Ontario, L2T 4A4, Canada.

J R (Bob) Greig (1949/56) In our last issue we published the following account of Bob's career up to 1973, repeated here for ready reference.



I attended School 1949-1956 and left as Head Boy with a scholarship (Open and State) to Imperial College, London. After a BSc in Physics (1st) I stayed for a PhD in Plasma Physics leaving IC in 1962. I worked for Central Electricity Research Laboratories in Leatherhead for three years, then left the UK to join the faculty at the University of Maryland, in College Park, MD, USA. I returned to the UK in 1970, and worked for ICI Paints Division for three years, during which time we lived in Maidenhead. In 1973, I returned to the US and have been there ever since. In 1964, I married Miss Joy Ford also of Maidenhead.

Natural curiosity led us to ask Bob what had happened to him since 1973 and the following is his account of his further varied career.

As for what I have done since 1973, well the last thing was to retire in February 2012. But in 1973 I went to work for the US Dept of the Navy, at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC. I had my recruitment interview in the Mitre in Oxford the previous autumn. I worked there for 13 years and was acting Branch Chief when I left in 1986. During that time I worked mostly on the Star Wars program researching Directed Energy Weapons. In 1986, I went to a small company trying to boost the output of the Abrams tank cannon. The program and the company died in the peace initiative of President Reagan in 1994. At that time I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to retrain in Medical Physics. I did Therapeutic radiation physics, which is basically the treatment of cancer patients. I became Board Certified ABR, (American Board of Radiology) in 1999 and worked the last eight years at Mercy Hospital in downtown Baltimore. I am as you realize well past retirement age (74 in April 2012) but I was enjoying myself. Joy retired in 2002, but she worked from 1977 through 2002 also in Radiation Therapy and was instrumental in setting up my opportunity. We actually worked together for a short while at National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the US Department of Health and Human

Services. Joy had trained at the Middlesex Hospital, London. She worked at Brighton, Sussex before we married, and at St Thomas's, London, afterward. From 1965 to 1977 Joy was at home raising the children. Now we plan to relax.

Bob and Joy live at 103 Northway, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA.

Hugh Griffith (1970/75) As mentioned in the Principal's piece above, Hugh is a member of staff at Airedale Academy. He has contributed the following account of his very interesting career for which we thank him.



Left with very little in the way of GCEs (Maths, English Language and Woodwork). Joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1976. Served in the UK and Germany with tours to Northern Ireland in '77 and '78/'79. Transferred to the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers in 1979 and served with them until demob in 1992. Based mainly in the UK and Germany including deployment to the Middle East during the First Gulf War. Great times. Wouldn't change any of it.



Settled in Leeds and still live there. Completed my BA (Hons) History doing part-time study while grafting away at various jobs and fitting in the Leeds Marathon along the way. Went on to do my Post Grad Certificate in Education (History). Got a job at Airedale High School and since then I have been trying the patience of staff and students teaching history, and a few other subjects occasionally. It is a bit different to Desborough but the students are wonderful people in their way and the staff are first class and have always been great to work with. Again, great times (mostly) and wouldn't change any of it.

My three kids, now all grown up, live nearby, though my youngest lad is currently serving in Afghanistan. Must be something in the blood. My father and his father before him and all that. Married to a wonderful lady. Got a boat on the Ouse and am getting stuck in to playing the guitar. Yep. Life has been, is, and will continue to be, very good. The gods have definitely smiled on me.

Hugh tells us that while serving in the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers, which was equipped with light armoured reconnaissance tanks, he specialised in three main trade paths, gunnery, signalling and anti-tank missiles. For a while he was a Signals Instructor in command of a tracked command vehicle before going to an anti-tank squadron with guided weapons. When they were deployed in the Gulf as a Divisional reconnaissance regiment he commanded a Scimitar CVRt as pictured above.

Mr Alan R Grimsley (member of Staff 1962/85) After retiring from Desborough as Head of Physics, Alan taught the subject on a part-time basis at Claires Court for 5 years. He now lives in Henley-on-Thames.

Nick Hornby (1968/75) Nick's first novel, *Fever Pitch*, was republished in August 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of his celebrated book on his experiences as an Arsenal fan. The reprint contains an appreciation by Nick of the changes that have occurred to football, to society and to himself since the book was published. The appreciation was summarised in an article by Nick that was published in the Daily Telegraph Review of 11th August 2012. He refers to the impact of income from Rupert Murdoch's TV network providing a transformation of the wages paid to players leading to the recruitment of talent from across the world, the games faster and better, the effect of the Hillsborough disaster on the increased safety of stadia, and the enormous increase in ticket prices resulting in the crowds becoming older and quieter. The 20th-anniversary edition of *Fever Pitch* is published by Penguin Classics.

David Horton (1958/65), stood down from the OMA Committee last year after valuable service in helping to set up the OMA website with Chris Raymond. David has moved to 3 Arborfield Court, Swallowfield Road, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9JU.

Mr Pete Johnson (teacher of maths and computing 1977-2000)

has provided us with the following account of his career. *I started off in business with Castrol oil in 1967 (developing GTX oil - that ages me!!) then joined the civil service for some years working as a systems analyst/designer in their*



computer headquarters before leaving to take the PGSE at Bulmershe College. After teaching for two years at Pershore High School I joined Desborough in 1977. I built the first computer network at Desborough (then in room 22) and only the second in the country, using BBC computers (aging me yet more!!). I became head of computing and subsequently head of year and director of studies at the school and was heavily involved in the sixth form with 'A' level maths and further maths teaching. On the social side I helped run the railway society (with John Williams - Biology) and ran the table tennis club - the boys got to the national finals one year. I also travelled to

Europe with the choir. It was a great time at the school in those good old days!!

I left the school in 2000 to pastures new and got involved in the motor industry - driving new cars around the country for Renault and Honda - a change to the classroom!! - but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyable. I kept up the teaching by offering private maths tuition in my spare time and always had too many students needing help!!

Now retired! Although very busy still - am involved in a large amount of charity work and work in Maidenheads Helen and Douglas House charity shop next to the Bear pub in the High Street - do drop in and see me!!

I am still helping 'A' level students with their maths!! I also drive for Volvo as and when needed.

I used to play golf and bowls (at Desborough Bowls Club) until injuries stopped that! I am still very involved on the bowls scene - being on management, match secretary, social events assistant and bowls coach.

I am always happy to catch up with any of the staff and students of that era.

Adrian Lane (1975 – 1982) has sent us the following update.

I now work for Vodafone NZ, as a Reliability Engineer, following the recent purchase by Vodafone of my last employer. I've been with the same company here for sixteen years, and it's bought, been bought, or merged four times now.

I've been with my partner Philippa for six years now. Between us we have nine children (yes, NINE – five of hers and four of mine) and her three eldest have moved out. We are currently converting our three-bedroom house into a seven-bedroom place, so that we all have room. She is a kindergarten teacher, and is used to the place being littered with children.

*I brought my two youngest children to the UK in May and June 2012, for their "meet the family" holiday. We spent good time with **Simon Moppett (1975/82)**, **Neil Jordan (1975/1982)**, **Nigel Pearce (1975/82)** and **David Blogg (1975/82)** whilst we were in the UK. The five of us still keep in frequent contact, even though it's now more than thirty years since we left Desborough.*

If any people that know me are ever travelling in New Zealand, please contact me

as it'd be great to meet up again.

Adrian's address is 5 Kaitawa Street, Waikanae Beach, Kapiti Coast, New Zealand 6454.

David Langley (2005/10) We congratulate David on being awarded a golfing scholarship to Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. His 4-year course will start in August 2013. In the meantime he is working at Castle Royle Golf Club.

David first took part in the OMA golf matches when he was in year 7 when off a handicap of 24 he beat the Editor of this Newsletter. He has since won the Brooks Cup twice – in 2008 off a handicap of 12 and 2011 off scratch. His handicap is now plus 2! His big win in 2012 was at the Berks, Bucks and Oxon County Boys Championships where he successfully defended his under-18 title from the previous year, completing a treble, as he had won the under-16 title in 2010, the first time that a player had won in three consecutive years. Later in the year he competed in the National County Boys' Championships at Woodhall Spa where he came third and equalled the Hotchkin Course record with his last round of 64. If his diary permits, he hopes to play in the OMA matches this year.

David's website, well-worth viewing, is www.davidlangleygolf.com



Lt Colonel Charlie Maconochie (1980/88) is the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of The Rifles. Having previously served in Afghanistan in 2006 he led the Battalion during their tour of duty in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, from March to October 2012. One of the Battalion's roles was training members of the Afghan security forces, with Charlie mentoring an Afghan General. At the start of the tour Charlie made an appeal for funds to assist the families of members of the Battalion who became casualties. Some £50,000 was raised through the sale of wristbands. On the Battalion's return to their depot in Edinburgh they were honoured with the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh, the first time ever that an English regiment has been honoured in this way. In January 2013 the Battalion was further honoured by winning the 'Millie' Award for the best military unit in 2012. The award was presented by the Prime Minister at a ceremony at the Imperial War Museum.

Charlie's wife, Ruth, has recently gained her Open University BA(Hons) History degree. They have two sons and currently live in Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

Charlie's younger brother, **James (1983/90)** lives in Boston, USA and works for Ayantek, a young start-up company specialising in web design. His wife,

Jennifer, is a senior member of the Boston Police Department. They have two sons.

Wing Commander Richard (Dicky) Patounas 1981/88)

who won an RAF scholarship while at Desborough was commissioned into the RAF in 1989. In 1997 he was one of the youngest pilots ever to be appointed to the world-renowned Red Arrows and was later to become their Officer Commanding, with the rank of Squadron Leader. In 2005 he was awarded the Upson Prize in recognition of the repute he had brought to the School. After his promotion to Wing Commander in 2006 he was posted to the Australian Advanced Command and Staff College in Canberra. After a spell at the Ministry of Defence and a posting to Afghanistan he was appointed Officer Commanding 3 (F) Squadron, equipped with Typhoons, at RAF Coningsbury. In May 2012 the squadron, the oldest fixed-wing squadron in the RAF, celebrated its centenary.

Dicky is married to Joanne and his interests include running, motorcycling, wine and breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks.



Vanslow (Van) Phillips (1983/88),

who was an exceptional golfer while at Desborough, later winning the Berkshire trophy twice and playing in the Walker Cup

before turning professional in 1993. While on the Challenge Tour he won the Interlaken Open in 1996 before graduating to the European Tour, finishing in the top 100 of the Order of Merit in his first four years on the Tour. He came third in the French Open in 1998 and won the Algarve Portuguese Open in 1999. Later, when reverting to the Champions Tour, he won the Mauritius Open in 2006. Subsequently Van developed a cartilage problem in his hip, which necessitated an operation and nine months of recuperation, after which Van decided that after 15 years of touring he would move into coaching.

He is now a PGA Teaching Professional and Academy Director based at Dukes Meadows Golf Course in



Van – winner of Portuguese Open 1996

John W Southcombe (1949/54) tells us that he has lost contact with his old classmates and with the members of the Maidenhead and Bray Hockey Club where he played for some years before leaving Maidenhead. John has sent us the following account of his career and news of his forthcoming visit to the UK this year:-

After being amongst the last National Service men in the 1950s, I qualified as an electrical engineer, and worked for a short time in the UK. I was given the opportunity to work on a steel mill project in Australia, so I went to Sydney for a couple of years. After the project was complete I decided to stay in Australia. I found it very easy to adapt to the lifestyle and the work was exciting and gave job satisfaction. I was fortunate to work on many major projects mainly in the power and mining industry in Western Australia - although they were generally in remote tough places. After Sydney I have been based in Perth W.A. The work took me to some interesting places in Australia and around the world on various assignments. During the final years of work I was involved in securing front-end statutory approvals (land access, native title, heritage, environment approvals etc) for major projects, which was more para-legal than engineering, but challenging to do. I still live in Perth.

I married and have an adult son and daughter, who are both in Australia. Unfortunately, my marriage did not last (like 40% of couples!). I retired from full time work in 2005, and have since been occupied with various activities, but there are lots of things I still want to achieve. I'd be pleased to hear from any Old Maids - particularly of my era, I can be contacted

johnandvic799@westnet.com.au, or my address can be obtained from the OMA. We are planning a visit to the UK in May/June this year and will try to visit Maidenhead. I enjoyed visiting the school during my visit in 1999 and Maidenhead during my last visit in 2005. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Angela Stone (member of Staff 1984/1996) who had surgery for kidney cancer at Wexham Park Hospital using hired-in robotic equipment has now donated to the hospital the UK's first robotic ultrasound scanner/probe system to express her deep gratitude for the treatment she received. Angela has made a full recovery and the hospital has expressed its appreciation for the generous gift.



Hugh Todd (1964/72, member of Staff 1975/78), a former Head Boy and outstanding sportsman, joined the Staff at Taunton School in 1978 from which he retired mid 2012. He was Head of PE and a Housemaster before

taking over a Boarding House. He was Selector for England School Rugby, following in the footsteps of the late **George Griffiths (Head of PE 1956/85)**. We congratulate Hugh on his nomination as President of the Old Tauntonians, his term of office starting in June 2013.

Richard Wade (1998/2005) completed a history degree at Swansea University and a masters degree in Archives and Records Management at University College London. He is now an Archivist at Hereford Record Office. He is in quite regular touch with several people he went to school with. Richard lives in Hereford.

Michael Willoughby (1958/64) Michael's researches into the WW1 casualties of Henley-on-Thames were featured in a 2-day public display at Holy Trinity Church in 2012 that received many visitors including the MP, the Mayor and members of the Council.

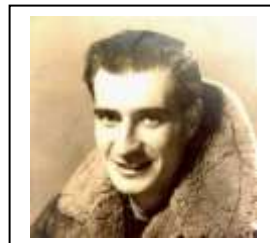
Following the success of this display, Michael has now been asked to curate a 6-months' exhibition featuring WW1 casualties connected to the sport to be organised by the River and Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames. Michael lives at 60 West Chiltern, Woodcote, Reading RG8 0SG.

In Memoriam

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

Adam M C Blissett (2005/12) died suddenly at Bath Spa University at the age of 18 in November 2012. He was in his first term at university where he had been reading Business Studies. He had only recently attended Desborough's Speech Day to receive the Business and Geography prizes.

Oliver Bridges (1929/33) died in January 2013 at the age of 95. He and his wife, Dorothy, had celebrated their Platinum Wedding in December 2010. Dorothy died in November 2011. After leaving school,



Ollie 1940



Ollie 1968

Oliver joined the merchant navy as a cabin boy with the Castle Line, transferring to the Royal Navy at the start of WW2 where he served as an air gunner, flying in Swordfishes, mostly over the North Sea. He was initially in 819 Squadron until transferred just before the squadron was engaged in hunting the Bismarck. From the Orkneys he was involved

with shadowing the Tirpitz. After the war, Oliver worked in the building trade in a clerical capacity, finally retiring after 25 years with a company in the Rio Tinto Zinc organisation as their chief estimator. Oliver had two sons, Melvin and **Graham (1957/63)**, a former member of the OMA Committee, who regularly attends the OMA Annual Dinners.

Stewart W Langley (1952/55) died 1 March 2012 at the age of 72. His working life was spent as an engineer with the Post Office. As an excellent local cricketer he represented Berkshire, Maidenhead & Bray and Braywood Cricket Clubs. He will be well remembered for his strong performances with the Old Maidonians Cricket Team, winning no less than six Julian Cup finals between 1958 and 1966. In latter years he became a well-respected cricket umpire officiating at several representative matches. His younger brother, **Ian (1951/56)**, also represented the Old Maidonians at cricket.

A service of thanksgiving for Stewart's life was held at St Mary's Church, White Waltham.

David J Ranger (1949/54)

died in April 2012 at the age of 74. He was born in Maidenhead and started his education at Alwyn Road School before coming to

Maidenhead Grammar School after which he joined the Maidenhead Advertiser in 1955 as a trainee reporter where he

completed his 5-year indentures. After National Service in Paris he went back into the newspaper industry, working for the Reading Mercury, the Bracknell News and the Uxbridge Evening Mail. He returned to the Maidenhead Advertiser in 1976 working as a sub-editor under the editor Old Maidonian **Don Seal (1941/45)** who described him as a 'very competent journalist and good sub-editor'. David became editor when Don retired in 1993 but retired three years later for health reasons. The current editor, Martin Trepte, who had worked under David, described him as 'a true gentleman who treated everybody with kindness and patience – it was a privilege to work for him'.

In 1965 David married Brigitte who had moved to Marlow from Germany to work as an au pair. They were very involved in local community matters, being founder members of the Maidenhead International Club and starting the Friends fundraising group at All Saints' Church.

Dr (Doc) D J Strawbridge (member of Staff 1962/65)

died in February 2012 at the age of 91. He started his teaching career at Maidenhead Grammar School in 1962 after 16 years with the Courtaulds organisation when they closed their fundamental research laboratories in Maidenhead. He is remembered with affection by his pupils as a 'character' both in and out of the classroom.

One of his former pupils said that he was 'so very different from anyone else I'd ever met at that age'. Another remembers him as an 'inspirational teacher'. As a physics teacher he left a number of memories. He described Boyle's Law as 'A watched kettle never boils'. When teaching the differences between Celsius and Fahrenheit he compared them with 'the Strawbridge scale that was based on the boiling and freezing points of hogs' blood'.

Dr Strawbridge is also remembered for coming to school, firstly in a 1936 blue London taxi with a black folding canvas roof, called Herbie. When this sold he bought a black taxi, with a diesel engine and a metal roof and a fully enclosed cab, called 'Henry'.

Dr Strawbridge's two sons, **Geoffrey (1960/65)** and **Nigel (1962/65)** both attended the school.

In 1965 Dr Strawbridge moved to Shaftesbury Grammar School as head of physics, becoming head of science in 1969, before retiring in 1983. A service of thanksgiving was held for him at St George's Church, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset.



David Ranger: insert, while working at the Maidenhead Advertiser

Table Plan for the Annual Dinner 23rd March 2012

Table 1

Bert Bellworthy
Betty Collin
Colin Cutler
Colin Edwards
Grahame Fisher
Alec Jones
Asghar Majeed
Naheed Majeed
Chris Maltin

Table 2

John Caton
Malcolm Cutler
Barry Hatch
Keith Hatch
Tony Johnson
Tony Leaver
Jack Tomlin
Derek Woolford

Table 3

Tony Grant
Fred Hearman
Tony Hearman
Richard Hildreth
Paul Mills
John Moses
John Nash
John Powell
Bart Sams
Barry Woolford

Table 4

Andrew Bond
David Evans
Andrew Fleming
Chris Kemple
Charlie Kern
Andy King
Tony Lehain
Henry Oldershaw

Table 5

Bob Allan
Doug Courtney
Colin Hurley
Chris Raymond
Ken Wheeler :
Mike Wilkey

Table 6

Julia Barry
Angela Bradshaw
Helen Duncombe
Dawn Hughes
Nick Lee
Suzanne Lewis
Martyn Nicholas
Chris Nunn
Steve Reed
Wayne Stewart

Table 7

Ian Baker
Graham Bridges
Pat Folliard
Mike Lindquist
Philip Palmer
David Revell
John Smith

Table 8

Richard Burfitt
Bob Heaver
Dick Hewett
Dave Horton
Glyn Jones
Ken Pragnell
David Scott

Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Thursday 21st March 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. As in recent years 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 members present.

The ticket price will, as last year, be £21 for paid-up members and £24 for Old Maidonians who are not members of the Association. Those joining on the night will be refunded the £3 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 Saturday 17th March 2013.**

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 Thursday 21^d March 2013 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 £21 each, ...tickets at £24 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