

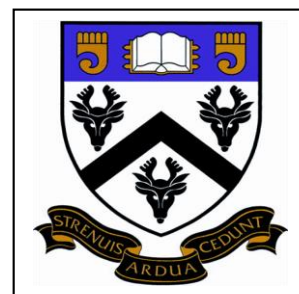


O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 80 January 2014

President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRI

Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

Committee membership Mrs Helen Duncombe, who served on the Committee as Head of Sixth Form, has now left Desborough but remains on the Committee where her knowledge of former students will be invaluable to the Committee.

We are delighted that Daniel Lister, Head Boy in 2004/05, has joined the Committee, bringing down the average age of the members! Further background about Daniel is given in the 'News of Old Maidonians' section.

Annual Dinner – 21st March 2013 A total of 64 attended this event, including the Principal, Paul Frazer, the Chair of Governors, Nigel Cook, members of Staff and the Mayor and Mayoress. In proposing the toast to the OMA and to Desborough it was clear that the Mayor, Cllr Colin Rayner, had absorbed much of the information about the Association from the website and was very complimentary. Paul Frazer gave a graphic account of the challenges facing Desborough and his determination to bring about significant progress.

War Memorial Board Further to the appeal in the previous issue for donations to help to defray the £1700 that the Association had incurred in bringing the Board up to date we gratefully acknowledge donations from Colin Cutler, Grahame Fisher, Alan Lidiard, Jack Tomlin, James Ward and Mike Willoughby, totalling £760. Any member wishing to contribute is asked to send the contribution to our Chairman, Grahame Fisher.

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.

Annual Dinner

**Friday 28th March 2014 at
6.30pm for 7.30pm**

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, Daniel Lister, Christopher Nunn, Robert Weston.

News of the College

We thank Paul Frazer, the Principal, for contributing the following article.

It certainly doesn't seem like a year has passed since I was introducing myself to you in Newsletter No. 79, yet here I am, 12 months on, wondering what to include (so many newsworthy events took place over the year) and what to omit in this latest effort.



I believe that it has been a good year for our school for many reasons, some of which I will allude to in the course of this article.

Our developing relationship with Radley College has brought many benefits to Desborough College throughout the year, far too many to expand upon in this article. However, Old Maidonians will, I think, be impressed by the variety of speakers, all with links to Radley College, who accepted invitations issued by Chris Lee, our Head of Sixth Form, to speak to our sixth-formers. The list includes ex-England Cricket Captain, Andrew Strauss, who spoke about leadership and answered some very searching questions, including his thoughts on Kevin Peterson!! I made certain that I was photographed with Mr Strauss and indeed that photograph, now framed, has pride of place on my mantelpiece. I cannot say with any certainty that Andrew Strauss has given similar prominence to his photographic memories of his meeting with me!

Other guests included Charlie Mayfield, CEO John Lewis, who gave a lecture on "Retailing"; Ollie Hunter, former semi-finalist on Masterchef, who outlined his experiences in a fascinating lecture entitled "The Food and Restaurant Business"; John Bridcut who spoke on the subject of "Directing and Producing Award Winning Films"; Rory Tapner, Chief Executive, Coutts who delivered a very engaging lecture entitled "The Challenge of China"; Oli Broom, founder of the Rwandan Cricket Stadium Foundation and Mark Spivey, former England Cricket and Bath Rugby Club coach, who spoke on "Lessons from a Life in High Performance Sport."

And now I have a request: could any Old Maidonians who have achieved something exceptional in any sphere at all and who would be willing to relate those achievements to our sixth-formers please contact me at:

[. I would love to put](#)

together a programme of talks by ex-Desborough boys.

There were a number of successes last year, including the best-ever GCSE examination results, although nobody, including the Governing Body led by Nigel Cook, is satisfied because they weren't good enough. This summer's will be better still. Another success, and

one closely related to academic achievement, is the significant increase in the number of parents who have made Desborough College the first-choice school for their sons. The trend of declining numbers at Desborough has been reversed.

There were many sporting successes throughout the year, in particular the performances of the First XV, coached by Steven Jones who did a magnificent job inspiring the boys to their best season in years. However, I was particularly delighted by the positive response of local sporting clubs to Governor Colin Cox's appeal for coaches to help train some of Desborough's teams. They have given their time and expertise most generously and I am extremely grateful to them. Of course, we could always use more and I would be delighted to hear from anybody who would be prepared to commit some time to coaching a team or taking some training sessions.

A number of improvements have been made to the buildings and the school environment generally following a successful bid to the DfE that raised almost £500K. Those of you who have not visited the site for a few years would, I hope, be pleasantly surprised by the changes. Indeed, if any ex-pupils fancy a trip down Memory Lane then contact me and I shall arrange a tour.

Despite the inevitable changes that have taken place over the last 18 months I am happy to report that a number of things certainly have not and will not change. I refer to those traditions that have their own Desborough stamp, most notably the Remembrance Day Service where the boys again demonstrated a heartening respect for the endeavours and sacrifices of those ex-Desborough boys who fought and died in the world wars.

No doubt 2014 will bring new challenges, but I am confident that we will rise to those challenges and that in twelve months' time I will be reporting to you further improvements. Desborough is on its way to being outstanding again. Bang the drum!

Paul Frazer
Principal

Speech Day 2013 The Guest of Honour at this auspicious event was Old Maidonian **Jasbir Dhillon QC (1980/87)**, the first Queen's Counsel in the School's history, see 'News of Old Maidonians' section.

News of former members of Staff

Mary Watson (Head of Modern Foreign Languages) has taken up a part time teaching post in Bucks.

Phillip Mortimer (Biology) is teaching in an International School in Brunei.

Jonathan Aston (Geology and Geography) is teaching in Africa (a life-long ambition).

Lisa Colley (History) is teaching at Douay Martyrs School, Ickenham.

Mark Budge (Maths) is teaching at Sir William Borlase's School.

at 2 pm:

We regret to report the recent deaths of:-

Mrs Deidre Ketley, secretary to the Headteacher, Mr Reynolds, until the early 1970s.

Mrs Jenny Owens, an assistant in the Reprographics office.

David Course Memorial Match – 2013

The seventh match in this series between Claires Court and Desborough took place on 13th November 2013 at Maidenhead Rugby Club. Three teams from each school were involved. Desborough's 1st XV were defeated after a close game by 22 to 12 points and are now trailing in the series by 4 games to 3. The event is held as a memorial to **David Course (1966/73)** who died in 2007 and who had been a key member of the Staff at Claires Court, both as a rugby coach and as the Second Master.

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

40th Annual Match v College – 2nd April 2013

A team from Desborough consisting entirely of Staff members beat the Old Maidonians team convincingly by 5.5 games to 0.5. The OMA team were **Michael Clyde (1955/61)**, **Colin Cutler (1936/43)**, **Grahame Fisher (1952/59)**, **Chris Raymond (1962/68)**, **Barrie Woolford (1953/59)**, **Richard Woolmer (Staff 1987/2005)**.

39th Competition for the Brooks Cup – 24th July 2013

17 players took part in this competition. The winner was **Nick Snell (1974/79)** with 37 points. Nick had previously won the event in 1998. Runner-up, with only 1 point less was **Andrew Livsey (1969/76)** who had not taken part in this competition since 1976 when he was the winner in the second year of the competition.

The leading scores were:-

	Handicap	Stableford Points	Ranking
Nick Snell	18	37	1
Andrew Livsey	12	36	2
Chris Lee	18	35	3*
Mike Clyde	12	35	4
Myles Stuchbery	9	33	5

* on countback

Longest drive Andrew Livsey

Nearest to pin on 13th Will Jamieson

Fixtures for 2014

Match v College: Monday 7th April 2014 at 2 pm:

Brooks Cup competition: Monday 28th July 2014

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

Rugby

The annual OMA v College match took place on 15th December 2013 at Maidenhead Rugby Club, with the OMA winners by the same score as last year, 15 points to 12, after an exciting and excellent game. After the game a record number of 64 sat down for a meal at the end of which Mr Stephen Jones, the Sunday Times rugby correspondent who coaches the 1st XV assisted by Mr Gareth Andrew Jones, presented specific awards to individuals.

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.

Michael J Alspach (1963/64) contacted the Association from New Zealand saying that he was planning to visit the UK in June 2013 and was trying to make contact with a friend



from his school days, **Adrian C Jones (1963/66)**, whom he had not seen since leaving school. We were successful in bringing about a reunion with Adrian, a consultant oncologist.

Michael graduated in Biology and emigrated to New Zealand where he and his wife Marion own a business, *Our Patch Lavender*, with more than 10,000 lavender plants of different varieties and colours, from which they produce and market a range of cosmetic and toiletry items. During his visit he and Marion, *see photograph*, were able to have a tour of Desborough (much changed since 1964).

Michael's younger brother, **Peter**, also attended the school during the same period as Michael. Their father was in the United States Air Force.

Douglas J Baldwin (1945/50) held the 100yds, 220yds and the 440yds School records, long since broken. He joined JM Jones the Builders as a Building Surveyor trainee during which time he did a 5-year course at Reading Polytechnic and University. Then followed National Service in the Royal Engineers in Malaysia before returning to JM Jones for two years.

After a year with Close & Morton, quantity surveyors, with offices in Maidenhead, Camberley and Princes Risborough, Doug joined Taylor Woodrow Construction in Southall, where he worked on the Northfleet Power Station in Kent, Sizewell Nuclear Power Station in Suffolk, and West Burton Power Station near Retford, Notts, where he met his wife, Rosemary.

They were married in 1964 and within six months were sent by Taylor Woodrow International (TWI) to Belize to build a large sugar factory with cane fields. During their 2 years in Belize their son was born. They were then sent to Sierra Leone to build a series of secure diamond plants and a generating station.

In 1968 they were back in the UK and he rejoined Taylor Woodrow Construction to work on the Aston Expressway in Birmingham. They were living in Sutton Coldfield where their daughter was born before moving to Burntwood near Lichfield. In 1973 Doug transferred to TW Midlands where he was involved with British Telecom telephone exchanges and new hospitals in Manchester, Nottingham and Redditch areas.

In 1983 Doug was asked to transfer to New York to help set up a new construction company, with area offices in Boston, Tampa and Toronto and also to set up a new company in California. Doug's title was Vice-President for Construction in North America and Canada. The companies did well with a number of major projects including airports, medical centres and water treatment plants.

Douglas retired on health grounds in 1992 and as their children were then in US colleges, the family decided to stay in the USA, moving to Florida in 2001. He is battling with glaucoma and heart problems that have necessitated a quintuple bypass, several subsequent stents and an implanted defibrillator.

and he would be pleased to hear from any Old Maidonian who may remember him.

Dr Steven Beller MA PhD (1970/77) *has been a long-term resident in the USA and we thought he might have an interesting story to tell about his life there. We are grateful for this stimulating and fascinating account by this renowned author and historian.*



Washington DC, 28 January 2014

Dear Old Maidonians,

Hello from sunny (but cold) Washington DC. It has been quite a while since I left Maidenhead Grammar School (Desborough as it had become) in 1977. (Can that really be 37 years ago?)

How I got here to DC is not too complicated. I studied History at Cambridge, where I stayed off and on (with research sojourns in Vienna) until 1989, as an undergraduate at Jesus, a research student at Trinity, and

a Research Fellow at Peterhouse. In 1988 I married the gorgeous and remarkable Esther Brimmer, and in 1989 I followed Esther back to her homeland, the USA. I was not all that reluctant, as I myself was an American citizen (through my father) and there was more likelihood of getting an academic position in the USA than there was in the UK at the time, or so I thought. And Esther had a good job in New York.

We lived in Manhattan's Upper East Side for couple of years and then moved down to the Washington DC area in 1991. I spent a few lovely, stimulating months at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 1993-94, and then another pleasant few months in Vienna at the International Research Centre for Cultural Studies in 1996, but apart from that we have lived in the DC area since 1991.

Initially we lived in a suburb, Alexandria, Virginia, an old port town, founded in the eighteenth-century, whose architecture is quite reminiscent of Henley or Marlow. (They call it Federal – we call it Georgian).. In 1997, when it was clear that we would soon be becoming parents, we moved into Washington DC itself to our current address in Tenleytown, in the northwestern quadrant of the city (the area is named after an old tavern owner). Our son, Nathaniel Brimmer-Beller, was born in the spring of 1997, and currently goes to the high school section of Maret School (where the Obama daughters *should* have gone, if you ask me).

I think it is safe to say that I have had a very fortunate life in DC in many respects. Esther's father was Andrew Brimmer, the first African-American to sit on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, a brilliant economist, prominent in the business, academic and political community, and an all-round good citizen in the best possible sense. Among other positions he held was as Chairman of the Control Board that set Washington DC on the road to financial and administrative recovery in the late 1990s. Through Andy I was able to meet (or at least shake the hand of) many of the stars of American civic life, including a certain senator from Illinois, before he ran for President.

Esther herself has followed in her father's footsteps in terms of impressive achievements in public service. She worked at the State Department under Bill Clinton, and later joined Barack Obama's foreign policy team early on in the presidential primary campaign, in 2007. We were both enthusiastic supporters of Obama (and still are). Esther went on to serve as Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs in the State Department in the first Obama term. This involved having to go to various events for Washington's diplomatic community, including some at the White House, and it would have been churlish of me and our son not to accompany Esther on some of her business trips abroad, such as to Rio and Sydney.

Esther is now a Professor at George Washington University. The side benefits aren't quite the same, but Esther remains a significant figure in the foreign policy community here – and I do get to see more of her than I

did the last four years. (Public service at the higher levels is extremely taxing in terms of time and effort over here.). Following along on Esther's career path has been most interesting and exciting, and I think it has only just begun. Watch this space, as they say...

The one area where I think life in America has not lived up to expectations has been in terms of what I thought I could achieve in terms of an academic position. After several years of trying, to my surprise and frustration I ended up realizing that I could not achieve this, if I was not prepared to move away from DC – where my life was ideally based (see above). The one position I did get an offer for was in London, at a time when moving from DC made no financial sense whatsoever. Go figure. So, I gave up looking, and instead concentrated on writing history books. I have been moderately successful at this. My main areas of expertise has been modern Central European history and modern Jewish history. If you ever wanted to boost the fortunes of a fellow Old Maidonian, or wanted to find out about what I was really getting up to, you could purchase one of the following:

Vienna and the Jews 1867-1938: A cultural history (Cambridge UP, 1989)
Herzl (Halban Books, 2004 (1991))
Francis Joseph (Longman, 1996)
Rethinking Vienna 1900 (Berghahn, 2001)
A Concise History of Austria (Cambridge UP, 2006)
Antisemitism: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford UP, 2007)

The latest result of my efforts is a little outside my usual area, but was a lot of fun to write: *Democracy: All That Matters* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2013).

Almost all are available ordered from bookstores (preferably) or (if necessary) amazon.co.uk

I think the funniest comment on my career as a historian was made by a good friend of mine, a German who lives in Vienna (brave man!), who said, referring to the moderate impact my work has made on certain aspects of Austrian self-understanding, at least among academics and journalists there, "Steven – in Vienna you are 'world famous'."

In any case, I have gotten used (note the American form) to living in DC over the years. Apart from continuing my academic studies, I have become involved in political campaigns (at the infantryman level, unlike my wife's officer ranking), always on the side of reason, i.e. the Democrats, and I am increasingly involved in civic politics and policy in DC, having joined a "smart growth" group called Ward3Vision (check out their Facebook page to learn more) which believes in the heretical position (for Americans) that more roads and parking spaces for cars are not a good idea, only leading to sprawl and destruction of the countryside, and that it is possible, and for all sorts of reasons preferable, to live in cities where you don't need a car to shop or even get to work, where you don't even have to own a car in the first place. (London comes to mind).

DC is in many ways very easy to live in for someone from Maidenhead. DC is relatively left-wing for America politically, which makes it about the same in social policy terms as the Conservative Party in Britain (and to the right of the Liberal Democrats). In the leafy suburban part of the city where I live, almost everyone has a car (despite what I said above), so gets around by driving, to the store, to school – or to tennis.

Would you believe I still get a weekly tennis "lesson", but only because I am still in awe of the fact that my "coach" is Graham Stilwell – the man who beat Ilie Nastase and Ion Tiriac in the Davis Cup match in 1969, which GB only lost because Mark Cox was bamboozled by Ion Tiriac. (This must make sense to someone reading this!) In some ways it has become even easier to adjust. I used to return quite regularly to Maidenhead, when my parents were alive (my father died in 2001, my mother in 2008), mainly to see them, obviously, but also, secondarily, to stock up on life's necessities at Waitrose, and watch football on TV.

Now I don't get over as much, but there is much less need to in some respects. There is a cable sports channel that shows Premier League games live, a local store specializes in delicacies from all over the world – so I can get real Digestives and real English tea whenever I want (at a price). There is no Waitrose, but there is a Whole Foods just up the street, which almost matches the shopping experience. There is even a PBS channel that only carries British TV shows and we do get to see Sherlock, if a month late, as well as lots of other shows (though I cannot for the life of me understand the attraction of Downton Abbey). And if I really need an expat's fix of British-(English)ness, I can always call on various other ex-pat friends in town, and sometimes Her Majesty's representatives over her even let me into the embassy...

There are aspects of American life I have still not gotten used to – especially the politics are W-E-I-R-D. I don't know what it looks like from your end, but over here I am always amazed at how much of the country, especially the red-state middle, completely misunderstands the Obama administration's policies, and how they are abetted in the paranoid ignorance by so much of the supposedly "liberal" media, including channels like CNN, ABC, CBS etc. Even the Washington Post is caveman-like in many of its policy positions, especially when it comes to environmental issues. The whole furore about Obamacare, which is seen over here by far too many otherwise sane people as close to communism, let alone socialism, is bizarre, when the actual policy of using market-driven mechanisms to cover those without the basic right of health insurance, is if anything too far to the right in policy terms for any sensible European, or even Englishman.

Then again, there is a complete distortion over here about the balance between public and private investment, with a huge bias toward private, short-term investment decisions. Would you believe that when they built a metro (equivalent of the Tube) line out to the airport, they started

the building only halfway, and in an area that was slated to be urbanized, so as to become a walkable downtown they chose to put the metro high above ground on a concrete viaduct, rather than underground where it belonged – because it cost a bit less in the short term?

Same at the international airport – in a few years' time you will arrive at Dulles and have to walk a fair distance to get to the metro station, which will again be above ground – because that option was a few million dollars less than the compromise option of putting the station underground next to the terminal (as opposed to actually under the terminal, like in great European airports such as Frankfurt – and now Heathrow). When I look (online) at how Crossrail is coming along in London (and that will no doubt be a huge boost to Maidenhead), and compare it to the penny-pinching idiocies of American public transport investments, I wonder if I am living in the right country after all.

But then the mood passes, and I realize that DC really is quite a fascinating, and most comfortable place, as well as being, for the time being “the capital of the Free World” – so life goes on (and I do have a quite nice garden that I do cultivate, as Voltaire would have proposed). If any of you want to find out what else I have been up to, and complaining about, you can always find me on Facebook under “Steven Beller, Washington”.

Cheers

A (Bert) Bellworthy We congratulate Bert and his wife Marlene on their Golden Wedding Anniversary in March 2013. They celebrated the event with a cruise on the River Nile. Bert was Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 1982-83 and was a member of the Borough Council from 1973 to 1991. He has been President of the Pinkneys Green Cricket Club and of the Maidenhead Boys Football Club. Marlene has served on the executive committee of the Maidenhead & District Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Maidenhead Probus Club. Both are members of Desborough Bowling Club and are season ticket holders of Queen's Park Rangers Football Club. They have two daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Andy Brown (1968-1973) When we heard that Andy Brown made his living as a translator for the Dutch government and for other clients, we asked him for the background to this very unusual career. We thank him for his full and amusing account.

I arrived at the Grammar School in the middle of the second year, after we'd moved up to Maidenhead from Cambridgeshire. My father had been made redundant and wanted to move back closer to London, where he and my mother were brought up. On my first day 'Old King' Cole asked me my name and caused great hilarity at this newly arrived Fen-boy's expense by announcing that he had no one on his register called 'Andy Brain'

I was soon befriended by Roy Bannister and Dave Coombs, whose best man I was to be many years later. Other early friends were Brian McVitty and Chris Ball, with whom I went on a cycling trip to the West Country. In 1971, I went in to the Lower Sixth, one of the first batch to use the 'new' Sixth Form Block, where the permanently (and rightly) enraged Mr Stanley (Stan) tried to stop us turning it into a larger version of a teenage boy's bedroom. My two permanent companions there were Dave Hadden and Mik Drake, who much later came to visit me in Holland. I was in a band at the time and they joined us at a rehearsal. It was the first time we'd played guitar together for more than 20 years.

With the help of Mr Cole and Mr Cutting, Doc Palme and Mrs Deane, and Mrs Wale and Mr Skelton, I left in 1973 with reasonable A levels in French, German and English. I had a choice between a place at Bradford University or Brighton Polytechnic, both to do Business Studies (I was advised that my A levels wouldn't be good enough to go for a pure language course) and the buffer of a job offer at Barclays International at Reading. With my Southerner's fear of everything north of Watford, I plumped for Brighton, where I stayed for a year before realising that my future didn't lie in the world of business. With a friend (now my brother-in-law), I transferred to Portsmouth Poly, where I emerged three years later with an upper second honours degree in Sociology. I had also learned other essential life skills including how to drink copious amounts of beer, cook fish fingers, frozen peas and instant mashed potato, and – something that was to stand me in good stead in the future – how to communicate with females without turning purple and muttering in an ancient and long-forgotten language.

In 1980, after two years at London University studying for an MSc in Politics in the evenings and working as a driver and warehouseman for a leather goods wholesaler in the West End, I decided to go out to Holland to join future brother-in-law and other old student friends who were doing all kinds of jobs to work off their post-study overdrafts and were having a gay old time doing it. I spent most of the 80s graduating from factory worker to truck driver to teacher of English as a foreign language to freelance Dutch-to-English translator. In 1990, after applying on a whim, I was taken on as a translator at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I worked part-time for 17 years, travelling up from my home in the south of the country to The Hague 3 or 4 days a week, and continuing to freelance in my spare time.

In 2007, I decided that I was getting too old to commute and left the Ministry to return to full-time freelancing. I was by now a copywriter, editor and translator, specialised in international relations and development cooperation. Finally, more by luck than judgment, I had a career that combined my grammar school and university education.

Since then, I have been working from home and have translated several books – including several on popular science, reviving an interest in science that I had to

jettison when choosing my A levels back in 1971. In the meantime, I have been married twice, have two children and two stepchildren, and three grandchildren, all of whom are healthy and doing well.

I have been in the Netherlands for more than 30 years now, but come back to Maidenhead to visit my dad several times a year. In some ways, the old place has changed beyond recognition, but in others it's still the lovely little town on the Thames that enchanted us when we arrived back in the 60s.

People ask me if I would ever come back, but I think I've changed, too. I'm no longer the scrawny little kid that Dai Griffiths put at full back in my first – and only – ever game of rugby and told me to stop everyone who came in my direction. At the first sight of some lumbering great prop forward. I stepped to one side and decided on the spot to take up cross-country with all the other wimps. It was the best decision I ever made. I learned to run, and later to climb, and now I still do both as much as my aching knees and complaining muscles will allow me.

So thanks to Dai, Boggy Lee, Weary Wilmott, Stan, Old King Cole, Elsie, Gus Dean, Doc Palme and all the rest - with of course special mentions for the lovely Mrs Wale, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Harry, who deserve medals for spending their days surrounded by a pack of wild hyenas.

Happy days!

We told Andy that we were still intrigued about how he became so proficient in Dutch, so he sent us the following:-

I've never had formal Dutch lessons, just learned it as I went along. My German of course gave me a good start. The first 'lessons' I had were during my early jobs in factories, in particular at the Michelin tyre factory, where I worked for a year and learned rudimentary Dutch (with the emphasis on 'rude') from my colleagues – a motley crew of Turks, Belgians, Spanish, Portuguese, Irishmen and the odd genuine Dutchman. The bosses were all French, so there was great hilarity all round.

When I started teaching English, it made me much more aware of the structure of both languages and when I got into translation, I came to realise that words are means of expressing whole cultures and histories. I still love the challenge of converting one to the other. And of course, being part of a Dutch family and surrounded by so many good Dutch friends has also made me very much at home with the language. Now, when well-meaning Dutch people who don't know me start to talk to me in English, I often reply in Dutch, which leads to the strange situation of both of us conversing in our second languages.

I'm glad to hear that Tony Lehain is still around and involved in the school. I remember him very well, though I doubt he would remember me. He never taught me, but did his best to get me up and running. He might like to know I later ran two half marathons! I seem to remember he was also our careers adviser, but please don't tell him I ignored all the advice he gave me!

Andy

The Cooper Brothers

The Cooper family were brought up in Cookham. They were all members of the 1st Cookham Scout Group and all achieved the prestigious Queen's Scout Award. They are all Life Members of the OMA.

Andrew H C Cooper (1974/81) graduated from Nottingham in Zoology before serving in the RAF as a search and rescue helicopter pilot. In 1998 he joined Airtours International, which later became My Travel and more recently Thomas Cook Airlines, flying the Airbus 320 as a Captain out of Manchester Ringway. He is now flying Boeing 757s, operating from Birmingham Airport for the foreseeable future. He is in infrequent contact with Geoff Ponter, Rob Weston and Roger Neaves. He is still living in Lymm, Cheshire. with his wife, Jill and 3 children.

David W G Cooper (1972/79), who graduated in Civil Engineering at Leeds in 1983, has been managing financial services projects in the City. After 20 years living in central London, home is now a few hundred yards from the Desborough College gates. He has taken an active role in the local Neighbourhood Watch, (which he is happy to report is ably established and run by **Colin Cutler** for 25 years) as a co-ordinator for the residents of two blocks of flats.

David and wife Elizabeth split their time between UK and USA, finding it a challenge to spend as much time as they would like with sons and granddaughters living in London and Los Angeles.

Jonathan N R Cooper (1976/83), who read Biology at Southampton, trained as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young in London. He worked in the Lloyds insurance market in London for four years before moving to Poole, Dorset where he continued working in financial services for Markel Syndicate Management, Barclays Bank and currently for Liverpool Victoria at the head office in Bournemouth. Wife Lorna and two teenage sons keep him busy and he continues the Scouting tradition as a Beaver Scout Leader at Lilliput Sea Scouts. He also administers men's lacrosse fixtures for the South of England.

Sister Elizabeth married Mark Harris (1977/82)

see below.

Gavin Coventry (PE/Geography/Biology teacher 1972/80). We thank Gavin for sending us the following account of his time at Desborough and of his subsequent career.

I was at Maidenhead Grammar School (latterly Desborough), as No 2 in the PE department to George Griffiths, from Sept 1972 to April 1980. Besides teaching PE and games I also taught Geography (with Mr. Lee)

and then Biology in Alan Labrom's department. I also ran the County under 15 and under 16 Hockey and Rugby teams. We are still close friends of the Channons.

I had a good games coaching grounding at Desborough with some stalwart sportsmen as colleagues including Max Arnold, Stuart Morgan, Dai Evans, Hugh Todd, and of course, George Griffiths. All these were with me as members of Maidenhead Rugby Club, where Desborough continued to supply many top players either as staff or as ex pupils. Names such as Prickett, Harlow, McNicoll, Course and Camm come to mind as first team players during the seventies. **Neil Woodford** (see below) was also a brilliant County javelin thrower from about the same era.

When I left Desborough, I was appointed as Head of PE at St Bede's Prep School in Eastbourne and taught there from 1980 to 1989. I then spent the next 22 years as Deputy Head, with a stint as Acting Head, at Rose Hill Prep School in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. During this time I also ran the PE dept and taught Maths and PSHE at various stages but was mainly concerned with the management side.

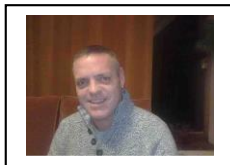
I continued enjoying teaching and arbitrating many sports during my career and managed to coach some successful athletes across the board. In the field of hockey current superstar international, Ashley Jackson, England and GB Olympic team, was a former captain of my 1st XI in his early teens.

I retired from teaching in 2011. In 2012 I was a volunteer at the Paralympics where I was assigned as the driver and guide for the Turkmenistan delegation. A wonderful experience.

Currently I am keeping busy being a member of the University of the Third Age, improving my knowledge of Local History whilst updating the street records for our Reference Library, running my last school's Alumni Association, playing bowls, cookery and renovating my daughter's large maison in Limousin, France.

Gavin lives in and his email address is gavcov@hotmail.com

Sean P Croft (1976/81) has joined the 18th Maidenhead (Desborough College) Scout Group as the Cub Scout Leader. He will also be closely involved in restarting the Group's Scout Troop that has been in abeyance for the last few years. He had been a Scout with the Pinkneys Green Scout Group and for the last 8 years has been a Cub Scout Leader with the 21st (Cox Green) Scout Group. Among other Old Maidonians who have had a leadership role with the 18th Maidenhead is **Nigel Bevan (1965/72)**, former Venture Scout Leader, who is now the District Commissioner for Scouting in Maidenhead and District.



To raise money for charity Sean has done a number of parachute jumps with the Red Devils and was among the first in the UK to do a bungee jump. He went ahead with this in spite of watching the preparations for setting up the

jump which involved watching the test weights thudding into the ground before the correct adjustment was made. Among other adventurous activities have been going up in stunt planes and airships, potholing, white water rafting and canyoning.

Sean entered the building trade, joining H Wiggins, who built a number of quality houses in the Maidenhead area. He has since set up his own company as a building sub-contractor and was involved in building the flats in Ludlow Road near the all-weather pitch at Desborough.

Sean was divorced in 2000 when the younger of his two sons was a year old and has since been a single parent bringing up both boys on his own.

Jasbir Dhillon QC (1980/87)

gained a 1st Class BA (Hons) degree in Jurisprudence at Keble College, Oxford and also won a Blue in Basketball. He then went to Harvard University where in 1991 he gained his Masters degree following which he was called to the New York Bar and then to the New York State Bar. In 1997 he returned to the UK and is recognised as one of the leading advocates in commercial and financial cases.



The Dugdale brothers

Chris Dugdale (1985/92) is an internationally acclaimed close-up magician. His show at the Edinburgh festival in 2013 was a big success, being amongst the most sold-out shows at the Assembly venue. Another show this summer will most likely follow this year. Details are likely to be posted on Chris's website www.thinkofacard.com. Chris and his wife, Alexis, have a daughter, Lara, born July 2013.

Will Dugdale (1987/94) is currently Head of German at Dulwich College. He and his wife Liga have two daughters, Emilija and Olivija. Will tells us that the pronunciation is English, while the spelling is Latvian, reflecting Liga's heritage.

Andrew Fisher (1978/85), son of our Chairman, **Grahame Fisher**, completed his Masters in Counselling with a High Distinction at La Trobe University, Melbourne in 2013. After working for over 20 years as a copywriter and Creative Director in advertising, mostly for Saatchi & Saatchi, he has now taken a job at Thriving Youth Australia as their Executive Officer. He continues to write in a freelance capacity, while also helping to look after his two young sons: Fred and Herbie.

Mark V Harris (1977/82) and Elizabeth live in Cookham with their children. Mark has set up an air conditioning and facilities management business, Air Intelligence Ltd, servicing customers across the South East: visit

<http://www.airintelligence.co.uk> for more details.

Brigadier Matt Holmes DSO RM (1978/83). We congratulate on his promotion to his current rank, attained in March 2013. He was a joint recipient of the Upson Prize in 2008, in recognition of the Distinguished Service Order he received for his leadership of 42 Commando Royal Marines in Afghanistan.

Matt has since served at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, leading the training for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. He has also served stints at Northwood Headquarters and in the MoD, including a busy two years as the Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff during the 2010 Defence Review and Reforms, and throughout operations in Libya.

Matt completed the Higher Command and Staff Course in 2012, before undertaking a resources job in the Naval HQ. On promotion to One Star, he was assigned to the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre at Shrivenham, to lead the global strategic context work in preparation for the next Strategic Defence and Security Review, scheduled for 2015. Matt and Lea are now the proud parents of two children: a nine year old girl and five year old boy. So hands full!

Dr Alan B Lidiard DSc FInstP FRSC (1939/46) has moved from his previous address in Hinton Waldrist, Oxon to Witney, Oxon.

Daniel Lister ACA (1998/2005), who was Head Boy in 2004/05, is a welcome addition to the OMA Committee. At school he was a talented electronic organist and percussionist. He maintains his musical interest as a Trustee of the Montgomery Holloway Music Trust, which was founded by pianist Laurie Holloway and his late wife, the jazz singer, Marion Montgomery. The Trust offers aspiring musicians the opportunity to perform with Laurie's trio and hone their singing talents. Daniel also maintains the Trust's YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/LaurieHolloway) which features archive performances from Laurie and Marion. **Will Torrent (1997/2004),** see below, is also a Trustee.

Daniel read Economics at Nottingham and went on to work at Hale & Company in Maidenhead as a Trainee Accountant. He has now qualified as an ACA Chartered Accountant and works as a Financial Accountant for the global pharmaceutical company Allergan in Marlow. The company specialises in ophthalmic, neuroscience and cosmetic pharmaceutical products.

Brian McConkey (Head of Middle School: Senior Master (Staff) 1972/89).

We thank Brian for sending us the following contribution in response to a request for information on how life is treating him in retirement.

I joined the senior management team at Maidenhead Grammar School as Head of Middle School in September 1972 in order to be involved in 1973 in the preparation for comprehensive reorganisation as Desborough School.

Prior to that I had been Head of German at Cambridge Grammar School, having previously been on the staff of the Modern Languages Department at Wymondham College, Norfolk and The Royal School, Dungannon, Northern Ireland. From 1982 I was Senior Master (Staff) at Desborough. I was also for a time on the governing body as a staff governor.

I had the opportunity to take early retirement in 1989 and spent some years examining A Level German, teaching part time for a spell at Heathfield School in Ascot and in Desborough with time to indulge in my hobbies of furniture restoration, gardening, singing, learning Greek and spending time in Lyme Regis.

Retirement gave us the opportunity to spend more time in our beloved Lyme Regis and, eventually, about five years ago, we settled here permanently, just five minutes from the sea.

We are seldom idle. Margaret is now busy as a churchwarden and school governor and I edit the Parish News.

*I watch top class rugby with Exeter Chiefs although I miss London Irish, where I had a season ticket for many years. When London Irish moved to the Madejski Stadium, Reading, in 1999/2000, from then on I seldom missed a home match, accompanied on a number of occasions by **Len Reynolds** amongst others.*

With the mill leat at our front door I trained as a volunteer Miller at the recently restored Town Mill and thoroughly enjoy the hands-on activity of milling and meeting visitors and school parties. I still find time to keep up the Greek studies which I started when I left Desborough. We go to Crete every September where we spend time with German and Austrian friends and I reassure myself that my German is not going rusty.

I am a member of the Axminster Choral Society. Singing the full Messiah at Christmas brought back memories of Desborough Choir under Roger Durston, Christopher Mahy and Nicholas Bannan when we travelled to Bonn and Rheims and sang at Christmas in the Festival Hall and the Albert Hall.

We have had visits at different times from former colleagues Ken Wheeler, Jeremy and Elizabeth Hurst and Jeremy and Irene Newton (formerly Pinkerton) and, of course, son Adam and his wife, Susie, visit regularly with the grandchildren. Daughter Hannah lives in Clevedon so we have frequent contact.

*A near neighbour is **Philip Sankey** who taught at Desborough in the late 1960s until the mid-1970s and was involved with the Scouts.*

It is always great to have news of Old Maidonians. I feel proud to have been associated with so many who have done so many interesting things. I still miss bumping into middle-aged gentlemen in the street who say "Good morning, Sir" just as they did when they were still in the fourth form.

We shall always be glad to hear from anyone who remembers us.

PS The website is brilliant.

Colonel Charlie Maconochie (1980/88). Charlie relinquished his role as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the Rifles in July 2013 at their base in Edinburgh and assumed full Colonel status to become the Assistant Director, Management Information Branch – Land, based in Andover. We congratulate Charlie on his promotion.



Chris Mitchell (1962/68) retired in 2013 after 44 years' service on the Greens Staff at Maidenhead Golf Club, including the last 10 years as Course Manager, during which time the condition of the course was continuously improved to its current high standard.

M Jerry Oddie (Headteacher 1989/95, Vice-President OMA) retired in August 2013 after over 17 years as Principal of Collingwood College, one of the largest academies in the country. At the last OFSTED inspection in May 2013 Collingwood retained its 'Good' classification for Overall Effectiveness and was adjudged 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Management, a fitting tribute to the quality of Jerry's leadership.



He had also served for five years as Secretary of the FASNA (formerly FAVASA), the national organisation representing grant-maintained and subsequently Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools in England and Wales.

Jerry and his wife Janette have now moved to Hayling Island. Jerry has taken on the part-time role of Hotline Officer for the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), the professional body to which Jerry has belonged, and which represents the interests of secondary school/college leaders and others with whole school/college responsibilities. He will also be undertaking consultancy. He tells us that they have plenty to occupy themselves with, including 3 grandchildren with a fourth on the way, an extended tour of California in May and some building extension work on their house.

Greg Pittick (2002/09) graduated in Music (Composition) at Kingston University in 2012 and is currently working as a private teacher of the piano and

guitar and part-time at Maidenhead Golf Club as a bar assistant. He is proposing to move to London in the near future.

The Pope family, who are all Life members of the Association:-

Michael Pope (1947/54) is a retired as Head of Engineering Department at Windsor and Maidenhead College, having previously worked in optical engineering and on the Bluestreak missile. He is a keen bowler at Wargrave of which he is a former Club Captain, and where he currently looks after the bowling green. He once reached the finals of the national Royal British Legion bowls tournament. He was for many years a Scout Leader in the 1st Wargrave Scout Group, as was his wife, Marion.

Marion (née Stacey) was a former County Girl who went into banking and then into education. Last year she was the recipient of Maundy monies from the Queen at Oxford Cathedral for services to the Church and the community. Their daughter, in keeping with her parents' careers in education, is a primary Headteacher in Ascot.

Colonel Chris Pope OBE (1971/78) who retired from the army in 2006 is currently the Director of Resources in Newham London Borough Council where his responsibilities cover finance, human resources, legal and ICT – as well as the disposal of the Olympic Stadium!

Major-General Nick Pope CBE (1973/80) was promoted in 2011 to be the Chief of the Defence Staff's Strategic Communications Officer. He was subsequently the Master General of the Ordnance as a member of the Army Board. He now works at Andover as Director General Capability, responsible for the Army's forward equipment programme and for overseeing the return of some 15,000 troops from Germany.



Nick remains Colonel of the Regiment of Queen's Gurkha Signals and will become Master of the Royal Corps of Signals in March. Nick's wife, Jo, is a doctor. They have four children, and Nick tells us that the hope is that one of them will earn enough to look after Nick and Jo in their dotage.

Nick is only the second Old Maidonian in the history of the school, going back to 1896, and the first in the Desborough era, to reach the rank of Major-General after **Major-General Peter Bush (1934/41)**, who died in 2009. He is also first Old Maidonian to be made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), awarded in 2008. He has since been followed by **Peter Jones CBE (1977/82)** in 2009, and in 2013 by **Neil Woodford CBE (1971/78)** - see below.

Nick works closely with **Brigadier James Daniel (1978/84)**, **Brigadier Matt Holmes DSO RM (1978/83)** (see above) and **Colonel Charlie Maconochie (1980/88)**, see above, a sure sign, he says, that Desborough has grown strong military roots!

Edward A R Porter (1995/2002) writes:-

After leaving Desborough, I read Maths and Computer Science at St Anne's College, Oxford and I graduated in 2005 with a 1st. After that, I went to Fukuoka, Japan for one year on a scholarship programme run by my college, where I spent a year learning to read, write, and speak Japanese.

Since then, I've been working for an investment bank (sorry!) in London but on the IT architecture/design side of things rather than the financial side. Through work, I have interestingly had the opportunity over the last few years to rekindle my German skills, which is not the language I would have guessed I would continue when I left Desborough!

I got married at the end of 2009 and am now living with my wife and two cats in Hampshire. I enjoy my music, both listening and performing, and have sung in a number of concerts and a recording with the Waynflete Singers in Winchester. I have also taken up photography, have a brown belt in Aikido, and enjoy cooking curries.

Chris Raymond (1962/68), the Association's web designer, moved to a new bungalow in Norfolk in 2013 retaining his previous clients while gaining new ones. He tells us that he is pleased with the change and that he and his wife have settled in well. Chris has been a stalwart of the OMA golf matches over recent years, playing off a handicap of 15. His new address is Rosina, Brewery Road, Trunch, Norfolk NR28 0PU: tel 01263 720519:

The Salmon brothers

Brian Salmon (1992/99), who read Consumer Product Marketing and Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University, has also emigrated to Australia and is about to marry, in April 2014, Kim Harris, the bridesmaid at his brother Derek's wedding. Brian, who lives in Adelaide, works for a point-of-sale company programming cash registers.

Derek Salmon (1994/99) emigrated to Australia in 2009 and has just become an Australian citizen, receiving his certificate from the Mayor of the City of Playford Glenn Docherty at a ceremony on Australia Day 26th January 2014, see photo. He is married to an Australian girl, Sallyann, whom he



met at Thames Valley University while they were both training as chefs. They have 2 children. Derek is Head Chef at Regattas Bistro on the Torrens riverbank in Adelaide.

Will Torrent (1977/2004),

son of **Peter Torrent**, former Director of Music, has been working for Waitrose as a patisserie and pastry consultant for the last three years, working with Delia Smith, Heston Blumenthal and others. He has now published his first book, 'Patisserie at Home', available from Waitrose stores at £12.99. Will gained a 1st Class Honours BSc degree at Thames Valley University in 2007 and is now a recognised leading light in his chosen field. His next book, 'Chocolate at Home' is due out in autumn 2014.



David Tyler (1994/2001), a former Head Boy, with a degree in Law from Birmingham University, founded Tyler Sports Management, representing a number of leading athletes and sports people. The company was acquired in June 2013 by PHAR, the fast growing international media and marketing agency, David has been appointed Managing Director of PHAR Talent Management with the task of developing this global division.

David is a very talented hockey player having played for England at Junior level, and is currently playing for Reading HC.

Peter Vaughan (1998/2005) graduated in Law with German from Nottingham University in 2009 and completed a Masters at Nottingham in International Commercial Law in 2010. He is currently a part qualified Trade Mark Attorney with Boulton Wade Tennant and lives in Cambridge. Peter is the son of the late **Michael Vaughan**, Chemistry Teacher from 1977 to 1990, a tribute to whom is in the In Memoriam section, below.

Neil Woodford CBE (1971/78). We congratulate Neil on being made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's birthday Honours List in June 2013.

He received the award at Buckingham Palace in November.

Neil is only the third Old Maidonian to receive this award.

Neil graduated in Economics and Agricultural Economics at Exeter University in 1981 and then did post-graduate studies at the London Business School. He joined Invesco Perpetual in 1987 and has been managing the Invesco Perpetual Income fund, with some £10.4 billion in assets and the Perpetual High Income fund, Britain's largest investment fund, with some £13.6 billion



in assets. Both funds have been very successful and have more than doubled in value over the last 10 years. Neil is due to leave Invesco Perpetual in April 2014 to join Oakley Capital where he will establish a new fund management business.

In Memoriam

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

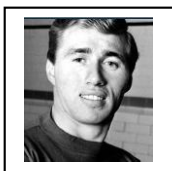
David Boshier (1948/53) died on Christmas Day 2013 at the age of 76. He joined JM Jones the Builders and, like **Douglas Baldwin** (see above in *News of Old Maidonians*) who was already there, trained as a building surveyor. After National Service in the Army, he returned to JM Jones for a few years before moving to a construction company in St Albans. David and Douglas remained in close touch with one another. David had requested that the School Song be played at his funeral and the OMA was able to provide David's widow with the words and music.

Geoffrey Catliff (1941/43) died at the age of 86 in 2013. He was a member of the Cadet Corps and the Home Guard. His military service was in the Middle East with the Derbyshire Yeomanry. He qualified as a barrister and spent his career in the pharmaceutical industry.

John Field (1935/39) died in 2013 at the age of 88, after a long illness. He had lived in Cookham all his life and until his retirement had run his own butcher's shop in Ellington Park. He had been a founder member of the Cookham Society, a body which he and 12 other villagers founded over 40 years ago to fight proposals to extract gravel out of White Place Farm and to build 145 houses at Poundfield. The Society was successful in both of these actions and now has over 1000 members. John was also a member of the committee that manages the National Trust commons in Cookham.

Albert McCann (1953/58) died in January 2014 at the age of 72. Soon after leaving school Albert started his career as a professional footballer at Luton Town before spending a season with Coventry City. In 1962 he moved to Portsmouth where he remained for the next 12 years. He played in various mid-field and forward positions and in some 340 appearances scored 85 goals. He was a firm favourite with the fans as a regular scorer and creator of goals. In 2011 he was honoured by being inducted into Portsmouth's 'Hall of Fame'.

After retiring from Portsmouth Albert played professionally in South Africa for three years. On returning to England he ran a newsagents in Southsea before becoming the proprietor of a rest home.



Sidney F Hayes (Gabby) (member of Staff 1958/62) died in August 2012 at the age of 89. He was an English teacher and taught at several schools after leaving Maidenhead, before retiring to Frinton-on-Sea. He was always keen on music and played the piano and trombone. His widow tells us that her husband was glad to receive the OMA Newsletters and that she sent her good wishes to all who knew her husband.

Ronald G Page (1939/42) died in April 2013 at the age of 87. He started his war service with the RAF as a trainee pilot, before being transferred into the army. After officer training, he served with the Royal Surrey Regiment for 2 years in the Middle East, mainly in Palestine. Then he served for a time with the 1st Airborne Division and the 1st Infantry Division as Staff Captain. He returned to his regiment as a company commander before being demobbed in 1947.

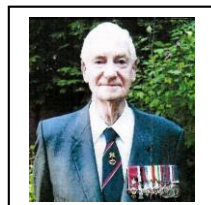
Ron graduated in Special Physics and Electrical Technology before joining McMichael in 1951, where he remained for 33 years. Initially working on sonobuoys and then as a project manager, he was appointed Deputy Chief Engineer, securing the Nimrod contract for the company. Following ill health he moved to become Engineering Service Manager and finally as Personnel Manager. He retired in 1984. Ron and his wife Pat regularly took part in OMA river cruises in the late 1990s.

Leonard Charles Reynolds OBE DSC JP DL BSc (Headteacher 1965/81) died in April 2013 at the age of 89. During his time as Headteacher, Len had a major impact on the lives of thousands of pupils and hundreds of Staff. We therefore reproduce below elements of the tribute at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of



*Len Reynolds
as most ex-
pupils will
remember him*

Len, given by



Colin Cutler, our President, who worked closely with Len as a Governor and then as Chair of Governors. Colin had been invited to do so by Len's family.

As soon as he was old enough, Len signed up with the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserve, and at 19 joined Motor Gunboat 658 as a midshipman. He stayed with this boat for three years, until the end of the war being appointed its commanding officer on his 21st birthday. He served exclusively in the Mediterranean and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

When Len left the navy he decided to train as a teacher. He also wasted little time in marrying Win, whom he had met earlier in the war. He took his Teaching Certificate at Goldsmiths College, London. He taught at his old school, Wallington County Grammar School while studying for a Geography degree at Birkbeck College, gaining First Class Honours. He then became Head of Geography at Chatham House, Ramsgate where he found time to write the account of his wartime experiences in 'Motor Gunboat 658'. In 1960 he was appointed Head of Kendal Grammar School at the age of 36, moving to Maidenhead Grammar School 5 years later. He quickly inculcated into pupils and Staff his guiding principle – the pursuit of excellence.

At the time of Len's arrival there were 630 pupils in the school and it was not long before Len knew them all by name, and that of very many of the parents. Len had so much enthusiasm and leadership that parents were only too pleased to take an active part. Very early on Len organised a group of parents to build a series of wooden structures for stalls and sideshows for use at the school's summer fete, because he wanted to raise money to augment the income from the County Council. He then organised a much larger group of parents who would run and organise individual stalls and sideshows. He revitalised the Parents' Association with the result that parents got to know one another, formed close and enduring relationships and were happy to work for the good of the school. Throughout Len's Headship the School's musical events and theatrical productions reached a very high level, reflecting the cohesion and dynamism that Len brought to the School.

Len's reputation as an exceptional Head was recognised by his colleagues across the County, who elected him for many years as the Chair of their County body, the Berkshire Association of Secondary Heads. Len's impact on the school was recognised in a permanent way in 1993 when a new building, The Reynolds Technology Centre, was opened by the then Secretary of State for Education.

Halfway through Len's tenure, in 1973, the school became a comprehensive school, a major challenge to all concerned, involving provision for an all-ability range of pupils and an expansion to over 1100 pupils. The transition went smoothly and Len was successful in his aim to preserve the ethos of the school.

For many years Len, Win and his son and daughter lived on the site in School House and so were familiar figures to pupils and staff.

Throughout Len's tenure he was President of the Old Maidonians' Association. He chaired these meetings and took a great interest in the activities of former pupils. After retiring he was appointed a Vice-President and continued to attend the Association's annual Dinners until the last two years.

Len had many other interests in the local community where his active involvement and support was both appreciated and honoured. These are summarised as follows:-

Scouting He was a Cub Scout from the age of 8, had a number of leadership roles and remained active in the movement till the end of his life, with the Scout Law and Promise serving as guiding principles throughout his life. In the early 1960s he was made a member of a small high-powered working party to advise the Chief Scout on changes needed to modernise the movement. All the recommendations were accepted, involving strengthening the local structures, raising the training requirements and bringing in major changes to the uniform. Later Len was to chair a National Scout committee to oversee a major review of all Scouting activities and the rules under which they would be operated. In 1980 he received Scouting's highest honour, the Silver Wolf, and the following year he was appointed an OBE for his services to Scouting. He was the President of Maidenhead Scout District for many years before becoming a County Vice-President, recently receiving the Chief Scout's award for a remarkable 70 years of adult service.

Judiciary. As a magistrate he became Chair of the Maidenhead Bench, working closely with the Courts Committee in Reading. He was a member of the Thames Valley Police Authority and helped to train other magistrates. In 1977 he was awarded the Jubilee Medal and the following year he was appointed a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.

Rotary Len had been a member of Rotary in Kendal and soon after coming to Maidenhead he was made a member of the Maidenhead Club and was always a pillar of the Club's work and spirit, particularly in providing support to the Club's work with young people and schools. In the year that he served as President, the Club records show that it was a year of considerable activity and that Win's support had been much appreciated. Len twice received the highest award a Rotary Club can give, the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship, the second one being the exceptional 'with sapphires'. Rotary's motto 'Service before Self' was fully reflected in Len's life.

An honour in itself was Len's appointment as a trustee of the Prince Philip Trust where he enjoyed the chairmanship of Prince Philip.

The Arts Len was always fond of singing and appreciated the arts generally. He was a President and trustee of the Maidenhead Arts Council and instrumental in the establishment the Norden Farm Centre for the Arts. He was a strong supporter of the Maidenhead Heritage Trust and in its earlier days used to do a spell of duty in the Heritage Centre.

Rugby A passion throughout Len's life was rugby, where he was a player, a referee and a supporter. He could often be found on the touchline at school matches and later missed few of the home or away matches of Maidenhead Rugby Club's 1st XV, becoming a Vice-President. It is probably no coincidence that the strong teams at the Club in the 1960s and 1970s owed their strength to the several members of the school's staff who had all been recruited by Len.

The Navy Len's links with the navy did not end in 1946 because he was to serve for 30 years as the

Educational representative on the Admirably Interview Board, interviewing potential officers for the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines. Remarkably at one stage another member of the Board was his son, Peter, serving as a Royal Marine officer. After his retirement, Len was invited to write the history of the motor gun boats and motor torpedo boats in WW2, a labour that took over 12 years to achieve, with Win doing all the typing. During this period there were various reunions in the Mediterranean with his former naval colleagues with their wives. Len was the last President of the London Branch of the Coastal Forces Veterans' Association and a trustee of the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust.

Len was a quite remarkable man. At any meetings where there were opposing views, Len would listen and bide his time but could always be relied upon to sum up, say exactly the right thing, in measured tones, and propose a course of action that would win people over. A man of high principle, he had clarity of mind and of expression that most of us could only admire and benefit from.

In the second edition of his Book Motor Gun Boat 658 published in 2002, Len wrote a postscript, ending with the words. *It has been a good life*. The succeeding years were to bring their difficulties but many, in their own ways, were fortunate to have had a part in that 'good life'.

David H Robinson (1933/43) died in March 2013 at the age of 88. At School he was a remarkable athlete at all distances from 440 yards upwards.



At school David had been a keen member of the Cadet Corp and of the Home Guard. Afterwards, in the army, he served as a Welfare officer in Egypt, before reading Sociology at the London School of Economics. He then read Maths at Magdalen College, Oxford during which time he gained his Half Blue in athletics, regularly training with Roger Bannister and the late Christopher Chattaway

When his father died David and his family moved to Bermuda for a time to help with the family business – the Emporium department store in Hamilton that had been started by his grandfather.

On his return to the UK David became a teacher and for the rest of his working life was a maths teacher at schools in the Croydon area.

. David continued to run throughout his life and after retiring ran 20 miles every day in all weathers. He took part in a number of Veteran Marathon races. He died, tragically, as a result of a car accident when crossing a road during one of his daily runs.

David took part in several of the OMA Boat trips and in the last few years attended the Annual Dinners, amazing all with his youthful appearance.

David's older brother, **Walter (1932/39)** joined the RAF and lost his life as a Pilot Officer on a bombing raid on Berlin in December 1943. His younger brother, **Irving (1938/47)**, who lives in Maidenhead, was a very good hockey player, who continued playing for many years.

Table Plan for the Annual Dinner 21st March 2013

Table 1

Nigel Cook
Colin Cutler
Colin Edwards
Grahame Fisher
Paul Frazer
Alec Jones
Alistair Price

Table 2

Jackie Carr
Joe Cox
Helen Duncombe
Charles Evans
Charlie Fidler
Michael Matra
Martyn Nicholas

Table 3

Andrew Bond
Betty Collin
Doug Courtney
David Evans
Tony Lehain
Chris Nunn
Chris Raymond

Colin Rayner (The Mayor)
Samantha Rayner (The Mayoress)

Ben Rutherford

George Scott
James Ward
Rob Weston

Table 4

Ian Baker
Bob Heaver
Dave Horton
Glyn Jones
Mike Lindquist
David Scott
John Smith

Table 5

Michael Clyde
Michael Courtney
Tony Grant
Chris Maltin
John Powell
Barrie Woolford

Table 6

Mel Bridges
Ray Clark
Fred Hearman
Tony Hearman
Wills Lyons
John Moses
John Nash
Bart Sams

Table 7

Graham Bridges
Philip Palmer
John Plews
David Revell
Mark Roberts
Mike Willoughby

Table 8

Geoff Barnes
Malcolm Cutler
Barry Hatch
Keith Hatch
Derek Hope
Tony Johnson
Luke Over
Roy Squire
Jack Tomlin
Derek Woolford

Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 28th March 2014 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 be slightly less than last year's, at £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