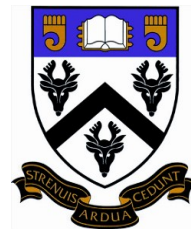




O.M.A.D S.

Newsletter No. 90 January 2024
President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPMI
Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians and Desborough Society

OMADS Committee News

Committee membership During the year the Committee lost two of its members, both members of staff, Mrs Bernadette Eaves and Gareth Andrews-Jones, and we thank them for their services. We welcome to the Committee Will Furnage, Head of Sixth Form and member of the Physical Education staff.

OMADS Centenary The Old Maidonians Association was founded by the Headmaster, Mr A E Brooks, in December 1924. As part of our planned centenary celebrations we will host a **Centenary Reunion Dinner on Friday 22nd March 2024 at Maidenhead Golf Club**. We would hope that many members can join us and in order that the price does not deter former pupils from attending, we have elected to subsidise the cost of this event, The 2-course meal, with a cheese board, will be £15.. The booking form will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

We are hoping to hold another Centenary Reunion event in the Summer, possibly a BBQ at the College, . Details will be given on our website and via social media. We would certainly welcome your suggestions for other events and any assistance you might be able to give in planning such events would be appreciated.

OMADS memorabilia Much of OMADS records and memorabilia was stored in a room under the stairs in Maudesley at the College. The room was found to be lined with asbestos and its contents were destroyed without reference to the Society. Included in the memorabilia were many Form and Team photographs, with the names of the individuals. If you have any such photos we would be grateful if you would send us a copy.

Former students on Desborough staff. There are currently 7 former students who are on the staff at Desborough, the highest at any time in the School's/ College's history. They are: -

Arun Brar (2001/08) Head of Year, PE teacher, Equality and Diversity Lead
Adam Collin (2006/13) Head of History and Politics
David Cubbon (1983/89) Maths teacher, and Pupil Premium Coordinator

Will Jamieson (2009/2016) Head of Year, Learning Mentor
Jimmy March (2014/21) Learning Mentor
Tim Pretty (2013/18) Site Controller
Mike Summers (2006/13) Head of Year, History teacher

OMADS Annual Dinner 2023 At end of the Dinner Desborough's Principal, Andy Murdoch, introduced himself and mentioned new capital becoming available to the school as a result of Desborough becoming a member of a new Educational Trust. The Head Boy, Jasper May, gave an upbeat response to the Mayor's toast to Desborough. Attendance at the Dinner was 42, the lowest for some years.

Changes of address/email address/phone 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. Please notify the Chairman or omanewsletter@aol.com

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.

★ **CENTENARY REUNION DINNER** ★
Friday 22nd March 2024
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: Robert Weston, 33 Oldacres, Maidenhead, SL6 1XH (07767 474194)
Hon. Treas: Contact the Chairman
Committee: Colin Cutler (President and Newsletter Editor), Mrs Helen Duncombe, Will Furnage, Tony Lehain, Daniel Lister, Andy Murdoch (Principal), Andrew Wyles.

Principal's Update



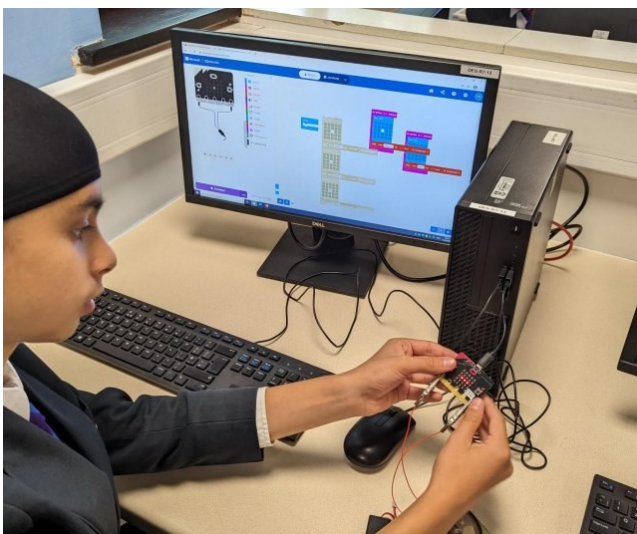
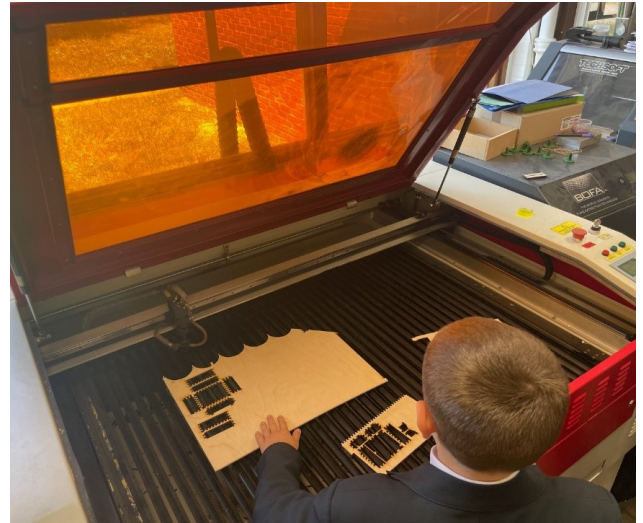
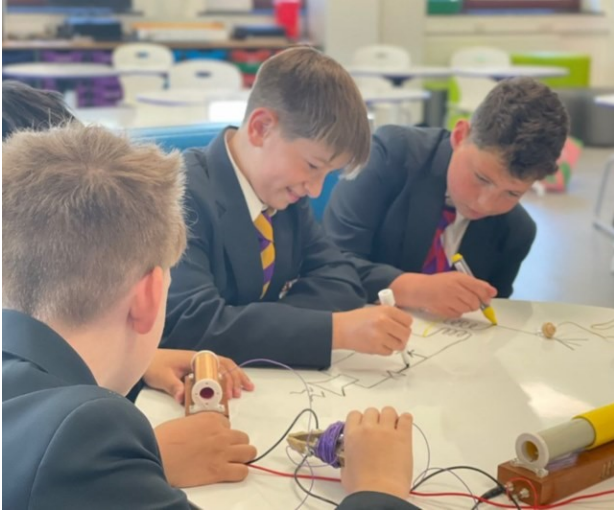
This has been an exciting year for the school. Having worked with Pioneer Educational Trust for many months, on 1st April it became official – we joined the Pioneer family of schools. The educational benefits of the collaboration with other schools in the Trust had been felt long before the official transfer. Subject networks have been formed and groups of staff have come together regularly to discuss ways to address some of the biggest challenges facing schools and young people. This has had a positive impact on the staff and students at Desborough College but also on the staff and students in other schools who have benefitted immensely from the expertise and experience of our fantastic team. An additional benefit of being part of a group of schools is the increased capacity to search for much needed funding in a time where this is limited in the education sector. We have been successful in securing over £5m which has been used to develop the structure of the school in Maudsley and Old Main. A further £5m this year is being used to develop classrooms and extend our canteen area. We've even rebuilt the stage!

One of the key features of the school this year has been the opportunities provided for our students to broaden and deepen their learning outside of the classroom. The range of educational visits has been exceptional and made possible by our dedicated staff. These have included visits to the Natural History Museum, Bletchley Park, Kew Gardens and further afield to the battlefields of Belgium and the ski slopes of Austria.

We are proud to offer our students a broad and balanced curriculum that builds knowledge and understanding as well as opportunities to grow the character attributes that prepare them for life beyond the school gates. Our mission to 'develop ethical future leaders the Desborough way' is at the forefront of all we do, and I am excited about enhancing our work towards realising this mission for all our students and staff next year.

Mr Andy Murdoch - Principal





OMADS Sports

Players:

Golf

We have run two OMADS/College events every year since their inception in 1975.

- A spring match, College vs OMADS, (match play) usually held on the first Monday after the College end of Spring Term.
- The annual Brooks Cup (individual Stableford) held on the first Monday after the College end of Summer term.

Both events are open to current and past students and staff and held at Maidenhead Golf Club.

43rd Annual Match v College – 4th April 2023 This event took place on a grey but predominantly dry cold day with some taxing breeze. The College was represented by 2 members of staff and 5 students and the OMADS by 6 members. The result was a halved match. The OMADS team were **Phil Battye (1973/80)**, **Trevor Didcock (1974/81)**, **Grahame Fisher (1952/59)**, **Geoff Ponter (1974/81)**, **Myles Stuchbery (2003/10)**, **Nick Snell (1974/79)**.

49th Competition for the Brooks Cup - 24th July 2023

Conditions were slightly damp with the fairways a lush green aided by a wet July after a dry April -June. There was a good turnout with 26 competitors, 3 members of staff and 4 students from the College, and 19 OMADS. Another OMADS, **Colin Cutler (1936/43)**, who had played in the previous 48 competitions, assisted in the administration of this event. The winner, **Michael Carr**, had previously won the event in 2018.

Denzel Abia (student), **Robert Afia (1974/59)**, **Rajpal Bahra (2002/2009, defending champion)**, **Ian Barton (1975/82)**, **Phil Battye (1973/79)**, **Matt Burrows (student)**, **Michael Carr (1967/74)**, **Tom Craddock (Staff)**, **Trevor Didcock (1974/81)**, **Grahame Fisher (1952/59)**, **Josh Gibson (2007/12)**, **Steve Godfrey (1954/61)**, **Peter Jacobs (1974/81)**, **Chris Jones 1973/80)**, **Harvey Jutla (student)**, **Malcolm Kempton (1970/72)**, **Jimmy March (Staff)**, **Chris Mills (1970/72)**, **Alan Kent (1963/68)**, **Seb Lievano (student)**, **Brad Lovegrove (1975/80)**, **Pete McNicoll (1967/74)**, **Andy Murdoch (College Principal)**, **Nick Snell (1974/79)**, **Myles Stuchbery (2003/10)**, **Richard Woolmer (Staff 1981/2005)**,

Dates for 2024

The following dates have been booked at Maidenhead Golf Club:

44th Spring Match v Desborough College: **Tuesday 2nd April 2024 from 1pm to 2pm.**

50th Brooks Cup competition: **Tuesday 27th August 2024 from 1pm to 2.30pm**

Please reserve the dates and note the earlier start times.

All OMADS golfers welcome. Please contact me by email snellage@yahoo.co.uk or by txt/call on 0785 4142645.

Nick Snell (1974/79)
OMADS Golf Secretary

H'cap Points

Michael Carr	25	40	Winner of the Brooks Cup	
Robert Afia	9	36	Runner Up	
Denzel Abia *	37	36	3rd	*
Seb Lievano*	37	36	4th	
Alan Kent	29	36	5th	
Malcolm Kemp-ton	12	35	6th	

Desborough Students

Nearest the pin 10th hole: Jimmy March.

Nearest the pin 13th hole: Phil Battye.

Longest Drive 18th hole: Joshua Gibson.

News of OMADS members

News of OMADS The Society is always pleased to hear from pupils of the School/College and acknowledges with thanks the news they have provided in this issue.

We invite further contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter and ask that School/College joining and leaving dates are given in all communications to assist identification.

Anthony R Constantino (1980/84), at school was house captain for tennis and was awarded the School Prize for Art. He went on to study Art & Design at Central St. Martins School of Art, London, and Communications Design at the University of Porto, Portugal. He worked as a commercial designer in the 1990s, before embarking on an academic career, teaching Jewellery design at Universidade Católica and currently at ESAD (Escola Superior de Arte e Design), as well as a long-term collaboration with the Portuguese National Goldsmiths Association (AORP) and UN partner skills education ONG WorldSkills International, who awarded him the WorldSkills Certificate of Merit for his contribution to international jewellery skills education.

On a personal note, Anthony was a member of Windsor and Maidenhead Young Socialists, and is married with two adult children.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anthony-constantino-a940a49/>

Stephan Lucks (1983/87) writes: - I joined the School in year 3 and left after A levels in the upper 6th, from there I went on to study Psychology at the then Polytechnic of East London. At first I was disappointed as my A level results were not what I had hoped for to join a 'proper university', however I landed on my feet. PEL had one of the largest departments in the country and was rich with researchers, regularly publishing journal articles as well as books. It was, at the time, one of the largest and strongest departments in the country. It gave me good grounding and I was determined to stay in the field, working first as an assistant Clinical Psychologist before returning to university for an MSc in Applied Psychology.

Following that I started my career as an Occupational Psychologist, first at Deloitte in Cardiff and then, moving to Oxford, for a specialist consultancy. The work had allowed me, prior to Covid, to work in many different countries supporting individuals and organisations in areas such as leadership development, talent management, assessment and recruitment. There's nothing more satisfying than bumping into a person with whom I worked several years previously still remembering my input and support in helping them to develop their career. Most of my work now is conducted over Zoom, which also works well, although I do miss the more regular social interaction that work gave me.

My memories of school are few and far between. I remember being happy and enjoying coming to and being at Desborough after intensely disliking my previous school where there was distinct favouritism. It was one of those places where I was distinctly made to feel that I didn't fit in. Of the teachers, I remember Mr. Evans (history teacher and my year 3 form teacher) and his regular threat and use of the slipper (not on me) on those who forgot to do their homework or disturbed the lesson. I have good memories of Mr Young (O level physics). His patience, humour and good teaching was the reason I passed the O level. Mr Crozier (Geography)

used to use the phrase "to fail to prepare is to prepare to fail". It has stuck with me for life and the reason I am now much better at preparing than I ever was at school. Finally, there was Dr Newton. He took our A level German lessons where there were only three of us, **Andrew Melvin (1980/87)** and **John Leigh (1980/87)**. It was the first time that I felt a teacher was beginning to treat us as emerging adults. I remember fondly having discussions beyond the German curriculum and even being invited to his house up in the Pinkneys Green area where Andrew, John and I spent a lovely afternoon. Dr Newton arranged theatre visits to support the literature we were reading at the time and he is the reason why I still occasionally go back to texts such as 'Die Physiker' by Dürrenmatt and 'Das Leben des Galilei' by Brecht amongst others.

I'm now happily settled on the edge of the Cotswolds with my family, two dogs and cat. If anybody remembers and would like to get in touch, I can be contacted at slucks@me.com

Dr Alex Moore (2003/10)



I left Desborough to attend the University of Sheffield in 2010 with 4 other boys from the same year. After sitting next to **Adil Haque (2003/10)** in Chemistry class, I ended up studying Biomedical Science with him and by chance living in the flat above him. I've found that Old Maidonians are never far away, as when I went on to interview for a PhD at Sheffield, my panel featured **Dr Martin Zeidler (1980/87)** (another alumnus) and Prof Andrew Furley of Furze Platt. Thankfully I was successful as doing the PhD soon led to meeting my fiancée Rings on a pub crawl in the worst (or best?) bar in Sheffield.

After finishing my PhD in Developmental Neuroscience, I decided that while I enjoyed research I was not interested in following an academic career path. Instead I set my sights on joining the civil service as an Operational Researcher - an analyst specialising in solving technical problems.

This interview would require me to demonstrate techniques explored in Decision Maths. Unfortunately I had taken Theatre Studies instead of Further Maths at A-level, and had gained experience in writing essays and the existentialist approach to understanding the human condition rather than

making decisions. I turned to fellow drama student-turned economist **Myles Faulkner (2003/10)** for help, who proceeded to teach me decision maths one Christmas over a number of pints at The Bell. Despite these mitigating circumstances I remembered what he taught me and passed the assessment centre to begin my career as a civil servant.

In the past 4 years I've modelled recruitment to teacher training, developed scenarios for responding to COVID, overseen research into impact of media on beliefs, briefed a handful of ministers, and responded to innumerable national crises. While I am not much of a technical specialist I've found a niche I happily fill as a strategy-minded analyst. I help coordinate the civil service Systems Thinking Interest Group which aims to embed Systems Thinking in policy development. All this led me to 2022 which was a year of many milestones: I turned 30, I (finally) published my PhD research, I got engaged to my partner Rings, we bought a house, and I concluded by taking up a post leading a team of data scientists. We will be getting married in Lithuania in June 2024.

The friendships I made at Desborough continue to have a positive impact on my life. These have lasted longer than many others, and it's also useful that I know who to turn to if I have an accident and need a paramedic, an anaesthesiologist, a barrister to represent me in the following civil suit, an animator to create a digital reenactment, and financial advice for investing my settlement.

alexse7en@gmail.com

W (Billy) Jay (1952/57) who died in 2009 at the age of 68 was the first Professor of Photography at Arizona State University, San Diego. While at School he kept a detailed diary for the years 1955, 1956 and 1957. His daughter, Juliet, and her friend, Penny Smith,, have published the 1955 diary, with a summary by Bill of his early life, along with a contributions by members of his family, Mrs Pam Cooke, a former member of Staff, and his contemporary David Harris (1952/59).

The book, entitled '*This is where I came in*', is now available from Amazon UK at £23.86. The diaries for 1956 and 1957 will be published in due course.

Graham Powell (1957-1964) writes - When I left Maidenhead Grammar School in 1964 I had little idea what I wanted to do with my life. My parents and my brother were moving to Barbados as my father had been promoted by the company he was working for to set up a company and retail outlet there.

I wasn't going with them and had to find my own way in the world. In my first year after school I ended up working as a laboratory assistant at De La Rue in Maidenhead. I enjoyed the social life there but soon realised that this wasn't going to be part of my ongoing career. I started to look into a career in computing, something that was still in its early stages then. Soon afterwards I found out that Nestlé's in Hayes were looking for computer people and I applied and was accepted as a trainee computer operator. That was in the days of punched cards if any of you remember that.

Shortly afterwards there was an opportunity to be trained as a computer programmer and again I was lucky enough to be accepted. I was trained by ICL (International Computers Limited) in Putney. ICL was at that time the British counterpart to IBM but later faded from the scene. Having been trained I then spent some time at Nestlé's location in Scotland helping to develop a computerised delivery system. Once this project was finished I realised I wanted another challenge and applied to become a programmer at BEA (British European Airways). Later this company was amalgamated with BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) to become British Airways.



From left to right – top row: Goode, Williamson, Stanleik, Cary, Powell, Northwood
Lower row: Bush, Sports teacher Griffiths, Folliard, Bullen, Linquist
Seated: Fawcett, Westcott

In 1969 I joined BEA and became part of a team that produced the first computerised airline timetable. The work was demanding but very interesting and the relatively small team became a close-knit unit spending not only the days together but the nights and weekends many times as well. This was all part of the computer world of the time but this aspect probably hasn't changed much to this day. In 1971 the government decided to merge BEA and BOAC to become one company and this was completed by early 1974. It was, in fact, more a takeover by BOAC rather than a merger with most of the top jobs going to them.

This resulted in my much-respected boss of the time resigning and many others followed. One of our team and also a close friend of mine at the time had already left BEA to join a software house, CMG (Computer Management Group), at their offices in Greenford. We met up many times after my friend left BEA and he was always trying to convince me to join CMG as they had many interesting projects and were keen to involve employees in helping to run the company. In the end he won me over and I joined CMG in 1974 as a programmer. Life at CMG was very rewarding but also very demanding. I managed to develop my career there mainly with projects involving the motor trade. We developed systems for the dealerships of British Leyland and Fiat among others and during my time with CMG I became a team leader and finally an associate director before I left in 1982. Everybody at the company was involved in sales activities, even the programmers, and as I progressed up the hierarchy the amount of sales effort required increased so that as an associate director it was taking up much more than fifty percent of my time. This suited me down to the ground as I found that I really enjoyed most parts of the sales activity and this would stand me in good stead in the future.

During my time at CMG i.e. in 1975 I had my first holiday in Austria. A close friend of mine had a penfriend in Austria from her school days and together with partners we spent some time in Austria, mainly Salzburg and the Vienna area. This friendship continued over the next years with various visits of us to Austria and the Austrians to the UK. It was towards the end of the 1970s that I got close to Anneliese, who later became my wife. Anneliese taught English in Austria and so we had little problem communicating. In 1981 she applied to have a year teaching in England but as Austria wasn't in the EU at the time this became very difficult and she was only offered an unpaid job nearly two hours travelling from my flat in Brentford dock. We could see that this wasn't going to work in the long term but it became more difficult when Anneliese became pregnant and she decided to go back to Austria. Sadly, this ended with a miscarriage but I was determined that this shouldn't be the end of our relationship. I had become rather disenchanted with CMG at the time and in 1982 decided to try and get a job in Austria by sending a mailshot to various companies and one of the replies was from a very small company in Salzburg, Syspro. It consisted of just four employees but they offered me a three-month project and I took it. They were in the computer business but specialised in hotels and wanted to include the restaurant market. They had just been accepted to become the distributor for an American product, one of the first computerised restaurant point-of-sale systems. The Salzburg company thought that at least I could read the manuals and help them with their first installation. I stayed with them for the next fifteen years.

In 1983 one of the two managing directors and part owner

left the company to look after his family's business and I was offered his job and had the opportunity to take over his part ownership, which I did. In 1986 I became sole managing director, a position I had until the company folded in 1997. Apart from the American point-of-sale system for restaurants we were also the Austrian representative for a Swiss hotel software package. However, around 1986 we decided to develop our own hotel software focusing on the requirements of family run hotels here in Austria. In the second half of the 1980s and the first half of the 90s the company was pretty successful and had acquired several hundred clients. This, however, didn't continue and things started to go downhill after around 1994 with increased competition and stretched financial resources. The move into the Swiss market with our restaurant system proved to be a costly mistake and in 1997 the company went into receivership and was taken over. I stayed with the new company for a short while as a salesman but moved to represent another Austrian company in 1999 who were solely in the computerised restaurant business. Since I moved to Austria I had been self-employed and from 1999 onwards my home became my office but I spent many hours in the car travelling around the whole of Austria.

During my time at CMG sales activity became an increasing part of my work and that continued throughout my time at Syspro and afterwards.

In 2013 whilst I was on holiday with my wife in the Provence I had a mild heart attack. I didn't know what it was at the time and the village doctor where we were staying wasn't much help either but he did recommend that I return to Austria as soon as possible and get treated there rather than having to stay in a French hospital. The next day we returned home which was just as well as shortly afterwards the problem was solved in the main hospital in Salzburg with three stents. I had planned to continue working until I was seventy but this episode put a stop to that. After 2013 I gradually wound my work down and retired at the end of 2015.

After her miscarriage in 1981 my wife finally gave birth to our first daughter in December 1982. Two further daughters were to follow in 1984 and 1988, and in 1986, a son. We live in a house about fifteen minutes' drive outside Salzburg where I've been since I moved here in 1982. In the meantime, we have six grandchildren and so what with them and our children, we are still kept fairly busy. All our children and grandchildren are Austrian citizens as unfortunately there is no dual citizenship possible between Austria and Britain.

According to Colin Cutler I appear to be the only former pupil who lives in Austria. If there are any others, please let us know.

graham.powell@aon.at



Adam Speller (1974-1981) writes: -



It was not a cool thing to state you were a successful Junior Ballroom and Latin American dancer in an all-boys school in the mid-70s but hopefully attitudes have changed since then thanks to Strictly and Len with a 10 who used to judge me back then. I recall a class detention when I had to explain I had a dancing lesson after school and would have to do it one lunchtime instead. The look of disdain on the very popular Master's face was a classic. The dancing lesson was with a World Champion in London!

I was busy with out of school activities like the dancing and acting at the local theatre school, Redroofs, and was not cut out to be a member of the 1st XV on the rugby pitch. I was quickly allocated Braywick but being in the top form in Maths I think I made it to Top Field in the first term for maybe a week?! Badminton in the warm sports hall was more my thing.

I was a member of the choir and I recall participating in very impressive concerts in equally impressive venues in the UK and Germany. I remember the Train Spotting Club run by Mr Williams in Biology who organised Mystery Trips around the UK to spot rare train engines which I still admire to this day.

Overall the school was a great place to be with fond memories. Reaching 60, the early demise of **Peter Powell (1974/81)** (which brought me back into contact with both **Stephen Potts (1974/82)** and **Jeremy Garwood (1974/81)** (residing in Strasbourg) and the death of my mother in late 2022, meaning many trips back to Maidenhead triggered the thought to search out some further old school friends I have lost contact with over the years and hence joining OMADS. After a year at college in Hertford I trained and qualified to be a Chartered Accountant but soon thought auditing was rather dull so sought pastures new abroad but these plans were stalled as the world economy slowed in the early 1990s. Instead I found an opportunity with Vodafone in Newbury in their new ideas subsidiary working with the quirky characters who invented texting etc. An opportunity then came up in their International Division and I had a very exciting time travelling the World to help set up and then monitor subsidiaries across the globe.

Since 2003 I ran the finances for three charitable organisations which were not easy gigs but rewarding in lots of different ways. I retired early in 2022 and enjoying retirement with my partner John who I met way back in early 1991 when again attitudes were very different towards us. We are lucky enough to live in a delightful hilltop village above Great Missenden, Bucks, as well as Dartmouth where we have a small bolthole by the sea.

Adam's Email: adamspeller@aol.com

Graeme Warnell (formerly Crump 1981/89), who lives in Poland, became actively involved in sending essential supplies into Ukraine, bringing refugees out of Ukraine and providing accommodation. For the last two years our website has been carrying an appeal from Graeme for support for the campaign. In response to our request for an update Graeme has provided the following for which we thank him.

Sadly the campaign has gone almost silent; as with all new crises, things seem to be appearing all the time with the earthquakes in Turkey, Morocco and now the conflict in Gaza.

I am pleased so say we were able to raise almost £10,000 to help with refugees in Poland and getting aid into Ukraine and we continue to organise collections of warm winter clothing, boots and shoes especially at this time of the year.

One of my close UK colleagues who worked with me is now living in Ukraine having set up a sanctuary for an array of pets that have lost their homes or owners during the conflict.

Overall we managed to get 8 van loads of equipment, sleeping bags, food and medical supplied into Ukraine and housed four separate families. We keep in regular touch with them all. One family is in the UK, one in Germany and two are still here in Krakow.

At this time of year we prepare a Christmas box for the family in the UK and Germany, especially for their children. In Krakow we will deliver a Christmas tree and some presents for the two families here and their small children.

Graeme gryniuw@yahoo.co.uk

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the deaths of the following and send our condolences to the families.

Roger Flemington (1951/56) died in January 2023 at the age of 82. He was in the printing industry all his working life. He started at Taylowe Ltd, at Furze Platt, becoming the Chief Buyer and a Director. When the company ceased operations, Roger set up a printing business in Reading with two friends. He is survived by his wife, Janet and a son



Dr Derek A L Hope BSc MA CChem FRSC FBACP (1941/48) died in 2023. He excelled at school under the headship of Mr Eagling, both on the sports field and in the classroom. He was captain of the school's Boat Club where he was coached by Mr Dean and Mr Hammersley. He read chemistry at Reading University and continued as a research student, taking a PhD. He was also a talented artist and in later life studied for an MA

He was an active member of Maidenhead and Bray Sports Club and All Saints Tennis Club.

After leaving university he started as an Officer Cadet at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich where he captained their hockey team and later joined the Navy's Education Branch, following which he joined the staff of Brunel University in 1958 as a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry. In later years he moved to a staff position responsible for student welfare, leading to his later becoming a Fellow of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

On retirement he took a position with local authorities acting on behalf of youngsters living in sheltered accommodation

He spent his final years in Pembrokeshire near his daughter. Before moving to Wales he gave a talk at the Maidenhead Heritage Centre on his boyhood at the Green Dragon public house, Moorbridge Road, where his father was the landlord.

R (Bobbie) C Howes (19430/45) died in August 2023 at the age 94. He was born in Bray and lived there all his life, contributing much to the community. He was a parish councillor for 12 years, a trustee of Bray Village Hall for 73 years (starting at the age of 16) being the chairman for 41 years, and a trustee of the Bray Lich Gate Trust for 33 years of which he was chairman for nearly half the time. The Bray Lich Gate Trust provides two almshouses for those in need who have lived in the village. He was closely involved with Bray Church, serving as a bellringer, a sidesman and a member of the choir, at various times. As a 10-year-old he was the boy soloist at the funeral of Lord George Mountbatten in 1938.

At the age of 14, Bobbie joined the Home Guard and in 2016 he was invited to talk about his experience in the BBC's The One Show, with Matt Baker and Alex Jones.

Bobbie was a keen sportman, playing cricket, hockey and golf. He played hockey and cricket, as a fast bowler, for Maidenhead and Bray 1st XIs. He later acted as MC and commentator at the celebrity cricket matches in Bray organised by his friend, the late Sir Michael Parkinson. He also acted as MC at the village hall events, raising money for the Hall's upkeep.

Bobbie, whose career was in sales in a variety of companies, is survived by his wife Julie and his daughter Michele and his grandson William.



Peter Bruce Powell (1974/82) Adam Speller (1974/81) writes: - Sadly I have to report that Peter Bruce Powell passed away in his beloved Victorian School House in Broxwood in Herefordshire over Christmas 2020/21 at the age of 57.

Peter was a classic academic at school always head down deep in a book but delightful to engage with in meaningful and thoughtful conversations. After graduating from Jesus College Cambridge Peter helped his father in the family business of restoring old buildings. It was through this work he met his wife Alison – a wonderful outgoing character from New Zealand who brought Peter out of his shell. Very sadly Alison passed away in 2007 from cancer and Peter was left bereft in Broxwood.

Stephen Potts (1974/82) writes: - Peter was one of a kind who managed to have his own unique view of life whilst still being widely liked and respected by his contemporaries. Who else would do cross country in their school uniform whilst smoking a pipe or read Milton's Faery Queen in the 3rd year whilst at the same time having a fondness for punk? Only Peter.

David A Bartley Sams (1953/58), always known as **Bart**, died in July 2023 at the age of 82.

At school he soon made his mark with his combination of sporting prowess and some eccentric behaviour. He kept wicket for Berkshire Schools and on leaving school made a name for himself as an outstanding goalkeeper, playing for the Old Maidonians. He maintained his involvement in cricket as a member of Holyport Cricket Club for many years.

Although he never played rugby after leaving school, he was a considerable influence on the fortunes of Maidenhead Rugby Club where for many years he was its Secretary.

His professional life was centred around estate agency. He joined the local firm Giddy and Giddy and stayed with them for the bulk of his career ending up as their local partner in Windsor. To the despair of his long-suffering wife Fiona, who predeceased him, they moved houses 20 times! They eventually ended upon the Isle of Arran although he retained a base on Maidenhead. He is survived by his children, Sheila and **Jeremy (1973/78)**.



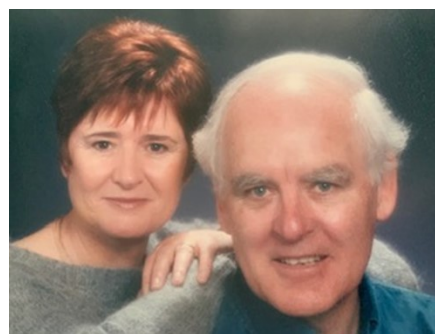
Jeremy Sams (1973/78) We regret to report that Jeremy died suddenly in January 2024 after a short illness.

John Southcombe (1949/54) died in August 2022 at the age of 84. After leaving school John started work at the Grassland Research Institute, Hurley, and played hockey for Maidenhead and Bray. When called up for National Service he was first put into The Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers for training before being attached to the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in Germany repairing tanks. He then did an adult apprenticeship with GEC in Birmingham during which he qualified as an electrical engineer and joined McLellan and Partners, consulting engineers in West Byfleet, Surrey, where he was given the opportunity of an appointment in Sydney, working on steel mills. In 1968 he decided to stay in Australia and moved to Perth at the start of the development of the iron ore industry. During this time he married and had two children.

In the course of his subsequent career he went to the west coast of Mexico as a member of a team of advisors, developing the Sicaitsa an iron ore mine and steel works and set up an office in Darwin building the first gas turbine power station in the area. He then joined Mt Newman Mining, now the international mining giant BHP, as a senior project engineer, working on a range of projects including a sinter plant and constructing a gas pipeline and GT power station, in-

volving visits to Japan and the Philippines. During this time his marriage failed and they separated in 1995.

John visited Desborough in 1999 and became a Life Member of the OMA. He met his new wife, Victoria, that year and retired in 2006. John is survived by Victoria, his children Nigel and Tiffany, and Tiffany's two children



**Victoria
and John
Southcombe**

Derek Woolford (1944/49) died in January 2023 at the age of 90. He was a passionate Life Member of the Old Maidonians, serving with distinction on the Committee for many years, leading to his appointment as a Vice-President.

Derek was born in Maidenhead and lived in the District all his life, moving from Woodlands Park to Desborough Crescent to All Saints Avenue to Pinkneys Green and finally to Littlewick Green where he lived for the last 55 years. He was educated locally at All Saints, Boyn Hill and then Maidenhead County Boys where he developed his love of sport.

He played both club and County tennis, table tennis, football, hockey and golf but probably his favourite was cricket. Playing for Littlewick Green, Boyn Hill and for the Old Maidonians, with whom he lifted the Julian Cup a total of 5 times including once as Captain. He played golf in the early years of the Brooks Cup off a handicap of 12 until back problems

Derek continued to work right up to the end. He worked in the family building firm, F J Woolford and Son, and also helped his family and brother **Barrie (1953/59)** set up Home and Garden Supplies Hardware stores in Cookham and Maidenhead. He continued in the property business which he introduced to his son **David (1975/80)** and they worked together for 25 plus years.

Derek was a regular attendee at the Annual Dinners of the OMA and was always interested to hear about changes in the school and following the career paths of other Old Boys. He is survived by his wife, Shelagh and by his children, David and Sue.



Table Plan for the Annual Dinner 24th March 2023

Table 1

Cllr Christine	Bateson	The Mayor
Colin	Cutler	1936/43
Grahame	Fisher	1952/59
John	Franklin	1952/57
Paul	Frazer	ex-Principal
Steve	Godfrey	1954/61
Andy	Murdoch	Principal

Table 4

Andrew	Bond	1969/76
Douglas	Courtney	1963/68
Philip	Davies	1963/68
Peter	Jacobs	1974/81
Julian	Pearson	1972/79
Nick	Snell	1974/79`
Rob	Weston	1974/81

Table 2

Balal	Ali	Dep Head Boy
Gareth	Andrew-Jones	Head 6th Form
Olive	Bendell	ex-Staff
Nick	Birt	ex-Staff
Tony	Lehain	ex-Staff
Jasper	May	Head Boy
Chris	Nunn	ex-Staff
Tony	Taylor	ex-Staff
James	Ward	ex-Staff

Table 5

Clive	Capp	1961/66
Pat	Folliard	1956/63
Bob	Heaver	1958/65
Dave	Horton	1958/65
Philip	Palmer	1957/62
Ken	Pragnell	1958/64
David	Revell	1958/64
David	Scott	1958/64
Geoff	Straw-bridge	1960/65
Mike	Willoughby	1958/64

Table 3

Daniel	Clawson	ex-Staff
Helen	Duncombe	ex-Staff
Debbie	Hillier	ex-Staff
Lucy	Lesniak	ex-Staff
Jan	Norbury	ex-Staff
Lisa	Sellick	ex-Staff
Hilary	Seth	ex-Staff
Jane	Weston	ex-Staff

OMADS Centenary Reunion Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 22nd March 2024 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, subsidised by the OMADS, will be £15. For those who would like to visit the College 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.

Requests for tickets should be made only to **Mrs Helen Duncombe**, a member of the OMADS Committee.

Tickets will be issued only **by email, or by phone with the ticket number/s for those without an email address**, for named Old Boys. Members wishing to make party bookings must name those on whose behalf they are purchasing tickets. Please use this booking form and complete all requested details. If sending applications for those paying by cheque or by bank transfer, please include the details on the Form on the previous page..

Bookings cannot be accepted if they arrive after Monday 20th March 2024 Payment to **The Old Maidonians and Desborough Society** can be made either by cheque / or by bank .transfer to : - 77-49-14: 00068669.

To: Mrs Helen Duncombe, Avondale, Monkey Island Lane, Maidenhead SL6 2QB : **helenduncombe@gmail.com**.

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

.....Tel.....

Email address..... At School from.....to.....

I wish to attend the Centenary Reunion Dinner on Friday 22nd March 2024 and I shall be in a party which includes the OMADS members whose names and addresses are listed below.

I enclose a cheque or I have paid by bank transfer, for tickets as follows:

..... tickets at £15. The total value of my payment is £.....

(Signed)..... Years in School From To

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

Typeset by Julia Stubblefield: juliavirtualpa@hotmail.com and printed at Desborough College