

O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 70 Winter 2003/2004

President: David W.D. Eyre BA (Hons)

The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

AGM – 19th November 2003

At the AGM, Bert Bellworthy, who had resigned from the Committee earlier in the year, was thanked for his services to the Committee. He had served as President to the Association and during his term of office had presented the Association with the President's Medal of Office. He had also acted as Chairman on a number of occasions.

The meeting heard with regret that Betty Collin wished to stand down as Secretary at the next AGM. The Committee are therefore actively looking for a successor to Betty and any Old Maidonian who would be prepared to take on this role is invited to contact her or our Chairman, Grahame Fisher (see contact numbers below).

The Treasurer, Andy Bond, in presenting his report, said that there were 517 members, including 203 Life Members. Included in the total figure were a significant number who were two years in arrears, and whose membership would terminate unless the outstanding subscriptions were paid. The meeting, in considering how best to increase the number of School-leavers joining the Association, decided that it would be helpful to invite the Head of Sixth Form (Mrs Logie-Campbell), the Curriculum Leader for Physical Education (Mark Turner – 1971/78) and the Deputy Head Boys to join the Committee. The Committee would also be asked how best to maintain the long-term financial viability of the Association.

Details of the Committee members are given at the bottom of this page.

Annual Dinner – 11th April 2003

Dominic Marsh (1975/81), our Guest Speaker held us riveted with his account of his rowing across the Atlantic, with Gary Fooks, at the end of 2001. Their

journey started in Tenerife and finished in Barbados, 63 days later. Throughout this time they rowed for 2 hours on, 2 hours rest, relying heavily on Mars bars, specially freeze-dried food and water produced from a still on board. They were competing in the Ward Evans Atlantic Challenge and came 18th out of 36 boats taking part. Dominic paid tribute to the quality of the rowing instruction he had received at school where he had opted to row instead of playing rugby.

At the end of his talk, Dominic was presented with the Wilfred Upson Prize in recognition of the repute he had brought to the School and the Association.

River Cruise – 10th June 2003

A total of 30 old Maidonians, former pupils of Maidenhead County Girls' School, and their spouses, took part in a cruise from Maidenhead to Windsor and back, on a lovely summer's day.

Those taking part were: Ronnie **Beer** – guest of **Geoff Hill**, Bert (1941/46) and Marlene (MCGS 1946/51 nee **Edwards**) **Bellworthy**, Harold **Blogg** (1953/55), Peter **Bush** (1934/41), Diana **Coxhead** (MCGS nee **Wigmore**), Colin (1936/43) and Doreen **Cutler**, Malcolm **Cutler** (1942/47), **Dru Dunn** (MCGS 1937/42 nee **Foster**, Peter (1935/40) and Joan **Edwards**, Pat (1939/44) and Connie **Higgins** (Gordon Rd 1941/44 nee Wadhams), Geoff **Hill** (1937/40), Alec (1933/42) and Marjorie **Jones**, Margaret **Jones** (MCGS 1933/40), Victor **Kemp** (1938/42), Alan

Annual Dinner

Will take place on

Friday 2nd April 2004

At 6.30pm for 7.45pm in the School Hall

Please book now!! – see page 12

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: william.collin@btinternet.com

Hon. Treas: Andrew Bond, 71 Furrow Way, Maidenhead SL6 3NY (01628 825902)

Committee: Mrs Betty Collin, Colin Cutler, David Eyre (Headmaster and President), Robert Flynn (Deputy Head Boy), Michael Hudson, Malcolm Kempton, Tony Lehain, Richard MacKay (Deputy Head Boy, Paul Malpass (Head Boy), Christopher Nunn, Robert Weston.

Lidiard (1939/46), Tony **Maher** (1934/39), David and Joan (MCGS nee **Hill**) **Owen**, Ron (1939/42) and Pat **Page**, David **Robinson** (1933/43), Eileen **Saunders** – guest of **Margaret Jones**, Connie (MCGS 1938/45 nee **Cutler**) and Maurice **Thorne**, **Desmond Yeabsley** (1937/40).

*Regrets and best wishes were received from: Hedley (1943/49) and June (MCGS nee **Smith** 1951/57) **Bray**, John **Burge** (1938/43), Geoff **Catliff** (1939/43), Betty (Staff 1974/94 and Hon Sec OMA) and Bill **Collin**, Audrey Coates (MCGS 1927/39 nee **Venn**), Dick **Edwards** (1939/44), Bob **Halfacre** (1936/41), Ken (1946/50) and Hilde **Jones**, Jo **Long** (MCGS 1937/42 nee **Scott**), Jim (1928/32) and Vera **Maher**, Janet **Maidment**, Molly **Paine** (MCGS 1937/42 nee Doreen **Pugh**), Ken **Pike** (1940/42), Bob **Thorne** (1935/41)*

River Cruise from Windsor – 8th June 2004

The plan this year is to cruise from Windsor to Runnymede on Tuesday 8th June. The ticket price will be £26 and includes a buffet lunch, including coffee/tea. If you are interested in joining in this event, please contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130); email colinarcutler@aol.com.

Annual Dinner – Friday 2nd April 2004

This event will take place on the last day of the Spring Term, Friday 2nd April, in the School Hall at 6.30pm for 7.45pm. Our guest speaker will be **Jim Ewan** (1954/57) who has the reputation of being one of the country's top humorous and impromptu speakers. He has for some years run his own company providing advice and running seminars on various aspects of communication, including public speaking, presentation skills, people management, etc.

The ticket price remains at £18. The application form for the Dinner is on page 12. In view of the delay in publishing this Newsletter please contact your friends and apply as soon as possible.

If you come to the School, or left in 1944, 1954, 1964, 1979, 1984 or 1994 why not make a special effort to celebrate the 50th, 40th, 30th, 25th, 20th or 10th anniversary?

Remembrance Day 2003

At an assembly for the upper School, the Association was represented by Colin Cutler who laid the Association's wreath; the wreath for the School was laid by the Head Boy, Paul Malpass. The School's trumpeters provided the musical tributes.

Christmas Get Together – 20th December 2003

After a close match between the School and the OMA some 45 members of the teams, Staff and Old Maidonians enjoyed a meal and refreshments at the Maidenhead Rugby Club. **Mr Mark Turner** (1971/78), and Mr Russell da Silva presented awards to members of the School's Rugby squad.

In Memoriam

Desmond Yeabsley (1937/40) has died at the age of 77. He was a regular participant in the OMA River Cruises and attended the 2003 cruise. He was an identical twin to his brother Roy. He did National Service in the RAF in 1944 with his twin. He met his wife, Liz, (also an identical twin) at the Croydon tennis club and they married in 1960.

His work as an aircraft draughtsman meant a move to live in Guildford where they raised their family. He lived at Fairlands, Guildford for 41 years very happily. At the age of 46 Desmond took up long distance running and completed 16 marathons, including 6 London Marathons, the last one being in 1998. He also took part in some 128 national runs. He played tennis for most of his life and joined art classes in Guildford.

Desmond's working life was spent in the aviation industry. After service in the RAF as a fitter he joined Handley-Page at Cricklewood in the Stress Drawing Office. His subsequent moves were to Hunting Percival, to Vickers Armstrong, Weybridge, to Lockheed, and finally to British Aerospace.

Desmond, whose wife died 2 years ago, leaves behind three children and four grandchildren, to whom we extend our condolences.

Gerald D Davis (1930/35)

The name of Gerald Davis appears on the Memorial Board in the School Hall to those who lost their lives during the two World Wars. The records at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission show that Gerald, who was a Sergeant in the Royal Armoured Corps, GHQ Liaison Regiment, died in August 1944 at the age of 26 and was buried in Moussey churchyard, in the Vosges Mountains in north-east France.

It is now known that Gerald was a member of F Squadron of the elite Phantom wireless communications unit which was parachuted into France, together with two colleagues, to provide communications for the SAS in an operation called 'Loyton'. The purpose of the operation was to organise and arm the local resistance in the Vosges Mountains so as to disrupt the enemy in advance of General Patton's Seventh Army push through the Vosges Mountains to Strasbourg. In the event, the Seventh Army stopped short at Nancy, allowing the German forces to concentrate their attention on the resistance movement, with the result that the 3 members of Phantom and 31 members of the SAS were captured and killed and 220 members of the French Resistance were sent to concentration camps in Germany.

In June 2003 a special plot was opened at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs, to commemorate the deaths of the 3 members of Phantom, the 31 members of the SAS and 140

members of the French resistance who did not return from the concentration camps at Dachau and Mathausen.

The initiative in setting up this memorial was that of ex Sergeant Len Owens who had trained with Gerald Davis and who was sent out to replace him when all signals ceased. He had long felt that as Moussey was so far off the beaten track very few people would be able to visit the graves and the recent establishment of the National Memorial Arboretum provided the opportunity of establishing a memorial in this country. The memorial is a large plot in the shape of the letter P for Phantom (see photograph). The main features of the plot are a large rock from Moussey, three trees dedicated individually to Gerald Davis and his two Phantom colleagues, and a large plaque with a map of the Moussey area and an account of Operation Loyton.

The Old Maidonians' Association co-operated with Len Owens in providing background about Gerald from some of his contemporaries, particularly relating to his cricketing skills as an opening batsman for Boyn Hill Cricket Club. The Association also made a contribution to the costs of the project. This assistance was recognised officially during the commemoration service and in the official programme. The Association was represented at the event by Committee member Colin Cutler.



Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

30th Annual Match v School – 14th April 2003 This match was well supported and a total of 12 matches were played. The result was a halved match, 6:6, so honours were even.

The OMA team was Peter Bateman (1992/99), Luke Anthony (1992/99), Mike Clyde (1955/61), Colin Cutler (1936/43), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), Stephen Gibson (1992/99), Malcolm Kempton (1970/72) and Ken Lawrie (1950/55),

29th Annual Competition for the Brooks Cup – 28th July 2003 A total of 20 players took part in this tournament, on a fine summer's day. The results were as follows:-

		Handicap	Points
Winner	Adam Short	10	41
Runner-up	Nick Snell	18	40
3 rd	Darrell Cassidy	20	37
4 th	Paul Roberts	12	37
5 th	Michael Carr	26	36
6 th	Colin Cutler	25	33
7 th	Terry Gower	10	33
8 th	Alan Frampton	20	33
9 th	Ian Short	11	32
10 th	Mike Clyde	13	32
11 th	Jonathan Procter	7	31

Nearest to pin on 10th Adam Short
 Nearest to pin on 16th Grahame Fisher
 Longest Drive on 18th Darrel Cassidy
 Jonathon Procter, last year's winner, presented the Brooks Cup to Adam Short, now a member of Year 10.

Special mention must be made of the record of consistency of Nick Snell in this event. Since winning the Brooks Cup in 1998 he has been runner-up in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. He was not available to play in 2002.

News from the School

We are pleased to publish the following report by the Headmaster, David Eyre (1963/70), on the progress being made at Desborough on a number of fronts.

The last 12 months have been both busy and successful.

Beginning with students' learning, we have made very good progress – as borne out by the public examination results published in the summer. Students throughout the school are making progress in line with expectations – they are learning effectively and our results at each Key Stage continue to be above the national averages and well above the national averages for boys alone. The vast majority of the students are well-behaved and respectful – they are well-motivated and they are active participants in their lessons – willingly responding to questions and voicing opinions – and most important of all showing a real sense of pride in their work.

Headline data regarding examination results for 2003:

Key Stage 3 Level 5+	English = 77.5%;
	Mathematics = 83%;
	Science = 82.4%
GCSE 5+ A* - C passes	58.4%
A-Level	Overall pass rate = 97%;
	% A/B grades = 48

Schools are increasingly making use of value-added data to measure their performance rather than relying upon raw scores which take no account of prior attainment or innate ability. In terms of value-added the school is ranked in the **top percentile** in the country as a whole for its work at **Advanced Level**.

Progress in **teaching** has been sustained – and I commend the team of professionals for achieving this progress in the context of continuing changes in teaching personnel. The teachers we currently employ are all highly motivated, encouraging and keen to embrace new and innovative ideas in order to raise standards of teaching and learning still further. It is no coincidence that we now have 4 Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs). **Peter Couch, Pam Hutchings, Mary Sandell** and **Gill Trevor** have all been recognised in the past 12 months as meeting the very demanding standards of an advanced skills teacher and they are now working alongside their colleagues here at Desborough and in other schools in the Royal Borough on a range of initiatives designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our schools.

In addition to this our ICT and Science Departments have been identified as Lead Departments for the Royal Borough.

The curriculum we offer our pupils continues to represent challenge and opportunity for all. 2 vocational courses for our Year 10 and Year 11 students are offered in partnership with the Berkshire College of Agriculture and a very exciting new course has started for Year 10 students this year thanks to the Princes Trust XL programme. Philosophy and Media Studies have been added to our Sixth Form curriculum and the Sixth Form now exceeds 200 in number, bringing it back to the size experienced in the mid 1980s and making it the largest Sixth Form in the town of Maidenhead.

The number of students from the other 4 schools in the town attending our consortium courses has increased and it is now a common occurrence on Tuesdays and Thursdays to witness female students participating in Sixth Form lessons. I firmly believe that one of the reasons for our boys' success at Key Stage 3 and at GCSE lies in the fact that the teachers can concentrate on teaching styles that favour boys rather than girls. I am equally clear however that, in those Sixth Form lessons where we now have mixed classes, the application and determination of the girls to succeed is spurring our boys on to do even better.

The highly successful collaborative approach we have taken with regard to our partner secondary schools in the town has led to all 5 schools putting forward a proposal to the **DfES** to establish a **Maidenhead Federation** of schools. We have just received the good news that the DfES has approved the bid, thus bringing more funds in to our schools in order to raise standards for young people. It is an initiative that will bring about many opportunities for students and staff alike and represents a very exciting prospect.

We are justifiably proud of our traditions and, as an Old Maidonian myself, I am determined not to lose those traditions and values to which we hold dear. But this does not mean that we will stand still. The 21st century will be one of great change. ICT is transforming how the world thinks, communicates, works and plays. So we continue to make full use of computers and technologies to intensify the natural urge to learn. Wherever possible we are making ICT part of our learning programmes.

We are increasingly making use of interactive whiteboards, the world-wide web and other initiatives designed to give our students access to the ideas, information and channels for personal expression that today's new technologies open up. We must and we will continue to invest heavily in this area. Our PC to student ratio has improved significantly over the past year and now stands at 1:8. Our plans to get to 1:5 are ambitious but must be achieved as soon as possible in order to meet the government's target.

The government has indicated that all secondary schools will be subject to a rebuilding or refurbishment programme over the next 10-year period. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead does not fit the criteria for being in the first cohort of schools to be subject to this programme. I am particularly pleased therefore that we have already secured a commitment from our LEA to upgrade as much of the building stock as possible now. Laurie Holloway officially opened the new Music building – the Roberts Building (named after David Roberts) last year.

School House is currently out of commission whilst it is being totally refurbished – it re-opens in March 2004 as the Administration Centre. Later this year work starts on the Old Building to improve the teaching and learning environment for Mathematics, Business Education, Learning Support and the Learning Resource Centre.

I am still optimistic that there will be enough money left for us then to turn to Science and provide additional laboratories as part of the rolling programme of improvement.

We were proud to be designated as the Royal Borough's Specialist Language College from 1 September 2003. As a result the Brooks Building will benefit from a capital project to be completed by August 2004. This will involve the installation of a multi-media language room available to our students, as well as students from other schools. Ros Weller – our Language College Director – is working extremely hard with her colleagues both on the school plan and the community plan and we held a highly successful launch in September supported by all sections of the community as well as by our MP, Theresa May.

Life as a Language College means that all curriculum areas should be included in international events – and indeed we managed to raise the profile of the European Day of languages by inviting all teachers – from whatever subject discipline – to teach part of

their lesson in a foreign language. The result went way beyond our expectation with the Desborough team of teachers entering into the spirit of the day magnificently. Languages heard around the school that day ranged from Zulu to Japanese to Italian to Mandarin Chinese. We are very privileged to be leading the way in terms of language education and are looking forward to seeing the results of our labours over the next few years.

There is no doubt that the school is in very good shape and that it is, at last, receiving the face lift that it has so badly needed for many years. Its reputation and its achievements continue to be spread far and wide and we continue to be heavily oversubscribed for places.

David W D Eyre

February 2004

During the past year the Desborough landscape has undergone a number of changes. The Caretaker's bungalow, which had lain empty for some years was demolished to make room for the purpose-built Roberts Music Centre. Part of the lawn in front of the Old School Building has been sacrificed to become a car park and the tennis court adjoining Shoppenhangers Road, which for some years had been a dedicated area for Year 7 boys, has also been turned into a car park. The car parks are well laid out and clearly marked. Finally, as indicated in David Eyre's article above, School House is in the process of a complete revamp, during which it has lost its chimneys which had become redundant. These changes are shown in the photographs.



The new Roberts Music Centre



A new use for the old tennis court



***Ramp to new park on old tennis court
Ramp to the new car park on old tennis court***



***New car parking arrangements in front
of the School***



School House being renovated

University Degrees/Awards

The School has been notified by some of the universities of the results obtained by Old Maidonians whom we congratulate on their achievements.

Hanish Arora	BSc 1 st class Hons in Chemistry, UCL, London
Peter Cook	BSc 1 st class Hons in Physics, King's College, London
Sebastian P Hutchings	BSc 2:2 in Computer Science, Southampton
James P Money	BSc in Sports Science, Coventry
Sachin Patel	MPharm (Hons), Portsmouth
Simon J Prince	DipHE, Coventry

Pritpal Saundh	Distinction in Preliminary Exams for Chemistry, Pembroke College, Oxford
N Shanmuganatha	B Eng in Electronic & Electrical Engineering, UCL, London
Ross Sibbald	BSc 2i in Artificial Intelligence, Durham
Thomas D Yearley	BSc(Soc Sci) 2:2 in Economics, Southampton
Conrad Vink	BA 21 in Part 1B of the Natural Science (Bio) Tripos, Queen's College, Cambridge

Weddings

We have pleasure in reporting the following weddings that have taken place during the past year.

James Camplin (1987/83) to Sarah Smith, from Holyport, at Ye Old Bell, Hurley. Their honeymoon was spent touring California. Sarah is an account executive for the field marketing company PMI. James is an architectural technologist for the Michael Shanly property development group.

Nicholas Fuller (1960/65) to Jean Jessep at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead. The reception was held at Morrisons. The groom and his three sons were dressed as Chicago-style gangsters.

Andrew Melvin (1980/87) to Shima Kobayashi at St Mary's Church, Old Amersham. Their honeymoon was spent on board a Caribbean cruise ship. The reception was held at The Bull Hotel, Gerrards Cross. They are both musicians.

Mark Novell (1985/90) to Alison Lowrie at St James the Less Church, Stubbings. The reception was held at Fredrick's Hotel. Their honeymoon was spent in the USA, in Boston and Florida. Mark works for BA as a design engineer while Alison as a sales executive for a paper company in Maidenhead. They live at 4 Kenwood Close, Maidenhead SL6 5AL.

Silvio Scozzari (1984/90) to Fiona Bellis at St Joseph's RC Church, Maidenhead. The honeymoon was spent in South Africa, Mauritius and Dubai. Fiona is a senior project specialist for a bio-technology company, while Silvio is a department manager for the Maidenhead IT firm, SDL International. They are living in Pinkneys Green.

Timothy Warren (1986/93) to Sarah Blair, from Glasgow, at the Milton of Buchanan Church in Scotland. The reception was held at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The couple had met while students at Bristol University. They are now living in Bristol.

Memories of the School 60 years ago

By Derek Peasey (1944/46)

I came to the school in Autumn 1944 from the evacuee school at the top of Grenfell Road, as a scholarship pupil. Because I was an evacuee, the head teacher resisted my entry to the school on a scholarship, arguing that priority should be given to the town's 'own pupils'. However my mother fought my case and I was eventually admitted. It says a lot for the head teacher that, once in the school, I was treated very fairly and had a generally happy time at the school.

The evacuee school was known as 'Monecrower', after the large house it occupied, but it presumably had a more formal name. My understanding is that the school came from Essex and returned there after the war.

My memory is that the school was then called Maidenhead County School for Boys and the head teacher was a Mr Eagling. We lived in Boyn Valley Road and I walked to and from the school, as did everyone in those days. Going through the station subway was forbidden, but I had the good fortune to have an aunt who ran the newspaper kiosk on the station platform, so if stopped by the prefects, as I took this illicit short cut, I could always say I was visiting my aunt.

We wore school caps with a coloured button to denote our house. The prefects wore tassels on their caps. This was very useful because it meant you could spot them some distance away.

I started in class 2A. The first form was a kind of prep year for pupils who had not won scholarships. At the end of the year they took a test to decide if they could stay in the school and, if so, whether they were to go into 2A or 2B. As I was only ten when I started at the School, many of my class were quite a bit older than myself.

When you started at the school, the boys in the class above gave you a list of staff with all their nicknames, which had to be learned. Trouble was in store for any boy who did not do this particular piece of homework. Each year group also had its own name but I cannot now recall these, although 'Shrimps' rings a bell.

I recall playing football on wet days in a large open metal barn like structure at the side of the school. To the other end of the main building was a house occupied by the head teacher. I see from the photo on the website that it is still there. Behind the school was a temporary structure, housing two classrooms. One of these was my classroom in the first year and was also used for meetings of the school Scout troop.

I was a member of the school Scout troop. The Scoutmaster was also the mathematics teacher. I cannot recall his name but as I write I can see his face, lean, surmounted by tight curly black hair, so he obviously left an impression, which may be one of the reasons why I also, in time, became a mathematics teacher and, subsequently a lecturer in mathematics education. While at the school I had one very enjoyable camp with the school troop but I cannot recall where we went.

We had to buy our school books from a small bookshop [Coventry's] in the close in front of the railway station. Because I had won a scholarship I had a voucher to get the books free. After 1945, with the introduction of free secondary education for all, this procedure ended and school books were issued at the school, free to all. The books were not usually new and I recall that a previous owner had, with a few additional lines, changed the title of one of my books from "Latin for Today" to "Eating for Today".

During my time at the school, the Latin teacher was an elderly ordained gentleman [Rev G Barrington-Baker] with very unorthodox ideas. We were very impressed, because each day he came in a different suit, so we were convinced he was a millionaire. He used to stand us round the walls of the classroom and ask us questions. If the first boy could not answer he moved to the next and so on, until someone got it right. This lad would then move up to the place in front of the first to be asked that question. As the lesson proceeded, boys drifted up or down, in the manner of a chess ladder. Sadly his methods do not seem to have been very successful. In my final examination I obtained 26% for Latin, coming 10th in the class. The music teacher [Mr Frank Hammersley] also had an interesting approach. He was a young and well built man, possibly a rugby player. If you sang out of tune he hit you on the top of the head with the blunt end of his pencil. I soon learned how to mouth the songs cheerfully and enthusiastically but quite soundlessly.

I stayed at the school until my family moved to Cricklewood in December 1946.

Derek Peasey

We are indebted to Derek Peasey for the above recollections. Derek now lives in Hertford and his e-mail address is djfp@btinternet.com

News of old Maidonians

The Association is always pleased to hear from Old Maidonians and acknowledges with thanks the news

that Old Maidonians have sent in about themselves, and invited members to send in their news.

Please give dates of joining and leaving School in all communications as without this information, individuals are sometimes difficult to identify.

Ryan Baker (1996/2002) We congratulate Ryan on successfully completing 30 weeks training to gain his coveted green beret as a Royal Marine Commando in January 2004. The final tests, with full fighting equipment weighing 21lbs and an 11 lb rifle, included completing a cross country endurance course, a 'tarzan' assault course, a nine-mile speed march and a 300 mile trek in under 8 hours. After taking his A-levels and before joining up Ryan worked on a building site to toughen himself up.

Peter Bedford (1967/71), who was appointed coroner for East Berkshire in 1999, had his jurisdiction extended in May 2003 to include Reading, virtually doubling his previous work load. As from April 2004 he will become the coroner for the whole of Berkshire. Some 2,500 deaths a year will be handled by the coroner's office.

Peter has commented that the role of the coroner in the 21st century is markedly different from that in the past. In an increasingly complex world people travel faster and further than before which often complicates investigations into uncertain causes of death. Unusual diseases are contracted while on holiday or working overseas, new forms of industrial sicknesses arise, more exhilarating and often dangerous amusements are devised and road traffic accidents give rise to many unnecessary and brutal deaths.

Peter, a former Head Boy, read Law at Birmingham. He has for many years been a partner at Colemans, Solicitors, Maidenhead, responsible for litigation matters. He will be retiring from this appointment in April when he takes up his new role as coroner for the whole of Berkshire. He lives at Shiplake with his wife and two daughters.

Bryan Crash (1943/45) Bryan, a former Hon Treasurer of the OMA, reports that he has had several careers, the last of which was as the proprietor of a picture gallery and framing business. His memories of School include Mr Dean reading tales of Brigadier Gerard on special occasions and Mr Hammersley placing a half-crown on his middle stump during cricket net practice and challenging boys to knock it off. Bryan now lives in Sittingbourne, Kent.

T A Dickinson (1950/55), a life member of the Association, has moved from Reading Devon.

Chris Dugdale (1984/91), now an internationally known close-up magician, was invited to top the bill at a United Nations Ball in New York in October 2003, entertaining the first-ever United Nations Citizen of the World, Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie. Among Chris' previous high profile events was an entire show for Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor Castle. Chris has been offered a few television deals but is holding out for his own show that would allow him to own the post-production rights. Chris' lives in Windsor.

David Evans (1948/53) has attended several of our previous Dinners and is planning to attend this year's Dinner with some of his contemporaries, some of whom he has tracked down via the Friends Reunited website.

After leaving school, David went into the estate agency business, working at Edward Gray and Dudley Clifton, in Maidenhead. He later became Managing Director of Harrods Estates Office before moving to Cornwall Surveys and then running his own business in Cornwall. Some years ago he moved to Scarborough where he does consultancy surveying work.

At school, David joined the rowing squad as a cox and has maintained this interest throughout his life. During his National Service in the RAF at Cardington he coxed the RAF eight. He later took the Amateur Rowing Association coaching qualification and for the last 10 years has been the rowing coach at Leeds University. For his distinguished services to rowing, David was elected a member of the exclusive and elite Leander Rowing Club.

David lives in Scarborough.

Jim Ewan (1953/57), the Guest Speaker at our 2004 Annual Dinner, has been involved in management since the 1960's. He has worked with and for many blue-chip organisations including ICL, BEA, Brook-Bond Oxo, Rolls Royce and the European Space Research Organisation. As consultant, marketing manager and company director he claims to have done most of the jobs a manager can be called upon to do. By his own admission he has made most of the mistakes that can be made as well. In a varied career that has encompassed taxi driving, computers, photography, microfilm and insurance he has discovered what it takes to succeed. Jim has set up and trained sales teams and has been running open training courses for many years. Organisations attending have included AA, DTI, Smith Kline Beecham, Brann International and Intel Systems.

A founder member of the Professional Speakers Association and finalist in Toastmasters International Humorous Speaking Contests, Jim is also a gold medal speaker and holds the prestigious LAMDA Diploma for public speaking.

Jim's training specialisation is presentations and public speaking where he focuses on taking the frankly terrified and giving them the confidence to speak to large and small audiences. He also writes and speaks on management, marketing and motivation. His after dinner material concentrates on his fear of flying, taking in the battle of the sexes, modern medicine and the many mishaps he has encountered on holidays afloat.

Jim, who has published books on aspects of management and public speaking, is a Liveryman of the Company of Wheelwrights and a Freeman of the City of London. Jim has completed the London Marathons in 1998, 2001 and 2003 and is a keen sailor. He lives in Twyford

Geoffrey Harding (1954/61) On leaving School Geoff joined ICI Paints Division and continued his further education at Slough Training College, eventually becoming a Licentiate (LRIC) and later an Associate (ARIC) of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, specialising in polymer chemistry. His career then moved into the plastics packaging industry, involving printing on plastics, extrusion coating and lamination. He was a master chemist for several companies in the plastics packaging sector before spending a number of years with a Scandinavian company, Matton Chemicals, based in Denmark where he met his Danish wife. They have a son and two daughters. On returning to the UK he set up his own printing and laminating business in Sandhurst. He is now semi-retired and is a consultant with Kitchens Direct. He now lives in Wokingham

Barry Hatch (1945/52) has moved from Cookham Dean and now lives in Reading.

Keith Mansbridge (1939/43) writes that on looking among his old school photographs he cannot find any showing members of the Cadet Corps in their World War 1 uniforms. Can any of our readers oblige please? He recalls that in his later years at School he was able to wear his Home Guard battledress, with some pride. Keith lives in Tenby.

Michael J Marcotty (1942/50) graduated in Maths from Reading University and, after two further years at Reading doing research into mathematical logic,

served in the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant Instructor. He then joined Ferranti as a computer programmer and has stayed in that profession. In 1962 he transferred to Ferranti-Packard in Toronto and later joined the Computer Science Department of General Motors Research Laboratories in Detroit. He then served as a Visiting Professor of Computer Science at the University.

Since retiring, Michael has written three computer science textbooks and has been involved in writing the library for the C language system called Codewarrior, produce for Metrowerks, a division of Motorola in Austin, Texas. He works part time for them from his home in Massachusetts. He is a life member of the OMA and would be delighted to hear from anybody who remembers him.

Andrew Melvin (1980/87), whose wedding is reported above, read Music at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and graduated in 1990. He then spent three years in Spain working as a musician in the contemporary music group Secuencia and working as a music teacher in Madrid. On returning to England he did postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music, and worked as a freelance composer and music teacher in the London area. In 1998 he was the recipient of a Daiwa scholarship which enabled him to travel to Japan to study Japanese music and culture. It was in Japan that he met his wife, Shima, and they have now settled in Amersham, Bucks, where Andrew continues to work as a composer, performer and music teacher for the Buckinghamshire Music Service.

Andrew's wife, Shima, is a professional chromatic harmonica player. She studied with Tommy Reilly MBE and has so far released 2 CDs on the Japanese label Fontec. She has toured extensively in Japan, working as a performer and giving music workshops as a part of various community projects.

Andrew was able to provide some news on two other Maidonians:

John Leigh (1980/87) who read Modern and Medieval Languages at Fitzwilliam College, is now a Lecturer in Modern Languages at Fitzwilliam.

Manoj Pandya (1980/87) is a bank manager and lives with his wife and 3 children in Maidenhead.

David Miller (1975/82), a Life Member, now in London.

David Moore (1962/68) whose move from Guildford to Thorpe, Newark, was reported in our last issue, informs us that he is the General Manager and Director of a well established engineering company exporting some 95% of our products worldwide. He reports that business is tight, especially with increased competition from low cost labour regions and the company is actively trying to set up commercial arrangements in countries like China to help mitigate this. However

despite these problems they are managing to increase sales at a healthy rate. All their children have left home and are gainfully employed so they are now pleased to be able to take advantage of holiday prices during the 'off school holiday' periods.

Andrew Nunn (1976/83) has moved within Stokenchurch. He reports that the 300 yard move might have been 300 miles for all the work involved. He is one of the Business Managers for Lloyds TSB based in High Wycombe. He is vice-chair of the board of governors of the school his son attends. Andrew is in contact with John Trevor, Robert Mitson, Brad Lovegrove, and David Brosse, and works with Paul Wheeler and Keith Bannister.

Andrew lives in Stokenchurch, Bucks.

Keri Nunn (1981/88), Andrew's younger brother, is living in Gloucester with his wife, Julia, and they had their first child last year.

Michael L Page (1947/52) has moved from Maidenhead, following his retirement, and now lives in Bournemouth.

Richard Pearce (1965/61) and is now semi-retired. He has sold the first of his two public houses, Ye Olde Two Brewers as he no longer enjoyed the walk up Gold Hill, Shaftesbury. He now concentrates his efforts at The Two Brewers, Street, Somerset, not far from the Clarks Village shopping centre.

He is hoping to organise another reunion of his contemporaries at the OMA Dinner in 2005 to celebrate their 60th birthdays. He would be pleased to hear from anybody interested in attending that reunion. Lives in Bristol.

Alistair Price (1971/77) After attending Ryecote Wood College, Thame, Alistair set up in business as a cabinet maker and antique furniture restorer. The business, A R Price, is in Waltham Road, White Waltham, Maidenhead.

Jon Scotcher (1982/88) former OMA Committee member, has been directing his third film, 'Numbers Up', a skit on the National Lottery, which is still to be finished. His second film 'Don't confuse children with angels' is due to be shown at some film festivals.

Early in 2003 he published a book, 'Extras', the story of his experiences on the set of the gangster film 'Summer Rain'. The book is published by Pegasus Elliott MacKenzie (ISBN 1-843860-15-5) and is available through local bookshops and on the web from www.Amazon.com. Jon is now deeply involved in writing a second book for young teenagers. He is also involved in the design of websites.

James Tyler (1992/99) Congratulations to James, former Head Boy, on gaining his green beret as a Royal Marines Commando, after 30 weeks of training. James joined the Royal Marines after graduating from Aston University.

"One Hundred Not Out"

**A History of the School
By David Evans, former Head of Sixth Form**

Copies available from the Bursar, Desborough School,
Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QB

Price: Paperback £4 including postage

Cheques should be made payable to Desborough School
Centenary Appeal

Hockey Match

OMA v School

*During week commencing 27th March
At 7pm at location to be announced*

Please contact School Office (01628 634505) or e-mail turnm001@rbwm.org for more information and/or if you would like to play

Spectators welcome

Delivery of OMA Newsletter

Sending the Newsletter to you by e-mail would cut the delivery time by some 10 days, the time taken printing, packaging and delivery. If you would like future editions e-mailed to you please send an e-mail to:

omanewsletter@aol.com

The Association gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of the postage of this issue by Parnell Fisher Child & Co, Independent Financial Advisers, Grenville Court, Britwell Road Burnham,

Bucks SL1 8DF

*Tel: 01628 667662 E-mail:
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The Old School Building

Ray Wilmott, a member of the History Department from 1955 until his retirement in 1981 (mostly as Head of Department) has kindly agreed to prints being sold of an original painting he did of the Old Building, as seen from Shoppenhangers Road (same view as the drawing in our letterhead). *Now that the Bell Tower has been removed (and the gate pillars are long gone) these prints are a valuable reminder of days gone by.*

The price is £25 (including posting and packaging). If you would like a copy please send your order to Mr A.G. Lehai, Old Maidonians' Association, 76 Walmer Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4PN.

**Please make your cheque payable to
'Old Maidonians' Association.'**

Table Plan for Annual Dinner 11th April 2003

Table A

Craig Aitchison
Paul Aitchison
Bert Bellworthy
Betty Collin
Grahame Fisher
Ben Marsh
Dominic Marsh
Len Reynolds
Leo Walters
Robert Weston

Table B

Peter Brown
Colin Cuter
Malcolm Cutler
Tony Johnson
Alec Jones
Luke Over
Robert Thorne
Derek Woolford

Table C

Ray Clark
Michael Clyde
Mike Courtney
Alan Frampton
Tony Hearman
Fred Hearman
John Moses
John Nash
John Powell
Bart Sams
George Stewart
Barrie Woolford

Table D

Bob Allan
Harold Blogg
Tony Dickinson
Colin Edwards
Ken Grace-Dutton
Michael Hawthorne
Graham Moule
Mike Page

Table E

Graham Bridges
Paul Cary
Christopher Maltin
Richard Pearce
David Scott
John Smith
Michael Willoughby

Table F

Alan Beresford
Gary Betts
John Bowers
Graham Buckland
Doug Courtney
Phil Davies
Martin Durrant
David Harrison
Peter Mackenzie
James Robertson
Dave Sprake
Robert West

Table G

Chris Appleton
Paul Arnott
Mark Avery
Alex Brown
James Fielding
Michael Hudson
Dave McMillan
Gareth Thomas
John Wardle

Table H

Jake Chapman
David Evans
Hartley Graham
David Kempton
Malcolm Kempton
Tony Lehain
Simon Norton
George Scott
Nicholas Scrutton

Old Maidonians' Association

Annual Dinner

Friday, 2nd April 2004

Our Annual Dinner will be held in the School Hall, at 6.30pm for 7.45p.m. The principal guest speaker is **Jim Ewan (1954/57)**, a renowned public speaker who runs his own communications business. The President, David Eyre, will reply on our behalf, and this year's Head Boy, Paul Malpass, will reply on behalf of the School.

Tickets will be available only from Mrs Betty Collin, although orders may be left at the School Office, care of Mrs Read. Ticket price will be £18.00. It is hoped that those who attend the Dinner without being paid-up members will avail themselves of the opportunity to subscribe, at the Dinner. ***All orders must be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.*** Tickets will be issued only for named Old Boys. O.Ms wishing to make party bookings must name those on whose behalf they are purchasing tickets.

Please use the booking-form and complete all requested details. ***Bookings cannot be accepted, if they arrive after Tuesday 30th March.***

To: Mrs Betty Collin, 18 Badminton Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QT. (Tel: 01628 626349: e-mail william.collin@btinternet.com)

Name*
.....Address.....
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Tel.....At School

from.....
to.....

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday, 2nd April 2004 and I shall be in a party which includes the O.Ms whose names and addresses are listed below. I enclose a cheque (endorsed a/c payee only) drawn to the Old Maidonians' Association, ***together with a stamped and addressed envelope***, for tickets as follows:

.....tickets at £18.00 each. The total value of my cheque is £.....

.....delete as appropriate
(Signed).....

Names* and initials of party Address
School At

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

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Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary.