

OMA.

Newsletter No. 71 Winter 2004/2005

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

The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

AGM – 2nd November 2004

The Chairman, Grahame Fisher, reported that the Association had had another good year, with a successful Annual Dinner and River trip, and the full range of sporting fixtures with the School.

The meeting heard with pleasure that Mrs Betty Collin was prepared to carry on as Secretary for a further year. Last year's Head Boy, Paul Malpass, and last year's Deputy Head Boy, Richard Mackay, were thanked for their regular attendance at Committee meetings and for their initiative in putting forward some excellent ideas. The Committee welcomed Daniel Lister, new Head Boy and Zaid Al-Chalabi and Sam Gregory, new Deputy Head Boys. The President and existing Officers and members were re-elected. **Mark Turner (1971/78)**, Head of PE and Games, was elected to the Committee to strengthen the links on sports.

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

Annual Dinner 2nd April 2004

We were entertained by our Guest Speaker, **Jim Ewan (1954/57)**, who, as a founder member of the Professional Speakers Association, gave us a much-appreciated demonstration of his art. The reply on behalf of the School by the Head Boy, Paul Malpass, was also of a high order. Paul had distinguished himself a few months earlier at Speech Day, when, proposing the vote of thanks to the then Director General of the BBC, Greg Dyke, he managed to include an audition as a presenter in Blue Peter by demonstrating his ability to construct a model working rocket that literally rose to the occasion. In the absence of the President, our Chairman, Grahame Fisher,

conducted the proceedings and replied on behalf of the Association.

Several *members* felt that the catering did not meet the high standards of previous years and this matter will be rectified in the coming year.

River Cruise - 8th June 2004

A party of 26 Old Maidonians, former pupils of Maidenhead Girls' School, and their spouses, took part in a cruise from Windsor to Runnymede. They enjoyed a perfect summer's day and unusual views of Windsor Castle from the river as it bent around the castle.

Those taking part were: **Phil** (1938/44) and Barbara **Berry**, **Hedley** (1943/49) and June (MCGS 1951/57 nee **Smith**) **Bray**, Peter (1934/41) **Bush**, Betty (Staff 1974/94, Hon Sec OMA) and Bill **Collin**, Diana **Coxhead** (MCGS nee **Wigmore**), Colin (1936/43) and Doreen **Cutler**, Malcolm (1942/47) **Cutler**, Dru **Dunn** (MCGS 1937/42 nee **Foster**), Peter (1935/40) and Joan **Edwards**, Alec (1933/42) and Marjorie **Jones**, Margaret (MCGS 1933/40) **Jones**, Victor (1938/42) **Kemp**, Alan (1939/46) **Lidiard**, Tony (1934/39) **Maher**, David and Joan (MCGS nee **Hill**) **Owen**, Ron (1939/42) and **Pat** Page, Connie (MCGS 1938/45 nee **Cutler**) and Maurice **Thorne**. **David Robinson** (1933/43) had been due to join the party but his train journey to Windsor did not get him there on time.

Annual Dinner

Will take place on

Thursday, 24th March
at 6.30pm for 7.45pm

at Maidenhead Golf Club

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: Zaid Al-Chalabi (Deputy Head Boy), Colin Cutler, David Eyre (Headmaster and President), Sam Gregory (Deputy Head Boy) Michael Hudson, Malcolm Kempton, Tony Lehain, Daniel Lister (Head Boy), Christopher Nunn, Mark Turner, Robert Weston.

*Regrets and best wishes were received from Harold (1953/55) and Janet **Blogg**, Audrey (MCGS 1927/39 nee **Venn**) Coates, Dick (1939/44) **Edwards**, Pat (1939/44) and Connie **Higgins**, Jim and Vera **Maher**, Bob (1935/41) **Thorne**, Tony (1940/44) **Venn**, Derek and Shelagh **Woolford**.*

River Cruise from Reading - Tuesday 7th June 2005

At the time of going to press, a viable means of making a river trip from Reading upstream has yet to be found. Those who have taken part in previous river trips will be advised of the outcome in due course: anybody else who is interested in a river trip should contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130; e-mail colinarcutler@aol.com).

Annual Dinner – Maunday Thursday 24th March 2005

This year the Annual Dinner reverts to its usual date of Maunday Thursday, the date the School breaks up for the Easter holidays. As the School is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment the Dinner this year will be held at Maidenhead Golf Club. The cuisine at the Club enjoys a high reputation and Old Maids are assured of a good meal and pleasant surroundings. The price will be £19.50. The application form is on page 12. We hope you will make a special effort to attend and that you will contact your friends and apply as soon as possible.

Richard Pearce (1965/71), who organised a reunion for his year group at the Annual Dinner 17 years ago, is repeating the exercise this year, to mark the occasion of their reaching 60 years of age. Anybody who would like to join the party and has not heard from Richard is invited to contact. Among those attending is Sid Hayes, a member of Staff in the late 1950s/1960s, who is coming from Frinton-on-Sea - so don't let distance deter you from coming to the Dinner! We hope that other members will be encouraged to make contact with their year group to make up a party for the Dinner.

Remembrance Day 2004

After an impressive Remembrance service at the Upper school assembly, with the School's trumpeters playing an important role, wreaths were laid by Grahame Fisher, the Association's Chairman and by Daniel Lister, the School's Head Boy.

Christmas Get Together – 18th December 2004

The Old Maidonians v School Rugby match this year was held on a Friday so as to attract local working OMs. Unfortunately a number of those at university were not able to play as their term did not finish until the following week. The match was closely fought. Up to half-time the School had held the OMs but

superior weight and experience paid off as the final result was a win for the OMs by 29 to 19 points.

After the match, the teams meet up at Boyne Hill Cricket Club for a meal and refreshments. Mr Mark Turner (1971/78) and Mr Russell da Silva presented awards to members of the School's rugby squad.

In Memorium

Derek A Wheeler (1939/44)

has died at the age of 76. After national service in the RAF he qualified as an accountant and worked for a number of years for British Ermeto, Maidenhead, and its successors. A keen Scout in his youth Derek was for many



years Treasurer of the Pinkneys Green Scout Group. Some years ago he and his wife moved to Lyme Regis, where he set up his own accountancy practice. He was a past President and former Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis. He was actively involved in helping young people, supporting Rotary projects benefiting youth and was at one time treasurer of the local boys' club. He also served the community by auditing the books of a number of local organisations.

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

31st Annual Match v School – 5th April 2004 A total of 10 matches were played, the result being a rare convincing win by the Association of 6 matches to 3.

The OMA team was Peter Bateman (1992/99), Mike Clyde (1955/61), Colin Cutler (1936/43), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), Terry Gower (1955/60), Keiron Roche (1993/2000), and Nick Snell (1974/79).

30th Annual Competition for the Brooks Cup – 26th July 2004

The competition produced the youngest winner of the Brooks Cup, Sam Short, who had just completed his first year at Desborough in Year 7. The previous year's winner, Sam's brother, Adam, presented the Cup to his brother. The leading results were:-

		Handicap	Points
Winner	Sam Short	21	40
Runner-up	John Weavers	16	38
3 rd	Nick Scrutton	3	37
4 th	Colin Cutler	26	33
5 th	Roy Squire	14	32
6 th	Malcolm Kempton	9	32

7th	Nick Snell	18	31
8 th	Richard Woolmer	18	30

Nearest the pin on 10th Nick Scrutton
 Nearest the pin on 16th Roy Squire
 Longest Drive on 18th Nick Scrutton (305 Yards!)

Fixtures for 2005

Match v School – Monday 4th April
 Brooks Cup competition – Monday 25th July

Both events will take place at Maidenhead Golf Club. If you are interested in taking part in these matches please contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130; e-mail colinarcutler@aol.com.)

Hockey

The Association's match against the School took place on 10th April 2004 and resulted in a convincing 7:0 win by the Old Maids.

University Degrees/Awards

Only a few of the universities now notify the School of the results of Old Maidonians. We congratulate the following on their achievements.

H K Arora (1994/2001)	BSc 1 st Class Hons: Chemistry with Management Studies University College, London,
Jasdeep Bahra (1992/99)	Bachelor of Dental Surgery Kings College, London
James Harvison (1994/2001)	BSc Upper 2 nd : Psychology Leicester
Mark Johnson (1996/2001)	LIB Upper 2nd: Law Leicester
Mark Pagdin (1993/2000)	BSc 2:1: Computer Science Brighton
N A Piercey (1994/2001)	BSc 2A: History University College, London
Raji Souag	MSc Upper 2 nd : Chemistry with Fine Chemicals Processing Imperial College, London

Weddings

Stephen Hill (1983/88) to Lydia Thornton at the Salvation Army Citadel, Maidenhead, followed by a reception at the Cox Green Community Centre. They spent their honeymoon in Australia and are planning to emigrate there in the next year.

Craig Hoile (1986/93) to Lesley O'Hara at St Michael's Church, Bray, followed by a reception at the Burnham Beeches Hotel. The honeymoon was spent in Borneo. Best man was **Alistair Crossley (1986/93)**.

Simon Hole (1969/72) to Sally Eaton, of Stroud, Glos at Maidenhead Register Office. The reception was

held at Boulters Inn, Maidenhead followed by a further reception at Stroud.

Alan Lidiard (1939/46) to Diana Coxhead (nee Wigmore). *See News of Old Maidonians.*

Ian Rodwell (1970/75) to Sandra Lima from Brazil, at Shoppenhangers Manor, Maidenhead. They went to Madeira and Lisbon for their honeymoon. Sandra is an economist and Ian is a chartered surveyor. They are living at Colleton Drive, Twyford. (Tel 0118 932 1281).

News of the School

Departure of David Eyre (1963/70) David Eyre, who became Headmaster of Desborough at Easter 1996, will be leaving the School at Easter 2005 to take up the Headship of Brighton Hill Community College in Basingstoke, his home town. We congratulate him on his new appointment.

He will be able to look back on his 9 years as Desborough's Head with a sense of satisfaction. When he came to the School, its numbers were 868 but within a year or two numbers had risen to capacity and the School was oversubscribed. The increase in pupil numbers (now standing at 1122) led to the need to recruit more staff at a time when the high cost of housing in the area made staff recruitment a significant problem. David's strenuous efforts have ensured the recruitment of high quality staff.

Early in his tenure, David was faced with the need to respond to the Government's decision to abolish Grant Maintained status. The School had the option of becoming a Foundation School or coming under the control of the local education authority. David, who had enjoyed the freedoms of Grant Maintained status at Desborough and at his previous school, the Turnpike School, Newbury, advised the governing body that, in the new circumstances, the best course for Desborough was to join the other schools in the Maidenhead area within the local education authority. Among the major benefits of this relationship has been the formation of the Maidenhead Federation of schools, leading to greater co-operation between the schools, the immediate assistance given by the local authority when Desborough suffered a serious fire in the Maudsley Building and the major on-going building refurbishment programme.

The successful bid by the School to become a Language College will benefit all curriculum areas and has already funded the refurbishment of the Brooks Building.

We are delighted that David, as an Old Boy of the School, has been able to drive it forward successfully and we have been pleased to have his support to the Association, culminating in his last 3 years as our President. He will be giving his last speech at the

School at our Annual Dinner on 24th March. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

School refurbishment This programme continues apace. The Old Main Building is currently being given the full treatment. It has been virtually gutted inside and the windows and roof tiles are being replaced. The picture below gives some idea of the extent of the work being carried out. There are 9 temporary classrooms and staff rooms on site. The work is on schedule for completion in August 2005. Within the newly-refurbished building will be a suite of Mathematics classrooms, a suite of Business/Economics classrooms, a newly-designed Learning Support Unit, a totally revamped Library and upgraded facilities for the staff.



Refurbishment of the Old Building in progress

The David Roberts Memorial Concert. The 25th Anniversary Concert took place on 17th March 2004 in the Sports Hall. The first concert, in November 1979, was held to launch a Memorial Trust to help young musicians at Desborough School, in memory of David, a member of the Scholl choir and orchestra, who died at the age of 15 in a road accident on his way to a rehearsal. The Concerts have become an established and important event in the school calendar and the money raised has assisted Desborough pupils in a number of ways. It has also enabled the purchase of the magnificent Hornblow harpsichord bearing David's name and has provided an annual prize. The School's new Music Centre has been named after him.

Even by the high standards set by previous concerts, the 25th Anniversary Concert reached a new high and was a memorable event, featuring Desborough's Trumpeters, Singers, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Percussionists and baritone solos from William Torrent, with major contributions from the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and from some distinguished Old Maidonian musicians, contemporaries of David Roberts. **Andrew Sparling (1977/80)** gave a clarinet solo, **Tim Rhys-Morgan (1973/81)** and **Murray Hipkin (1971/78)** piano solos, and **John Kay (1974/81)** a baritone solo.

Junior Presentation 2004 The guest speaker was **Chris Dugdale (1984/91)** international magician

extraordinaire, whose message to the boys was to follow their dreams, and not be deterred.

Speech Day 2004 The Guest Speaker was **Simon Morris (1965/1970)**, who after a distinguished career in the RAF from which he retired as a Group Captain, was appointed the Secretary and Registrar at Keele University in 1997. He said that Desborough had provided him with experiences which had been invaluable in later life. At School he had organised a football team, Maidenhead Academicals, and this had given him opportunities to develop motivational and organisational skills. He suggested that the prize-winners should take any opportunity which came their way to take on roles with responsibilities, which would enable them to increase their ability to communicate, an important asset in today's world.

The Headmaster, David Eyre, gave a wide-ranging review of the progress made by the School and the challenges facing it. The speeches by the Deputy Head Boys, Sam Gregory and Zaid Al-Chalabi, reporting on extra-curricular activities at the School and the vote of thanks by Head Boy, Daniel Lister, were of a high order, as were, as usual, the introductions to each of the prize-winners by Mr Stephen Reed, Deputy Headmaster.

The Chairman of Governors since 1996, Alan Harding, announced that he would be standing down at the end of 2004 and would be succeeded by Mrs Sam McElligott.

Examination Results 2004 – Summary Data

GCSE

Candidates	181
% 5+A*-C	58.0
% 5+ A*-G	98.9
% 1+ A*-G	100
Ave. Points	47.7
% grades C or better	57

A-Level

Candidates	93
Overall pass rate	95
% A/B Grades	33
Average Points Score	233

The Julian Cup

As many of our members will be aware, the Julian Cup was instituted in 1924 by the then Headmaster, Mr A E Brooks, and by Lord Desborough, the cup being named after Lord Desborough's son, Julian Grenfell, who had been killed in World War 1. The cup was for a limited overs cricket competition among clubs in the Maidenhead area. It is recognised as the fore-runner of limited overs cricket, popular world wide.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Julian Cup, **David Evans (member staff 1965 to present)**, author of the invaluable history of the School, 100 Not Out! has written 'The History of the Julian Cup'. The book deals with the origins of the competition at the School and the highlights of the matches in the eight subsequent decades. The book is available from the Secretary of the Julian Cup Committee, Michael Hobson, 1 Westborough Court, Maidenhead SL6 4BT, (hobbo@netcomuk.co.uk) at £6 including postage and packing.

Old Maidonian **Dick Woodruff (1921/28)**, now a spritely 92 year old, well remembers when the competition started and recalls that in 1924 all the inter-house games at the School were played under the Julian Cup rules. After leaving school, Dick played for the Maidenhead Corporation team and was part of the Julian Cup-winning side in 1939. His winner's medal is a prized possession.

He is now a Vice-President of the Julian Cup Competition

Memories of the School in days gone by

The article by Derek Peasey (1944/46) in our last issue of his memories of the School in the mid 40s has stimulated two more of our members to record their recollections of the school which we have pleasure in publishing. They cover two earlier periods, the first by Eric Harris (1924/32) covers the 20s and the second by John Barfoot (1936/41) covers the late 30s and the early years of World War 2. We thank both of these Old Maidonians for their contributors.

The School in the 1920s

When I started at the school some 80 years ago I travelled by train from Taplow, a one stop journey which required me to walk some 1.5 miles up Marsh Lane to Taplow Station from a group of new houses in Dorney Reach. Only later did I graduate to cycling along the Bath Road (the A4). I spent all my primary and secondary school days there. At the time the Headmaster was A.E. Brooks who employed his brother J.J. Brookes (called by us Cannibal Joe) as teacher of advanced English. The chemistry master was J.J. Holt for a few years, then he moved to a presumably better post and was replaced, but by whom I do not recall. It would now be socially unacceptable to describe precisely the things we did in Chemistry, but I can say that my early experience with explosives was useful when I was drafted into an explosive factory at the beginning of World War 2.

The physics master was F.C. Stead (called by us Droney) who was excellent and an inspiring teacher. Among my fellow train passengers was a junior maths master (I only remember as 'Joey') who later had a motor bike. There was Peter Wrench, a former pilot in

the Royal Flying Corps, who is associated in my memory with the School Cadet Corps, a group also dear to the Headmaster. He also supervised shooting with a 0.22 rifle. We were at intervals put on parades in ill-fitting army uniforms (with puttees!) and at times we had to attend Armistice Day celebrations in the town. We attended in some holiday (?) periods cadet camps run by the army.

Of course I recall the hours we as a class were used in lieu of a horse to drag a huge roller across a cricket pitch. Our music (!) teacher was a retired army man (Sgt. Glass) who also played the trumpet in the orchestra at the Windsor Theatre but more agreeably he sold warm doughnuts at 1d. at break time. At that time the school had a large area of playing fields derived from former allotment gardens. I remember well the exploits of the two Boulting brothers (later to surface in the film industry); these two led rival gangs of us to various affrays using pulled up tussocks of grass at the borders of the playing field area.

In school we reached the stage of taking the Cambridge Higher Certificate in the hope of obtaining a Scholarship. I left finally after a term hospitably and generously provided by the parents of a school friend (W. Craig) because my parents had no home on account of the great depression (about 1930). Thereafter I was in London. Eventually I had a job working in Woolwich Arsenal and I attended evening classes to arrive with a degree in Chemistry. It is perhaps by a quirk of fate that at the beginning of the last war I was drafted to an explosives factory which was much safer than being in the Forces. **Eric Harris (1924/32)** – see 'News of Old Maidonians'.

The School in the late 1930s and the early years of World War 2

I started in the Autumn term of 1936 at the age of eleven when the school totalled approximately 180 pupils.

My over-riding memory is of the underlying military ethos of the school and the prominence given to the Cadet Corps. We seldom had an assembly in the hall except when it rained. Instead there was a morning parade on the hard standing between the school and the cricket field [now the area between the Maudsley Building and the Sports Hall].

Each form was drawn up as a platoon, the form captain acting as a platoon sergeant who counted the numbers and reported to the form master (platoon officer) who in turn reported to Mr (Major) Brooks. Some masters, Mr Richards, Mr Abbot and Mr Shaw, who were officers in the Cadet Corps, did this in soldier-like manner whilst others, Mr. Dean, Mr Norman and Mr Targett expressed their underlying disapproval by shambling up with gowns flapping in the breeze to make their reports. The Assistant Head, Mr Stead, kept diplomatically aloof from these proceedings, as did Mr. Spinney and Mr Hammersley.

After this there was a short period of drill, forming fours, before the three formation was introduced, dressing and left and right turns after which there was a march past the Headmaster before dispersing to classrooms.

Thursday was the cadet day. Those in the Corps came in uniforms and the morning parade was extended to at least half an hour. After prayers there was arms drill, the arms being Long Lee-Enfields, pre-1914 pattern for the older boys and Martini-Henry carbines, Boer War pattern, for the younger ones. These were supposed to be harmless having had the firing pins filed away and were kept in racks in the manual shed which overlooked the lower part of the cricket field.

Sergeant Glass, an ex guardsman responsible for training the cadets and taking the school for PT, took charge. After running through the basics, slope, present, order arms etc; he marched us round the top field before dismissing the parade. The second part of the afternoon was for the cadets who paraded alone, leaving the rest of the school at normal lessons. In wet weather they met in the drill shed behind the bicycle shed.

The Corps had its cadet NCO's headed by the Cadet Sergeant-Major. There were several whilst I was at school but the most memorable was Cadet Sergeant Major Williams-Hunt. He was every inch the budding soldier but, to my mind, somewhat eccentric. He was the first pupil I can recall who brought his own car to school.

One lunchtime he rounded up a number of us and took us to the firing range hollowed out of the embankment by the side of the upper field. He then produced a Lee-Enfield in working condition and a clip of ammunition and demonstrated the penetrating power of the .303 firing at wood and brick at a range of some 20 yards. Not something that would be favoured at school today.

On another occasion, whilst marching round the top field under arms, a disagreement occurred between him and Sergeant Glass. The latter marched up to Major Brooks and, giving him his smartest salute, reported in a parade ground voice "Cadet Sergeant Major Williams-Hunt has just called me a bloody fool-Sah". There was a sudden hush, then the parade was quickly dismissed. We anticipated Williams-Hunt being ceremonially stripped of rank before a hollow square and, perhaps the firing squad. However, we were disappointed as the row somehow blew over and Williams-Hunt, somewhat subdued, retained his rank.

Once a year, during the Autumn term there was a field day, or at least an afternoon. The plan was for the corps to escort a convoy of bicycles between two points in Maidenhead Thicket whilst the rest of the school formed parties to try and intercept. The whole thing seemed a shambles. Those who caught busses to school made a beeline for the A4 and caught the first available bus home whilst the train boys doubled back

to the station and took an early train. The next morning Mr Brooks would announce that the exercise had been a success. Either the convoy had got through or had been intercepted.

The pride of the corps was the Physical Training Team. In 1937, 38 and 39 it had been selected to compete at the Royal Tournament at Olympia against an equivalent Scottish School. We won in 1937 but were narrowly pipped in 1938 and 1939. I was a member of the 1939 team.

The team leader in 1939 was Cadet Sergeant Drake. He was someone who was a natural leader who was able to bring out the best from people by encouragement and example. Sadly he was killed whilst serving as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Navy as a Fleet Air Arm pilot. I can still recall the day when Mr Brooks told the school.

War was declared on the 3rd September 1939, shortly before the start of the Autumn term. When we arrived back there were already fundamental changes. Mr Abbott, Mr Shaw and Mr Brinkworth, who had recently joined the school, being Territorials, had been called up leaving a gap which took some time to fill, especially with Latin, eventually taken over by the Reverend Barrington-Baker. The manual shed had been allocated to an evacuated London School; the rifles and carbines had disappeared as had most of the Corps equipment. In the cricket field, behind the Headmaster's house, a series of trenches had been dug to provide some shelter in case of air raids. These, luckily, were not needed and before long were filled in.

I left the school in 1941 after which I joined the Home Guard where I found my cadet training a great help. This also carried on when I went into the Navy in 1943. I recall Mr Brooks saying to us that, during the 1st War, he had seen recruits who did not know their left from their right or which end of a rifle to hold and he was determined that, if the occasion arose again his boys would be better prepared. I think he succeeded.

Several years after the War I read in the "Daily Telegraph" a report of the death of Williams-Hunt.

During the War whilst serving in Burma with the rank of major he came across a remote tribe which was almost extinct. After the War he returned to study and live with them and died through blood poisoning caused by a thorn bush scratch before medical assistance could be obtained. **John Barfoot (1936/41)** – see 'News of Old Maidonians'.

Cadet camp at Bradfield College, 1942



*Back row: Geoff Catliff, Jeff Bush, Roy Neville, Peter Sarback,, Derek Wheeler, Maurice Bott, Jim Burr,
F Lipscombe,, Dennis Rance, Ivan Ing
Middle row: John Burge, Len Garnham, David Robinson, Ted Bradfield, Mr Eagling, Mr Richards, Alan Kirkdale,
Peter Brown, Tom Dawson, Victor Kemp
Front row: none identified*

The above photograph belongs to John Burge (1938/43). Can you identify any of the missing names? If so please contact John Burge (01303 246461; e-mail jc.burge@ukonline.co.uk)

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 invites 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.

John Barfoot (1936/41), whose recollections of his time at School are printed above, did war service in the Royal Navy as a Sub-Lieutenant RNVR in the Far East on the aircraft carrier HMS Tracker. After the war he joined the Metropolitan Police with a beat in the East End of London, before deciding to take up banking as a career. He retired in 1985 as Branch Manager of the main TSB branch in Reading. He is a keen historian and is a regular speaker at Probus meetings in his area on historical topics ranging from battles (eg Trafalgar, Waterloo etc) to Jack the Ripper (who frequented the area where John did his beat while in the Met). John lives in Chipping Norton, Oxford.

David Bishop, was a teacher at the School in the 1960's and a renowned Scoutmaster of the 18th

Maidenhead Scout troop. We congratulate him on his Golden Wedding which he is celebrating in early April this year, and so is unable to accept Richard Pearce's invitation to attend this year's Annual Dinner. He lives in Norwich.

Geoffrey Cooper (1957/61) CBE ChPhys FRAS We congratulate Geoffrey, the Association's Immediate Past President, on being awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2004, for services to the defence industry. Geoffrey had previously received the OBE in 1996 for services to the avionics industry. Geoffrey's OBE had been presented to him by the Queen, while his CBE was presented by Prince Charles, who, being interested in military matters asked some very incisive questions about defence.

Geoffrey is group managing director of Marlow-based Chelton, the company he founded in 1982, and main board director of the parent company, Cobham plc. Geoffrey has presented numerous papers on subjects related to aircraft communications and in 1999 was made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.



Bryan Crush (1943/45) We apologise Bryan for misspelling his name in the last issue and repeat the previous entry. *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.*

Will Dugdale (1987/94) Will's hopes of a continuing career as a professional golfer came to a halt when he developed an injury. After nearly five years as a professional golfer. Will has become an amateur once again and has set up his own business Windsor Wellness, helping clients directly and developing a distribution and training organisation dealing in products in the sports nutritional, well-being and weight loss fields. Will's product range is supplied by Herbalife, whose Head of Distributor Relations for Europe is **Neil Spiers** (see below) lives in Windsor.

Roger Durston (Director of Music 1971/77) The latest news from Roger is that he is now working as an education consultant providing the education, accommodation and financial plans for six new schools, five of them being City Academies. His main musical involvements are Choral Workshops, with **Tim Rhys-Morgan (1973/81)** as accompanist, and a performance of Noyes Fludde.

It transpires that another passion of Roger's is sailing. He had done some sailing as a boy and had always wanted to start again, but music had been so time-consuming that until recently he was unable to find the time. He now has a small fleet of boats. In Greece he has a double-skinned Etap 26 (described as unsinkable) which has so far taken him to the islands of Lefkas, Meganisi, Ithaka, Cephallonia, Kastos, Kalamos and Atokos. As his family now includes three children and two grandchildren he is now contemplating getting a larger boat, a Victory 40, which will give him more space but will be rather less fun to sail. In Chichester Harbour Roger has a 28ft Fairey Fisherman, a ketch rigged motor sailer, which he is planning to take down the French canals to Villefranche this summer when Greece gets too hot and crowded.

The remaining member of the fleet so far is a 14ft West Wight Potter – in the front garden. This class of microcruiser, designed by Stanley Smith, has crossed the Pacific but Roger maintains that he is not sufficiently courageous or foolhardy to nurse such ambitions. Roger lives in Bognor Regis.

Colin Edwards (1946/52), a Vice-President of the Association, has moved within Bristol.

Eric Harris PhD DSc (1924/32), the contributor of the above article on his school days, will be celebrating his 90th birthday shortly and we wish him well. He lives in Kenton, Middx.

Mark Hosey (1982/88) has won an award for coming top of the class in his 10 week Royal Navy induction training at HMS Raleigh, Cornwall. His achievement brought him the Devonport Management Ltd Sponsored Prize. Mark, who was a motor cyclist courier before joining the Navy, is an Air Engineering Artificer. After leaving HMS Raleigh Mark moved to HMS Sultan for specialist training.

Murray Hipkin (1971/78) After studying music at York University, the Guildhall and the National Opera Studio, Murray joined the music staff of the English National opera where he appeared in a number of productions and worked as Coach, Repetiteur, and Assistant Conductor. He has recently made his conducting debut with the ENO, with the *Pirates of Penzance*. He has conducted the Cookham-based Cantorum Choir for nine years and acted as conductor on location for the award-winning Channel 4 film, *The Death of Kinghoffer*. He is Musical Director of the North London Chorus and conducted the UK premiere of Salieri's *Faust* for Bampton Classical Orchestra.

Steven Kingstone (1984/91) After reading History at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, Steven joined the BBC, initially working with BBC East Anglia and then with BBC South. He is now the BBC's correspondent in Brazil.

Michael Marcotty (1942/50) In our issue No 66 we gave details of Michael's career as a computer programmer working for Ferranti in London. Ferranti-Packard in Toronto, and General Motors in Detroit. He currently works part time for a software company in Austin Texas, conducting business from his home in Bellingham, Massachusetts by internet and by phone. He would be glad to hear from anybody who remembers him.

David Morrow We welcome David as a new Life Member who attended last years Annual Dinner. David retired in 1993 as Sales Director of an international company which manufactured Instrumentation Systems for process control in Public Utilities and the Oil and Chemical Industries. He worked and lived for many years in the Far East, Middle East and North America. Although still

involved in a consultancy role his main retirement interest is the restoration of Classic Cars. He currently owns a 1966 Mk 2 Jaguar and a 1936 MG and would welcome contact from other enthusiasts.

Dr Alan Lidiard (1939-1946) and Diana Coxhead (née **Wigmore**, M.C.G.S. 1940- 1947), who have taken part in a number of OMA boat trips, married in June 2004, following which they had a short honeymoon near Romsey in the Test Valley. Previously they had spent a long time searching for a suitable house, finally settling in the village of Hinton Waldrist which, they inform us, since few people have heard of it, lies on a Jurassic corallian ridge overlooking the upper Thames valley. The house is called The Apple Trees and as a result Alan is calling his autobiography "From the Fruit Farm to the Apple Trees". Memories of Alan's and Diana's roots were recently revived when they attended a lecture by Margaret Railton on the History of Waltham Saint Lawrence given to the Wargrave Local History Society.

Philip Neaves (1977/84) After reading Town Planning at Newcastle, Philip became a consultant chartered surveyor with a London company. Eight years ago he moved to Edinburg and is now a director of a property development company and a consultant in property development. He is married to Victoria and they have a young family. They live in Edinburgh.

Squadron Leader R (Dicky) Patounas

(1981/88) We congratulate Dicky on his new appointment as team leader of the world famous RAF Red Arrows. Dicky, who won an RAF scholarship while at Desborough, was commissioned in the RAF in 1989 and became a flying instructor, teaching students to pilot the Hawk aircraft, the Red Arrows choice. In 1998 he became one of the youngest pilots to join the Red Arrows. He was subsequently selected as one of the two synchro-pairs who fly towards each other at high speed at low level. His new role is a highly prized position among pilots. The 100-strong RAF Acrobatic Team has nine aircraft. Dicky's first display as leader will be at Biggin Hill on May 12, exactly 40 years since the first Red Arrows gave their first display.

He has now flown more than 3000 hours of military fast-jet flying, taking part in operations over the Balkans and international exercises in Europe, the USA and the Middle East. He is already planning his next move, a return to frontline combat flying the new



Typhoon aircraft, when the first ten roll off the production line.

Stephen Pearson (1970/77) has moved from Torquay to Liskeard, Cornwall.

Tim Rhys-Morgan (1973/81) has been accompanying choirs and instrumentalists since his Desborough days when Roger Durston was Director of Music. He continued his accompanying studies at Bangor University where he became the accompanist for William Mathias' College Singers and has since worked for many well-known instrumentalists and choral groups throughout the country. In 2001 he worked as Musical Director for Umbrella Operas. As a freelance accompanist he now works regularly with the English Concert Singers with whom he has toured South Africa, Australia and China. He is also the official accompanist for the British Choral Institute. He has recently begun a collaboration with **Roger Durston** (see entry above), as accompanist for Roger's Choral Workshop series on the South Coast. Tim now works full-time as Deputy Head of a large primary school in Essex where he is also Head of Performing Arts.

David Morrow (1943/48) We welcome David as a new Life Member who attended last year's Annual Dinner. David is Managing Consultant with a firm of import/export instrumentation brokers and is a specialist in product search and supply to the process control and instrumentation industry. He lives in Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Nick Snell (1974/79), a pilot with BA has moved within Crowthorne.

Andrew Sparling (1977/80), was an outstanding clarinettist at School, and won an Open Scholarship and a Choral Scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge. He is now a professional clarinettist. His solo performances have included festivals in London, Huddersfield, New York and Belfast and he has made recordings for BBC Radio 3 and for Danish Radio. He made his concerto debut at the Royal Festival Hall with the Philharmonic Orchestra and has given recitals with the pianist Thalia Myers in venues from St Helier to Ho Chi Minh City.

Andrew is a member of a number of ensembles, principal clarinettist of Almeida Opera and New Kent Opera and has been guest principal clarinettist with a number of orchestra including The Philharmonic, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta. He has taken part in chamber music and

education projects for the British Council in Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. He also performs on period instruments and in 2004 appeared in BBC2's drama-documentary series *'The Genius of Mozart'*, playing the part of clarinettist Anton Stadler.

Neil Spiers (1981/88), a former Secretary of the OMA, is now Vice-President for Herbalife's businesses in Northern Europe. Herbalife is a supplier of sports nutritional, well-being and weight loss products, with \$1 billion turnover in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, of which Northern Europe is the fastest growing area. Neil lives in Aylesbury, Bucks.

Ian Thomas (1960/68) is this year's president of the Rotary Club of Maidenhead. He is Managing Director of Cordwallis Commercials, the largest distributor in the South of England of Volkswagen vans and MAN trucks.

S Jack Tomlin (1940/44) was a noted sportsman at school and sport has played a major part in his life. He and his friends formed Cookham Dean Minors which led to him joining Marlow Minors where he was discovered by Charlton Athletic. He might well have become a professional footballer but National



Service in the RAF intervened and he remained an amateur, joining Maidenhead and later Wycombe Wanderers, playing with them for 9 years in the Isthmian League. This in turn led to him joining Wycombe Cricket Club with whom he played for 24 years. During this time he played for Buckinghamshire County Cricket Club for three years in the Minor Counties championship matches. He is now a keen golfer, playing at Winter Hill Golf Club.

Jack's wife, Shirley, died in her 30s leaving two young daughters, Jane and Caroline, whom Jack brought up on his own with the help of his and Shirley's families. Jack joined

Lintafoam in Loudwater, becoming quality control manager. He later worked for the Institute of Marketing at Moor Hall, Cookham, before retiring. He now is a voluntary helper/driver with Elizabeth House, Cookham, which does valuable work with the over 60s in Cookham and the surrounding area. Jack lives in Cookham.

"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

Hockey Match

OMA v School

During week commencing 21st March

At 7pm at location to be announced (and afterwards at Maidenhead and Bray Sports Club)

Please contact School Office (01628 634505) for more Information and/or if you would like to play

Spectators welcome

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 a 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. Lehain, Old Maidonians' Association, The Haven, Harts Lane, Burghfield, Newbury RG20 9JT. Please make your cheque payable to 'Old Maidonians' Association.'

Table Plan for Annual Dinner 2nd April 2004

Table A

Bert Bellworthy
Dr Mike Bruton (Mayor)
Mrs Bruton (Mayoress)
Mrs Betty Collin
Colin Cutler
Jim Ewan
Grahame Fisher
Alan Harding
Alec Jones
Len Reynolds OBE

Table B

Geoff Barnes
Derek Cook
Ken Grace-Dutton
Barry Hatch
Colin Hatch
Keith Hatch
Tony Johnson
David Morrow
Luke Over MBE
Jack Tomlin
Derek Woolford

Table C Bob

Allan Roger
Caton Ray
Clark Colin
Edwards Tony
Grant Fred
Hearman Chris
Maltin
John Moses ('53/58)
Graham Moule
Richard Pearce
John Stacey
Mike Wilkey
Barry Woolford

Table D

John Moses ('61/68)
John Plews
Mark Roberts
John Smith
Mike Willoughby

Table E

Alan Beresford
Chris Bloor
Doug Courtney
David Ellis
Peter Mackenzie
Keith Morgan
Jim Robertson
Robert West

Table F

Chris Appleton
Paul Arnott
Toby Bartlett
Alex Brown
Edward Elms
James Fielding
Michael Hudson
David McMillan
Gareth Thomas
James Tyler
Jonathan Wardle

Table G

Richard Bagley
Andy Bond
Dai Evans
Robert Flynn
Tony Lechain
Richard Mackay
Paul Malpass
Chris Nunn
Julian Pearson
Alexi Vink
James Ward
Chris Webb

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 – and would save the cost of postage. If you would like future editions e-mailed to you please send an e-mail to:

omanewsletter@aol.com

Annual Dinner

Thursday 24th March 2005

Our Annual Dinner this year will be held at **Maidenhead Golf Club**, opposite the School Hall, at 6.30pm for 7.45p.m. Our guest speaker will propose the health of the Association and the School. The President, David Eyre, will reply on our behalf, and this year's Head Boy, Daniel Lister, 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 £19.50. 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 22nd March.**

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

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

.....Tel.....

At School from..... to.....

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner on Thursday, 24th March 2005 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 £19.50 each. The total value of my cheque is £.....

(Signed).....

Names* and initials of party

Address

At School

From to

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

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary

The Association thanks Richard Pearce (1965/71) for sponsoring the postage for this issue.