



O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 85 January 2019
President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRi
Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

Future of the OMA The Committee have for some time been concerned that our name does not properly (immediately) indicate that it includes former pupils of Desborough School or Desborough College. The Association was formed in 1924, when the name of the School was Maidenhead County Boys' School and later Maidenhead Grammar school, and so is 94 for years old, but for the last 45 years the name of the School has been Desborough. Accordingly the Committee is considering a proposal that the name should be changed to 'The Old Maidonians' Association and the Desborough Society'. The Committee also proposes that parents who wish to maintain contact with their child's/children's school should be able to join the Desborough Society. **Please let us have your view on these proposals: any other ideas for incorporating the name of Desborough would be welcomed.** If there is sufficient positive feedback for the Committee to go ahead with this proposal the relevant changes would be needed to the Rules.

A further proposal that the Committee is considering is some of our members might wish to advertise the services of their company in the OMA Newsletter. If this proposal might interest you, please let us know.

The Committee is now seriously in need of new members. Betty Collin will be retiring after the Annual Dinner this year and Chris Nunn has also retired from the Committee. We thank them both for their services over many years. The need for new members is now acute and we appeal for volunteers to come forward, including those who have only recently left Desborough. The duties are not onerous (only three Committee meetings a year) but new blood is needed to help to ensure that we can adequately meet the needs of a growing number of members.

Email addresses: If you have received this Newsletter by post and are now on email, we ask you to send an email to omanewsletter@aol.com so that we can send future issues by email.

Changes of address/email address: Please remember to let us know if you change your address or email address. After each issue we lose contact with a number of our members, with Newsletters and emails being returned as undeliverable.

Overdue subscriptions: If you have received notification that your subscription is due for renewal or is in arrears, we would ask you to please give this matter your attention before it slips your mind.

Annual Dinner

Friday 29th March 2019
at 6.30pm for 7.30pm
at Maidenhead Golf Club

Booking form on back page

Desborough College In the section 'New of the College, the Principal, Paul Frazer, announces that he will be retiring at the end of the College year after over seven years at Desborough. He arrived at a time when Desborough had just acquired Academy status but was suffering from falling rolls. He can look back with much satisfaction on the changes that taken place since that time.

Soon after he arrived he made a tour of the feeder primary schools, talking to pupil, teachers and parents about their perceptions of Desborough, following which he organised the setting up of a special 'safe' area for Year 7 pupils. From an intake of just 67 into Year 7 a few years ago, there has been a rapid increase in applications and the College is now oversubscribed.

The announcement of the appointment of Paul Frazer's successor will be found in the 'News of Desborough College' section of this Newsletter.

Chairman:	Grahame Fisher, Bramleigh, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead SL6 2PZ (01628 625555)
Hon. Sec:	Mrs Betty Collin, 18 Badminton Road, Maidenhead SL6 4QT (01628 626349) e-mail: bettycollin@oldmaidonians.org.uk
Hon.Treas:	Andrew Bond, 60 Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead SL6 8DX (07879 426442) e-mail: andrewbond@oldmaidonians.org.uk
Committee:	Colin Cutler (President), Mrs Helen Duncombe Mrs Bernadette Eaves (Senior Assistant Principal), Paul Frazer (Principal), Tony Lehain, Daniel Lister, Robert Weston.

The Wilfred Upson Prize This Prize, for the Old Maidonian who has brought most prestige to the School/College during the year has been awarded to **Lt General Nick Pope CBE (1973/80)** who has been Deputy Chief of the General Staff since December 2015. After graduating from Jesus College, Cambridge he was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals. In 1997 he was appointed Brigade Major of the 19th Mechanised Brigade, serving in Bosnia. Subsequent appointments have included Deputy Director of Defence Resources and Plans at the Ministry of Defence, CO of the 1st Signals Brigade in Germany later serving in Afghanistan, Strategic Communication Officer to the Chief of the Defence Staff, Director General of Battlefield Manoeuvre and Master-General of the Ordnance and Deputy Director Capability.

Annual Dinner – 23rd March 2018 For the second year running, attendance at this event was 90, again thanks to the efforts of Bernadette Eaves, Senior Assistant Principal and member of the OMA Committee, for encouraging 20 who left the Upper 6th Form last year to come to this event. The Mayor and Mayoress were in attendance. The Mayor, Cllr John Lenton, proposed the toast to the OMA and to Desborough, with responses from OMA President, Colin Cutler and the Head Boy, Jonathan Evans. At the end of the Dinner, **John Caton (1946/52)** spoke about his experiences as the author of a thriller, *Death in an Evil Place*, under the name of Anthony Norman.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) As we have advised our members who have let us have their email addresses, the policy of the OMA is to hold the following data on all members:- name, address, years at School, subscription status, email address, telephone number. The records are kept confidential and are not disclosed to anybody else without the member's permission. It has been our practice to include email addresses, subject to prior approval, in the News of Old

Maidonians section of our Newsletters which are only distributed to members. After two years, Newsletters are available on our website, but with all contact details removed.

News of the College

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



This is my final contribution to The Old Maidonians' Newsletter as I will be leaving Desborough College at the end of the school year. I have been asked on numerous why I am leaving and the answer is simple: retirement. The time is right, while the school continues to improve and increase in popularity amongst the local Maidenhead population, for somebody else to provide a fresh infusion of energy and ideas that will take our school

forward. Desborough College is in a healthy financial position, has been oversubscribed for two years running, is led by a talented, determined Board of Trustees and has a body of staff that is dedicated and ambitious for the boys. I shall take pride in watching it prosper and continue to develop those qualities in boys that we would like our own sons to possess. I do not intend looking for another post in education, although I would give serious consideration to any offer that entails taking on the James Bond role in any future movies.

When I arrived at Desborough in March 2012, I wasn't expecting to stay for almost seven and a half years. But neither was I anticipating that my time at Desborough would turn out to be the most satisfying or enjoyable of my 39 years in education. I had no inkling whatsoever that during my time at Desborough I'd share my office on occasions with Theresa May; Sir Charlie Mayfield, Chair of the John Lewis Partnership; Andrew Strauss, ex-captain of the English Cricket team; Neil Woodford, the hugely successful fund-manager; a para-Olympian footballer, Jack Ritter; Daniel Caines, GB 400metres runner; London Irish players; the ex-BBC Sports Commentator, Richard Coleman; Tony Little, the ex-headteacher of Eton College; or share a table with seven Mayors/ Mayoresses of the Royal Borough at the Old Maidonians' Annual Dinner. It has been a privilege and I know now how very lucky I was to be appointed headteacher of Desborough College.

I had no idea, either, that I would be leading a school with such a wonderful history and such welcoming, supportive and generous alumni, all of whom share a deep affection for Desborough and some of whom have, through their own unselfish efforts, ensured that our school's traditions and the achievements and progress of its ex-pupils and teachers are tracked, acknowledged and shared through newsletters and events such as the annual dinner. I shall take with me fond memories of Colin Cutler and Grahame Fisher in particular; their determination to see Desborough return to its halcyon days has been a source of inspiration.

Most of all I shall take with me some pride in having played a small role in Desborough's illustrious history and while I would never claim to be as influential, charismatic or capable as many of my predecessors, I like to think that they would have had no more fun than I have as headteacher. It's been an absolute pleasure.

18th Maidenhead Scout Group was formed in September 1941 as one of the first acts by the new Head Teacher, Mr Eagling, and soon had 60 members who went to camp the following year. The formal registration of the Group did not occur until 1943. The Scout Group is still going strong

Appointment of a new Principal for Desborough College The following announcement was made by in January by Nigel Cook, Chairman of the Board of Trustees:-

On behalf of the Desborough Board of Trustees, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Maggie Callaghan as the next Principal of the College following Paul Frazer's retirement at the end of this academic year.

Mrs Callaghan is presently the Principal of Oakbank School in Reading and has previously been a deputy headteacher at Ash Manor School. She is an experienced Principal who values driven and has a track record in improving academic standards alongside strong pastoral systems. Mrs Callaghan is thrilled to accept this appointment and to continue the excellent progress towards outstanding made by the College under the leadership of Mr Frazer.

The Trust Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, teachers, parents and staff who participated in the selection process. We were fortunate to attract a very strong field of candidates which is testament to the exciting opportunity that leadership of Desborough College presents.

We look forward to celebrating Mr Frazer's outstanding contribution to Desborough College later this year. In the meantime both Mr Frazer and Mrs Callaghan will be doing everything possible to ensure a smooth transition for the boys at Desborough College.

Donation to Desborough The College is grateful to **Peter Prior (1941/47)** for the very generous gift aid donation worth £23,750. Peter's intention is that the 6th Form should decide the purpose for which the money will be used, subject to it being for the benefit of the College as a whole, with the Principal having the right to overrule a proposal that he considers unsuitable to meet the objective. Further information on Peter will be found in the 'News of Old Maidonians' section of this Newsletter.

Visitors to the College The College was pleased to receive a visit from the great granddaughter of Mr A E Brooks, Headmaster of Maidenhead County Boys School from 1913 to 1941.



The great granddaughter, Frances Piercy-Reims, is married to Markus and their home is in Nurnberg. Frances is writing a memoir on the life of her great-grandfather.

18th Maidenhead (Desborough College) Scout Group celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its registration at a family camp in May 2018. It had in fact been formed immediately on the arrival of Mr Eagling as Headmaster in 1941. One of the early members of the Scout Troop, **Malcom Cutler (1942/47)** was present. Other former members present were **Ian Clifford (1956/64)**, **John Clifford (1961/68)**, **David Revell (1958/64)** and **Nigel Bevan (1965/72)** (now County Commissioner of Scouting in Berkshire). Roger Battye, a former Venture Scout Leader, and **David Hymers (member of Staff 1975/91)**, a former Group Scout Leader were also present. Former members of the Group will be sorry to learn of the deaths at the end of 2018 of Alan Cutler, Group Scout Leader at the time of the opening of the Group's HQ in 1965 and Doreen Cutler (no relation) who joined the Group in 1974 serving for 44 years as Cub Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader and latterly as Group President.

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

41st Golf Match v Desborough 28th March 2018 took place, after a lapse of a few years, after the Principal had agreed that the match could take place in term time on a trial basis. There was very heavy rain during the morning of the match, with rain lying on the greens, etc. Most members of the OMA team felt that conditions were too wet for play to take place. The initial decision was made to abandon the match but later, after five members of the Desborough team and two members of the OMA team decided to play and completed the round, it was decided to record the result of the match as a win for the College. The five members of the Desborough team were: Arun Brar, Ben Formstone, Will Furnage, Josh Gibson, Tim Hamilton. The two members of the OMA who played were **David Cooper (1972/79)** and **Phil Battye (1973/79)**.

44th Competition for the Brooks Cup

This was played on one of the hottest days of the year and with a record turnout of 19 players. Some high scores were recorded. The winner, on countback, was **Michael Carr (1967/74)**. Runner-up was **Ian Barton (1975/82)**, playing in his first Brooks Cup competition. The leading scores were:-

Match Result

Position	Name	Score	Handicap
Winner	Michael Carr*	41	27
Runner-up	Ian Barton	41	11
3rd	Myles Stuchbery	40	8
4th	Sajid Hussein	39	9
5th	Pete McNicoll*	33	22
6th	Trevor Didcock	33	19

* On countback

Nearest the pin on the 10th – Ian Barton
Longest drive on the 18th – Myles Stuchbery
Others taking part were: Robert Afia, Rajpal Bahra, Phil Barton, Michael Clyde, Andy Cooper, Colin Cutler, Grahame Fisher, Chris Jones, Malcolm Kempton, Roger Keys, John Weavers (on a visit from Australia), Richard Woolmer.

Fixtures for 2019

42nd Match v Desborough

Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 2pm.

45th Brooks Cup Competition

Monday 22nd July 2019 at 2pm

Both events will take place at Maidenhead Golf Club. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Colin Cutler (01628 629130):
colinarcutler@aol.com

European Men's Club Trophy

We congratulate two former pupils of Desborough **Nick Scrutton (1998/2001)** and **David Langley (2005/2010)** who were part of a three-man team from Castle Royle Golf Club, representing England, that came fourth in this event in France in October 2018, after having led the field of the best amateurs in Europe at the end of the third round. The winning team from France finished with a score of 14 under par, second were the team from Denmark at 11 under par, third were the team from Spain with eight points under par. The English men finished six points under par.

Both Nick and David are former winners of the Brooks Trophy.

Rugby

Due to the relative youth of Desborough's 1st XV, no match against the OMA took place in 2018. It is hoped that the 50th in the series will take place at the end of 2019

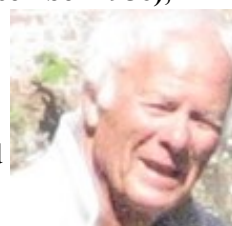
News of Old Maidonians

Rob Barker (1977/84)

Further to the article in our last issue, Rob wishes to clarify that he did not make the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Rowing team but that he did row for England and Wales in Home Countries and international regattas.

Karl-Heinz Boerner (April/December 1956),

from Bad Hersfeld in West Central Germany, says that he was glad to have the opportunity of going to school in England for almost a year. Although somewhat anxious when he arrived he soon got to know all the boys in his class, mentioning specifically **Gary Gibbons (1952/57)** and family, his cousins next door and Michael Courtney. He had no particular problems at school and enjoyed playing rugby and cricket. He remembers cycling to Bath, Porlock Hill, Torquay and the Isle of White. When he left he exchanged his bicycle for Gary Gibbons' banjo, which he still has but has never played. He also still keeps his school cap and tie. When he returned to Germany he tried to keep in contact with his school friends but his letters were not answered. He has visited the UK several times since, once hitchhiking from Germany to John o Groats.



After completing his schooling in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, Karl-Heinz spent a year in the German army before going to university to read Economics. He then worked for a public company until joining the family firm, producing roofing felt and other products based on bitumen, for the building industry. He was with the company for over 40 years, eventually running it until finally selling it to a Russian company. During this time he served as a volunteer in the local fire brigade. He played handball until he was 65, as well as tennis. He and his wife had a motor home and they used to travel to her home on the Baltic Sea. His wife died in 2009 after a long illness during which Karl-Heinz was her carer.

After the trauma of losing his wife, Karl Heinz decided to walk 1000 km to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way he met Marie-jossee who was walking 1700 km to Santiago having lost her husband. Their relationship developed over time and they now live near Tours, near the Loire and the chateaux.

When they met, Marie-jossee did not speak German but could speak English and Karl-Heinz's French was rudimentary, so they converse in English. He says that his French has improved but is still not as good as his English. They have travelled widely, walking in Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, across the Alps from Lake Constance to Verona, and from Genoa to Rome to visit the Pope. They have also walked in Iceland, Chile, Hawaii, and last year the West Highland Way from Glasgow to Inverness. They have also taken the Trans-Siberian express from St Petersburg to Tibet.

Karl-Heinz's daughter lives in London with her South African husband, now with a British passport. They have two children. Their daughter, Jenna Cato, aged 15, is the British Karate Champion for her age group. Karl-Heinz's son still lives in Bad Hersfeld and has twins. Marie-jossee has three children, living in Paris/Lyon, Dubai and Cambodia. When the family get together the language is French, German, Afrikaans, with all knowing at least some English.

Karl-Heinz remarks that while thankfully there has been no war in Europe for 75 years, he observed when visiting Edinburgh Castle, where all the wars between Scotland and England are listed, that in many cases, there was less than 75 years between them!

Michael Courtney (1952/57) reports that he was able to track down the whereabouts of his former classmate, **Karl-Heinz Boerner (at MGS for 8 months in 1956 see above)** who had returned home to Bad Hersfeld in 1956. After a lapse of 62 years Karl-Heinz accepted an invitation to Michael's home in Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

David Eyre (1963/70) and Headteacher (1996/2005) and his wife, Janet, commissioned the building of a narrowboat, Ella, when he retired. He reports that they have had the boat since September 2015 and so far have explored the following waterways: - *Middlewich Branch Canal, Shropshire Union Canal, Llangollen Cana, Montgomery Canal, Macclesfield Canal, Peak Forest Canal, Ashton Canal, Bridgewater Canal, Leigh Branch Canal, Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, Ashby Canal, Coventry Canal, Caldon Canal, Stratford on Avon Canal, Dudley Number 1 Canal, Trent and Mersey Canal, Worcester and Birmingham Canal, Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, River Severn and the River Avon.*



David says that there are many more waterways to explore and this summer they plan to cruise down to London on the Grand Union Canal, then head up-stream on the River Thames.

David and Janet have now moved to Worcester but he writes that in 2018 they spent half of the time on 'Ella' and the remainder on 'shore leave'. They have found that living aboard a narrowboat and exploring the waterways of England and Wales has proved to be a most uplifting as well as relaxing way to live in retirement!



Steve Godfrey (1955/61)

We thank Steve for providing the following account of his interesting career.

It was 1961 when I left the School after seven blissfully happy years dominated by sport at the cost of academic achievement.

I was fortunate to have cobbled together just enough exam passes to enable me to enrol as a Student Member of the RICS and to become an Articled Pupil with Monk and Dunstone, then a Chartered Quantity Surveying Practice located in Lincoln's Inn, Chancery Lane. I duly qualified and embarked on a long and varied career with them that took me to many places overseas.

My first move abroad was in 1969 when I was asked to go to Cyprus where we established an office in Nicosia. Why Cyprus? We had been appointed to do the cost management of a new 500 room beach front hotel in Famagusta, to be built by the Cyprus Government and operated by Trust House Forte.

We used this appointment as a springboard to develop our Cyprus practice, initially throughout the island and then in Oman, Ras al Khaimah, Saudi and Kenya.

Our establishment in Cyprus coincided with its decision to exploit the upper end of the tourist market, which at that time, was about to burgeon as a result of the advent of package holidays.

Our first venture into the market at large came when Archbishop Makarios decided, mid-way through construction, to change an eight-storey apartment block in Famagusta into a twelve-storey 5 star hotel. Later to be named the Aspelia Hotel.

This proved to be somewhat demanding. A couple of years earlier, the Archbishop had, apparently, asked a builder friend of his to have a look at the drawings and give him an indication of the sort of money he would have to spend. Karandokis gave him an encouraging number whereupon Makarios shook his hand and told him he'd got the job!

So our task was to come up with a price for the new project using what data were available. These, it transpired, comprised the drawings for the original apartment block, the drawings for the hotel and a number. Great fun!

We soon became involved with virtually all the major hotel projects on the island including the Paphos Beach Hotel, which was the first modern hotel to be built in Paphos. By this time our role had evolved to one of combined cost and project management, which made things more satisfying.

Life was idyllic. A hugely rewarding professional life - applying our management skills to a plethora of varied and exciting projects. And all happening in the most wonderful environment.

That was all to change with stultifying suddenness.

At about 6.30, on the morning of the 20th July 1974, I received a phone call from a chum of mine who lived on the Northern coast. "Have you heard the news?" he asked.

"What news?" "Look outside." I opened the front door and was horrified to see the sky to the North filled with parachutes. All hell was about to break loose.

Within a few hours, Turkish fighter-bombers were attacking the airport and government buildings and departing along the Green Line at rooftop level. Many aircraft flew immediately over the house.

I called a pal who worked at the High Commission. He couldn't tell me much but said he would keep me informed as things developed. Which they did rapidly.

The Brits were attempting to negotiate a cease-fire to enable them to evacuate their people from the major towns. In the meantime we were told to keep tuned in to BFBS, keep away from the windows and, if possible, to build a shelter in the centre of the house using tables and mattresses. Which we did. But, with a three month old baby to care for, life was, to say the least, difficult. Not helped by 40°C temperatures.

Despite the best efforts of the Brits, night came with no help but much noise and eerie activity immediately outside our house. That night was particularly worrying - shelling at the airport, about a mile away, and more distant shelling.

Most difficult were isolated gunshots in the street. We were only about 200 metres from the Green Line, so it was not surprising that there was a lot going on around us. Our main fear was that the shots could have been the Turkish military moving into Greek part of the City.

At about two in the morning there was a knock at the door. All sphincters now very active. It was our Armenian neighbour. He told us that he was taking his family to the Troodos Mountains. With much pain he explained this was the third time his aged mother had fled the Turks.

Mid-morning on the 21st I had a call from my chum at the High Commission. A brief ceasefire had been agreed and a British Army convoy was coming to Nicosia from the Dhekelia Garrison to evacuate us. Would I be able to take his wife and daughter with us? He was not able to leave. Of course we would. He told me we were to gather at a High Commission residence in Nicosia about a quarter of a mile away.

It was there that his daughter, who from memory was about twelve, asked me if this was my first coup. She rather dismissively told me this was her third. They'd earlier been in Libya.

Our first stop after leaving the residence was at the main High Commission offices which stand right on the Green Line with only the dry bed of the Pedieos River between it and the Turks' front line.

This was uncomfortable. For what seemed an age, we sat in our cars waiting for HC staff to load up into the waiting army trucks.

And wait we did. It was unbelievable - like something out of Plain Tales of the Raj. Hoards of HC staff and their families emerging from everywhere. Each seemed to have either a budgie in a cage, a dog on a lead or some other pet or possession worthy of protection and inordinate delay.

It was all so terribly exciting and no problem whatsoever for those with upper lip stiffness.

Despite the ceasefire the Turks decided to have some fun and we heard the odd gunshot. Somehow the ceasefire seemed very fragile. We just wanted to get the hell out of there. Our next stop was the Hilton Hotel where the expats had been told to congregate before the convoy departed for Dhekelia.

By chance, my car was immediately behind the lead Army Saracen armoured car. We were about to depart the collection point when a Canadian UN soldier came to speak to the Army Captain who was positioned half out of the Saracen "manhole". "The Greeks have set up a road block. They say they won't let the expats leave. Why don't I go and shoot the b.....s?" He asked. "Hold on a sec, perhaps it would be better if I drop down there and have a word with them?" the very calm Captain suggested. Ten minutes later we were on our way. Sandhurst 1, Greek Army nil.

The scenes at Dhekelia were biblical. Tens of thousands of expats from many different countries submerged in the orange glow of dust billowing from the collecting fields. This was taking place at the height of the tourist season. And the Brits were doing their stuff.

We could see HMS Hermes at anchor in the bay and an endless conveyor of helicopters ferrying in military supplies. We learned later that Hercules aircraft were bringing in troops and more supplies from the UK. Then returning home loaded with evacuees. We were told that the squad-dies were strengthening the defences around the entire perimeters of the Sovereign Base Areas.

Our precious three-month-old got us fast tracked to reception in one of the barrack blocks. Thank God we didn't have to join the endless serpentine queues. We were told that we had two choices: be evacuated to the UK asap or leave the SBA. A no-brainer. We were asked to sign a form agreeing to pay the cost of evacuation, should the British Government decide to raise a charge.

One brief moment of farce – a Greek gentleman decided to employ his high level of expertise as a Middle Eastern negotiator to agree a lower price. No chance. "Please wait over there and you'll be escorted off the SBA", he was told with wonderful military coolness. His scramble to sign the Form will remain with me forever.

The Hercules was very noisy, very slow and very welcome. The vision of frantic hands desperately searching for toilet rolls, that had escaped below the ill-fitting canvas screen around the chemical toilets, was very amusing.

The RAF crew was extraordinary. They even provided us with packs of baby food for Lucy. We were flown to Brize Norton where we were given train tickets to Paddington. We decided to upgrade to the calm of First Class. Fellow passengers were very confused by the sudden appearance of a bunch of refugees – or were they beach bums? We got some very strange looks. Rather stupidly we had anticipated spending only a few days in Dhekelia so we were still dressed for the 40°C heat – T shirts, shorts and flip flops.

At Paddington there was a dedicated reception area, on one of the Platforms, with Army personnel to assist us arrange our onward journeys. The combined effort of the Armed Forces was phenomenal. Nobody does it better.

Three months later I returned to a war-ravaged island. We still had Cypriot staff there who needed to be looked after. Most of our projects were of course on hold. The Golden Sands Hotel in Famagusta, that had taken us to Cyprus four years earlier, was now in the occupied area. Where it remains.

It was a sad experience to return to our home. A small guest building at the rear of the house had received a direct hit from a mortar bomb. A piece of the casing had carved through the shutters and window frame and embedded itself in the wall behind Lucy's cot. In the process slicing through her mattress. But otherwise the house was intact. The neighbourhood was quiet, although many families had returned to their homes as things had gradually settled.

When it was safe, I took Ann and Lucy back to Cyprus. Construction activity on the island was slow to revive; however, the ingenuity and tremendous entrepreneurial nous of the Greek Cypriots provided us with opportunities in the Middle East and Kenya.

In 1975 we opened an office in Muscat. It was located in the historic and most beautiful part of the City, behind the British Embassy and next to the American Embassy with views across the bay. The building was a perfect example of a traditional Arab house. Built around a courtyard open to the sky and with side openings positioned to grab the prevailing breezes. Oman is fascinating.

In 1979, when Lucy was five and Joe, our son, two we decided to leave for the UK. My two-year posting had stretched a year at a time culminating in ten years of great excitement and much satisfaction.

Life back in the UK was a little prosaic by comparison. Our Practice incorporated in the nineties and continued expansion around the globe. My last role, before retirement, was Director responsible for Europe. It was then, completely by chance, that we stumbled into the restaurant business.

One of my UK hotel clients had asked me to take a confidential look at a site on the Costa del Sol. I was visiting the Coast anyway in connection with a golf development near Estepona. My partner in the development knew roughly the location of the site.

So we set off to find it. The location plan I'd been given was confusing so we sought help from a woman sweeping the terrace of the Beach House Restaurant, in Elviria which is just to the East of Marbella. "Why do you ask?" She enquired. I explained that I had an hotel client who was interested in buying a beach front site. "Oh, I wonder if they'd like to buy a restaurant?" She asked flippantly.

I never did ask the hotelier because my pal returned to the restaurant the next day and did the deal with the woman's husband. That all happened in 2000.

At that time Lucy was training at the Goring Hotel in London and agreed to move to Spain to set up and run the restaurant.

Some years later my pal wanted out so my daughter, son-in-law and I bought his shares of the property and the business. It's been tremendous fun. My role is restricted to managing property improvements and maintenance and keeping an eye on financial and employment matters. Not terribly demanding. Lucy and Guy are at the sharp end of the business and are doing a tremendous job in what is a difficult industry in an exacting employment regime.

So what of my time at our School? I think I can safely blame Grahame Fisher for my early immersion in School sport. He was able to use his influence in the West House selection process to inveigle me into the House cricket team at the tender age of fourteen. I make no apology whatsoever for my consequential addiction.

At one stage I seemed to be playing non-stop matches for the School, Vandervell Products football team (with Mike Clyde) and Maidenhead & Bray. It makes me smile when you hear of professional footballers complaining of burnout if they play three games in a couple of weeks.

I was immensely fortunate to play in what must be one of the most successful School hockey sides. The 1961 team (*see photograph*) played 12, won 10, drew 1 and lost 1 (to the men of Maidenhead & Bray). We scored 53 goals with 13 against. Several of the team went on to play representative hockey at County and National levels.



Back row: Roy Haywood, Hugh Owen, Michael Clyde, David Payne, Barry Ebdon, Mel Bridges, Steve Godfrey

Front row: Cedric Egby, Mr Griffiths, David Pattison, Ken Charlton, Keith Sharpe

I left the UK in the Autumn of 1969. That year, I'd been invited to play hockey for Southgate and had played just one game for their 1st XI when I moved to Cyprus. Never to hold a hockey stick again! So sorely missed.

Other sports have featured strongly in my life. Football was always my first love but lack of stamina was a problem. I played a couple of pre-season games for Maidenhead United, when improving my fitness for hockey. And cricket and athletics happily filled some seasonal voids.

A major regret is that I did not have greater enthusiasm for Rugby. I think it was in about my third year that the School switched from football. I played for the School at scrum half. I recall, during training matches, having to endure being thumped, with a monotonous regularity, by Dai Griffiths – the mercurial Welsh Wizard relishing his superiority over a callow youth. The thumpings were, I should record, more often than not simultaneous with the ball being put in – if not earlier.

God bless you Dai. We were so lucky to have known you. We could all write a book of hilarious moments with him. Such as his incredulity at the mis-timed world record for the 440. And on another occasion suggesting to Oliver that, because the boys were jumping perilously close to the end of the pit, it would have to be lengthened and more sand brought it. Oliver's suggestion was that it might be a little easier to move the board back . . . how boring!

Oh, happy days.

David Hardless (1971/79) writes:-

I recently returned to Desborough for the first time since I left 40 years ago. Mr Lehain – who taught me Government and Politics in the sixth form – kindly showed me round and asked me to provide an article for the newsletter.

Well, where to start? A brief resume of my last 40 years may be of interest to some but what was uppermost in my mind as I walked round were the reminiscences; not only the anecdotes personal to me but also the sights and sounds of the school in action (as it were) which would be familiar to any old boy of my era. It was odd how things came to mind which had been long forgotten; the classroom in which my pal (who should remain anonymous) was caught reading Playboy magazine in an economics lesson; the chemistry lab in which I was royally told off by a teacher for dropping and smashing a quantity of equipment I was supposed to be clearing up; the loo in which one boy set up an alternative tuck shop at break time selling sweets for his own profit; and the sudden discovery of an unexpected interest in pottery among my peer group following the school's appointment of an attractive young female teacher in the art department.

What also came to mind were the teachers, not least their foibles, idiosyncrasies and nicknames. Much of this formed an essential part of the culture of the school. For instance, every pupil knew that geography teacher Mr Lee was known as "Boggy Lee" although I never knew the origin of his nickname. It was simply part of school folklore that this was his nickname; to ask why would be an unacceptable admission of innocence. In my time a small number of teachers still taught wearing gowns, which seemed rather old-fashioned. Perhaps for some it was an attempt to reinforce their authority, although not always successfully. I remember all too well those teachers who could control the class and those who could not; those who we feared and those who we played up, occasionally to the point of what might today be termed bullying!

This brings me naturally to the most poignant feeling engendered by my return – a feeling of regret that I had returned too late to offer a personal note of thanks to those teachers to whom I owe a considerable debt. Top of that list would be Bob Stanley, a teacher of whom I was terrified in my younger years but whom I grew to admire greatly. I have read several articles in this Newsletter praising his dedication and kindness to students but I would add that I believe he possessed that very rare mark of true intelligence, being the ability to think through complicated issues clearly and precisely. I would say that Bob Stanley more than any other teacher taught me how to think, and there can be no higher testimony that a former pupil could pay. A close second on the list would be Ray Wilmott, who ran the history department. Mr Wilmott was not the most energetic of teachers (he was known as Weary Wilmott, this being for once a nickname whose origin was self-evident) but in a sense I think this was part of his approach. I remember that when we started sixth form history, he told us that we would without delay adopt a university-style approach in which the emphasis was on self-study and essay writing rather than what might be termed “spoon feeding”. This did much to prepare students for university and was both wise and successful. It was not by accident that a disproportionately high percentage of successful Oxbridge entrants from Desborough in my era were historians.

These reminiscences, and many others, were all the clearer in my mind given that the broad layout of the school has hardly changed. The boundaries and all the buildings remain exactly how I remember them save for what we called the technical drawing block which has been significantly extended to include facilities unheard of in my time such as an IT department. So it struck me forcibly that in my era the school was extended significantly; if memory serves me well, the Brookes and Maudsley buildings as well as the sports hall were all built in the 1970s, indicating that the headmastership of Len Reynolds was a buoyant period. I was lucky to be there at that time, and to be taught (generally!) by high quality teachers.

So now for the mundane bit. After Desborough I went to Jesus College Cambridge to read history. After graduation I had no clear plans, so self-indulgently spent some time travelling, including a trip Down Under to see my mate **Richard Mallett (1971/78)** who emigrated there. Soon afterwards I realized I should have some career plan and fell, rather reluctantly, into Chartered Accountancy. At college I had a number of pals from the northern grammar schools and, prompted by this and by a long-term love of hill walking, decided to move to Yorkshire, or God’s Own Country, as the locals would term it. On qualification I had a stroke of luck in that the firm started a corporate finance department which I was asked to join, and I discovered that (improbably) there can be interesting work related to the accountancy profession. I worked for a very high class and successful partner for a number of years but found that whereas I enjoyed the work I did not particularly enjoy the environment of the mega firm (PwC) for which I worked. My epiphany moment came when, in 1999, I decided to leave and set up my own corporate finance firm – Park Place Corporate Finance (www.ppcf.co.uk if anyone is interested). Over 20 years this grew to the (not very dizzy) heights of 4 partners and about a dozen staff, and advises

private companies primarily in the north of England on a range of corporate finance issues, often culminating in helping successful owners sell their businesses. I took partial retirement earlier this year, although I am still involved in business development and act as consultant partner to the firm.

On the personal front I married a Yorkshire girl in 1993, thus ensuring I would spend the rest of my life in the county (it being apparently self-evident to most Yorkshire folk that no-one would ever wish to live elsewhere). We have 2 sons, the elder now having entered the world of work and the younger a student. It is interesting to note that both our sons went to a private day school with academic entrance requirements. Whereas it proved a good school I would conclude that it provided an education no better than Desborough provided for me notwithstanding the fees that we paid. Whereas it is the personal reminiscences that remain uppermost in the memory of any individual, ultimately a school is an institution which has an important role in developing the life of a young person. And Desborough did a pretty good job for me.

Finally, it is unfortunate that I am now in touch with only 2 old school mates, being Richard Mallett and Peter Cook (both exact contemporaries of mine). I would be happy to hear from any other old pals, and can be contacted via

Arthur Hill (1962/69) BSc, CITP, I Eng, FBCS, MCQI, STEM Ambassador has given us the following summary of his career:-

Was up until recently a Company Director at T2P Mapping Limited; an Independent Consultancy operating in the IT sector with particular expertise in Quality Management, software standards and Information Systems Security. He is a BCS Fellow and a Chartered IT Practitioner. He is a Registered TickITplus Foundation Trainer and Practitioner. He has been retained by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) as the nominated UK expert on TickITplus. He is a qualified ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 Technical Assessor for UKAS and a certified ISO 27001 Lead Auditor. He has been specialising in assessing Forensic Science Laboratories for compliance with the Forensic Science Regulators Codes of Practice in relation to Information Security.

He is a past committee member of the BCS TickIT Committee and is currently the Secretary of the International TickITplus Association. He wrote the initial vision paper for TickITplus and steered the early TickITplus project using PRINCE 2 principles. He is a qualified Lead ISO9001/TickIT Auditor. He has provided the primary input of industry views to the UK MOD on the Software Acquisition process and sat on the MOD UK Focus Group for NATO Standard AQAP 2260. He represents the UK on the ISO CASCO WG52 committee developing a new standard for the certification of Processes.

Arthur is currently helping Hampshire Schools as a STEM Ambassador on a voluntary basis promoting engineering and computing to school children. In this role he visits primary schools speaking about the CAS Barefoot Programme, supported by BT and the British Computer Society) and secondary schools assisting with STEM related

projects and pupil development activities such as Interview skills, practical programming and project management.

His last role full time role was as Head of Business Process Improvement for Detica Limited, charged with translating corporate strategy into a worldwide core common operating platform. He was the Owner of the Detica Enterprise Architecture. He was the Champion and leader of business process improvement companywide.

He was the Company Quality Manager for Detica for eight years and has been involved in Quality Management for over 30 years. Whilst working for Detica, he assisted The Met Office on a major long-term consultancy assignment to obtain ISO 9001 and TickIT certification for the whole of The Met Office. This was delivered at the first attempt. He has worked for a number of blue chip defence and commercial companies and has particular expertise in the fields of software and hardware design and development and reliability together with information systems security.

He is the past Chairman of the Quality Group for Intellect (the UK industry Trade Association). He is also the past Chairman of the North Hampshire Branch of the Chartered Management Institute.

He has been on the Policy Advisory Committee for the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, He has published articles in Quality World entitled "Securing the standard" (BS 7799) – February 2002, "Just the TickIT" – May 2002 "A word of advice" (Customer Satisfaction) – May 2003. He also had "Quality in the Boardroom" – July 2003 – published in TickIT International.

He was the Keynote speaker to the BCS SQM conference 21 March 2005, delivering a presentation entitled "Service Management – the new Quality".

Contributing author to the Report of the BCS Working Party on offshoring (May 2006) entitled "Embracing the challenge, exploiting the opportunities: Building a world class IT Profession in the era of global sourcing".

W (Bill) Jay (1952/57)

As reported in our last issue, a film has been made of the life of Bill Jay who died in 2009. He was an internationally recognised leader in photography and had been the first Professor of Photography at the University of New Mexico where he taught for over 25 years. Before he left for the USA he had established the first gallery dedicated to photography in the UK with the Do Not Bend Gallery, London, and in 1970 was appointed the first Director of Photography at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London.

Screenings of the film in 2018 have taken place in Bristol, University of Wales, Cardiff, Edinburgh Napier University. In 2019 the film was shown at the Tyne Valley Film Festival, Hexham in January. Further showings of the film in the UK, USA and Canada can be found on the website www.donotbendfilm.com.

Lt Rupert E Neve RFC (1903/06) died in January 1918 when his plane lost power and crashed near London. In March 1917, then a 2nd Lt, after 6 months in action in France, he was severely wounded when he was shot down but managed to get his plane safely back to the British lines after pretending to land on the German side of the lines. Thanks to research by the Australian Society of World War 1 Aero Historians Inc we now know that the plane, an FE8 Single Seater, was on fire and that Rupert Neve's life was saved by the actions of Lt J P Campbell RFA who was later

presented with the Albert Medal by King George V. The citation, published in the London Gazette of 21st August 1917 reads: -

On March 9th, in the Rutoire Plain near Loos, a British aeroplane fell to the ground and turned completely over, throwing out the pilot and bursting into flames. The machine-gun ammunition caught fire, with the result that bullets were flying about in all directions. Lt Campbell ran up and at great personal risk dragged the pilot out of danger. He then placed him in a neighbouring dug-out, sent for medical assistance, and organised a party of stretcher-bearers to carry him to a dressing station..

We now know that Rupert Neve was shot down by Lt Karl Allmenroeder, a member of Baron von Richtofen's squadron. Rupert Neve was the second victim of Lt Allmenroeder who went on to claim a total of 30 victims before he too was shot down and killed in June 1917, by which time he had been awarded the Pour le Mérite.

After a period of convalescence, Rupert Neve served as a flying instructor until his death.

We are indebted to Paul Street of Boronia, Victoria, for providing the above information.

Peter Prior (1941/47) MA BA FRICS who, as stated in the 'News of the College 750' section has made a gift aid donation worth £23,750 to Desborough. He was a Chartered Surveyor by profession and ran his own business. He has provided the following account of his school days and the benefit he derived from his education at the school. He has drawn our attention to the photograph, facing page 44 in David Evans' history of the school entitled 'One Hundred Not Out', of the School 1946 cricket team where he features as the scorer.

Maidenhead County Boys School

Recollections of a very old boy (1941-47)

I first became familiar with the existence of the school when in 1935/6 my father rented one of the detached houses further along Shoppenhangers Road, on the same side as the school. I cannot recall the house's name (in deference to middle class sensibilities detached houses were at the time often given names and not numbers), but it was as I remember one with Snowcemmed walls and a green pantiled roof, which I later became aware was in the new architectural style of the 1930s' domestic building revival. At the time I was attending a small private kindergarten school called Elmsleigh in Castle Hill, quite near to the County Girls' School. When we used to pass by the boys' school my mother quite frequently commented that it was the school I was to attend when I became "a big boy"! About a year later my parents separated and then divorced, after we had left Shoppenhangers and moved to another house in Belmont, and I went to live with my maternal grandparents in Fielding Road opposite the Alwyn Road Junior School. My father was made bankrupt in the late 1930s so private education was out. I was fortunate that Alwyn Road, under the headmastership of Mr. Harris (later Mr. Ripon), was then considered to be one of the best junior schools in the town. And so it proved when I was awarded a scholarship to the County Boys' School after

taking the examination in March 1941 just before I was 10 in May.

At that time there were two ways of entering the MCBS: by passing the scholarship examination or fee paying. The classes were divided into A and B forms with an additional C form in the 5th (2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C, lower 6th and upper 6th). The scholarship boys went into the A forms, though one or two each year who did badly in examinations were relegated to the B forms, with a similar transfer from the B forms for those who did well. Somewhat similar to football teams being relegated and promoted. In the 5th School Certificate was taken, and after two years in the 6th Higher School Certificate was taken by those intending to apply for university entrance.

Scholarship boys were also interviewed some time after the examination by the headmaster (then Mr. Brooks) in the headmaster's study. I cannot remember what questions he asked me except for the one of what I wanted to be when I left school. To this I unhesitatingly replied "an engine driver". He gave me a wry smile but made no comment. I wonder how many other boys had given the same answer that morning, for who could not want to drive one of those glorious Great Western Railway's (*God's Wonderful Railway*) beasts that in their full livery thundered though Maidenhead station belching steam and smoke, having reached maximum speed some 25 miles out from Paddington?

When I entered the School in September 1941 Britain had been at war with Germany for two years, and looking back now it was apparent that changes and shortages from the School's pre-war activities were the inevitable result of wartime restrictions, even though we new boys were unaware because we had no experience of the pre-war school. Some of the younger teachers were in the armed services or other war work, some older masters due for retirement carried on and there were two women teachers, Mrs. Gill (mathematics) and Miss Beaton (chemistry). There were shortages of books and stationery, travel for sport and summer holiday camps (Scouts and Army Cadet Force) were curtailed, and food for the mid-day meals taken by boys travelling some distance to the school was rationed. However, we all still had our daily quota of one-third of a pint of milk at the mid-morning break.

The curriculum was also limited: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Latin, French, English Language, English Literature, History, and Religious Knowledge were taught throughout the school, with some music (Mr. Hammersley). Those in the B forms also had wood and metalwork classes. No Biology, Geography or other foreign language (it was probably considered unpatriotic to learn German). Even in the 6th form the curriculum was not much wider without Biology let alone social science courses such as Economics.

The masters I recall were:

Mr Eagling ("Ego") headmaster, who took over from Mr. Brooks in autumn 1941, as I arrived at the school.

He taught Latin and I believe that he met his wife when they were both at Cambridge. She had a baby during the time I was at the school.

Ego and I did not get on. When in the first year form (2A) I thought his Latin lessons were boring and now, looking back, I do not think were well taught by him or the Rev. Barrington-Baker in other forms. On one occasion he commented rather sarcastically that I was "Prior by name but not by nature!" I never forgot that remark and have striven throughout my life to prove his judgment was flawed.

Mr Targett (Git). He taught history very well (I got the history prize in 1946 based on my school certificate result), never referring to notes and to him I owe a lifelong interest in history and politics. He was very good on 19th century history and I enjoyed his lessons on the rivalry between Gladstone and Disraeli. His influence has extended to my children and grandchildren. In May 2017 I attended a graduation ceremony at Cambridge University when my second grand-daughter was graduating with an MPhil. After the ceremony she returned to Australia and I emailed her congratulating her on the award. In her reply she attributed her interest in history and politics and her enthusiasm for education to my talking to her about these subjects when she was a schoolgirl. And, my son, now 55 and in semi-retirement, has applied to Birkbeck College, University of London (which I attended in the early 1990s for an MA in London Studies) for an MA History course. Thereby the work of a good teacher lives on not only in their actual pupils but in their descendants.

Mr Norman (Nozzle). He taught French and his son Michael was in the same class with me for three years. He treated his son no differently from any other pupil, certainly without favouritism and he always called him using his surname just like any other boy. I was not very good at French but I was quite good at chemistry. One day he called me in to the masters' common room when just he and I were present and commented on my poor French in contrast with my prowess in chemistry, stating that a pupil should aim to be a good all-rounder. Actually I did think then that I was fairly good at most subjects I took, with the exception to some extent of Latin and French. But I did understand what he meant in that to get school certificate and matriculation exemption one needed to aim for overall passes in all subjects. However, although metaphorically I pulled up my socks I still failed in Latin at school certificate. Sadly, Mr Norman died suddenly at his home, at a relatively early age, when Michael was at the school.

Miss Beaton (Ma Mop, as she had quite a large head of grey hair). She taught chemistry and was the only teacher at school with a taught Master's degree (MSc). The experiment that fascinated me was the electrolysis of water into hydrogen and oxygen. She was also the teacher of Martin Gibson (two years ahead of me) who got a state scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford. Martin went on to obtain a DPhil and became a professor in a Canadian university. Now in his late eighties he is still living in Canada and I occasionally exchange emails with him.

Mrs Gill (Ma Gill, because we couldn't think up anything original). She taught mathematics and made a great impression on me with her explanations of compound interest and logarithms, skills which have served me well in adult life, including academic research, property valuation and stock exchange investing. For years I have bored my children and grandchildren about exponential growth (the mathematical explanation through the re-investment of income of why the rich get richer and at a rising absolute rate).

Mr Hubert Stephen de Bere Copinger (Musso, because of physical similarities with Italy's fascist dictator). Fortunately he did not teach me as he was limited to the B forms and I as a scholarship boy was in the A forms. When I was in 3A (second year) we were separated from 3B by a wooden partition and could hear much of what went on in 3B. My recollection is of Musso bellowing out in excruciating French the three definite articles in French of le, la and les.

He was also Scoutmaster and I was in the school Scouts (18th Maidenhead) who went for two weeks to Scout camp August 1943 to Douai Abbey (just off the A4 between Reading and Newbury). This had a swimming pool and Musso said that every boy who went swimming in the early morning would be excused washing himself. Not unnaturally we all went swimming, the result being that by the end of the camp only one or two boys were unable to swim.

The water in the pool was green in colour (doubtless it would be condemned on health and safety grounds nowadays) so the bottom of the pool was obscured. Musso participated with us one afternoon and he decided to dive in off the top diving board. As he stood on the end readying himself he opened his mouth and his false teeth fell out and preceded him into the water.

He could not find them and asked us to search. We quickly found them but left them on the bottom and on resurfacing claimed we could not locate them. He became rather desperate at the loss of his teeth and then promised a financial reward for their recovery. I recall he offered five shillings (25 pence in today's money), quite a substantial sum in those days and unsurprisingly the teeth were quickly recovered.

Mr Dean (Gus). He was deputy headmaster and form-master of 3A. He was a member of Maidenhead's Baptist church and, I recall, a lay preacher. He taught mathematics and religious knowledge. I was one of a small group who took religious studies in school certificate. He stressed Christ's humanity as much as his deity, in contrast with the Sunday School I had attended where his deity was stressed and his humanity almost never mentioned. I was about 14 at the time and getting interested in girls. Gus would always accept questions from us and I asked if Christ's humanity meant he was attracted to women just like any other man. Gus blinked and I think swallowed before replying as it seemed no one before had ever asked that question. He replied firmly that he had no doubt Christ was attracted by women but that his work was so important it prevented him from marrying. I have long admired Gus for his frankness.

Mr Stead (Sugar). He taught physics and made interesting what could be a rather boring subject. I have been agreeably surprised in adult life how so much can be understood of how things work with even my elementary knowledge of physics. He retired after the war and was replaced by **Mr Brown (Buster)**. He too retired soon after I left school and went to live along the south coast and I visited there on one occasion.

Mr Richards (Dickie). He taught English and who died when I was in my last year at school. He had been a pupil at the school and served in the first world war as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps and was a Captain in the School's Army Cadet group. He certainly taught me how to write an essay and how through reading it was possible to build up a comprehensive vocabulary. A university professor in later years once commented that he wished he could write half as well as I do.

This brings me on to the school's Army Cadet Corps. I soon changed from the Scouts to the cadets before I was 14, as there was a war on and most of us were imbued with patriotic fervour. I greatly enjoyed my time in the Cadets and found the experience helpful when I joined the Army for two years National Service. I was a late-starter for National Service because I obtained 3 years' deferment, as I was taking professional examinations, and so did not join up until March 1952, just before I was 21.

I passed the cadets' certificate A qualification and got promoted to Lance Corporal and then to Corporal. When called up I joined The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment at Canterbury) for 6 weeks basic training. I had done quite a lot of rifle shooting in the Cadets, which stood me in good stead because on passing out I was awarded the best rifle shot prize. Fortunately, I had applied for and got a place at The Royal Army Educational Corps at Beaconsfield, as otherwise had I remained in the Buffs I would have been sent to East Africa to deal with the Mau-Mau uprising. I know that one of the officers at Canterbury was severely wounded by the Mau-Mau. As it happened, when I became an education sergeant-instructor I was sent to Egypt in August 1952 and from there to Cyprus, where I was attached to a Signals Regiment until I was discharged in February 1954.

What did I gain from my 6 years' at MCBS? I consider that the two skills I was taught that have been the most useful were to communicate and to calculate. With those two, I believe that, with application, it is possible to do almost anything. And I am grateful to MCBS and its staff for these skills. I obtained two chartered professional fellowships, FRICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) and FAI, (Chartered Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute) by my early thirties. (Now I have only the FRICS because the two bodies merged in 1970). In my mid to late forties I studied part-time with the Open University, obtaining a distinction in every subject I took in the Social Science faculty and was awarded the Tassie Medallion of Adam Smith as the university's best Economics student in 1978. When I went to Milton Keynes to receive the award I was told that on one of my examination papers (macroeconomics) I had obtained 99.9%. When I enquired why not 100% I was told that was beyond the computer's capability as it had not been programmed for the possibility that a student could obtain 100%!

I retired from my professional practice when I was 60 in 1991 and in 1992 started a two-year Master's degree course at Birkbeck College, University of London. The course was London Studies and my dissertation was on housing in London from immediately post-war to the 1990s, with particular reference to a quoted company whose business was the purchase and sale (when vacant) of tenanted housing. Nearly all the academic work on tenanted housing had focussed on rents, whereas based on my professional experience this appeared to me as secondary compared to the capital gains obtained when selling houses vacant. I was awarded the MA with distinction (one of three out of a class of twenty most of whom were 20 or more years younger than I).

Now what was that Ego said about me? "Prior by name but not by nature". My daughter became a teacher and I used to comment to her about the fallibility of teachers' assessments of their pupils' potentials.

Andrew Poole (1978/85) has sent us the following summary of his career:-

Went to Portsmouth Poly to study computer science straight after sixth form.

Worked for a small software medical company in Maidenhead for 5 years before joining Cablesft Ltd in Eastcote, Ruislip. Moved the company to Phoenix Arizona in 1997 worked there as VP of Engineering for 18 years.

Started a software app development startup in 2012 and wrote the Elevation Earth series of apps for Apple and Android phones and Tablets. Currently still living in Phoenix with wife Anne and four kids. Starting another software

Start-up with a partner in Singapore and also doing some consultancy work as well.

I have always been into horticulture like Mum and Dad, however I have been doing a lot with aquaponics where you grow fish (tilapia, catfish, goldfish, koi etc) and they feed the plants after nitrifying bacteria do their job. It is fascinating and a completely organic way of growing food. I also spend a lot of time riding adventure and off-road motorcycles in the mountains and deserts of Arizona and California.

In Memoriam

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

Albert (Bert) J Bellworthy (1941/46) died in March

2018 at the age of 87. He was a Councillor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for 18 years and served as Mayor in 1982/83. The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service was a Civic Service organised by the Royal Borough. The Borough Church, St Mary's, was full, with many Councillors and other dignitaries present.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Theresa May MP was present with her husband

Bert was a member of the OMA Committee for a number of years and was President in 1993/94. During this time, noting that there was no Presidential medallion, he commissioned and donated the current Presidential medallion (see photograph) that has been worn by succeeding Presidents on formal occasions, including the Annual Dinner. He regularly attended the Annual Dinner where, as an ex-Mayor, he looked after the invited Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

Bert was a successful business man. He was director and general manager of C F Taylor (Plastics) Ltd from 1957 to 1969 before founding, with his wife, Lightweight Structures Ltd, a major producer of radome products for military and civil use.



Bert was a keen sportsman. In his younger days he played for Maidenhead United Football Club. Between 1948 and 1956



he played over 80 games for the reserves and several times for the 1st XI. He later became the Club's Chairman and, afterwards, President. He also played for Pinkneys Green Cricket Club, later becoming the Club's President. For many years he was a member of Desborough Bowling Club during which time he was the Club's Chairman.

Ian (Wally) B Hammond (1957/60) died in January 2019 at the age of 85 years. His career had been in the Metropolitan Police.

Robin Keston (1974-1981) died in May 2018 at the age of 55. *We are indebted to **Quentin Manley (1974/81)** together with members of Robin's family for the following account of Robin's life.*

Robin (at school known as Keston-Bloom) was a notable character at Desborough School. Small of stature but large of character, he was known for his quick wit and cutting sarcasm, which he honed throughout his life.



Brought up at Redroofs Theatre School, then run by his mother, June, at Ivor Novello's former home in Littlewick Green, Robin achieved some success as a child actor. He played Jim in the 1975 film *The Man from Nowhere* before appearing in episodes of *Tales of the Unexpected* and *The Many Wives of Patrick* on ITV. It was at Redroofs that he met his wife, Helen, and although they later divorced they remained firm friends throughout.

Robin's ambitions lay elsewhere from acting, however, and he developed a fascination for gaming machines – one arm bandits, pinballs, space invaders. Having famously installed his own fruit machines in the Redroofs reception room he dropped out of a university business studies course to become assistant manager at the Mecca Bingo Hall on Maidenhead Queen Street. His swift promotion to general manager was subsequently cancelled when it was discovered he didn't meet the minimum 21 age requirement. Robin went on to hold several managerial positions in casinos in London and Las Vegas and then later owned his own properties and this was where he discovered his exceptional prowess for poker. As a world class player Robin won millions of dollars in high stake tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic and was one of the UK's top players.



Robin was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2013 and although he underwent three major surgical procedures it eventually caught up with him. But throughout it all he was surrounded by what he viewed as his greatest asset – his family and friends including his siblings Ludovic (Desborough 1970-75), Carolyn and Samantha and his three loving daughters, Laura-Jane, Molly-May and Emily. His husband, Tim, nursed him attentively through his final months.

A unique, generous and highly talented friend, Robin will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Canon Frank W Watts (1942/48) died in July, near Perth, Australia at the age of 88.

OMA Annual Dinner

23rd March 2018

Mark Roberts, John Moses, Chris Thirkettle



Mike Willoughby, David Revell, John Plews



Pat Folliard, Martin Lyne, John Smith, David Scott



Glyn Jones, Bo Heaven, Ken Pragnell, Dave Horton

Table Plan for the Annual Dinner 23rd March 2018

Table 1

Colin Cutler
Bernadette Eaves
Grahame Fisher
Paul Frazer
John Caton
Nigel Cook
John Sparks
Andrew Wyles
Cllr John Lenton
Margaret Lenton
Ron Walker

Table 2

Jackie Carr
Dan Clawson
Jonathan Evans
Anne Morgan
Martyn Nicholas
Zoe Percival
Philippa Russell
Christina Sansom
Jane Weston

Table 3

Olive Bendal
Andrew Bond
Betty Collin
David Evans
Debbie Hillier
Tony Lehain
Lucy Lesniak
Chris Nunn
James Ward

Table 4

Peter Brown
Derek Cook
Malcolm Cutler
Tony Johnson
Derek Woolford

Table 5

John Henson Moses
John Plews
David Revell
Mark Roberts
Chris Thirkettle
Mike Willoughby

Table 6

Pat Folliard
Bob Heaven
Dave Horton
Glyn Jones
Martin Lyne
Ken Pragnell
David Scott
John Smith

Table 7

Ray Clark
Michael Clyde
John J Franklin
Steve Godfrey
Fred Hearman
John Henry Moses
Graham Moule
John Nash
John Powell
George Stewart
Barrie Woolford

Table 8

Andy Cooper
Gurinder Gill
Quentin Manley
Simon Ramskill
Nick Snell
Rob Weston

Table 9

Johan Coorg
Doug Courtney
Michael Courtney
Rod Gauld
Dave Meanwell
Ralph Ward

Table 10

Alex Cross
Benjamin Hopkins
Enreet Kahlon
Rasvinder Mahil
Shane McKenna
George Weston
Matteus Widziszewski

Table 11

Ernest Challis
Myles Faulker
Henry King
James McGill

Table 12

Charlie Cooper
Damien Reid
Matthew Rivers
Rob Sirs
David Tailor
Matthew Wyatt
Dominic Yeoman

OMA Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 29th March 2019 at 6.30 pm for 7.30 pm

You are warmly invited to come to the above event in the cordial surroundings of Maidenhead Golf Club. As in recent years there will be no guest speaker and other speeches will be kept to a minimum to give those attending more opportunity to converse with other members present.

The ticket price will, as last year, be £27 for paid-up members and £29 for Old Maidonians who are not members of the Association. Those joining on the night will be refunded the £2 difference in ticket price. For those who would like to visit the School there will be an opportunity of making a tour at 5 pm, starting at the School Reception. Please mark the form below accordingly. If you or any members of your party require a vegetarian meal, please indicate on the form below. The bar will close at 11.30 pm and the Club will close at 11.45 pm.

Tickets will be available only from Mrs Betty Collin, although orders may be left at the School Office, care of Mrs Read.

All orders must be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. Tickets will be issued only for named Old Boys. Members wishing to make party bookings must name those on whose behalf they are purchasing tickets. Please use the booking-form and complete all requested details. **Bookings cannot be accepted if they arrive after Monday 26^h March 2019.**

To: Mrs Betty Collin, 18 Badminton Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QT (tel: 01628 626349:

e-mail bettyncollin@gmail.com

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

.....Tel.....

Email address.....

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

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday 29th March 2019 and I shall be in a party which includes the Old Maidonians whose names and addresses are listed below. I enclose a cheque (endorsed a/c payee only) drawn to the Old Maidonians' Association, together with a stamped and addressed envelope, for tickets as follows:

..... tickets at £27 each, ... tickets at £29 each. The total value of my cheque is £.....

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

Names* and initials of party

Address

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

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

Numbers of vegetarian meals required

Names of those interested in touring the school at 5 pm

.....

.....

Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary