



O.M.A.

Newsletter No. 86 January 2020
President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRi
Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians' Association

OMA Committee News

Renaming the OMA In our last Newsletter we sought support from our members for a change to the name of the Old Maidonians' Association to recognise the fact that for the last 46 years the name of the School has been Desborough. We have received no adverse comments on this proposal so accordingly the motion that the name of the Association should be changed to **Old Maidonians and Desborough Society (OMADS)** will be tabled at the Association's Annual General Meeting on 3rd February 2020.



Welcome to Desborough's new Principal, Ms Maggie Callaghan The Chairman and President of the OMA had the opportunity of meeting Maggie soon after she took over her new appointment at Desborough and congratulating her on her new appointment. She has since attended a meeting of the OMA Committee. Maggie was previously Principal at Oakbank School, Reading, having had earlier experience as a Deputy Head Teacher. She has two sons, one doing teacher training and the other in Year 11.

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. omanewsletter@aol.com

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

Annual Dinner

**Friday 27th March 2020
at 6.30pm for 7.30pm
at Maidenhead Golf Club**

Booking form on back page

The Committee is now seriously in need of new members. 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.

OMA in Facebook Thanks to the efforts of our Committee member, Head of the 6th Form Daniel Clawson, a Facebook entry was set up in May 2019 for OMA-Desborough College and can be accessed by typing @OMADesborough. The entry has already attracted some 100 connections. Members are invited to use this facility, in addition to the OMA website, to keep in touch with the Association and the College.

Chairman:	Grahame Fisher, Bramleigh, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead SL6 2PZ (01628 625555)
Hon. Sec:	Vacant
Hon.Treas:	Andrew Bond, 60 Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead SL6 8DX (07879 426442) e-mail: andrewbond@oldmaidonians.org.uk
Committee:	Colin Cutler (President), Daniel Clawson, Mrs Helen Duncombe Mrs Bernadette Eaves (Senior Assistant Principal), Ms Maggie Callaghan (Principal), Tony Lehain, Daniel Lister, Robert Weston.

National Honours

We congratulate **Lt General Sir Nick Pope KBE CBE (1973/80)** on being appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath and is therefore the first Old Maidonian to have been awarded a knighthood. We also congratulate **Major General Matt Holmes CBE DSO RM (1978/83)** on being appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, the fifth Old Maidonian to receive this honour. Further information on their careers is in the 'News of Old Maidonians' section.

Retirement of Mrs Betty Collin

Betty has retired as Hon Sec and from the Committee after more than 25 years of much appreciated service. The Committee have expressed their thanks for her dedicated service and made her a presentation of her choice.

Annual Dinner – 29th March 2019

This event was well attended, with 83 diners, including some members of Year 13 and some of last year's leavers. The toast to the Association and to Desborough was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Paul Lion, a former champion sculler, who referred to rowing with members from Desborough at Maidenhead Rowing Club. A feature of the evening was Paul Frazer's last appearance as Principal and his upbeat speech.

Poets

It is probably a coincidence that three of our members featured in this issue have been prolific poets, namely **Richard Woolmer** and the late **Michael Devlin** and **Donald Reid**.

Farewell to Mr Paul Frazer

The Committee's formal farewell to Paul Frazer took place at a Dinner at the Belgian Arms, Holyport. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman, Grahame Fisher expressed their appreciation of his success in restoring the reputation and standing of Desborough and of his strong support for the Association.



The Committee said that they would be supplying Paul with two tickets to next year's England v Wales at Twickenham. They would also be presenting the College with the Paul Frazer Challenge Cup to be awarded annually to a pupil meeting the requirements to be specified by Paul Frazer. The Cup will be presented at the OMA Annual Dinner on 27th March 2020

In his farewell speech to the Staff at the end of the Summer term lunch, Paul said that 10 years ago many parents in the locality had decided not to send their sons to Desborough because of its poor reputation and the numbers on roll fell from 1150 to 600 over the next few years. In 2012 there were only 40 first preferences for Desborough. By 2019 first preferences for Desborough had risen to 183. Trust and confidence in Desborough had been regained and there was now a waiting list of 40. He praised the staff for this achievement and for securing two 'Good' Ofsted assessments during a period when there was a shortage of funding.

News of the College

I am almost halfway through my first year at Desborough College. Honestly, it has been a true joy; finding out about how Desborough College works now, its legacy and planning its future has been really exciting.

I will admit I was nervous: an 'all-boys' school (an environment I have never taught in despite 24 years of teaching!) and being Desborough's first female Principal following in the some very big shoes. However, I have been made to feel so welcome by everyone.

I very much look forward to continuing Desborough's rich legacy and meeting some of you.

Maggie Callaghan

Principal

Old Maidonians' Sport

Golf

42nd Golf Match v Desborough on 3rd April 2019 saw the OMA team winning the match by 5 games to 1. The OMA team were **Phil Battye (1973/79)**, **Mick Carr (1967/74)**, **Mike Clyde (1955/61)**, **Grahame Fisher (1952/59)**, **Chris Jones (1973/80)** and **Nick Snell (1974/79)**. The member of the Desborough team who won his match was **Will Furmage**, a member of the PE Staff.

45th Competition for the Brooks Cup

45th Competition for the Brooks Cup was held on 22nd July 2019, with 15 members taking part. The winner was **Rajpal Bahra (2002/09)**, on countback from the runner-up **Phil Battye (1973/79)**. We were delighted that **Will Dugdale (1987/94)**, with a handicap of +1 was able to join us. Currently Head of German at Dulwich College, he is a former Golf Blue from both Oxford and Cambridge and a former Golf professional. The leading scores were:-

	Handicap	Stableford Points	Ranking
Rajpal Bahra	21	36	Winner
Phil Battye	17	36	Runner-up
Roger Keys	17	34	3rd
Nick Snell	19	30	4th
Will Dugdale	+1	29	5th

Fixtures for 2020

43rd Match v Desborough

Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 2pm at Maidenhead Golf Club

46th Brooks Cup Competition

Monday 27th July 2020 at 2 pm at Maidenhead Golf Club

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

News of Old Maidonians

Jack Beaumont (2005/08) We congratulate Jack on his appointment as Club Captain of Leander Club for 2020. The Club expects that, once again, more than half the GB Rowing Team members at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 will be Leander athletes.

In 2015 Jack was a Bronze Medallist in the men's quadruple sculls in the European Championships. He was a late replacement in the event at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, coming fifth, and was Silver Medallist at the World Championships in 2017.



Dr L Chris Cox (1955/62) BA(Hons) MSc MA MPhil PhD BEd taught English at all levels in Secondary Modern and Comprehensive Schools in Peterborough from 1965 to 2001. During the 1980s he also taught A-level Sociology and A-level General Studies. From 1980 to 1983 and again from 1999 to 2006 he worked as a part-time tutor with the Open University, teaching Sociology as a Foundation Year subject for the BA Degree, and Childhood/Early Years as a separate subject. For some five years he also taught Early Years as part of a Foundation Degree at New College, Stamford, Lincs.



While carrying out his teaching and his studying Chris served as a JP in Peterborough from 2003-2013 at which point he had to retire because of age.

Chris has written to us as follows:- *I trained as a Junior/ Secondary teacher at St. John's College of Education, York (1962-65). Then, while teaching full time I gained the following;*

BA Hons Sociology of Education at Enfield College, Middlesex Polytechnic (1969-73); MSc Sociology, Polytechnic of the South Bank, London. (1975-77). Then after studying for years during the 1980s at the Centre for Contemporary Studies at the University of Birmingham I gained a PhD for a thesis on the Origins of British Sociology 1880-1950, a study in hegemony. After that I gained an MA in Contemporary English Studies at what is now Northampton University (1995-97).

Finally I gained an MPhil in Urban History at the University of Leicester for a thesis on the comparative effects of Modernity on the towns of Oundle and Corby. Along with many other former students at York and Ripon who trained in the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, when the Cert Ed was eventually phased out, I was awarded an Honorary BEd for what might be called "services to education".

In our 52 years of marriage (41 years spent here in Oundle) we have had three children. The first, Nicholas died at 8 months in August 1973; the second, Alex, now in his mid-40s is a landscaper in Peterborough while Catherine is a teacher and the Head of History at a Secondary School, in Peterborough.

I am Chair of Trustees at Dovedale Mental Support Ltd, Oundle where with my wife Pat works as the Office Manager. She is an experienced Qualified Counsellor practising both at Oundle and Corby. Together we are trying to keep Dovedale going at a time when money is hard to come by.

I read widely and study the obituaries in "The Guardian" to see if I am mentioned. I often think back to MGS with some affection where I played hockey and cricket and spent many happy hours singing in the Madrigals (when at Rochester I sang for a while as a Tenor Lay Clerk at Rochester Cathedral). At York I played hockey for the College first team.

I think that MGS implicitly encouraged pupils to get on and do things, without any fuss or bother. I was very much an average sort of pupil who often struggled along, except in History which I usually enjoyed, and English. MGS helped form my character in ways I am still making sense of. I remember the Speech Day of 1960 when the guest speaker, a Mr Owen the Chair of the British Motor Corporation, spoke of the virtues of "stickability". I took his words to heart and seen things through and worked hard sometimes with no great ability, in good times and in bad.

Major General Matt Holmes CBE DSO RM (1978/83)



We congratulate Matt on his promotion to Major General in May 2018 and to his appointment as Commandant General Royal Marines in June 2019. We also congratulate Matt on being made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2019 for 'his outstanding contribution to the Royal Marines and to the United Kingdom's defence and security interests'.

He was a joint recipient of the Upson Prize in 2008 in recognition of the Distinguished Service Order he received for his leadership of 42 Commando Battle Group Royal Marines in Afghanistan.

Matt joined the Royal Marines in 1988, after reading Economics at Exeter University. He later attended Staff College and completed a Master's degree in 2000. In 2012 he attended the Higher Command and Staff Course.

He has deployed for arctic training in Norway a number of times, the Far East for jungle training as well as Zimbabwe. He had also completed seven operational tours: twice in Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq and three times in Afghanistan.

Before promotion to Colonel in 2008, he spent time at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines. He has since undertaken appointments in the MoD and Northwood, including Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and Second Permanent Under Secretary in December 2009, and later Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff Resources and Plans in Navy Command HQ.

After his promotion to Brigadier in March 2013, he delivered the widely acclaimed 'Global Strategic Trends 2045' in June 2014, and subsequently delivered the 'Future Operating Environment 2035.' He was then seconded to support the Defence Minister, Rory Stewart, in a single-handed review of the national flood apparatus, before becoming the inaugural Chief of Staff of the UK's Standing Joint Force Headquarters.

After his promotion to Major General, he was appointed Deputy Advisor to the Ministry of Interior, Kabul, Afghanistan and later took on the role of Senior British Military Representative in Afghanistan.

Matt is married to Lea with two children.

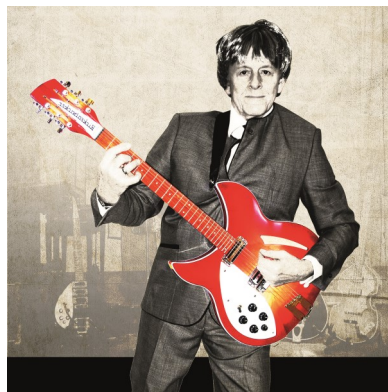
David Horton (1958/65)

says that if you were at the school, or in Maidenhead between 1963 and 1965, you may remember a budding pop group called "The Demons" which comprised three school members, Pat Folliard (lead guitar), Dave Horton (rhythm guitar) and David Scott (bass guitar). They then became "Alan & the 3-Ds" when singer Alan Waite, a youngster from the year below, joined. There were actually only two Ds, but it made for a nice 3D logo.

Pat Folliard's musical career was quite short, David Scott continued playing for some 25 years, but Alan Waite and Dave Horton are still playing! Alan has been the keyboards player for the very successful country group The Frank Jennings Syndicate, while Dave has been in many different bands, playing drums initially, then bass guitar for many years, then reviving 50s rock'n'roll playing double bass for his last band Backbeat 56. When the vocalist of that band became ill, Dave decided to try something new (starting at the age of 70!).

"There are many problems in working with other band members", Dave reports. "How often do we want to play, which songs, and at what speed?"

These are the key areas on which it's often difficult to agree. So, I thought, wouldn't it be nice to go out on my own!"



Dave has always loved the Beatles, and thought there should be a good demand for a Beatles tribute act, since all other Beatles tributes (and there are apparently over a thousand in UK alone!) would be four-pieces, and therefore cost a lot more money to book. So he spent a year and a half with a special software programme (Ableton Live for anyone interested) recording his backing tracks - drums are on the software, but guitars, bass, keyboards and harmony vocals have to be played or sung in. The earlier Beatles tracks have just a few tracks in the backing, but the later ones have many more - the Beatles constructed them in the studio and never played them live. Dave's backing for Hey Jude has 14 different tracks with strings and brass reproduced with effects on the keyboard.

He has had success with "The Beatle" playing in pubs, clubs and for private parties, and has managed to play 3 times a month, which was his aim, for the past two years without travelling more than 25 miles from his home near Reading. Dave says that on the negative side, he has to set all his equipment up himself, which takes two hours, and take it all down, taking another hour. But on the positive side, he gets paid nearly as much for a solo act as he used to for a 4-piece band!

His latest idea is to do a Buddy Holly guest spot, with a different wig, guitar and of course glasses.

Should any readers want to hear his music, he's appearing in the near future at Arborfield British Legion on 14th Feb, The White Horse in Shere near Guildford on 29th Feb, and the Elephant & Castle in Hurst near Twyford on 7th March. Or visit his website www.thebeatle.co.uk which has all his gigs as well as sound clips of his songs.

Dave is a former member of the OMA Committee and has for some years organised two tables of his contemporaries at the OMA Annual Dinners.

Brigadier Charlie Maconochie (1980/88)

We congratulate Charlie on his promotion. He has had over 25 years service with the Army. During the last few years he has commanded the 3rd Rifles, worked for the Army's Chief Information Officer and is currently with the Joint Services Command, responsible for CIS/ Communications Operational Planning and Customer Services at Information Systems and Services.

Adrian Lane (1975/82), an OMA Life Member who has been resident in New Zealand for many years sent us the following interesting news in early 2019 about his change of career, in which we wish him well.

"After 35 years as a telecommunications engineer, I embarked on a brand-new career at the age of 54. I am living a long-held dream of being a train driver. I have completed an intensive nine-month training program to become a driver on the Metlink passenger train network, in Wellington, New Zealand. The training was incredibly complex and detailed, but it's comforting to know how highly trained the train drivers actually are, when you consider that they control the safety of up to 1,000 passengers at a time. I thoroughly enjoy every day at work, and this is by far the best job that I have ever had."

Adrian has now sent us the following update:-

I have now been a fully certified train driver for a year, and I'm still loving it. It's the best job that I've ever had. Each day I look forward to going to work; each day I come home happy and satisfied. It's a difficult yet very rewarding job. I have a new lease of working life, at nearly 56 years of age.

I've attached a photo of me in the cab, ready to set off, plus one of the train class that I drive. They are called, "Matangi".



I drive all of the passenger routes out of Wellington, NZ. These are the Hutt Valley, the Kapiti, the

Johnsonville and the Melling lines. Each day is a different mixture of services to drive, so that no-one gets blasé about what they are doing.



Lt General Sir Nick Pope KCB CBE (1971/78)



We congratulate Nick on being the first Old Maidonian to receive a knighthood, having been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the Queen's birthday honours in June 2019. After a very distinguished military career he has retired from the Army as Deputy Chief of the General Staff (essentially the Army's Chief Executive). He remains Master of the Royal Corps of Signals and Colonel Commandant of the Brigade of Gurkhas. His last public duty after 38 years of service was to take the salute at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Nick read Economics at Jesus College, Cambridge, and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1981. The early years of his service were spent in Germany, Cyprus and Hong Kong where he served with the Queen's Gurkha Signals. During his career he commanded a squadron in a Mechanised Brigade in Catterick and Bosnia, a Signal Regiment providing global satellite communications in the 9/11 aftermath, and the 1st (UK) Signal Brigade in Germany and Afghanistan.

Nick spent much of his staff career in appointments in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall trying (he says unsuccessfully!) to balance political ambition with financial resource.

He believes that job titles such as Master General of the Ordnance and Director of Battlespace Manoeuvre may sound grand, but ultimately they all boil down to trying to make a silk purse and sow's ear!

Nick is transitioning to a 'plural career', which he asserts sounds more alluring than 'retirement'. Part of his portfolio will include Chairmanship of the Gurkha Welfare Trust but he is equally open to other offers!

Nick's email address is nawpope@hotmail.com

Mike Willoughby (1958/64)

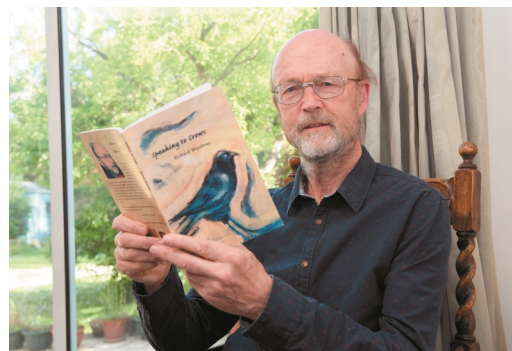


We congratulate Mike on being awarded the prestigious Henley Town Medal in recognition of the more than 10 years he spent in producing a record of all the service men from Henley-on-Thames who lost their lives in World War 1. In his speech the Mayor said that the book produced by Mike was the most fitting memorial to the men.



Last year the OMA presented Mike with the figurine of a World War 1 soldier, entitled 'There but not there' in recognition of the invaluable research he had performed in tracing so many of former pupils of the School who died in World War 1. Mike is a Vice-President of the OMA.

Richard Woolmer (member of Staff 1981/05)



Former Head of History, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head teacher, has published a collection of 32 of his poems in a book entitled 'Speaking to Crows'. The title relates to a misprint in the press about Prince Harry speaking to 'crows' rather than 'crowds'. The cover of the book was illustrated by his wife, Annie. He sent a copy of the book to Prince Harry and received an acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace. Copies can be ordered from Amazon, Waterstones or from Richard.

Since retiring Richard has written hundreds of poems, which he says are often about 'trying to see things from a different point of view'. 'Speaking to Crows' is the second book that Richard has published, the first being 'The History of Holyport and Local Cricket' in 1994, a copy of which is in the library at Lords.

Richard has played hockey with Maidenhead & Bray and cricket with Holyport. He is a member of Maidenhead Golf Club and plays regularly in the Brooks Cup events.

Richard's email address is:

richardandannie@hotmail.com

In Memoriam

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

James Comben (2000/07)



died in August 2018 at the age of 29 from a rare form of cancer. He was a member of Henley Hawks Rugby Club, having come through the youth and colts teams. He made his debut with the 1st XV in 2009 and played in 167 matches as fly half, scoring many tries. He was instrumental in the Hawks gaining promotion from National League 2 (South) to National League 1 in 2013 and 2015. Two months before his death he married his partner Elle Thomson, in Hambledon.

In June 2019 eight of his former teammates did a 650-mile sponsored cycle ride from Henley to the various towns where the Hawks had played, from Redruth, Cornwall. and to Canterbury, Kent. So far they have raised over £20,000 for Bloodwise. the charity that supported James during his illness.

Sgt Gerald D Davis (1930/35) was executed by the Germans in France in August 1944. He had been parachuted behind enemy lines to provide signals support for an SAS operation. He was in the Phantom Squadron of the GHQ Liaison Regiment. A memorial garden dedicated to those who lost their lives in the operation was erected in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The OMA had contributed to the cost of the garden, in memory of Gerald Davis. The donation by the OMA is acknowledged on the permanent plaque describing the operation.

The OMA was represented by its President, Colin Cutler, at a rededication service in May 2019, during which he placed a plaque with Gerald Davis's name on it by one of the 3 trees dedicated to each of the three men of the Phantom squadron who had lost their lives.



Michael Devlin (1955/62) died in July 2019 at the age of 75. At School Michael was in the 1st XV Rugby team and also rowed as stroke for the West House Four, as well as sculling and skiffing. He started work in the Sales Department of ICI Paints Division, in their offices in Manchester and Glasgow and later had careers in banking and the building industries. In 1974/75 he took a 2-year sabbatical and toured the world.

Michael emigrated to Canada in 1969 and became a Canadian citizen in 1974 residing in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. He published an account of a car journey that he and a friend made from Toronto to Key West in 1971. The book, entitled 'Key West or Bust', describes the many changes in climate, geography, cultures and food, etc they encountered at that time. Michael sent a copy of the book to Desborough for the School Library. He was also a prolific poet, being first published in 1996.

Some years ago he established the Michael Devlin Prize for Initiative and has ensured that the prize fund will enable the prize to be awarded for many years to come.



A (Tony) P Drake (19974/79) died in January 2020 at the age of 57. A keen sportsman, he played cricket for North Maidenhead and was later its chairman. He was also chairman of the Julian Cup, development officer for Finchampstead Cricket Club and a former director of communications of Berkshire County Cricket Club. A football fan, he regularly attended matches at Maidenhead United, Binfield FC and Reading FC. He was also a member of Shinfield Running Club and had done more than 50 park runs at Woodley.



After attending Reading College of Technology, Tony began his financial career with the Prudential and then with Norwich Union before working as an adviser and sales director of an advisory company for 21 years before joining the finance advice group, LEBC as team leader and financial planner, based in Reading.

Tony was married to Debbie and they had two daughters and a son.

H E(Dick) Edwards (1939/44) died in July 2017 at the age of 89. He was christened Harry Ernest Edwards but was always known as Dick. He was brought up in Shurlock Row where he enjoyed helping the local blacksmith. He joined the Navy in 1944 and after two years of training he became a specialist in Radar. He was involved in fitting out HMS Ark Royal with her radar systems before she was launched and later spent three years Malta. He left the Navy in 1958 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer and

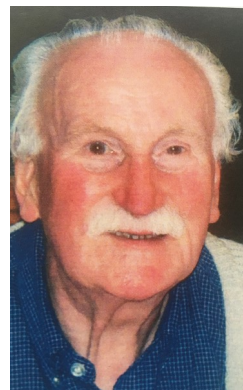


went to Racal Communications in Bracknell as Personnel Manager, where he met his wife, Janette. They lived in Winnersh for a few years before moving to Wimborne, Dorset where they raised their family of four, one girl and three boys. Dick retired from Racal in 1992.

As a result of taking their children to Wimborne Athletics Club on a Saturday morning, Dick became involved in running the Club. He qualified

as a 'starter' with England Athletic in the South West and for 25 years he and his wife travelled to schools and Regional meetings at Plymouth, Exeter, Yeovil, Millfield School and Bournemouth. A particular favourite was a school in Somerset for disabled children, helping the children to enjoy sport no matter their disability.

R (Bob) S Halfacre (1936/41)



died in July 2019 at the age of 94. He was born at the family farm at Touchen End. Later the family took over the Hind's Head. At School Bob passed his School Certificate and excelled in the 200 yards. He was undecided about what career path to follow and when the Headmaster asked if anyone wanted to join a Bank, Bob put his hand up. He went on to complete some 40 years with the Midland Bank, firstly in Maidenhead and later in Slough.

Bob received his call-up papers on his 18th birthday. After initial training he joined the Royal Artillery as a Command Post Assistant, responsible for plotting maps and distances so that gun range finders could target accurately. His training continued when he joined the elite 6th Airborne Division. The Division was due to land on June 6th 1944, D-day but weather conditions were such that they crossed by sea and took part in the capture of Ouistraham, Normandy. Bob also took part in the Ardennes Forest campaign and later in the glider crossing of the Rhine. After VE Day the Division was sent to Palestine where Bob became dangerously ill with typhoid.

Bob was demobbed as a bombardier in 1947, re-joining the Maidenhead branch of the Midland Bank. At this time he met his wife, Pat. They were married in 1949 and had a daughter and a son. The family enjoyed many happy times in their caravan at West Bay, Bridport.

They made frequent visits to the USA to see Pat's two sisters who had married Americans.

Some years after Pat's death in 1973 Bob moved from Bray to live in Warfield where he became an active part of the community, joining the Warfield Fete Committee and running the beer tent for a number of years.

He had two granddaughters and a great granddaughter who had the same birthday as Bob. A few years ago Bob was able to come to attend the OMA Annual Dinner where he was warmly welcomed as the oldest member present

Ian (Wally) Hammond (1957/60) In our last issue we reported that Wally had died at the age of 85. This should have read 75.



Frederick G Hearman (1953/57) died in September 2019 at the age of 78. A keen sportsman, he played cricket for Pinkneys Green as a fast bowler, he played soccer for Maidenhead Wanderers and was a skilled darts player, winning a number of trophies during his career. Before his retirement Fred was a self-employed welder. He is survived by his long-term partner, Jean.

For many years he organised a table of his contemporaries at the OMA Annual Dinner.

Brian F Plank (1952/57) died in January 2020 at the age of 80.

Donald P Reid (1945/50) died in July 2019 at the age of 85. A talented athlete he planned to become a professional footballer on leaving school but during national service he became interested in accountancy and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He played football for Maidenhead, Reading and Oxford, as well as for the Old Maidonians. In 1965 he set up his successful accountancy company Donald Reid & Co, now run by his youngest son, Daniel. Donald was much involved with charity work and was a Rotarian, becoming Chairman of Maidenhead Rotary in 1975.



After retiring Donald started writing poetry and composed hundreds of poems. A selection of 31 of Don's poems were put into a book entitled 'Seven Ages of Life, memories of Donald Reid'.

In 1961 Donald married Moyagh and raised a family of six children, of whom **Damian (1973/79)** and **Jonathan (1975/81)** are Life Members of the OMA.

George Scott (Staff 1970/77), former site manager at Desborough, died in March 2019 at the age of 83. George, who hailed from the Tyne-side, trained as a carpenter before joining the Army. He came to the School as assistant to the site manager, Jim Harrop, and then four years later as assistant to Jim Powney when Jim Harrop retired. George took over as site manager in 1985. George and his second wife, Jean, lived in a bungalow (now demolished) on the site near the all-weather pitch. Jean worked at the School for 18 years, part of the time as assistant site manager. After retiring from Desborough George worked at Fredricks Hotel, Shoppenhangers Road, as a night porter, twice a week for 16 years.



Roy V Squire (1945/50) died in 2019 at the age of 85. A keen sportsman he played soccer for the OMA in the 1950s. He was a low-handicap golfer and was a member of Burnham Beeches Golf Club. For many years he took part in the OMA Golf matches.

Roy was a buyer for a petrochemical company.

OMA Annual Dinner

Table Plan for the Annual Dinner 23rd March 2018

Table 1

Nigel Cook
Colin Cutler
Brigadier James Daniel
Bernadette Eaves
Grahame Fisher
Paul Frazer
Catherine Harden
Cllr Paul Lion
Laura Lion
Lt Gen Nick Pope CBE
John Sparks
Andrew Wyles

Table 2

Dan Clawson
Deborah Hillier
Nicola Humphries
Lucy Lesniak
Anne Morgan
Martyn Nicholas
Zoe Percival
Trish Read
Christina Sansom
Jane Weston

Table 3

Olive Bendall
Nick Birt
Andrew Bond
David Evans
Tony Lehain
Rob Weston

Table 4

Janet Chown
Lisa Colley
Chris Duggan
Helen Duncombe
Davina Horne
Janet Norbury
Steve Reed
Ross Weller

Table 5

Peter Brown
Malcolm Cutler
Tony Johnson

Table 6

Pat Folliard
Bob Heaver
Dave Horton
Glyn Jones
Ken Pragnell
David Revell
David Scott
John Smith
Geoff Strawbridge
Mile Willoughby

Table 7

Joe Brookman
Niall Canning
Gabriel Doyle
Oliver Hull
Adam Leigh
Jasrai Mahil
Toby Teeder
Oscar Wallis

Table 8

Elsie Cairns
Tim Fyffe
Tim Hill
Zachary Hill
Fraser Miller
Phillipa Russel

Table 9

Karl-Heinz Boerner
Ray Clark
Michael Clyde
Michael Courtney
John J Franklin
Steve Godfrey
Derek Harris
Fred Hearman
John Moses
John Powell
Bart Sams
George Stewart

Table 10

Oliver Brickley
Myles Faulkner
Andy King
Henry King
Michael Liberty
James McGill
Alex Moore
James Willis

OMA Annual Dinner – Booking Form

Friday 27th March 2020 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 be £28 for paid-up members and £30 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 College there will be an opportunity of making a tour at 5 pm, starting at the School Reception. Please mark the form below accordingly. If you or any members of your party require a vegetarian meal, please indicate on the form below. The bar will close at 11.30 pm and the Club will close at 11.45 pm.

Requests for tickets should be made only to **Mrs Trish Read** at Desborough College. The processing of the orders will be by Mrs Helen Duncombe, a member of the OMA Committee.

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 23rd March 2020.**

To: Mrs Trish Read, Desborough College, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead SL6 2QB(tel: 01628 634505) email: trishread@desborough-college.net

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

.....Tel.....

Email address.....

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

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday 27th March 2020 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 £28 each, ... tickets at £30 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

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Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary

OMA Annual Dinner 2019



Back row (L-R): Ed Cook; Toby Teeder; Jasraj Mahil; Joe Brookman; Gabriel Doyle
Front row (L-R): Oliver Hull; Adam Leigh; Oscar Wallis; Niall Canning



(L-R): Zach Hill; Tim Fyffe; Tim Hill; Pippa Russell; Elsie Cairns



From left to right:

Andrew King, Henry King, Alex Moore (standing), James Willis, Myles Faulkner, Michael Liberty.