



O.M.A.D.S.

Newsletter No 87 January 2021

President: Colin A R Cutler BSc FPRI

Website: www.oldmaidonians.org.uk



The Newsletter of the Old Maidonians and Desborough Society

OMADS Committee News

Renaming the OMA. As announced in our last Newsletter, the motion to change the name of the Old Maidonians' Association to the Old Maidonians and Desborough Society, to reflect that the name of the School/College has been Desborough for the last 47 years, was put to the AGM in February 2020 and agreed.

The following actions were also agreed at the AGM: -

- a) **Mr Paul Frazer**, Headteacher of Desborough for the previous 7 years and who had taken retirement was elected a Vice-President of the Society. Paul had been a strong supporter of the OMA.
- b) **Subscriptions for members reaching the age of 80** would not be required to renew their subscription when it expired and would be deemed to be Life Members.

Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner in 2020 had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus restrictions. Although the Society had booked 19th March for the 2021 Annual Dinner we regret that **it is clear that it too has to be cancelled.**

The Desborough Community Fund was set up in May 2020 to support parents experiencing hardship and in need of food and other essentials as a result of Covid-19. The Fund was put together by Desborough College,

Desborough Legacy (supporters of Desborough College) and the Old Maidonians and Desborough Society. We made a contribution of £1000 from our reserves that was matched by Desborough Legacy and in June sent out an appeal for funds to all our members for whom we had email addresses, because time and cost were of the essence.

Further information about the fund, how it is being put to use and how to contribute is given in the News of the

College section, below. We hope that members able to do so will wish to make a contribution to the Fund.

Serbia Rugby Union enquiry. Desborough College referred an email from the historian of the Serbia Rugby

Union regarding the sporting activities of Serbian Students who had studied at Maidenhead County Boys School during World War I. We were able to advise that eight students from Serbia joined the School in June 1916 with ages ranging from 12 to 17. We advised that records of the School during WW1 were very sparse but we could confirm that one of the boys was a very effective goalkeeper for the school, who gained a BA (Hons) Wales from Aberystwyth University and in 1923 was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Labour Bureau, League of Nations. His older brother won a scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, gaining a 1st Class Honours Degree in Mediaeval and modern Languages in 1919.

Changes of addresses/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. Please notify the Chairman or omanewsletter@aol.com.

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

Email addresses. If you have received this Newsletter by post and are now on email, we ask you to let us have your email address (by sending an email to omanewsletter@aol.com) so that we can send future issues by email, thereby cutting delivery time by some 10 days and reducing our postage costs.

Chairman:	Grahame Fisher
Hon. Sec:	Vacant
Hon. Treas:	Andrew Bond
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.

Desborough College News

We thank Maggie Callaghan, Principal, for the following news about Desborough.



Well what a year 2020 has been! Desborough has certainly seen its fair share of challenges: from a sinkhole in Shoppenhangers Road in January which kept the road closed for several months; to rain leading to the school flooding; to the totally unanticipated COVID-19 and the ensuing global pandemic. It was heart-breaking to witness the upset and heartache caused to our boys and their families with the GCSE and A Level results. However, we were absolutely delighted that all our boys went on to their next steps' destinations and from reports so far they are flourishing.

During these challenging times, I have been so proud of our staff and students who very quickly upskilled themselves learning new IT skills to enable remote learning. As well as these skills, we were delighted to see the efforts of many of our boys who took part in The Stag Award, a programme designed to demonstrate and explicitly learn the Desborough attributes.

The return to school in September certainly provided its challenges but we were all absolutely delighted to welcome back our boys (although with slightly different processes and procedures). We were particularly heartened to welcome our new Year 7 cohort. It was a moment that I will remember for a long time - all our staff lined up to clap our students back into school and welcome them so warmly.

We have spent a term working really hard: both students and staff to continue in a way that is as normal as possible day to day. What makes us particularly proud is that despite the global pandemic, a second lockdown and year groups having to self-isolate we continue to move forward and improve. Desborough College continues to be astounding in its drive to provide the best we can for our boys and our boys strive to be the best they can be.

Maggie Callaghan, Principal

We thank Andrew Wyles, Vice-Principal, for the following article: -

Desborough Community Fund

Whilst many members of the Old Maidonians and Desborough Society (OMADS) will not have faced the ravages of a global virus pandemic, a number of living members have certainly encountered the brutality and savagery of global conflicts. In November the College commemorated those members of the school community who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives fighting for their country. Despite the constraints of the current lockdown wreaths were laid on behalf of the College and the OMADS. Remembrance Assemblies have always been a crucial connection between the current school population and former students. This extended community spirit is part of the Desborough 'DNA' and has been very evident during this current crisis.

Back in June, during the first lockdown, the OMADS played a key role in funding and supporting the launch of the Desborough Community Fund. The fund was established through collaboration between the College, the OMADS and the Desborough Legacy (parents' association). The OMADS and the Desborough Legacy each generously donated £1000 to kickstart the fund. Desborough Legacy have since donated a further £1000. Alongside these group donations, individual members of the school community have made further gifts of financial support totalling nearly £3000, as well as donating essential items such as washing machines. Approximately £4000 of food vouchers have now been issued to families in need and we continue to be overwhelmed and humbled by the gratitude of the recipients and also by their plight. As such we continue to reach out to all members of the Desborough community who are either in a position to make a donation or are in need of support. Donations can be made by clicking on this link – www.justgiving.com/Desborough-legacy.

Please contact Andrew Wyles if you would like to help or if you would like further information.

OMADS Sport

Golf

43rd Golf Match v Desborough did not take place because of Covid-19 restrictions.

46th competition for the Brooks Cup

There was a good turnout of 19 players in this competition, held on 27th July by which time Covid-19 restrictions allowed golf to be played, with social distancing. Conditions were cloudy for much of the afternoon with some of the later groups encountering rain during the last few holes. The winner, Ian Barton was runner-up in 2018.



This year we welcomed several members from Desborough. This year's runner-up was Will Furmage, a member of the PE staff, Josh Gibson, a Desborough pupil, came third and **Arun Brar**, a former pupil and member of the PE staff, came fifth.

The leading scores were:-

	H'cap	Points	
Ian Barton	10	40	Winner
Will Furmage	21	38	Runner-up, Member of Desborough staff
Josh Gibson	18	38	3rd. Desborough pupil, age 15
Michael Clyde	16	37	4th
Arun Brar	23	36	5th, Member of Desborough staff
Andy Cooper	18	32	6th

Nearest pin on 10th	Andy Cooper
Nearest pin on 16th	Phil Battye
Longest Drive on 18th	Ian Barton

Those taking part were Robert Afia (1954/59), Rajpal Bahra (2002/09), Ian Barton (1975/82), Phil Battye (1973/79), Michael Carr (1967/74), Mike Clyde (1955/61), Andy Cooper (1974/81), Colin Cutler (1936/43), Grahame Fisher (1952/59), Alan Frampton (1957/63), Peter Jacobs (2003/10), Chris Jones (1973/80), Roger Keys (1974/77), Nick Snell (1974/79), Myles Stuchbery (2003/10), Richard Woolmer (Staff 1981/2005).

Dates for 2021

The following provisional dates have been booked at Maidenhead Golf Club: -

44th Match v Desborough, provisionally Tuesday 6th April at 2.00pm

47th Brooks Cup competition, provisionally Monday 19th July at 2.00pm

If you have received notifications of previous meetings from Colin Cutler, he will email you with the final dates. For others who would like to play, please contact Colin Cutler

News of OMADs

The Society is always pleased to hear from members and acknowledges with thanks the news they have provided below. We invite further contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter and ask that School/College joining and leaving dates are given in all communications, to assist identification.

Robert Afia (1954/59) lived in Boyn Hill Avenue, and now lives in Willesden Green in NW London, playing golf in retirement. He is married to Jane, with 2 sons from his former marriage to Vivienne, who sadly died of a brain tumour aged 47.



Robert focused on sciences at Maidenhead County Boys Grammar School under H J C Oliver and remembers being frequently told in reports he could do better! Another memory is of playing Ernest in the school play "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the town hall. He went on to Bristol University to do Civil Engineering. After spending a year in Israel after graduation, he joined Ove Arup and Partners consulting structural engineers, working on various building projects, including a 2-year spell on-site in Tehran on the tower built for the 2,500 years anniversary celebrations of the

Persian Empire. He returned to work in Arup Associates, the joint architectural and engineering division.

Leaving in 1980 he joined 2 ex-Arup engineers in a new partnership which grew to around 90 staff by the time he retired from the partnership in 1999 to work as a sole practitioner structural engineer. That was when he took up flying, going on to build his own 4-seater aircraft (see photo) which took to the skies in 2010.

While at Maidenhead County Boys Grammar School he competed in athletics - sprinting, long-jumping and javelin, and was an enthusiastic member of the Maidenhead Model Aircraft Club and the Maidenhead and District Cycling Club, competing in time trials and sprinting on the Slough track.

But at 15 golf took over from everything else when his uncle bought him 8 golf lessons with Jack Hawkins at Maidenhead Golf Club, and he was hooked, playing at Maidenhead and Temple, getting down to 1 handicap at 19, and captaining the golf team at Bristol. Now at 77, playing at Highgate Golf Club, he has a 6 handicap, plays in the UK Senior Golf Association scratch events, and qualified to represent England in the 2020 European Super Masters (75+) Golf Association Championships, which were cancelled due to Covid-19. These 2020 European Super Masters Championships were cancelled but Robert is hoping to qualify again this year. He explains that this may a bit tricky, as he has just had rotator cuff shoulder surgery and will not be able to play till March.

In the meantime he is playing one-armed (which he believes may actually help his 2-armed swing!) and can practice putting and chipping. As he does regular Pilates, he says that it tends to mend fairly quickly. He has previously had knee and hip replacements, and a back fusion, and they have all gone well.

We have been pleased that for the last few years Robert has taken part in the Brooks Cup competitions.



Dr Stephen Burnhope (1968/73), who joined OMADS last year has sent us the following contribution for which we thank him: -

Despite always being a proud Old Maidonian, for some reason it took me until 2020 to stumble upon the OMA. I remember my time at Maidenhead Grammar School (as it was then) with great fondness, although one thing I don't remember is doing any homework in my final year.



I left school with three main regrets. One was that I didn't play more rugby (or perhaps that I didn't play it better); two, that I didn't return to school after O-Levels to collect the pint of beer that "Butch" Evans bet me, that I wouldn't pass History (I did); and three, that I lost contact with most of my old schoolmates during that summer. Fifth-form homework did not make the list.

I recall the options at the time were (a) go to art college, (b) stay on at school, or (c) get a job. Option (b) seemed the default. However, for some reason (bewildering to me at the time), the Head of Sixth Form, "Uncle Stan," said that would require me to take four A-Levels (rather than the 'standard' three), which felt more like a punishment than an opportunity. In hindsight, I see his thought process more charitably. In any event, that shock news prompted me to explore option (c) and I began working in the City, at Lloyd's of London.

I spent some four decades there as a broker and Lloyd's Underwriter, with a specialisation in financial institutions and professional liability. I was a member of the Lloyd's Regulatory Board during the crisis period in which we implemented the successful 'Reconstruction and Renewal' plan and introduced corporate capital.

From the early 2000s, I re-engaged with academia part-time, leading to a Master of Arts Degree with Distinction from the London School of Theology, followed by a PhD in Systematic Theology at King's College London. My PhD thesis was published by Wipf & Stock as 'Atonement and the New Perspective' and I have a new book due out in the first half of 2021, 'How to Read the Bible Well.'

From 2013 through 2020, I co-led Aylesbury Vineyard Church with my wife Lyn. In the early years, I combined that with continuing part-time in the City. The Vineyard became Aylesbury's largest church, with a typical

Sunday congregation of 450+ and a membership base approaching 1,000. Vineyard Storehouse is the area's largest Food Bank facility, with its own staff team, all funded entirely by the congregation and voluntary donations. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, the Church's chef and volunteer teams have prepared and packaged many thousands of freshly made, high-quality meals to give away to those in need.

Lyn and I married in 1978. We have four lovely children and three lovely grandchildren. Lyn is a qualified teacher, who is currently exploring her own PhD, while we both discover what semi-retirement looks like. My love for rugby continues, through being a longstanding debenture holder at my beloved (but forever frustrating) Harlequins.

Michael Drake (1967/73), as reported in our issue No 83, started his career with Racal working on radar, sonar and communication systems on submarines and frigates, before moving to Germany to work on programmes for the Leopold II tank, Tornado aircraft and the high-tech automobile industry. He then joined Analogic Corp. who made new designs for CT, MRI, Ultrasound and Digital Mammography. A few years ago he started his own company, Chordell Ltd, designing and delivering Signals Intelligence and EMT systems to detect and analyse radar and communications signals.

Michael has now moved his company to South Australia. When we asked how he had chosen the location he replied as follows:-

At age seven I was given an old short-wave radio with station names such as 'Tokyo', 'Jakarta', 'Melbourne' and 'New York'. I dreamt of visiting all of them. I followed that dream and my resultant travels created enduring friendships Adelaide, South Australia somehow got under my skin with sun, sea, wine and people having fun. It is also the defence technology capital of Australia and where I have been accepted by a close family of friends. Over 20 years, one of these relationships developed leading to spending more time here, and a recent application for residence. We are currently unable to leave Australia but may be 'Hilversum', 'Vatican City' and 'Buenos Aires' can wait.

G (Geoff) G Hill (1937/40), who died in 2010 at the age of 85, left behind copies of his memoirs (100 pages) with details of his early life in Plymouth and Birkenhead before coming to Maidenhead in 1937. He gives amusing glimpses of this school life, his war service as a parachuting Gurkha officer, his time at Sheffield University, his career with British Rail and his

experience as a parish councillor. The OMADS has been sent several copies of the memoirs which we are happy to send to anyone interested, while stocks last. Please contact Colin Cutler

W (Billy) Jay (1952/57), as reported in our January 2009 issue, died in 2009 at the age of 68. He was the first Professor of Photography at Arizona State University of San Diego. His daughter, Juliet, has issued the following appeal for any stories or photographs about him from friends and classmates of her father. He was the nephew of **Derek Cook (1942/47)** whose obituary is published below in the *In Memoriam* section.

Any boy who attended Maidenhead Grammar School for Boys during the period 1952 to 1957 will remember Billy Jay. Billy excelled in both the classroom and on the sports field. He had a most engaging personality and everybody liked him. Even Gus Dean liked him, he was that good. When it came to making choices for sixth form subjects, after success in "O" levels, Billy chose Botany and Zoology as well as Chemistry and Physics and that meant attending some lessons at the Girls High School, where he also became well known. Since the timetable allowed no actual time to get to the next classroom it meant furious pedalling between the two schools each day.

After sixth form Billy went on to edit and manage two photographic magazines in London and he was the first Director of Photography at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. He took his young family to the USA and after studying at the University of New Mexico he moved to be Professor of Photographic Studies at Arizona State University. Word of his entertaining and interesting lectures became legendary at the University and students from other faculties attended the lectures. His early morning black coffee at 7am in the University refectory became established and students crowded in to join the impromptu discussion group. He wrote over 400 articles for journals and 20 books on photography. He lectured across the USA and Europe as a Guest Lecturer.

After he retired he did not get the lengthy retirement he deserved and he died tragically early at the age of 68 in Costa Rica. He was succeeded by his three daughters, Juliet, Louise and Hannah. After his death it was found that he had written an extensive diary of his activities during 1955, 56 and 57 and he also left several memoranda describing his interests and activities. These were well beyond just MGS because he was active in many other organisations in Maidenhead such as St Luke's Church as a worshiper and server.

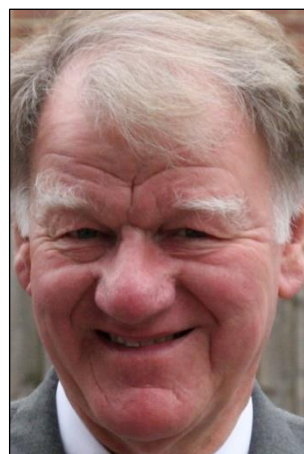
Juliet, living in Arizona, is now engaged in putting the diaries, the memoranda and many photos, into a book about Billy and would be delighted to hear from any of Billy's friends who can add to the collection with stories and photographs about Billy.

Juliet Jay, 728 N Grand, Mesa, Arizona 85201 USA
Telephone (USA) 480-720-9864

L (Laurie) Keys (1949/54) has kindly sent us the following for which we thank him: -

From Concord to Bees - a varied and interesting career.

After I left school I joined Handley Page Ltd at Woodley Aerodrome to take up a Technical Apprenticeship with three years in the factory, learning the basics, and two years in the various technical departments. It included studying for an HNC in Mechanical Engineering in which I did quite well and was awarded a Technical State Scholarship to go on to a degree course. However I chose to go to Cranfield to do a two-year postgraduate course at the College of Aeronautics, now Cranfield University.



Masters Hammersley, Cole, Shaw, and Pearson, approx 1953

In 1961 I got a job with The British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) in Bristol as a development engineer just when

Concord was in the preliminary stages of design. One of the early problems was that the leading edges of the aircraft got very hot during high-speed flight and required a metal that would be strong enough sustain the stress at these high temperatures. Titanium was selected as being the most suitable but was very difficult to manipulate. I was put in charge of developing a new technique, called Explosive Forming, for forcing the metal into shape. It involved putting a high explosive charge above the metal and exploding it into a mould, all done under water. It worked sufficiently well for it to be used on the leading edge of the Concord cockpit.

At BAC I was one of hundreds of engineers and scientists and I wanted to get into something more entrepreneurial. I felt I would never get to the top at BAC. The aircraft industry got a large part of its work from the government and it never felt very commercial. I decided to look for a job in another industry and in 1967 I moved to HP Sauce Ltd as a 'Value Analysis' engineer. Although we weren't pushing back the frontiers of technology it did get me into the food industry. I stayed for two years without any amazing achievements but then heard of a job going at Chiltern Honey Farm Ltd just south of Oxford. It sounded intriguing.

I had wanted to get back to this area near to where I was brought up, so that was a good incentive to take the job. The company were commercial beekeepers, and had been since before the war. They owned about 2000 hives which were scattered within a 50-mile radius of Benson collecting English honey and selling it to local shops. My job was to assist the Managing director in anything he needed doing and my engineering background was invaluable. I had added an accountancy qualification to my engineering which was a good combination for working in a small company.

At the end of the 1960's many things were going against beekeeping, e.g. urbanisation, pesticide use, and farming methods, leading to a decline in English honey. But supermarkets were beginning to develop 'Own Label' products and we began to import honey to supply Sainsbury and Boots with their own brand. By importing honey we could supply specialist honeys like Acacia or Clover which were not available in the UK in commercial quantities. The company grew on the back of this and by the late 70's had become the fifth largest honey company in the world, packing seven thousand tonnes per year. After various takeovers and mergers I became MD in 1980 and stayed another six years when I left to set up on my own.

In 1986 I formed a company, Honeysuckle Foods Ltd, and felt I had reached my ultimate ambition of running

my own business. I managed to get into Sainsbury as a supplier and grew to a turnover of over £2 million at which point I sold the business to a major food company and almost retired. I retained a small company which was also in honey but, after heart problems, sold up in 2006 and finally retired from full time work.

To my surprise I soon became in demand from other businesses who wanted to deal with honey. One example was a chap, Ian Staples, who had emigrated to Chile and was beekeeping out there hoping to export to the UK. My wife and I were invited to visit in Chile to help with issues in his plant. It was a fortuitous meeting because a year or two later Ian discovered a method of 'bio-engineering' honey to enhance its natural antimicrobial characteristics and he asked me to advise on selecting and handling the honey. The technique involves doing what the bees do to honey but in a more controlled way. It means we can enhance any honey's natural antibacterial properties to treat badly infected ulcers or wounds and treat surgical operations which are at risk of infection. It works by creating hydrogen peroxide which kills bacteria but also assist the healing process.

Today the honey is in the NHS and is known as 'Surgihoney'. We have had many instances of badly infected ulcers, which have not responded to antibiotics, healing within days. A particular example was a man who had had a limb removed and then risked losing another limb with the same problem. After being treated with Surgihoney he recovered and his limb was saved.

The company is now developing a synthetic version so that the process can be more easily controlled and different forms of the product, such as a spray, or thin film can be produced. The film has a particular application for applying to a new hip joint during surgery, for example, to prevent infection.

The military are also interested in having a product that is stable, easy to apply to wounds in battlefield conditions and gives good infection control together with healing properties. We are hoping the product will go some way towards replacing the use of antibiotics.

This is probably the most exciting development that I have been involved with during my career and may even eventually do a lot of good throughout the world.

Roger Keys FCCA (1974/77), *nephew of Laurie Keys, above, has sent us the following for which we thank him.*



Although I only spent three years at the school, my association goes back to the 1940s and 1950s when my father and two uncles were students. I was born in Maidenhead but lived in Yeovil between the ages of six and fifteen when my father worked for Westland Helicopters. I returned to Maidenhead and enrolled in the fifth form in 1974.

I remember my first maths class, sitting on desk with an empty space next to me. A latecomer had nowhere else to go and had to sit next to the new boy. His name was Alistair Price. Since then we have been the best of friends and enjoyed great times together. Our adventures have included skiing and sailing holidays, a parachute jump, great family holidays, and of course many hours socialising with our friends and families. Alistair was best man at my wedding and we recently attended each other's 60th birthday parties. This just goes to show how strong and enduring school friendships can be.

I almost went to university to study engineering but had a last-minute change of heart and joined Barlow Handling as a trainee accountant. It was there I met my wife Carol to whom I have been married for 36 years; we now have a grown-up family with a son and two daughters. I qualified as a Certified Accountant and enjoyed a career working for a number of companies in various finance roles, most notably for Concurrent Computer Corporation where I spent 22 years in a number of positions including that of Financial Controller.

My final role was in Education working for Anthem Schools Trust, which coincidentally, is where I first met Ms. Maggie Callaghan when she was the Principal at Oakbank Academy in Ryeish Green, one of the academies in the Trust. I wish her well in her new role and I am sure she will be a great asset to the College.

Shortly before I retired in April 2020, I had the honour of being appointed as the Treasurer of Maidenhead Golf Club. I originally joined the club in 1975 for a couple of years when our Deputy Head, Mr. Frank Shaw, was acting Secretary. I re-joined in 2004 and have played in the Brooks Cup a number of times and still harbour

ambitions of winning it one day. I highly recommend it and look forward to meeting more of you there in the coming years.

Paul Leddington Wright (1963/70). During his time at Maidenhead Grammar School / Desborough Paul played an important role in music at the school and in the community. At the age of 15 he was already organist and choirmaster at Maidenhead Methodist Church and conductor of the Maidenhead Schools' Orchestra. At the age of 17, he demonstrated the organ at the Royal Albert Hall on Blue Peter, and also made his first organ recital

tour of the USA, Canada and Jamaica.



Paul won an organ scholarship at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in music, following which he has had a distinguished career as a composer, arranger, conductor, and organist. He musically directed the first UK tour of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', and founded the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs Singers and Orchestra in the 1970's, leading to his appointment in 1982 as Musical Director of the MAYC.

From 1984 to 1995 Paul was Organist and Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral. During this time the Cathedral Choir recorded a number of CDs, made a number of broadcasts, undertook several tours to the USA, and in Italy they sang for Pope John Paul II. Paul also conducted the Cathedral's Choral Society's Saint Michael's Singers, making many recordings. In 1987 he began arranging and conducting the well-known BBC programme 'Songs of Praise', being responsible for over 300 programmes, performing in a variety of locations. and overseas. He conducted the annual 'Big Sing' recordings for the BBC from the Royal Albert Hall, and in 2000 led the congregation of 65,000 at Cardiff Millennium Stadium as part of the Millennium celebrations.

From 1995 Paul has continued his association with Coventry Cathedral as Associate Director of Music, allowing him to continue to work for the BBC in TV and

Radio including the Radio 4 Daily Service and Sunday Morning Worship.

From 1991 Paul was Artistic Director of the annual International Music Festival in Coventry, Chester, Bern and Oberammergau. The 25th anniversary of the festival took place in Rome, with Paul conducting the combined choirs from ten countries across five continents performing for Pope Benedict XVI and a performance of the Puccini *Missa di Gloria* in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls.

More recently Paul has worked with Stagecoach Theatre Arts as Musical Director for performances of 'Oliver', 'My Fair Lady' and 'The Secret Garden', as well as a gala production in 2013 of 'Cats' at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

Since 2009 Paul has been Secretary of the Royal Almonry, responsible for the organisation of the Queen's Royal Maundy distribution.

More locally, Paul gave an organ recital in 2018 at St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean, as part of the Cookham Arts Festival.

Paul, who went to live in Coventry in 1984, has recently moved back to Maidenhead. He is married to Sheila and has two daughters, Emma, who is in Zealand working in the film industry, and Lucy, who lives in Maidenhead and who until recently was been Orchestra Manager for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Andrew Mounsey (1975/82) *has sent us the following article about his time at school and his subsequent career for which we thank him. We believe that Andy may be the first member to become a viticulturist.*

From Wargrave to West Wales: Lockdown Bubbles!

I arrived at Desborough shortly after its name was changed from Maidenhead Grammar School, reflecting its new status as a Comprehensive School. I had grown up in the village of Wargrave, where I had attended the Infant and Junior Schools, and all bar three of my childhood friends had gone on to the local secondary school. Those of us with older brothers who had passed their 11-plus to qualify for the Grammar School were given the option to follow in their footsteps, presumably to make life easier for the parents. So going to and from school for the next seven years meant an eight-mile coach journey. It did make me very good at towing the line; after-hours detention meant missing the bus home and having to take the train instead, which was seriously inconvenient - and expensive!

I well remember feeling quite daunted at the start of my Desborough career. The only Wargrave boy in Form 1R with Mr Arnold (every other teacher at the school in those days seemed to be a rugby-playing Welshman!)

after one term I was moved up a set to 1W (Mr Woodward) and soon settled in. For some reason, in second year the designated letter changed to an M (2M was Mr Evans, 3M Mr Hymers, I think). I could still probably rattle off the class register if I put my mind to it: Barton, Bennison, Boden ... and so on. Steve Ryan was the class joker, I recall, along with Quentin Robinson. Adrian Lane (now a train driver in NZ, I read in this publication), then David Miller, were the names I had to listen out for before mine was read out. Each name followed by a 'Sir' from the boy concerned to confirm their attendance, right through to Whitmore, before heading off to assembly followed by our first lesson of the day.

I did well academically up to O Levels – I still have the dictionary I was presented with as the School Prize for achieving the best results in my year to that point. I tailed off at A Level when actual understanding replaced rote learning as the key requirement for exam success, but still performed well enough to be offered a place at Edinburgh University to read Agriculture – a life choice which would have profound effects. Another such was my decision to defer for a year before going to Uni, part of which I spent cycling with Desborough graduate and Wargrave resident, Justin Martin, to Alicante province in Spain – a distance of some 1500 miles. There we would both work in a restaurant which had been set up by the parents of Matthew Högdahl, another Desborough boy who had arrived in Maidenhead from South Africa when his family migrated to the UK to avoid their five sons being conscripted into the SA army (then a very dangerous prospect) as each reached the appropriate age. After our stint working in the restaurant near Benidorm, Justin and I sold the bikes and flew back home to England – cycling northwards in October did not appeal anything like so much as the southward journey we had made in June!

The second part of my gap year was spent working on a farm in Indiana followed by a Greyhound bus tour around the US from Niagara Falls all the way down to Key West, then across to New Orleans, the Grand Canyon and finally to California, where I stayed for a couple of months before heading back to the mid-West.

Back in the UK, and my parents had sold up in Berkshire and returned to their native Derbyshire. So it was from there that I headed up to Scotland. A contemporary at Edinburgh would be **Jonathan Reid (1975)** from Cookham, who had sat next to me in Mr Woodward's class in my first year at Desborough. In Freshers' Week, I founded the Edinburgh University Poohsticks Society. Revelling in the catchphrase 'EUPS – I've poohed' and boasting such activities as Poohstermind and Bar-B-Pooh, it went on to become the University's largest society by student numbers and even made the pages of the country's revered national daily paper, *The Scotsman*. Much more importantly, within two weeks, I had met a girl from Ayr called Fiona, who happened to have been placed in the same student accommodation, Holland House in the Pollock Halls of Residence. Very pretty, witty, intelligent, thoughtful and kind, Fiona

would become the love of my life. We started dating on 11 November 1983, a week after my 20th birthday, were unofficially engaged very shortly after, and made it official on Hogmanay 1983; we were married at Alloway Church in Ayrshire in July 1987.

By then, I had joined my family's business, publishing a magazine for the animal feed industry. My older brother, **Simon (1972/79)**, also an Old Maidonian, was already in post in an advertising sales role; I joined in the editorial department. Sometime later, after the birth of our two boys in 1992 and 1994, Fiona would also join on the sales side, having spent some years selling pharmaceutical products to doctors in surgeries and hospitals. The partnership between ourselves and Simon split amicably in 2003 and we continue to publish the magazine *Feed Compounder* to this day. Four years ago, we were joined by our eldest son Ryan, so the family business, which this year marked its fortieth anniversary, is set to continue into another generation.

In 2014, after our younger son Craig had taken up his place at Oxford to study medicine, we took the decision to make a move to somewhere closer to the coast. Beautiful as it is, Derbyshire is about as far from the sea as it is possible to be in the UK, and Fiona as an Ayrshire lass was missing the sound of the waves crashing on to the shore. We looked all around the coastal counties from Northumberland and Yorkshire, across to Cumbria and Lancashire and down into Dorset, before finally settling on Pembrokeshire, which ticked every box for us. We had the idea that we wanted a property with a bit of land so that we could keep a few sheep – the notion of being a customer of one of the feed manufacturers we had been writing about for so many years had a certain appeal. We did try: in 2014 and 2015 we kept a couple of dozen store lambs – young sheep bought at market to keep for a few months for fattening up and selling on for a small profit. That was the plan anyway. We pretty soon discovered the reality. Suicidal escapologists which need constant counting, feeding, dosing, etc, etc. If you're going to keep sheep, you need all the paraphernalia to look after them from troughs and hurdles and dosing guns and so on, whether you have two or two thousand. And having gone through it all and taking them back to market, you discover the price has dropped and they're worth less than you paid for them in the first place! We did enjoy it (honestly) but it was actually nothing other than an expensive hobby.

Which is how we kind of fell into setting up a vineyard. Unlike sheep, vines don't run away! A series of coincidences led us to start looking into viticulture as a possible alternative use for our land. And once we started to investigate it properly, we realised that we had a site which had all the necessary attributes for growing grapes in a cool northerly climate: south facing, sloping, not too high above sea level yet not directly adjacent to the coast, with a shelter belt of trees protecting it from the prevailing wind direction and not prone to frost. Although vineyards are now not at all uncommon in South East England, in rural West Wales they are as rare as – well, sensible sheep! This creates some additional

challenges (suppliers of vineyard equipment are thin on the ground hereabouts) but also means we have a ready market locally with demand for our product far outweighing available supply.



We set about preparing the land: clearing, levelling, draining, subsoiling, ploughing, harrowing, fertilising and liming. Then in 2017, the planting team arrived from Germany and within the space of a morning, the majority of our 4000 vines were in the ground in perfect neat rows. A huge amount of work has followed to install all the necessary trellising posts and wires, and to manage the vines so that they are pruned and trained to the desired system to minimise disease and maximise their exposure to the sunlight. But finally, in October 2019 we took our first harvest, with the help of a team of local volunteers. And in December of last year, we launched our first wine. A Traditional Method Quality Sparkling Wine called Velfrey, which is the name of the vineyard and comes from the ancient name of the locality in which our house and vineyard is situated.



*The Velfrey Vineyard team:
Andrew, Fiona and Ryan Mounsey*

You can read all about it at www.velfreyvineyard.com – you can even order a bottle (or more) and have a taste of the finest Welsh sparkling wine. Do it in honour of all those Welsh teachers who used to make us run around the rugby field and cross-country routes back in the 1970s!

Who could have predicted that a boy from Berkshire and a girl from Ayrshire would end up producing sparkling wine from a vineyard in the West of Wales?

It's been fun!

CCllr David F Norman MBE (1963/71) was Physical Education student at St Luke's College, Exeter



University. His teaching career started at Teignmouth Secondary Modern School, after which he became Head of Boys' PE at Teignmouth Community College. In 1981 he was appointed Senior Youth and Community Tutor at Maiden Erleigh School, Reading, moving two years later to Ken Stimpson Community School, Werrington, Peterborough as Senior Community Education Tutor and Head of Community Sport.

In 1989 David was appointed Deputy Head teacher and later Acting Head teacher at Newent Community School, Gloucestershire before being seconded to the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service community safety team in 2003, working with disadvantaged and disaffected young people. He established a Princes Trust team, started a DofE Award Scheme and wrote a programme for challenging young people that was held up as a national exemplar of good practice, leading to his been awarded the MBE in 2007.

This secondment came about because he had joined the Devon Fire Brigade in 1977 as a retained (on call) firefighter, serving for over 30 years in three different fire authorities, rising to Station Commander and On-call Training Officer.

In 2007 he joined the Gloucestershire FRS on a permanent basis as a Community Safety Officer and was a member of a working group that was responsible for building four new FRS stations and a Life Skills Centre.

In 2012 David established his own Health and Safety consultancy and worked part-time as a Senior Lecturer at Bridgwater College delivering Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health, and First Aid training courses.

David entered politics for the first time in 2014, being elected on to Gloucester City Council, joining the Cabinet with the portfolio of Performance and Resources. He was elected on to the County Council in 2017 and in 2018 was invited to join the Cabinet with the portfolio covering Public Protection (Fire and Rescue

Service), Parking and Libraries. He intends to seek re-election this year for a further four-year term, after which he intends to retire.

David is married to Linda, with two children, one in politics and the other works in Gloucester Royal Hospital. They have three grandchildren, of whom two have played age group netball at National level, and a grandson who is a good soccer player. David is a member of Gloucester Rugby Club and tries to play golf regularly

We welcome David as a Life Member of the Society.

R (Bob) W Stanley (Member of Staff 1960/84) *We are pleased to publish this memory of Bob Stanley, Head of English at Maidenhead Grammar School, later Head of the Sixth Form at Desborough, who died in 2017, by a pupil of his in the 1970s who has asked that his name should not be published so that the focus remains on Bob.*

It's a well-worn cliché that 'one teacher changed my life', but in my case that's true. When I was eighteen Bob Stanley had a 'sliding doors' impact on my future.

I should say that though he was one of the very best, most erudite and most stimulating teachers of English I had, there were others who also had a great effect on my enjoyment of the subject and opened my eyes to the wider world as well. The same goes for a Latin and a History teacher at Desborough too.

But Bob was far more than a brilliant teacher. He also took very seriously the ethos shared and fostered by our superbly humane headmaster in my day, Len Reynolds; that of pastoral care and the valuing of all pupils at Desborough, whatever their future ambitions.

My own Bob Stanley story - admittedly an inconsequential one to all but me - concerns the fact that, largely thanks to his encouragement, I had applied to go to Cambridge. Again, thanks to him, I was back studying for the Entrance exams at Desborough one autumn term, having already completed my A-levels elsewhere. On my coming back to school to seek him out late that summer to tell him that by some amazing fluke I had managed to surpass everyone's expectations as to my grades, including my own, Bob was so pleased he actually ruffled my hair - a gesture I found astonishing in such a reserved, correct, self-possessed individual. At that point, of course, I knew him only as a teacher.

So far so good. Then my working-class parents, though very supportive of my being the first in our extended family to go to university, started to get cold feet. My mother read in the *Daily Mail* that tuition at Oxbridge was pretty much twice what it cost elsewhere. She took this to mean that my father and she would be on the hook for unaffordable sums, should I scrape in. Their growing concern about this - why couldn't I go to my first-choice

university of the year before, an extremely good one? – looked like it might put the kybosh on something that I, as a competitive, highly egocentric person, had very much set my heart on trying for. It looked like the cup was to be dashed from my lips. Curses!

One Saturday morning in December there was a knock on the rarely used front door of our house in Maidenhead. (Most visitors just wandered in through the back.) To my astonishment it was Bob, who had, unannounced, driven over from his place in Marlow. My parents were in; a cabinet meeting was convened in the kitchen. I could hear murmurs, but nothing of what was said. Twenty minutes or so later Bob nodded goodbye to me and drove off home.

From that moment on, no more opposition was placed in my path; my parents had been reassured that all they would be due for was a means-tested contribution to maintenance fees. (This, of course, was back in those halcyon days before tuition fees were billed to students. Had this been the case then, I would most likely not have gone to university at all, and the same would have been true for many of my schoolmates.) What's more, Bob had, my father later told me, pleaded with them not to stand in my way. His advocacy won the day; they didn't. Far from it.

Naturally, having managed to bluff my way into Cambridge, I frittered away the next three years idling around directing plays and other nonsense. Which did, eventually, get me a job in the arts, of sorts. Which is what, from the age of fourteen, I had wanted. (I blame no one for this but myself.)

I have never forgotten, nor will I ever, how very generous Bob was to me in helping me realise my ambitions. Subsequently I was able to enjoy his company on regular visits to his home, and was, eventually, able to introduce my wife, and then our children to him. To whom Bob was, of course, charm personified. I greatly enjoyed these occasions up until the point of his becoming grievously ill.

It was a very sad time indeed when Bob's Christmas cards stopped coming, after well over thirty years of friendship. He was a fine and remarkable man, a cultured, generous, warm, witty, wise mentor and enabler who took enormous interest and pride in the future lives of many, many former pupils. R.I.P., Bob. And thanks, mate.

Professor David Wooff D.Sc. C.Stat (1968/75) has sent us the following account of his time at school and afterwards, for which we thank him.



Colin Cutler has asked me to provide a short write-up about events since leaving school. This might not be quite what he had in mind, let's see! I joined the OMA in 2018, 50 years after starting at the school. I had thought about joining many times, but it has taken me this long to forgive the school, or at least to reconcile my feelings about it.

I did not do well at school, mostly my fault I suppose. I hated most of the teachers and they reciprocated. I read in OMA newsletters that Mr. Stanley, recently deceased, was well-loved by many of you. I can understand why, but to me he was a sneering bully who had little empathy for the likes of me. I remember using a word he did not know and being castigated for it and feeling it very unfair.

Only three boys from my primary school managed to get into the Grammar school, and the other two left in the first year. We didn't quite fit. I recall being put into detention one time for not wearing school uniform - my only pair of school trousers had been torn somehow.

I do recall fondly some of the teachers. Mr. Parker for Maths, Mr. Evans for History and even Boggy for Geography. Several of the younger teachers were good, but these are mostly dismal memories that I have wiped. I forgive them all because I was at the same time lazy and immature and arrogant and lippy. My first two years at University were no different, and I was there the very essence of an unhappy mediocrity. And now we reach a turning point.

My degree, Business Mathematics, insisted upon a third year spent in Industry. I spent my year as a junior statistician at the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association, then at Chorleywood. There I found myself. I loved it. Loved the problem-solving. Loved the computer-programming, I loved finding out the right statistical method to apply to whatever problem was at hand. This life had meaning. Having finished my degree Part I as a lazy duffer, I returned to university and treated my final year and Part II as a job, managing to get a First and the class prize. I knew what I wanted to do now. I still had no money, but I found a funded M.Sc. Studentship at Hull University in the analysis of large-

scale data. There I met a brilliant young mathematician, Michael Goldstein, recently appointed to a Lectureship. He got me working on a PhD and we have more-or-less worked together ever since, mostly with him as the brains and me as the support. I completed a number of Post-Doctoral research positions with him on grants we wrote together, first at Hull and later at Durham University. I had also married by then, and Val had managed to smooth away some of my rougher edges and we had gained a son, Ben.

At Durham University I took up a lectureship in 1991. Thereafter on the research side I continued to work with Michael Goldstein in the general area of Bayes Linear Statistics. This culminated in our 2007 book*, as well as many academic papers. I also became founder and Director of the university's Statistics & Mathematics Consultancy Unit and became responsible for attracting commercial research into the university; this work I and my staff would carry out. These were generally interesting and happy years. I became semi-expert in many avenues of human life - medical statistics, geo-statistics, stock markets, pipeline physics, groundwater pollution, software testing, child growth, and so forth. It will still annoy Val when something comes up on the television, and I'll say: oh yes, I've written a paper on that! I did work very hard, 50+ hours a week and with very little annual holiday. I also had teaching commitments, lecturing Mathematics and Probability and Statistics to large classes and giving problems classes and tutorials. The most rewarding teaching aspect was in taking on my own M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. I am still in contact with these, and it is partly this which reminds me why Mr. Stanley was a friend and mentor to some of you.

I decided to retire a couple of months before my 59th birthday. I had achieved pretty much everything I wanted to achieve. I had been promoted full Professor of Statistics at Durham University a few years earlier. The workload had started to get to me and I was feeling burned out. I have two main interests now. One is being a trustee for a school Multi-Academy Trust in North-West Durham. These are schools for some of the poorest kids in England. They are the sorts of schools I attended. It breaks my heart to see how we give these kids so few opportunities to escape a culture of poverty and limited horizons.

My other interest is newly acquired: golf! I never had time before to play, but I am now addicted. I began three years ago. I play at Seaham, where I'm currently Seniors' captain and working very hard to reduce my handicap (15 under the new system). It has been a tough year with Covid lockdown, but I have found in golf an arena in which I can compete with myself without upsetting anyone, and where the conviviality and fraternity with fellow golfers is rich and fulfilling. I hope to take part in the next competition for the Brooks Cup.

We welcome David as a Life Member.

* Bayes Linear Statistics: Theory and Methods

In Memoriam

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



Brian Battye (member of staff 1957/60) died in December 2020 at the age of 86. Brian's first teaching appointment was at Maidenhead Grammar School, having graduated in Chemistry from Downing College, Cambridge, at which he was a State/Open scholar. He then taught at a school in the Wirral before becoming the Headteacher at a boarding school in Surrey. In 1970, after undertaking bible studies, he and his family went to the Belgian Congo, now Zaire, as a missionary to build a school in Basankusu and to teach. He returned to the UK in 1980 and taught Maths and Computer Studies at St Piran's School, Maidenhead until his retirement. He was the treasurer of St Mary's Church, Maidenhead for many years. His nephew, **Phil Battye (1973/79)** takes part in our Golf events. Brian married Pat in 1958 and had a daughter and two sons.

Peter Brown

(1942/47) died in April 2020 at the age of 89. He started rowing at school, being coached Mr Frank Hammersley, Music Teacher, and joined Maidenhead Rowing Club, taking part in many events and regattas. He and Malcolm Cutler (see below) won their first competition while at school, in the Junior Sculls. They were later in the winning Maidenhead Junior Eights at the Staines Amateur Regatta in 1948.



Peter trained as a surveyor, did National Service in the RAF and spent his career in the estate agency business. He married May in 1978 at Stoke Poges. He was a member of Datchet Golf Club for many years until forced to give up due to back problems. May died in 2006. In 2009 Peter met Beryl, and moved in with her in 2014, spending the remaining years together, and going on a number of holidays.



Derek Cook (1942/47) died in August 2020 at the age of 89. Like his contemporaries Peter Brown (see above) and Malcolm Cutler (see below) he started rowing at school, joining Maidenhead Rowing Club and remaining an active member

until the end of this life. In 1971 he established the Club's youth squad, after visiting local schools. These members became the backbone of the 1980s senior squad at the Club which did much to enhance the Club's reputation for competitive rowing. He coached the crews that won the Queen Mother Composite Cup in 1984 and the Britannia Cup in 1984, both at Henley Royal Regatta. The only previous occasions that the Club had won at Henley were in 1924, 1939 and 1948.

Derek was one of the small team that found a new site for the new club house in River Road, Taplow, and raised funds for a new improved boat house. Derek was Club President from 2003 to 2008. The current President said that Derek would be remembered friendship, energy, integrity, and passion for helping Maidenhead Rowing Club to achieve so much. He continued sculling until shortly before his death.

Derek is survived by his wife, Jill, and his daughters Janine and Vivien.

Malcolm Cutler (1942/47), youngest brother of our President, Colin Cutler, died in August 2020 at the age of 89. Like Peter Brown and Derek Cook (above), he started rowing at school at the age of 14. In 1946, while still at school he and Peter Brown won the Double Sculls junior championship. Two years later he stroked the



Maidenhead Junior Eight to victory at the Staines Regatta. Other Old Maidonians in the crew were Peter Brown and **Cyril Burdett (1933/38)**. During his National Service in the RAF Malcolm rowed for the RAF and stroked their coxless fours in the Wyfold Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, finishing runners-up. Malcolm was captain of Maidenhead Rowing Club in 1951 and 1952. In 1953 he stroked the Maidenhead Eight that reached the quarter finals of the Thames Cup at Henley.

Malcolm and Peter Brown had met while at Alwyn Road Junior School and remained lifelong friends. They did over 50 walks in Buckinghamshire until no longer able to do so, after which they met for lunch every week.

After leaving school, Malcolm joined the John Lewis Partnership, becoming a textile buyer in their soft furnishing department, where he was responsible for the Partnership going into the ready-made curtains business.

Malcolm was married to Joan who died in 2018

J R (Bob) Greig (1949/56) died in the USA in May 2020 at the age of 82. He died peacefully after suffering a severe head injury from which he never regained consciousness.

Bob was Head Boy and gained a scholarship (Open and State) to Imperial College, London. After graduating with a first-class honours degree in Physics he stayed for a PhD in Plasma Physics, leaving in 1962. He worked at the Central Engineering Research Laboratories, Leatherhead, for three years, before leaving the UK to join the Physics faculty at the University of Maryland, USA. He returned to the UK in 1970, and worked for ICI Paints Division for three years, during which time the family lived in Maidenhead.

In 1973 he returned to the US to work for the US Department of the Navy, at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC, working mostly on the Star Wars program, researching Directed Energy Weapons. He was acting Branch Chief when he left in 1986 to join a fellow physicist in the private sector, trying to boost the output of the Abrams tank cannon.

At age 57, Bob returned to education becoming a graduate student at the National Institute of Health and sharing his expertise with fellow students. He completed his medical physics boards at 60 years of age, starting a new career in Radiological Physics. Bob became Board Certified (ABR, American Board of Radiology) in 1999, working in the field until his death. He supported several cancer treatment facilities, spending eight years at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore until retiring at age 74 in 2012, well past his retirement age, 'because he was enjoying himself'.

Bob married Joy Ford, also of Maidenhead, in 1964. They had met as young teenagers. Joy's father was Bob's Scout Master. Joy used to visit Maidenhead Grammar School to take Chemistry lessons from Mr Parry and then Mr Fox. She trained at the Middlesex Hospital, London, and worked at St Thomas', London, before taking a break to raise children in 1965. When settled in the US, Joy returned to work in Radiation Therapy. She had a successful career in her own right, providing services at the National Institute of Health, George Washington University and Georgetown treatment facilities. She was excited for Bob's transition to Radiological Physics in the 1990s and was instrumental in his career change. Joy died in October 2016.

Bob was a dedicated father to Elizabeth, who now has a thriving dental practice, to Andrew in business administration, and to Katherine who is in private practice as a licensed Clinical Social Worker. He was a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren. He was extremely proud of his family's accomplishments.

Bob's son, Andy, tells us that his father was an active part of his community and took great pride in his friendships, new and old. He was always compelled to help and believed strongly in the need to be socially compassionate, supportive and responsible. Over the years he was a coach, mentor and teacher. He participated in everything from Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, soccer, track and science fairs to tax preparation, physics friends, caregiver, widows and wine clubs because he enjoyed company and friendship. His family and friends will miss him. He always wanted to be useful to someone and truly believed that if he could help provide any comfort or information that it was worth doing. Andy says there were no short conversations with Bob. Bob was a force to be remembered, with a passion for living life to its fullest.

In addition to his immediate family, Bob is survived by his brother, Stuart and sister, Josie.



Alan A R Grimsley (member of Staff 1962/85) died in April 2020 at the age of 89. He was a former Head of Physics and former Head of Science. He lived in Henley-on-Thames.

Alan Phillips (member of Staff in the 1980s), a former member of the IT Department, died in July 2019 at the age of 90. He may be remembered by former pupils as the teacher who went for run during the lunch hour and after school. At Loughborough University he was the half-mile champion. During his national service in the RAF he was a physical training instructor and then became a PE teacher at Norwich School, during which time he inspired both staff and pupils with his love of running, and started the Norfolk Gazelles Running Club which is still going strong today.

Alan then joined the personnel department of International Computers Ltd (ICL), firstly in Putney and then in Reading. From his home in Henley-on-Thames

he would run to Reading and back as part of his daily commute, while on Sundays he would often complete a 30-mile run. He established a reputation in long distance running and in 2009 was awarded a BSc for his achievements.

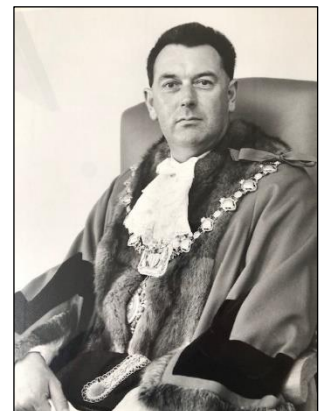
Edward G Purcell (1940/45) died in April 2020 at the age of 90. He lived in Woodlands Park for much of his life. During his national service in the RAF he was involved with radar which led his lifelong interest in radar systems. He worked for companies such as Plessey, BTR and the General Electric Company. He was married to Gertie who died in 2017.

Roy H W Thomas (1935/38) died in June 2020 at the age of 96. He was Mayor of Maidenhead in 1966/67 and 1967/68. He left school with an engineering apprenticeship. During World War II he joined the RAF, becoming a pilot and then a navigator trainer in Canada. After the war he joined the family business, HW Thomas & Son, a heavy haulage & mobile crane company in Denmark Street, Maidenhead. Latterly, together with his son Ian, they formed Cordwallis Commercials Ltd, main vehicle dealers for Volkswagen & MAN Trucks originally in Cordwallis Street, Maidenhead with branches at Heathrow, Reading & Oxford. He became chairman of both companies which are now run by his sons, **Ian (1960/68)** and **Simon (1971/74)**.

Besides serving as a Borough Councillor during the 1960s and the early 1970s, Roy served as a general commissioner for the inland revenue, a Justice of the Peace, a freemason, and a member of Maidenhead Rotary Club.

Roy's work with charities covered being an original trustee of the Louis Baylis Trust that owns the Maidenhead Advertiser, and chairing the Spoore, Merry and Rixman Foundation, the Haven of Rest Alms-houses in Bridge Road, Maidenhead, and the King George V1 Club.

On the sporting front he was President of Maidenhead Football Club for many years. A keen bowler, he was President, Patron, chairman, life member and trustee of Maidenhead Town Bowls Club, President of Berkshire Bowling Association in 1988 and President of the England Bowling Association in 1991, with whom he played across the world. For his services to



bowling he was made an honorary member of Bowls England.

Roy married Joy in 1947 and was married for more than 70 years until Joy's death in 2018. In addition to Ian and Simon mentioned above they had a daughter, Sue, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Brian Wells

(member of Staff in the 1960s and 1970s) died in May 2020 while on a visit to Spain. He taught Latin for some years before teaching Motor Mechanics. He was a larger-than-life character and a stalwart of the Staff cricket team. He played cricket for Hurley and later Taplow as a medium-fast bowler.



After leaving Desborough he ran a courier business in Slough before retiring to his native Yorkshire where he became Secretary of Shepley Cricket Club and Junior Chairman. He was an integral part of the club for many years and worked tirelessly behind the scenes so that many adults and children could enjoy their cricket. Shepley CC said that he was a true gentleman, a pleasure to be around and that his contributions to the club would never be forgotten.