

# the word

The Magazine of The Maynard School Alumnae  
Spring 2015



# Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you all as the Alumnae Relations Manager here at The Maynard and I trust this first edition of The Word finds you all in good health and spirits.

As you will read later in the magazine (p.19) it was decided at last October's AGM that anything 'alumnae' will be bought in-house to be managed by someone specific in the role. As an ex-Maynardian myself, I have a very targeted approach as to how I feel the old girls' network should be managed, starting with a complete overhaul of the name. So it's out with the "Old" Maynardian Society and in with a newly formed Maynardian Club, a name designed to reflect a fun approach and a sense of inclusion in something special.

Subscription fees have been abolished and it is now free to become a Club member, the only criteria being that you must have attended The Maynard School at some point in your life! In due course, I hope to bring added benefit to our members with club discounts to various outlets but for now I am focusing on more pressing matters; namely, updating the database with all your current contact details and then creating some great events for our pupils both past and present.

I would love to hear from as many of our members as possible with all your latest news and I'm very grateful to all those who have contacted me already. I am regularly stunned by the amazing careers enjoyed by some of our old girls and many of these have already offered to invest their valuable time in mentoring our current pupils here at school (see back cover). To be able to create this link between past and present is an invaluable tool in inspiring our women of the future to go out and achieve their dreams and ambitions.

You will also see from the back cover of this magazine that I'm starting to compile an events calendar for all our Club members to enjoy. Do get in touch with any ideas you have and all offers of help to get the more conceptual plans into action would be hugely appreciated!

And finally, many thanks to all the contributors in this issue who have so generously given time to share their news and experiences; every single contribution is hugely appreciated! I hope you will enjoy reading The Word and please do keep in touch!

Rachael Board (nee Rising)



The Maynard School is a selective, independent day school for girls aged 7–18 years.  
The Maynard School is a registered charity providing education for girls.  
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### OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Office will be open between  
8.30am – 1.30pm on Tuesdays and  
Thursdays during term time.

- Please remember to inform the office when you change your address and when you update your email address.
- We also enjoy hearing about your careers, family lives and reunions.
- Notices of births, marriages and deaths, advertisements and forthcoming event information should be sent to the Alumnae & Development office.

### THE WORD, SPRING 2016

The copy date for all information for the **Spring 2016** issue is Monday, 4th January 2016. Any news and information from our Alumnae is always welcome at any time of the year! Photographs are also particularly welcome.

**EDITOR:** Thanks to Mary Ellis for all her facts and photographs in this edition!

**COVER IMAGE:** Bee Hughes, Junior School Discovery Morning (14 March 2015).



"Don't accept mediocrity. Take a risk." Interview with Bee Hughes. *Page 8-9*



The varied careers of four Club Members. *Page 13-18*

## Book now for:

Monday 1 June  
Private Tour of the V&A for Club members

Thursday, 18 June  
Floristry Masterclass at Darts Farm,  
Topsham, Devon

See back cover for details.

With special thanks to Ashley  
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Whilst enjoying a busy retirement, Ann Boyce remembers 37 happy years at The Maynard. *Page 6*



Wartime memoirs from Chris Sturcke, one of our few Alumni! *Page 12*



Five questions for our five-strong Head Girl Team. *Page 20-21*

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**EXETER** **ART** **SHOW**  
4 - 5 July 2015

@ The Maynard School, Denmark Road, Exeter, EX1 1SJ  
[www.exeterartshow.co.uk](http://www.exeterartshow.co.uk)



## The Past Year at The Maynard from our Prize Giving celebration

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

Maya Angelou, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'

It has been wonderful once again to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students over the course of the last year. Each student has their own story, a story that is personal, powerful and hopefully memorable. Within this magazine you will read tales of success and challenge, of dreams and aspirations, of journeys and of friendship and I am sure you will be impressed that so many of our students, both past and present, achieve so highly in so many activities and endeavours.

The Maynard School continues to support exceptional students to do exceptional things. The school continues to be at the forefront of girls' education across the South West, it continues to prove year-on-year that girls succeed academically in a single sex environment, but more than this they succeed in so many aspects of school life, beyond examination results.

The class of 2014 students performed very well in their public examinations and many gained places at the top universities in the country - Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Manchester and UCL amongst others. One student who gained four grade A\*'s at Advanced Level is spending a year with Accenture before applying to university next year.

Performances at GCSE were once again excellent with 74% gaining A\* and A. Two students achieved 10 A\* s, and a further ten students achieved eight A\*'s and above, an outstanding achievement once again.

Experiences in school should develop character, resilience and promote self-confidence; school life is full and busy and this year has been no exception. We should not forget the inspirational production of 'Evita' at the Barnfield Theatre last March with so many of our students performing exceptionally to a full house each night. The story of Evita is complex yet it was told beautifully and movingly by the portrayals of key characters by so many talented students. The production, one of the most ambitious The Maynard has ever produced, was a triumph in so many ways and, once again, I congratulate the entire cast and crew, director and producer for a most memorable production.

The Music Department participated in the Britten and Beyond Project sponsored by the British Council, partnering with a School in Jerusalem and our Chamber Choir sang for royalty last summer at Powderham Castle. We also hosted a wonderful music concert at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum here in Exeter and our U16 netballers represented the South West at the National Netball Finals.

We have had an exceptional year too in creative writing where seven of our girls made it through to the second round of BBC Radio 2's 500 words short story competition. With 118,000 entrants, recognition should be given to the seven girls who wrote such wonderful, original stories.

Students have also had ample opportunities to travel this year. Our trips programme continues to grow and enable girls to travel to places which develop their



Netball Success



Clare Morrall, the Prize Giving Speaker & Bee Hughes



Ten Tors Training

cultural awareness, as well as enhancing and enriching their understanding. History students enjoyed memorable trips to Germany and others participated in the annual German exchange, now in its 40th year. The musicians travelled to Italy to perform in various venues in Verona and Venice and the geographers visited Iceland, a remarkable, stunning country. Our French speakers visited Nice and over seventy girls enjoyed the ski trip last February to Zillertal Valley in Austria.

It is humbling to receive letters and emails from the general public congratulating our girls on their behaviour whilst representing their school abroad.

As an International School, we have developed our connections to schools overseas as well as supporting Plan, the charity promoting girls' education globally. In addition, students continue to take a positive and active interest in the Model United Nations programme; last summer The Maynard hosted a mini MUN run by senior students. The event was a tremendous success enabling U3 and L4 students from The Maynard and Exeter School to debate a wide range of topics. Our senior students once again took part in the Kingswood MUN, a large convention of over 600 students who spent the weekend debating core issues concerned with human rights, geopolitics and fossil fuels amongst other topics.

Upper three students have had the opportunity in Religious Studies to explore key Christian stories

and themes and they have participated in a practical project supported by Exeter Cathedral and Exeter Episcopal Schools Project. They created a banner, a colourful interpretation of the 51st Psalm exhibited in the Cathedral as part of the celebrations for its 900th anniversary.

In Science and Mathematics students have attended master classes at the University of Exeter, entered science essay writing competitions and taken part in the robotics challenge as well as achieving success in the UK Mathematics Challenge.

The Maynard School continues to play a significant role in educating young women, in contributing to our local and immediate community through voluntary and charitable activities. As an institution it continues to play a vital role in supporting the outstanding achievements of its student body. In telling this year's story perhaps further words from Maya Angelou once again encourage us all to:

“...pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you.”  
— Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

B Hughes  
Headmistress

“... pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you.”

Maya Angelou, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'





When asked, after four years of very busy ‘retirement’ if I could write a piece recalling my time in the school and especially any funny stories, my mind went completely blank! Others who are retired will, I know, sympathise. However, eventually, I started to remember some of the situations that have amused me.

Those who were pupils will perhaps be reassured to read that I will not be naming names... you will know who you are! I also feel that a ‘statute of limitations’ still applies to conversations with staff, an endless source of humour that cannot be divulged I am afraid.

Little did I know that teaching at the Maynard would be my first and last proper job when I set off for my interview all those years ago. I nearly didn’t make it, as courtesy of the IRA (who were carrying out terrorist activities in London at the time) Paddington station was closed because of a bomb scare. Happily though, as a result of my pathological need to be ridiculously early for any appointment, I made it to my interview.

Thirty seven years in the same workplace... “How unenterprising”, I know some of you will be thinking! But, I was extremely happy in the school and never bored! The school became my second family, the people changed, my job also changed as I took on careers, head of sixth form and deputy head; and the job of teaching itself certainly changed. When I started, you could simply teach younger age groups what, in your professional judgement, you thought they needed be able to do and to know; it was not rigidly prescribed in the way it came to be. Teaching was also not so tightly geared to examinations. It was once enough to know and understand the subjects in the syllabus for a student to be able to provide good examination answers. Coaching in exam technique, so that students could replicate the precise form of words acceptable to examiners was not something

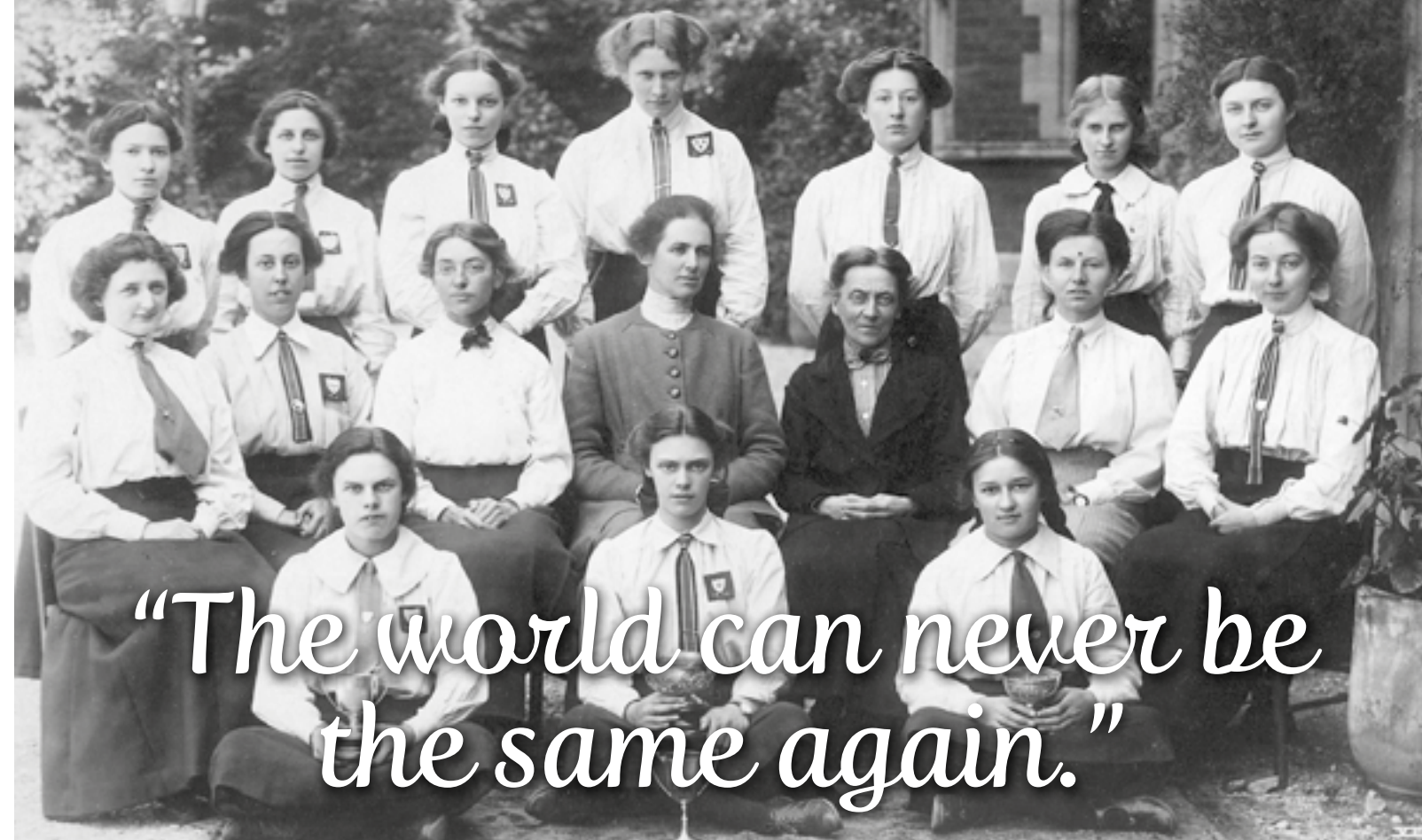
that we had to spend time on. Of course, much of the change in teaching was positive, student participation was encouraged as was recognition that enjoyment is a vital component in learning, both of which made teaching much more enjoyable and rewarding. Teacher training also improved, I was immensely impressed by the professionalism and skills of the new teachers I monitored in my later years in the school.

When I started teaching my anxiety dreams changed, shifting from dreams where I myself was sitting an examination for subjects I had not revised or forgotten, to dreams in which girls I was teaching were confronted with a practical exam where, due to my oversight, they were missing some essential equipment. So, they were all going to fail because of me and their whole future would be blighted. This anxiety was fuelled by some real life mishaps relating to practical exams – the time the exam board specified an out of season wildflower which had us scouring hedgerows to no avail, the rats destined for dissection, who (very sensibly) escaped from their secret hiding place in the stable block behind Tregear, and the girl who asked for heating equipment which had not been provided so that she could boil up her test tubes, which contained living snails. In light of the previous mention of dissection, I feel I should explain that the point of this experiment was that the snails should continue living and breathing!

Uniform was another difficult issue for me. As a school girl I was a bit of a uniform rebel, pinning my beret carefully to the back of my highly (literally) backcombed hair. In adult life this translated into what I can only describe as a kind of uniform blindness, not the most helpful characteristic in a deputy head, who is supposed to notice these things. Fortunately there were plenty of others who were ready to point them out to me, including the fact that my own daughter was not infrequently wearing black tights as opposed to the uniform navy blue at that time. I blamed this on the fact that we had to leave home in the dark.

I feel I paid for all my earlier insouciance with regard to uniform when I accompanied a school trip to Rome. The girls had been warned that they should wear more modest clothing than they might at home and yet every morning we had to police the bottom of the stairs sending girls back up to change if they were wearing pelmets instead of skirts and/or very low tops. Inevitably though, some evaded our scrutiny but I was greatly amused to hear these girls complaining very vehemently about the ‘unwelcome’ attention they had received from the ‘pervy’ Italian men they encountered. Needless to say the staff responded with ‘I told you so’ rather than sympathy! This was however an atypical experience, I usually loved accompanying trips and outings. Contrary to popular belief, sharing experiences and excitement with a group of enthusiastic younger people greatly enhances your own enjoyment.

In fact, come to think about it, that last observation actually applies to the whole experience of teaching and probably explains why I have never wished I had chosen another career.



## The Maynard *One Hundred Years Ago*

By all accounts, 1915 was – to put it mildly – a gloomy year for The Maynard School. Entrenched in a war the likes of which the world had never witnessed before, spirits were incredibly low as recounted in The Maynard School magazine from that year: “The past year has been altogether unique in the history of the School: during the Summer holidays all our outlook on life had been changed by the outbreak of War in Europe and, when we reassembled, the invasion had only just been stayed in France. We were fortunate in not being deprived of our school buildings and, though school affairs seemed petty in comparison with those of the outside world, because every school event had some connection with the war, we felt we could fill a small niche by doing the services which lay in our power.”

Miss Trenerry, the then headmistress entrusted with guiding the girls through these very difficult times, was unremitting in her support of our war heroes. In the magazine she spoke of the establishment of a Guild of Service and said that its meetings “had, for the present, taken the form of war working parties with the result that many parcels of woollens had been sent to our soldiers and sailors.” At that time the school had also joined the Girls’ Public School

Patriotic League and was enrolling members for the League of Honour.

But despite the distractions of the war and the inevitable impact upon the school, Miss Trenerry remained unrelenting in her ambition to improve education and prospects for the girls of the era: “There is a danger that education may be the first economy in these times of trial and strain; but this is surely short-sighted and should not be so. In fact I cannot conceive of any work that is more important at the present time. War, in the nature of things, is an agent of destruction – it breaks down and destroys, and it rests with those at home, and those who are preparing for, and taking up, their work in the world to build again the waste places. The world can never be the same again and, when the work of construction begins, the form it takes must depend on those to whom that work of re-construction is entrusted. Now, more than ever, we should see to it that we are training our youth to be able to carry out such a tremendous task. It rests with us to guard the lines of communication between the present and the future.

“We are trustees for posterity and we shall hand over to it a form of society, not bounded by national considerations,

but one which will, as has been truly said, demand of all its members larger faculties, more highly trained aptitudes, a clearer realisation of the duty and destiny of men. Let us see to it that our youth come to their task well equipped. Their achievements will be the justification of our endeavours, their well-being the measure of our success.”

As if to punctuate her point, in 1915 The School recorded a number of academic triumphs including scholarships of significant monetary value for the period (some as much as £30) to a scattering of places including Cambridge, Oxford and the Royal Holloway College.

It should also be noted here, that the Old Girls fared equally brilliantly, some gaining first class honours from their universities and colleges in a variety of subjects including Modern Languages, Geography and Teaching. But the course that most sticks out and seemed so popular at the time was Cookery, Laundry and Housewifery. At which, it must be said, the Old Maynardians were rather good with records showing two diplomas from the School of Domestic Science in Liverpool! One can’t help wondering whether the modern Maynardian could fare so well at the same!



## Life in the Fast Lane with Bee Hughes

Since becoming Headmistress at The Maynard in 2009, Bee has been some force to be reckoned with, juggling one of the busiest diaries you can ever imagine with a sense of fun that belies her deep underlying ambition to run one of the top schools in the country. Never without a smile on her face and a lovely sense of humour, Bee is liked and unilaterally respected by her colleagues, pupils and their parents. In this interview we've scratched beneath the 'Headmistress' surface to find out what makes her tick.

### What is your typical day in the office?

On certain days, I sit under my desk rather than behind it! But I don't really have a typical day at The Maynard. It usually involves students, teachers, parents, colleagues and anyone else who cares to pop in. The only typical part of it is probably replying to about 80 emails on a daily basis.

### Why are you under the desk?

It's only occasionally, very occasionally! It depends who is walking in and it does give me a great view of people's shoes, most are amazing!

### What's your favourite place on The Maynard grounds?

The Garden of Reflection in the summer is stunning and I love to see the girls in there enjoying the open space. I also love the outdoor classroom because I have taught my GCSE poetry lessons there. The other space I like is within a classroom, where the girls are learning. Sometimes just popping in to a lesson is a real pleasure.

### What is your favourite guilty pleasure?

There is always a bar of Galaxy chocolate in my fridge (Editor: and quite a lot in the bottom drawer of her desk). And I have to say that Diet Coke is a bit of a passion of mine. World cinema is my real guilty pleasure.

### What scares you most?

My nephew in a skeleton hallowe'en costume that glows in the dark, especially when his face paints start smudging and he looks absolutely dreadful!

### What thrills you most?

I know it's a cliché, but children doing well thrills me most. I think the highlight of my year must be Results Day when the girls have done their A-levels and after seven years of hard graft they finally have their grades to get into university. It's their faces – I watch them vicariously and it's absolutely brilliant. After all their efforts, and after years of real study, there's a sense of jubilation, mixed obviously with relief that's it all over! I love it!

### When did you last cry and what was it over?

When my nephew's hamster was unexpectedly caught between the jaws of his pet cat. We both had a little weep at Betsy's funeral.

### What's your biggest extravagance?

Jo Malone perfume.

### What's the most exciting thing someone could say to you right now?

Yes, you can have a Performing Arts Centre at the Maynard School.

### Who was your most inspirational teacher and why?

There were two really; My A-level English teacher was a fearsome academic who was scary without question. She was particularly into Shakespeare and you had nowhere to hide. It was a rigorous challenge although I wasn't always the best student in English Literature classes, it has to be said, but she was brilliant. Then my Physical Education teacher inspired me to do well in my sport and I went on and played hockey as captain for Hong Kong.

### What's the best excuse you have heard for a missed homework assignment?

"I left it on the Star Ferry going across to Kowloon." I have this vision of homework going backwards and forward all day on the wooden, slatted seats on the Hong Kong Cross Harbour Ferry in Hong Kong.

### If you weren't a headmistress what would you be?

I would probably be something to do with people. I always wanted to be a journalist.

### Ambition or talent: which matter more to succeed?

Ambition.

### What is the greatest achievement of your life so far?

Being Headmistress of a brilliant school.

### What ambitions do you still have?

To drive a Bugatti Veyron around the Nuremberg circuit.

### What would you like to own that you don't currently possess?

Nothing, I have all I need.

### If you lost everything tomorrow, what would you do?

Sit by the sea and be grateful that my sister has a spare room.

### If you wrote your own epitaph, what would it be?

God put me on the earth to laugh so that all who hear laugh with me.

### What advice would you give to your 18 year old self upon leaving school?

Don't accept mediocrity. Take a risk.

### If you had to rate your satisfaction with your life so far, out of 10, what would you score?

11/10

## Did you know?

- Until the 1970s, Maynard accepted pupils in Y1 (called Kindergarten) and Y2 (Transition).
- Tregear used to be a boarding house.
- Before the bombing in May 1942 we had a boarding house and the Bursar's offices in two houses in Higher Summerlands, where the Heavitree police station now resides.
- In the first half of the 20th century there were boys at the Maynard School as well as girls – but only in Y1 and Y2.
- The Junior Department suffered a serious fire in the 1970's; since this the rooms nearer to Spicer Road have been completely rebuilt.
- Leebourne was a big house until 1942 when it was bombed. A Maynard pupil lived there, and was killed in the bombing.
- When Bradley Hall was built, the workmen found the cellars of the house called Leebourne.
- In the area between Bradley Hall and the bicycle sheds there used to be small gardens which members of F2 (Y5) would look after to learn about growing plants.



# Uniform

*changes over the years*



1945: The indoor winter uniform hardly changed in 50 years. The blue-and-white stripe on the shirt stayed much the same over the decades, even though on many of the photos it does not show up. This student is a Merchant (as shown by the badge with a crown on). She has two other badges: perhaps she was a prefect?



1947: All girls wore hats when they were outdoors. Prefects were distinguished by tricorne velour hats. These were purchased from the Wrens at the end of the Second World War, leading to some confusion when the public saw Maynard girls in their navy greatcoats with tricorne hats!



1906: Only the youngest wear tunics; others wear a blouse and skirt. There appear to be buttons across the skirts of some girls: were they all the same, or could they choose a design? Each one can express her personality in the width of her tie and the depth of her collar.



1950s: These boarders are dressed ready for church. They have blazers without badges (were these only for Sundays?) over their tunics, and wear gloves and hats – which were part of the everyday outdoor uniform. Short socks were standard for younger girls at all times of year.



2005: the uniform was completely changed for the first time, to Black Watch tartan. Juniors (as shown here) had tunics, and Main School girls wore kilts (which made rolling them up rather harder and more obvious). Shirts were plain white, and no ties were worn. There is no longer any indication of the pupil's house on her uniform.



1982: In this group there is a variety of versions of uniform. A Maynard sweatshirt (navy with the badge in pale blue) was allowed at this time, although later this would only be worn as PE kit. Short-sleeved shirts (without ties) could be worn with tunics for the summer, or else a summer dress, perhaps with a jumper on top.



1962: Two sisters ready for school. The younger one has the newer style of tunic, A-line rather than box pleats. Even in the Junior School pupils were expected to be able to cope with a tie – though some mothers adapted them with a press-stud at the back so that the knot did not have to be untied each time they changed.



1954 prefects: Older girls are no longer wearing tunics, but have the same shirt worn with a skirt. They would wear a tie-pin of their house colour. School jumpers are navy with a light blue stripe. This photo was taken in the Prefects' Study, the area now occupied by Reception.



## Chris Sturcke remembers his wartime years.

I believe I am one of only a very few boys to have attended the Maynard School for Girls. This was a useful experience for boasting about or generating interest in Exeter conversations.

I was born in Essex and had my third birthday the day after the Second World War broke out. My father ran the family business in London and commuted daily from Brentwood. He became concerned that Essex was strategically liable to bombing from Germany and decided to move the family to the West Country. Mother knew Exeter, having lived there during her childhood, and it seemed a good place to be further away from the threat of bombing. So the family, at that time Father, Mother and my elder sister, settled in Powderham Crescent.

Sister Rosemary was sent to the Maynard School and began her education in the Kindergarten and duly progressed to Transition, onward and upward before leaving to go to the Royal College of Music in London.

As far as sheltering from enemy bombing our move to Exeter turned out to be not such a smart move! The Essex town we came from was unscathed. We survived the blitz in Exeter and many of my most vivid childhood memories are of this time. On the subject of memory, mine is not the sharpest, particularly when dates are concerned – so this memoir may not be completely accurate in that respect!

During the war period the Maynard, perhaps in order to help out stressed parents, decided to allow boys to attend the junior school. As big sister was now in Transition, or perhaps even Lower One, it was convenient for me to accompany her to commence my education. I believe this was in the Autumn term of 1942 when I was just six.

I remember well our walk to school and the routes, not always the same, that we followed from Powderham Crescent. We always walked down Pensylvania Road to the railway bridge, then sometimes went up Longbrook Street and down either Paris Street or Southernhay. Whichever way we followed we passed ruined buildings and piles of rubble cleared from the roads and pavements. There was, of course, very little traffic due to wartime restrictions.

Arriving at the Maynard we would climb a few steps from the Denmark Road entrance and follow a steep path to Traceyville. There we would enter a cloakroom with low wooden benches with coat-hooks above and shoe-lockers below. I would

then proceed to the Kindergarten, situated at the front of the building on the ground floor. Here we would be greeted by Miss Sutcliffe, the kindest and most understanding teacher any child could wish for! The room was furnished with low tables and little chairs painted in different colours. The chairs each had a bag which hung on the back and were embroidered with a different motif – mine a railway engine.

Miss Sutcliffe taught us how to work and play. I certainly learned the basics of reading and simple arithmetic.

In the main Traceyville building was a hall with tall windows and a wooden floor which acted as a gymnasium and indoor exercise and play area. I remember we played a game that toned up little muscles and, at the same time, reminded us of how letters were formed. This comprised one person taking up a position at the front and facing away from the rest who then advanced chanting “Big A little A bouncing B – the Cat’s in the cupboard and can’t see me”. As each letter was called we imitated the shapes. It involved trying to catch the cat- I think.

In Kindergarten we were encouraged to be constructive and in this respect I remember attempting to make a sort of cart – or was it a sledge? Materials were hard to come by and I was no craftsman but managed to attach the remains of a wooden hoop to an old orange box to resemble wheels or runners (if your imagination was up to it) and an old piece of rope made a towline. I was proud of my effort but Rosemary was not at all pleased to have to help carry it home. We got as far as Southernhay before the first bit of hoop fell off! The remains were somehow lugged home, where they were probably used as firewood.

I am sometimes asked what it was like to be one of very few boys among so many girls. I think there was one other boy, possibly two and the rest were indeed, girls. My recollection is that we all seemed to get on well with each other. Having spent my babyhood and very early years with an elder sister who was sixteen months my senior I was quite used to the young female of the species! I do not remember that gender was a problem. Boys and girls together were all children and were certainly treated the same by the admirable Miss Sutcliffe.

I went on to Norwood school in Exeter and from there to the Incorporated Nautical Thames Training College, H.M.S.Worcester and followed a lifetime’s career at sea.

Many years after my time at The Maynard I was happy to enrol my daughter, Gillian, as a Maynardian.



Chris with his sister, Rosemary

**Maryann Kongovi (nee Bryant) attended The Maynard from 1983 – 1992, leaving with 10 GCSEs before completing her school studies elsewhere. She is a graduate of Oxford University and Columbia Business School. She now lives in California, USA with her husband and two daughters Sarina, 5, and Leela, 2. She leads a national sales team for Google working with independent full service digital agencies, helping them make the most out of Google to help their clients grow.**

## Where did you grow up and what made your parents choose The Maynard for your education?

I was born and raised in Exeter. I went to The Hylton primary school where many of the girls went on to The Maynard so it was always on the radar. I know my parents were keen for me to attend a school with a good academic reputation and The Maynard always had the best results.

## Can you remember any teachers in particular and why they stood out?

There were so many wonderful teachers over the years; however, two that stand out are Dr Le Gallez and Dr Allan. Dr Le Gallez brought so much passion to her work, whether it was reading Romeo and Juliet, or something one of us had written, she truly entertained us and brought literature to life. I will also forever be impressed by how Dr Allan managed to make us laugh, and often, while helping us make sense of Chemistry. He piqued my curiosity to the point that I was motivated to work at it after years of finding it completely uninteresting.

## What did you do after you left The Maynard and were you following a particular career path or was life simply just taking you?

Life was definitely taking me! At each stage, I followed my interests. I studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at University and then took a year off to travel in Latin America. I got “stuck” in Mexico and after a few years working in Market Research I found myself at an Internet company through a friend of a friend. After a few more stops along the way; a consulting firm in San Francisco, business school at Columbia and a start-up in New York, I joined Google in a sales role.

## How did you get your job in California? Was it a major interview process?

I relocated to California with Google after a year in their New York office. The interview process for any large company these days can definitely be described as “major”. In the case of Google, I’m told the hardest part is actually getting an interview because of how many applicants they get each year. In my case I was fortunate to be referred by a classmate from Columbia. After a phone interview, I did a written assessment (online of course) and had four interviews.

## What does a typical working day involve for you and how many staff are you managing?

I have a team of about 30 people and three fantastic managers that work with our frontline sales people. My favourite days involve spending time with my teams and our clients, Advertising Agencies. Otherwise my days are a mix of internal meetings and sales strategy discussions.

## Have you had to make any lifestyle changes to adapt to life in the US?

Since leaving the U.K. I’ve lived in Mexico City, San Francisco, New York and Los Altos (near Google’s headquarters in Mountain View, California). Each has definitely required some adaptation, but I’ve enjoyed each change. Although I never thought I would admit to enjoying life in the suburbs, a 15 minute drive to work and basically year-round summer are hard to beat!

## What do you miss most about home?

Friends and family top the list. We do get back about once a year but it’s never enough.

## What is your fondest memory of The Maynard?

It’s hard to think of just one, but a few come immediately to mind, including summer afternoons playing rounders on Leebourne.



## Lucinda Martin Airline Pilot

Lucie Martin (nee Bird) was at The Maynard from 1988 – 2000, leaving with ten GCSEs, three A levels and a Young Enterprise Award, to study Command and Control Communications and Information Systems at The Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University. She now lives in the Cotswolds with her partner Paul Murphy, who is a Senior First Officer flying the Boeing 777 for British Airways. After ten years in the Royal Air Force as a Hercules C130 pilot, Lucie qualified in January as a First Officer for BA CityFlyer in her new career as an Airline Pilot.

### Where did you grow up and what made your parents choose The Maynard for your education?

I grew up in the countryside in Clapham, which is a hamlet near Kennford on the Western outskirts of Exeter. My parents chose the Maynard as they thought it would suit my active personality and for the school's high reputation.

### Can you remember any teachers in particular and why they stood out?

I remember all my teachers, but my first teacher at The Maynard was Mrs Rowe who was my form teacher in Lower 1. She was lovely, always cheerful and made learning fun. I don't think you could ask for a better first form teacher.

### What inspired you to join the RAF?

A few school friends and I joined the Air Cadet Squadron in Exeter when we were 14. I had my first flight that year where I learnt to fly loop-the-loops. From that moment on, I was hooked on flying. There really is nothing quite like the feeling of being upside down whizzing around in an aircraft, looking down on the world below. Aged 15 I had a scholarship to fly motor gliders with Air Cadets at RMB Chivenor in North Devon. The thrill of flying, the camaraderie and the view out of the window were addictive. I realised that being an RAF Pilot would be a dream career for me, so I started doing everything that I could to achieve that dream.

### What was the toughest part of learning to fly?

Learning to fly requires a lot of dedication and commitment. Fortunately I found something that I absolutely loved, so the many hours of study, rehearsing emergency procedures and learning the techniques of formation and aerobatic flying were really enjoyable. The toughest part was when I reached my first Front-Line Squadron and I was learning to fly a Hercules C130 at low-level in Scotland. When you are flying at 240mph at 250ft between mountains, everything happens very quickly. You need to have thoroughly prepared and visualised the map with the terrain you expect to see ahead of you. If you turn into the wrong valley by mistake then there are very real and deadly consequences.

### Did you ever suffer any sexism in the workplace? If so, when?

I have been fortunate that I have not encountered sexism in the workplace. It is an extremely male environment; I was the only female Hercules line pilot out of 90 pilots for my last 2 years in the RAF, although there were other women who flew different aircraft and those who had been promoted to managerial roles. I found that as long as I was professional, competent and didn't make a fuss about being a woman, then nobody else did.

### What are the different pressures and responsibilities of being a civil airline pilot?

After 10 years in the RAF, it is certainly very different working as an airline pilot. During my time in the RAF I flew wearing night-vision-goggles to blacked out airfields, I landed on dried out lake beds and flew at 250ft through valleys. I flew in formation with other large aircraft and learnt how to carry out Air-to-Air Refuelling. I carried out aerial delivery of up to 16 tonnes at a time of equipment by parachute, and lighter loads while flying on Night Vision Goggles. I patrolled British Sovereign Territory in the South Atlantic, flying past glaciers and icebergs at low-level over South Georgia. I flew troops, missiles, tropical disease victims, repatriations and casualty evacuation missions all over the world. It is the most



exciting flying that you can do in a large aircraft and I would highly recommend a career in the RAF as a Pilot to anyone who likes adventure.

As an Airline Pilot there is a focus on customer service and efficiency, rather than training for worldwide operations to deploy at a moment's notice. My life is much more stable now that I know what I am doing for the next 6 weeks, as opposed to not knowing where I will be tomorrow! I am very fortunate to fly a new jet aircraft from London City Airport to destinations all over Europe. The views approaching London, flying almost level with The Shard, then over Tower Bridge and past Canary Wharf are incredible. I really enjoy my new role as a First Officer, meeting people and travelling all over Europe is an exciting and very different new career.

### Describe your typical working day?

Today I woke up at 3:20am in a very smart hotel in Dusseldorf, to be ready for the transport to the airport at 4:20am. At 4:45am the captain, 2 cabin crew and I board the aircraft. The captain and I study the weather and airport notices and decide the amount of fuel that we will require. We take it in turns for who flies the aircraft and who talks to Air Traffic Control. It is always the captain who flies to London City Airport, so he inspects the outside of the aircraft while I prepare the Flight Deck for departure. The customers board at 5:30am and shortly afterwards we take-off for the 1 hour flight to London. Once parked in London, I inspect the outside of the aircraft for leaks or any visible damage. Within 30 minutes of arriving in London, we have reprogrammed the flight deck computers, I have briefed the flight and we are ready to depart again. It is my sector back to Dusseldorf, so I fly the take-off and landing, I conduct all briefings and call for checklists at the appropriate time. By 8:35am we have safely disembarked our customers at Dusseldorf, shut the aircraft down and closed the doors. We are all back in the hotel by 9:30am, which after a short nap gives us the rest of the day to explore the city and find a restaurant for an early dinner, as we'll be up at 3:20am again tomorrow.

### What has been the scariest moment of your career so far?

The scariest moment was deploying to Afghanistan for the first time. It was more a fear of the unknown than anything else, as you are fully trained for the task, but you don't really believe that until you are there and experiencing it. The taste of the dust and the lack of any greenery in the excruciatingly bright desert sunshine, combined with the constant sound of explosions (mainly from the practice ranges) really assault your senses. The intense heat of working in a cockpit that is 60C, always carrying your loaded pistol with you, and having your helmet and body-armour to hand for when the next rocket attack takes place is a strange environment to be in.

### What do you owe to your time at The Maynard?

My confidence that I can achieve whatever I set my mind to in life, as long as I put the work in. Miss Murdin (Headmistress during most of my 18 years at The Maynard) once wrote in my report that I needed to 'start working and stop staring out the window.' She was right, of course, but I am thankful that I found a career which pays me to look out the window!





Dr Holly Trusted (formerly known as Marjorie Trusted), a Maynardian from 1962 to 1973, has always loved art, even as a school girl, when she painted or drew every day. With a clutch of A-levels in English, Art, Mathematics and French, she left The Maynard to read English Literature at Girton College, Cambridge and then

History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Holly has been at the V&A since joining in 1979, and she is now the internationally respected Senior Curator of Sculpture there. We tracked her down through her recent appearance on the BBC Antiques Roadshow.

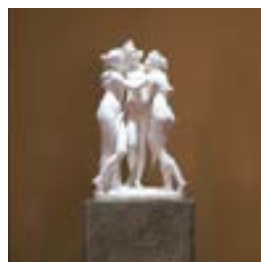
#### Where did you grow up and what made your parents choose The Maynard for your education?

I grew up in Exeter. I think my parents chose the Maynard for my education because it was recognized as a good local school for girls with a strong academic record. It was not too far from where we lived, and they knew I didn't want to go to a boarding school (both my brother and sister went to boarding schools). Because I was awarded a scholarship after the age of 11 it was also free.

#### Can you remember any teachers in particular and why they stood out?

I was fond of Miss Graham, our form teacher in Lower 3, who in my recollection taught us more or less everything except sport and art. Miss Underdown was an excellent maths teacher, who was also highly likeable. On the few occasions Miss Bradley, then headmistress, taught us maths, I liked her style of teaching too. Miss Martin was a seriously good French teacher. I always had a soft spot for the art teachers, in particular Miss Langhorne, and then Mrs Johns and Mrs Balogh, the last of whom has remained a good and inspiring friend. Miss Westhall (now Mrs Clarke) was also an excellent English teacher and, again, has become a valued friend.

#### What can you recall about your classes and fellow students?



I made many friends at Maynard, and I think I was probably happier in the 6th form than in earlier days. Studying subjects which I didn't particularly enjoy was tedious but once you can drop subjects which are less appealing you have more time to enjoy those you do like, in my case English and Art. I have remained good

friends with several school fellows, notably Carole Hudson (now Prior), Jenny Woodman, Catherine Putz, Caroline Bradbeer, Denise Bavin (now Jones), Chrissie Probert, Clare Bartlet and a few others. Friendships at school can be long-lasting and have a long resonance which you don't necessarily have with friends made later on.

#### When you left the Maynard what were you hoping to be and where did that take you?

I always treasured the idea of working in a museum. I was lucky enough to be awarded an exhibition place at Cambridge University to read English in 1974. But I wanted to read Art History after that (at that date Art History wasn't taught as a subject for a full degree at Cambridge). In 1977 I therefore went on to the Courtauld to read for an MA in art history. On graduating in 1979 I briefly had a job at a small book company near the British Museum, cataloguing art books, but then became a junior curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum. I've been there ever since. I was awarded a PhD by Cambridge in 2008 under special regulations, on the basis of my scholarly publications.

#### What does your job entail now?

I'm Senior Curator of Sculpture at the V&A, and look after the V&A sculpture collection on display in the galleries and in storage. That may involve researching the collection, writing labels for display, and helping visitors with enquiries, both about our own collection and more general sculpture enquiries. I give opinions on objects brought in to the Museum once a month. I travel widely, whether to attend scholarly conferences, or to act as a courier for loans to exhibitions. I publish and lecture widely on European sculpture; I also organize conferences, and chair sessions at symposia in Europe and the USA.



#### What do you love most about your job?

Looking after our own collection, and having the opportunity to study it closely.

#### Do you have a favourite sculptor and if so who, and why?

This is difficult. One of my favourite sculptors is David Le Marchand, who was a Huguenot artist who came over to Britain in the late 17th century, and specialised in carving exquisite portraits in ivory.

#### If you could own any one thing in the world what would it be? And why?

A chateau in Bordeaux. Why? The quality of life: beautiful surroundings, good food and drink. I would want to entertain friends and family there.

#### What's your first thought when you arrive at the office?

Checking my diary for any appointments, and then catching up with emails.

#### If you had your time again, what would you change?

I'd like to have become an artist, challenging though that would have been.



Sarah Swingler (attended The Maynard from 1984 -1991) has always had a touch of the thespian in her and nearly always landed the lead role in any school productions! Leaving with three A-levels in English, Theatre Studies and Latin, she went on to achieve a First Class Honours Degree in Drama at the University of Exeter, and then was chosen to join ITV's Fast Track Director Training Scheme. Sarah is now a multi award winning Executive Producer of documentaries and Head of Dragonfly West; currently looking after One Born Every Minute and The Hotel for Channel 4. She recently moved to Bristol with her husband of 19 years, and 6 year old son.

#### Just how important was your time at The Maynard in creating the person you are today?

I loved my time at The Maynard and think it significantly shaped who I am today. The school ethos encouraged rigorous thinking, a strong work ethic, and the belief that women, like their male counterparts, can do anything they set their minds to. In truth, there was some nervousness from staff when I wanted a career outside of the norms of medicine and law but a couple of key teachers supported my dream enough to get me through.

#### Have you always known what career you would enter?

I was always attracted to a career that allowed me to express myself creatively. I initially dabbled with drama and then moved on to documentary when I realized that I did not have the patience to wait two years for a film project to be fully realized. It was a real turning point when I found that the real life stories I came across in documentary often surpassed anything that could be made up in fiction.

#### Would you say drive and determination spurred you on or is there an element of luck in reaching the top of your profession?

For all you hear about only getting on in TV through 'knowing someone who knows someone', I didn't have any contacts before I joined the industry. I came up the ranks by applying to do two weeks of work experience within a broadcaster and then gained as much experience as I could by volunteering on whichever student productions would accept me. Rather than relying on luck, the route to success, in my opinion, is about understanding the long game, embracing hard graft with as much enthusiasm and joy as you can muster, and cultivating any glimmers of talent you might be lucky enough to have.

#### Have you any teachers or school experiences that particularly inspired you?

When I think back to my secondary school years, two teachers who I knew from the age of 11 stand out for me. And it is lovely to have the opportunity to thank them here: Mrs Wiseman was a wonderful Latin teacher who always tolerated my stumbling grammar with a huge smile and true passion for her subject – I'm afraid I didn't quite share her passion for Latin, but now, as a manager of a large production team (as opposed to a classroom of kids), I take from her that being consistently sunny is probably the best way to motivate a bunch of people. Also Mrs. Langley, who taught me English for many years, and encouraged me in my extra curricular drama activities, cast me in my first main part in a school play, and told me in no uncertain terms to give up smoking if I wanted to preserve my voice. I didn't end up acting after all but I wholeheartedly thank her for setting me on the path towards drama, and for saving my lungs!

#### What does your job entail as Executive Producer?

Executive Producers creatively and financially manage a slate of television programmes, transforming ideas from the page to the screen.

*Continued on page 18.*



On a day to day basis, the role involves overseeing production teams as they shoot and edit, and winning new business.

**Does your thespian side ever wish you were on the other side of the camera?**

Nope, thankfully; I'm too much of a control freak. It turns out it is much more creative being behind a camera than in front.

**What is the hardest part of your job?**

The hours can be pretty gruelling. Kiss goodbye to any thoughts of weekends off and a 9am-5pm day. But fortunately the adrenalin needed to maintain these high stamina levels long-term becomes addictive.

**What are the television industry parties like or don't you go?**

Industry parties can be fun although admittedly I used to go to more before I had my little boy. TV is a small industry and these can be good events for catching up with old telly friends you ought to have stayed in better touch with, and for hearing the latest industry gossip.

**If you won a BAFTA what would your acceptance speech be?**

I have been lucky enough to win a few awards over the years. I always make sure I thank my production teams wholeheartedly, and my on-screen contributors first and foremost. They are very much team awards.

**What is your fondest memory of The Maynard?**

It is hard to pick out one memory as I enjoyed loads of my time at school. But the things I value most are my two dearest, oldest friends who I met during my time there (we are now godparents to each others' children); and my first taste of performing in school plays which had a hand in my career choice.

## Obituaries



**Professor Anna Craft**

a pupil at The Maynard School during the early 1970s, has sadly died from cancer, aged 52.

Anna loved her time at

Maynard, and often spoke of her happy and enriching experience there. Later, she was delighted when her own daughter, Ella Craft-Stanley, also spent happy years in the Junior School. Most of Anna's secondary schooling was in Melbourne, Australia, and in London, and from the sixth form she went on to Cambridge University where she graduated with a BA in social and political science. She obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education and an MA in the philosophy of education at the London University Institute of Education, and after four years as a primary school teacher in London, she became a Teacher Fellow at the Polytechnic of North London, then a Project Officer at the National Curriculum Council. In 1991 she joined The Open University, in due course being appointed to a Professorship in Education there, combining this with a Professorship in Education at the University of Exeter. She also became a Visiting Scholar in the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the United States.

Anna argued that a problem-solving, "possibility thinking" capacity is now a fundamental requirement in modern living, and that today's complex and fast-changing world requires creative abilities which need to be cultivated from the earliest years. She presented her ideas in well over 100 books, book chapters and journal papers, and became an internationally recognised and highly respected leader in the study of creativity in education.

Her colleagues and students regarded her as a warm and wise friend, combining commitment and intellect with exceptional vitality, diligence and humour. Her close friend at Maynard, Clare Hurley (nee Hardy) wrote, "Our friendship was very special to me ... Anna was always so interesting and lovely. I hear her laughing whenever I think of her ... her gentleness and cheerfulness will remain in my mind, and not only will I hear the wise words of my dearest friend, Anna, I shall hear her laughter". And the distinguished Harvard Professor,

Howard Gardner, has written that "...she deserves much of the credit for reinvigorating the study and understanding of creativity and play in young children ... (she) was one of those rare individuals whom it was always fun to be with, to learn from, and to be inspired by ... she was the epitome of life and high spirits".

She is survived by her husband, Simon, and their teenage children, Hugo and Ella.



**Sophie Laking [nee Thomas]** died in June 2013, after a brave fight against bowel cancer.

After leaving The Maynard

School she taught English as a Foreign Language, worked as Cabin Crew with Gulf Air, was a Manager at Spectrum Sports Centre in Guildford, and also was a Chalet Maid in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

In 1993 she married Steve, and they went to Milan, Sydney, and finally Kuala Lumpur.

They had three children, Billy [aged 15] and Jojo and Grace [aged 12] who are now at Lord Wandsworth College in Hampshire.

While in Kuala Lumpur she helped at the Home of Peace, a home for orphaned and abandoned girls, and Sophie's family have set up a Charity in her memory, to support these girls: [www.sophiesfund.co.uk](http://www.sophiesfund.co.uk)

**Catherine Hall** was in the Choir and Orchestra, and had gained a Carriage Award. She passed O levels in 7 subjects, including 'very good' results in Music and in Art, the latter taken in the L VI. She also gained a Junior Bronze Medal in Ballroom Dancing in L VI. After passing Music A level she went on to the Royal Ballet School, Craftsman's Course.

**June Sims (Adams)** left The Maynard at the end of U V. She had a Credit in English Language in the London General School Certificate. She continued to live in Exeter before and after her marriage.

# Top author goes back to her roots

by Echo reporter

[echo.news@expressandecho.co.uk](mailto:echo.news@expressandecho.co.uk)

REOWNED author Clare Morrall took a trip back to her roots when she returned to The Maynard School in Exeter to present the awards at its annual prize-giving ceremony.

It was a welcome trip for the author who earlier this year published her sixth novel After the Bombing, in which The Maynard features heavily under the pseudonym of Goldwyn Girls' School.

During her speech the assembled parents, staff and pupils at Exeter's Belmont Chapel were reminded of the importance of reading fiction for today's children where technology is so prevalent.

"I remember I was in a high pitched state of feverish excitement all the time," she said of her time as a young girl at the school.

"I've always loved writing stories and was one of the best at

English at school and I also did music."

Throughout her life the author, who shot to literary fame when her first published novel Astonishing Splashes of Colour, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, has lived by The Maynard motto Imagine, Aspire, Achieve.

"As a child, I found the imaginary world much easier to deal with and I just lived in a world of fiction," she said.

She has continued to write despite being diagnosed with cancer as she neared the end of the book.

"It was a difficult time but I just wanted normality and to make my mind work," she said.

"The chemotherapy was debilitating and I ended up having to cancel teaching which was disappointing."

She added: "I'm fairly pragmatic about being ill and death and you just have to get on with it."

In an ode to her Devon roots



'Lovely school': Maynard students ahead of the awards ceremony which featured Clare Morrall

she has dedicated this latest story about the emotional impact of the Exeter bombings unleashed by Hitler in the spring of 1942 to "all Maynardian girls past and present".

"I like schools, I teach in a school and I like children but my main motivation for the dedication is guilt!" she said.

"I think I wasn't a brilliant

pupil. I was very argumentative and I probably irritated people a lot.

"I realise now how ghastly I was as a teenager so it would be nice to set matters straight."

Returning to the school that she so fondly remembers evoked many happy moments for the author who often uses her Devon connections within her

novels. "It's a lovely school to this day and stands out for its small and nurturing nature.

"I was happy here then and I'm thrilled to see so many care-free girls fulfilling their potential to the maximum in such a happy environment.

"It's been an absolute joy to return and present these very well deserved prizes."

## Report from the Old Maynardians' Society AGM in 2014

The attendance at the AGM on 11th October 2014 did not reflect the importance of the matters to be decided there, but we were pleased to have Lady Jan Stanhope, the current Chair of Governors, to address us. She explained the thinking among the Governors and the leadership of the school, who want to see stronger links between Old Maynardians and the current school. OMs can contribute to the school financially, of course, but also in many other ways. During the past year, they have played a part in the Careers Fair 'Jobs for the Girls' and also in a breakfast at the school when U5 girls met with OMs to find out more about their working lives. Most reunions of old girls are welcomed with acclaim by those who attend, so that is another area where we want to be more active.

With these aims in mind, the proposition was made that the Old Maynardians' Society should cease to exist in its present form, and the maintenance of contact with OMs be the responsibility in future of a new post within the Marketing

Department at school. All information could then be stored on the same database as is used for current pupils. The new Old Maynardians' Magazine, first published a year ago, would be developed to include more news of those who have been staff or pupils at Maynard.

In the past, membership of the Old Maynardians Society has been optional: pupils opted in by paying a subscription. In the future, all pupils would be considered to be on the same footing when they leave, and the school would try to maintain contact with them all: most of this will be electronic for 21st century Maynardians! This will include those who left in the past but did not at the time choose to join the OM Society, although of course anyone can opt out of receiving further communications if that is their wish. Members present knew of other schools where alumnae were linked to the school in a similar way, and it seemed to be a satisfactory way of working.

In suggesting all these changes, due acknowledgement was made of the work of the Old Maynardians' Society Committee over many years; their work would now cease, although the school may consult with local OMs at times. It has to be admitted that in the recent past, links with OMs have not always been very actively pursued: two reunions planned for 2014 had to be cancelled due to lack of response.

After a considerable discussion, those present agreed that this seemed to be a good way forward. The money currently held in the Old Maynardians' Society account would, at the end of 2014, be transferred to the Headmistress' Discretionary Fund.

We were left with the question of a possible new name: recent leavers may not like to be called OLD Maynardians!



# Five Questions for our Five Strong Head Girl Team

## TINA SOH (HEAD GIRL)



### What's the best bit about being part of the Head Girl Team?

It's really interesting being informed about what's happening in the school and helping out in different ways. Another fun aspect of being part of the team is sitting at the front of assembly because there's always a significant risk of laughing if you make eye contact with anyone sitting in front of you.

### Where are you heading after you have left school?

During summer I have interrailling plans with friends and then I'm heading off to university to study Maths. At the moment I have offers from UCL, Warwick and Durham. I'm going to work hard (I hope) to meet the high A\* A\* A offer that UCL have given me!

### What are you hoping to become?

I'm very undecided in this area so I'm hoping that at university, through career fairs and talking to different people I'll be inspired to do work experience and find something I'm really interested in.

### What will be your fondest memory of your time here?

The wonderful people you spend your time with mean that there are so many fond memories. From our class pet fish funeral to decorating our special wall in the sixth form with potential suitors such as Eddie Redmayne and Prince Harry.

### Where do you see yourself in 25 years from now?

The dream is that I'll be full of life experience from trying different things, meeting different people, and generally have taken as many opportunities as possible. It's all quite vague as I don't have a clear path, but this makes the future all the more exciting I suppose.

## ALICIA BOAM



### What's the best bit about being part of the Head Girl Team?

The best bit about being on the head girl team is being able to put our ideas into action - even if the action is as small as fixing the broken urn in the common room so we don't all get tea and coffee withdrawal symptoms!

### Where are you heading after you have left school?

As one of the less decisive members of the team I'm not entirely sure where I am heading next year. I am waiting on offers for medicine, but also have a fifth university choice of English Literature. Next year I hope to be at Uni but if not then I will take a gap year and hopefully get a job in a hospital, then reapply for 2016 entry.

### What are you hoping to become?

One of those people who has infectious enthusiasm and optimism in day-to-day life whatever I do in the end!

### What will be your fondest memory of your time here?

There are so many to choose from! But I think that the day of sixth form entertainment will always stick in my mind as one of the greatest memories of being here! Watching the year group processing up the aisle dressed uncannily as the teachers from my place in the wings was one of the most surreal moments I've had here, and one of the fondest as it made me think of how all those teachers have made a difference to my childhood.

### Where do you see yourself in 25 years from now?

I honestly have no idea where I see myself in 25 years time as I don't really tend to think really far ahead. However, when I'm 43 I would like to think that I will be settled somewhere with a family but hopefully still finding new and exciting things to do and learn.

## ELEANOR NIBLETT



### What's the best bit about being part of the Head Girl Team?

It was a lovely surprise to be voted as a head girl team member last year and I suppose the best bit of being in the team is that I was voted in by my peers and teachers; being liked and respected (hopefully this is still the case!) by this group is an accolade I feel very lucky and proud to have been given.

### Where are you heading after you have left school?

After leaving school I am taking a gap year prior to joining the accountants KPMG on their school leaver's programme, which will mean I will work and study to gain a BSc and become a chartered accountant.

### What are you hoping to become?

As my post A-level study suggests, I will become an accountant all being well! However I know there is a fair breadth in accounting so who knows where I will specialise eventually.

### What will be your fondest memory of your time here?

I realise that this is a cliché but my fondest memory will have to be time spent with my friends. Endless laughter has filled my life as a Maynardian.

### Where do you see yourself in 25 years from now?

25 years!! That's a tricky one. I have always been motivated strongly by my future career so I would love to be a respected career woman, perhaps even with a family in tow!

## KAVISHA MANDALIA



### What's the best bit about being part of the Head Girl Team?

Being able to put forward our year group's views to Ms Hughes and Mr Hibberd, and getting things done is very satisfying. The weekly cookies are great too!

### Where are you heading after you have left school?

Straight to uni for five years of medicine!

### What are you hoping to become?

A doctor, although which speciality I want to go into is still a mystery.

### What will be your fondest memory of your time here?

I love our in depth common room chats about food, feminism and everything in between.

### Where do you see yourself in 25 years from now?

I'd like to see myself as a consultant of some sort, but more importantly as a happy, well-travelled person with a few crazy stories up my sleeve.

## BRIDGET NZENWA-SISSONS



### What's the best bit about being part of the Head Girl Team?

As quite an opinionated person, being on the team is a great way to communicate ideas from the rest of the school to the senior leadership team.

### Where are you heading after you have left school?

I'm hoping to take a gap year to do an internship and gain work experience.

### What are you hoping to become?

My goal is to become a fashion buyer

### What will be your fondest memory of your time here?

My fondest memory of the Maynard - reenacting Hitler's rise to power in Mrs Wilks' history class. Characterising Germany's leaders set in a Beer hall is key to any top level exam answer!

### Where do you see yourself in 25 years from now?

Setting trends worldwide as a Senior Buyer and fashionista!



# Upper Sixth GCE Advanced Level Results

There were 39 candidates.

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	Total Entries
Art	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Biology	2	9	4	1	0	0	16
Chemistry	1	10	4	2	0	0	17
Classical Civilisation	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Critical Thinking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drama & Theatre Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economics	1	2	2	0	0	0	5
English Literature	4	4	4	0	0	0	12
Food & Nutrition	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
French	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Geography	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
German	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Greek	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
History	2	3	5	1	1	0	12
Latin	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Mathematics	4	8	8	2	0	0	22
Further Mathematics	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Physical Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physics	2	2	2	0	0	0	6
Psychology	0	1	3	0	1	0	5
Religious Studies	0	3	2	4	0	0	9
Spanish	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	17	55	39	10	2	1	124

## General Statistics

		2013	2014
Pass rate grades A* to E	GCE Advanced level	100 %	100 %
Grade A*	GCE Advanced level	20.2 %	13.7 %
Grades A* and A	GCE Advanced level	59.6 %	58.1 %

# Upper Fifth GCSE Results

There were 56 candidates.

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	Total Entries
Art	6	8	4	0	0	18
Biology	26	15	5	0	0	46
Chemistry	22	15	9	1	0	47
Drama	5	8	2	0	0	15
English Language	16	20	15	5	0	56
English Literature	12	29	11	3	0	55
Food & Nutrition	16	5	1	0	0	22
French	17	9 (1)	3	4 (1)	0	33 (2)
Geography	4	11	6	2	1	24
German	3	1	4	2	0	10
Greek	0	1	0	0	0	1
History	22	11	2	1	1	37
ICT	0	0	0	1	0	1
Latin	5	5	2	1	0	13
Mathematics	22	18	10	6	0	56
Media	0	0	1	0	0	1
Music	0	7	1	0	0	8
Physics	22	16	8	1	0	47
Religious Studies	7	6	1	0	0	14
Science	0	4	5	0	0	9
Additional Science	0	0	7	2	0	9
Spanish	7	6	5	2	0	20
TOTAL	212	195 (1)	102	31	2	542 (2)

(Brackets denote a short course in French)

## General Statistics

	2013	2014
Grade A*	41.4 %	39.0 %
Grades A* and A	71.9 %	75.0 %
Grades A*, A and B	92.8 %	93.8 %



# Where are they now?

## Verity Westgate

A school leaver in 2002 has discovered a talent that would 'surprise' her Maynard teachers! As she explains;

Moving house in August 2013, I came across a stash of old school reports, and in a bid to avoid packing boxes, I spent an afternoon reading them. It was an interesting experience, but one sentence stood out from my PE report from L3: "Verity is not a natural athlete". This entertained me greatly because that month, I had taken delivery of my GB kit to compete in my age-group in the World Aquathlon Championships at Hyde Park in September 2013. Aquathlon is a 1k openwater swim followed by a 5k run and I came 45th in the world amongst those aged 25-29.

In fact, the last 5 years have seen me develop considerable athletic prowess which I think would surprise my PE teachers (Mrs Gabbittas, Miss Millar, Mrs Wood).

In 2009, I found myself entering the Great North Swim to raise money for Mind in memory of a dear Maynardian friend Emily Riall, who took her life in 2006. Although I had occasionally splashed around the local lido and always cycled the three mile round trip to work this was by far the most athletic thing that I had done since the 1500m run for Haberdashers on sports day in 1999. I was surprised to find myself enjoying it. It then became obvious that setting myself physical challenges and training to complete them was a good way of trying to deal with my own mental health difficulties. Since leaving Maynard in 2002, I have had five major episodes of depression and two episodes of anorexia. Having a goal gives me something to think about, and trying to focus on having a healthy body helps with a healthy mind. Since 2009, I have completed increasingly challenging events to raise money for Mind, the Mental Health Charity, including a 3.8k

swim, a 10k swim, a half ironman triathlon (1.9k swim, 56 mile bike, half marathon run), a length of Lake Windermere (10.5 miles) and have my eye on a channel relay swim in 2016. And it was along this journey that I found myself entering a qualifying race for the Aquathlon World Championships and being selected.

I proudly raced with the Mind logo on my uniform and wondered what 11 year old Verity and her PE teachers might have made of this. If any Old Maynardians would like to donate to Mind to support this year's challenge – a two way Windermere swim (21 miles) – you can do so here:  
[www.virginmoneygiving.com/verityjdo](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/verityjdo)





## where are they now continued...

**Suzanne Hodkinson (1977 – 1983 & Headgirl)** is married to Nigel and has two sons, James (15) and Lawrence (13). After 17 years in Switzerland, they have returned to the UK. Suzanne works in the London office of an international reinsurer as a pricing actuary and is glad to be back home.

**Ciara Balagot - nee Lockton (1978 – 1989)** now lives in Silicon Valley, California, after moving there in 1998 while working as a Consultant for Accenture. Married since 2000, she and her husband have four children – one daughter (age 5) and three sons (ages 8, 11 and 13). She's stayed in touch with several alumnae and would love to hear from others.

**Gillian Lambert (nee Sturcke)** who attended The Maynard from 1971 – 1982 works for Airbus Defence & Space as a Senior Proposal Manager managing bids for new contracts, based in Newport, South Wales. She was licensed last year as a Lay Eucharistic Minister ("If Miss Tucker were to hear about that she would probably have a fit!"). Gillian is married with two children, a daughter who is studying at UWE and a son doing GCSEs next year at Monmouth School.

**Pippa Hughes** a Maynardian from 1980 – 1989 married Paul Hughes (no relation, she promises!) and lives in Hertfordshire with their daughter, Lily (4).

She was an event manager in hotels - Grosvenor House, The Dorchester then The Grove (Watford) - for years until Lily arrived. She is now in her second of a four year course, retraining to be an acupuncturist. "Who'd have thought after being in the bottom classes at school that I am back for more!!!!"

**Ann Ballman (nee Penberthy)** who attended The Maynard from 1947 – 1953, wrote in recently with this: "My life has been full and fulfilling in the years since my schooldays! I married Harry Ballman in 1956 and so we hope to celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary next year. We have three sons and a daughter - who was also a pupil at The Maynard! - nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. I have always been committed to Nursery Education and when my children were young I opened my own Nursery School in Exeter and then spent 26 years as the Nursery teacher at Vbranch House, a school in Exeter for children with physical handicaps. On retirement I organised Holiday Playschemes at a school in Dawlish for children with autism. I have so much in my life to give thanks for!"

**Jane Wynne (nee Knox)** who attended The Maynard from 1974 – 1988 now lives near Totnes with her husband, Charlie, and two children, Ted and Molly. Jane and Charlie set up their business [beamingbaby.com](http://beamingbaby.com) in 1999 selling organic baby products across the UK and abroad.

## News from the Archive: 2014

**Now that I have retired from my employment, I should have more time to devote to the Maynard Archive! Organising the material that we already hold is a big task that will occupy as many hours as I can give to it. I also need to make sure that I receive new material from school, and am always very pleased to have packages arrive from Old Maynardians or their relatives saying 'You might be interested in this'!**

**Please keep them coming – I don't turn away anything related to the school that may be of interest in the future.**



there) and also most of our whole-school photographs, which cover a time-span of about 90 years.

Neither of these spaces has the correct conditions for long-term storage of precious documents, but the Devon Heritage Centre (previously known as the Devon Record Office) is very pleased to accommodate such items. This makes them available to a wider public, as well as ensuring their long-term future. I have therefore prepared a set of School Magazines from 1902 to 1999 to take there: most of these we had in duplicate, and the few that we did not I have copied so that school still has all the information as well. But does anyone have a copy of magazine issue 2, of 1903?

Reaching an even wider readership is a project in which we have been involved scanning Admissions Registers. These are the sheets relating to each pupil, started when they join the school. They give basic information such as father's address and occupation (no mention of mother having an occupation!), the dates when the pupil was at the school and the forms that she was in each year. For some we also have details of where they went after leaving school, as well as the school(s) that they had attended previously. Our Registers were, I think, started as a result of the 1902 Education Act: all those up to 1914 have now been scanned and are available to searchers on the [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) website.

The most common sort of enquiry that the Archivist receives is whether a grand-mother / great aunt etc was educated at Maynard and, if so, what information we have on her. (Occasionally an enquiry may be about an Old Boy, of course!) The School Magazines are invaluable for this research, along with the Speech Day / Prize Giving programmes. Magazines are also a source of interesting material for the displays that I put up each month or so in the main school corridor. At the end of 1914, this gave a pupil's-eye view of the start of the War, using some original writing from three sixth-formers at the time. Previously, I had used an article in the same Magazine about being caught on the Continent in the summer of 1914: the writer seemed very sanguine after the event about having been taken for a spy when trying to leave Germany!

Mary Ellis, Archivist

## Did you know?

- Dr West is the only Headmistress of the Maynard School to have been married.
- The Drama studio used to be a Physics Lab, but was originally built for teaching Cookery.
- There used to be a tuck shop by Waterloo notice boards. The 'counter' can still be seen outside the Head's PA office.
- Up until about 1960 Maynard had games pitches where the Wonford hospital now stands.
- Where the Garden of Remembrance now is, there used to be a kitchen garden growing vegetables for use in school dinners.
- Until the 1980's there were two forms in each year group in Main School. They had names like Upper Three and Upper Three Parallel, U III and U III P. When the school expanded to three forms in a year, they were named U III N, U III P and U III Q.
- The Junior Department building used to be called Traceyville.
- Cricket used to be taught at Maynard.



# 30 minute mentors

Many of you who have returned to The Maynard have echoed what we here have long believed – that our greatest resource as a School is the amazing and diverse community of women who share The Maynard experience.

We see this time and again through the fantastic work you, our alumnae, do at home, in your communities as volunteers and at work. Just as important are the friendships you have made with one another, your shared and separate experiences, and the connections you keep long after you leave the school.

We are excited to launch a new project, 30 Minute Mentor Programme, which will help our sixth formers forge the connections that will help set them on their chosen career paths. If you would be willing to give up a small amount of your time to speak to a girl in L6 or U6 by phone, email, or Skype about your professional or university experiences, we would like to hear from you. Our 30 Minute Mentor programme is meant to be just that – an informative half hour during which time a sixth form pupil will have time to ask questions about your university experiences or career path, or perhaps even your gap year. The programme is not meant to be an introduction to an internship or professional opportunity, but simply a platform for Maynard girls to benefit from the experiences of those of you who have already established your goals and careers.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us with your availability and area of interest or expertise. We will then match you with a pupil who has an interest in the areas you've specified. We'll then schedule a meeting by phone, Skype or email based on your availability. We would love for as many of you as possible to get involved in the project and share your most valuable resources - your time and experience. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Book now for:

Monday, 1st June 2015.

3.30pm – meet in the V&A Restaurant for tea, cake and a catch up.

4.00pm – private tour by Dr Holly Trusted of the Hintze sculpture galleries, and the Gilbert Bayes galleries.  
Maximum people: 25

5.30pm – tour ends and we all go for a glass of wine at a local bar, Casa Brindisa, in South Kensington.  
We can be joined there by other alumnae unable to make the tour.

Booking to [rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk) or  
01392 273417

## The Think Big Ball

A grand bash to be held at a London venue for all our Alumnae and their husbands/partners.

Early thoughts are to sell tables in year groups. Dinner /dance/reminisce and PARTY ON. Date and venue needs to be decided and just about everything from there!

I need a working committee with good London knowledge to help make this happen. Members from as many year groups as possible will be welcome.

Please get in touch with

**[rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk)**

if you want to be involved in the biggest, most glamorous event in the whole history of The Maynard!

## The Grand Annual Dinner

This is a completely new event to be held locally in or around Exeter for all current parents and our Alumnae. Buy your table and fill it up with all your friends! Husbands/partners obviously all welcome. Let's have some speakers for this one, the criteria being they must have an association with the school, be witty and interesting (ideas?). Again, plans are very conceptual so let's get a committee together and have some fun!

Please email **[rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk)** if you have oodles of enthusiasm and some time to make this dinner so successful that people will want to come and come again!!

Thursday, 18th June (7.30pm – 9pm)  
Floristry Masterclass at Darts Farm,  
Topsham, Devon

Learn how to create a stunning window box, hanging basket or patio pot using edible flowers, salads and herbs.

£15 per person including a glass of bubbles and nibbles.

Current parents are also invited and do feel free to bring a friend.

Booking to **[rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk)** or  
01392 273417